



# **Much Wenlock Town Council**

## **Town Council Meeting**

**6<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

## **Supporting Papers**

## **Broseley and Much Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)**

### **Update to Much Wenlock Town Council: From 01/06/2023 – 29/06/2023**

Update on Police and SNT activity in the area. In addition to the Officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Team, there is a team of Response Officers based in Bridgnorth Police Station who attend incidents in the area. Unfortunately the SNT has been reduced to one Police Community Support Officer. In an effort to ensure local Policing cover, other SNT Officers from teams based in Bridgnorth will be assisting in patrols of the area. A new PC is expected to join the team in July.

Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is an online messaging service operated by West Mercia Police. SNT Officers are sending Crime Alerts and other locally relevant information out to all those who join the service. Please encourage everyone to check out the service by following the link - <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>

West Mercia Police has signed up to the Local Policing Community Charter. The Council has outlined its three main Policing Priorities as:

Theft (from outbuildings). SNT Officers continue to actively patrol the area when on duty, both the urban and rural areas. A number of tools were stolen from a shed in Much Wenlock.

Drugs. SNT continue to patrol areas where there have been previous reports of incidents linked to drug related activity & submit reports when necessary. There was one incident reported this month involving an allegation of cannabis being cultivated at an address.

Speeding. SNT Officers will continue to conduct speed surveys in relevant areas when other commitments allow.

#### **Burglary/Theft.**

A shed burglary took place in Much Wenlock, a quantity of tools were stolen. There was no CCTV and no witnesses to the offence, the crime is likely to be filed. A Crime Scene Investigator and an Officer from the Rural & Business Crime Team attended as part of the investigation.

There were three reports of drivers making off without paying for fuel, the registered keepers will be contacted by the Police and further action will follow if required.

A car was stolen from the Muckley Cross area, the details have been added to the Automatic Number Plate Recognition system.

Telephone scams/fraud. There were two reports of attempted online fraud, fortunately the victims did not divulge any of their financial details or lose any money.

Suspicious Circumstances. There was a report of cannabis being grown at an address, checks are being conducted.

Assault. There was a report of an assault, Officers were deployed and it was found that the incident was not as reported, words of advice given and no further Police action required.

Public Order. There was a public order incident at the library in town, a male was being verbally aggressive and refusing to leave when requested. He did eventually leave before Officers could be deployed.

**Criminal Damage.** A motorcycle had both its tyre slashed in Much Wenlock, an Officer has been assigned to the investigation.

**Domestic Incidents.** Police were deployed to six domestic incidents and each was dealt with appropriately.

**Harassment.** There was a report of a male taking photos of three youths in a public place, exact circumstances have yet to be established.

**Concern for Safety.** There were five incidents, a combination of Police, relatives and our partner agencies dealt with the family and mental health concerns raised.

**Road Traffic Issues.** There have been a number of reports regarding incidents on the roads, including:

A car was seized from Muckley Cross when stopped by the Police as it had no insurance.

A car believed to be driven by a person under the influence of alcohol was reported, no officer were available to be deployed, local Officers have been informed and appropriate checks undertaken.

Two incidents of poor driving were reported and appropriate checks conducted.

A car broke down in the Muckley Cross area, it was not blocking the road so Officers were not deployed. The owner arranged their own recovery.

There was a Road Traffic Collision involving two cars and a minor injury on the Smithfield Road, Much Wenlock. Officers deployed and dealt with the matter, paramedics assessed the casualty.

There was a report of sheep on the road on the B4378, there were no Officers available to be deployed and there were no further calls.

There were two reports of dropped 999 calls, both were confirmed as accidental calls.

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# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
at 7 pm on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Present:** Councillors Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick (in the Chair), Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon, Linda West.

**In attendance:** Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, PCSO Mal Goddard, one member of the public remotely.

## 1. Chairman's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the following report:

"The early weeks of my Mayor's year have been busy with invitations coming in regularly. I attended the Shrewsbury Civic Service at St Chad's Church, which was an interesting and moving experience, processing with various Mayors, old and current, along with Freeman of the town. In the afternoon of the same day I had been invited to the Bowling Club's open day at the top of the Gaskell Field and I spoke to them about the health benefits of their sport, as espoused by William Penny Brookes himself, as well as brushing up on my bowling skills.

I also attended the Mayor Making ceremony at Bridgnorth Council's wonderful town hall in the centre of their High Street. The event was a little more light-hearted than ours here in Much Wenlock but nonetheless conducted with due reverence.

Our wonderful First Responders gave a demonstration of their vitally important skills at the Priory Hall and those present, including the Mayor, were encouraged to practise on the dummies provided.

The town has had another film crew filming at William Penny Brookes' house and on the Gaskell Field recently, on an industrial history of the area subject, I believe.

I supported the Severn Hospice charity event at a lovely garden in Walton Hills and assisted our County Councillor at his monthly surgery.

Of great interest to the town, and the Planning Committee especially, was the raising of the canopy at the Wheatland Garage by four large cranes. An interesting feat of engineering it certainly was. This had been the subject of a planning application and approval some time ago.

There is an excellent exhibition of paintings by local artists in the courtroom next door and I'm sure many of you will have seen the display of wild flowers at the top of the Gaskell Field.

A date for your diaries Councillors: the Civic Service is now booked as the morning service on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> September.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that it was our much admired butcher, Paddy Ryan's, 70th birthday last Monday and I believe that this week his business celebrates 60 years of service in Much Wenlock. Paddy and his wife have worked tirelessly for all these years serving the town, particularly through the lockdown period, and the High Street would be a less attractive place to visit without them. I know that Councillors will agree that we should mark this occasion appropriately, and I would like to propose that we, as a Council, send a letter to him congratulating him on his double milestone this week."

Councillor Thomas seconded the proposal, agreeing that Paddy Ryan was a pillar of the community and that it would be fitting to mark the anniversaries with a letter of thanks.

**It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs Ryan to mark Paddy Ryan's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and 60 years of the butcher's business, A Ryan & Son.**

## 2. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Will Benbow – prior engagement, Councillors John O'Dowd and Duncan White – holiday, Councillor Wilf Grainger – work, Councillor Chris Tyler – family matter.

## 3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the monitoring officer.

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#### 4. Dispensations

None requested.

#### 5. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

#### 6. Policing

Councillors had received a written report from PCSO Mal Goddard, who also provided a verbal update. It was hoped that a new Police Constable might join the team as early as next month, although this was still to be confirmed. PCSO Goddard reported that nine arrests had been made for the theft of agricultural equipment over an area from North Wales to Shropshire, with one person listed as resident in Much Wenlock. The nine individuals would appear at Mold Crown Court on 30<sup>th</sup> June and the cases were likely to be transferred to Shrewsbury. All those arrested were currently out on bail.

Since the written report had been prepared, there had been one report of an off-road motorbike being ridden in Sheinton Street but no identification. Councillors were asked to pass on any relevant information. PCSO Mal Goddard was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

#### 7. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas, presented the following report:

**“Gaskell Arms Junction Update:** the proposals to improve the Gaskell Arms Junction have come through and have been forwarded to all Councillors; due to the nature of the work this is in confidential session, but I am hopeful Councillors will respond positively to the proposals.

**Changing of Double Yellow Lines:** the date for the consultation to change some double yellow lines on Much Wenlock’s streets is set to be confirmed shortly. Depending on the weather, this will be on the square or in the museum and will be well publicised.

**Summary of Shropshire Council Annual Report:** Shropshire Council faced a challenging year in 2022-23. Despite some successes, such as a Good OFSTED rating for Children’s Services, the Council was hit by a budget deficit of £10-17m, a crisis in the care market, and the usual problems with road surfaces remain. The Council plans to address these challenges, including reducing costs, protecting essential services, and working with partners to improve the care market. The Council is committed to maintaining a solid financial footing and confidently moving forward in 2023-24.

The easiest way to describe the Council’s revenue budget is to say that for every £5 we spend, £4 is spent on social care, and then out of the remaining £1, 50p is spent on the waste contract. So, everything else the Council does is paid for out of the remaining 50p and any funding we get from central government.

Our £60m investment into Highways is paying off, but the mix of wet and freezing conditions over the winter meant many potholes have appeared. Over the summer, we plan to catch up. However, as national and local news reported, we need significant government investment in road infrastructure, particularly as funding is allocated by population, not by road network.

Four big projects that are under way in Shropshire are:

- **Redevelopment of the Riverside in Shrewsbury:** an award of nearly £18.7M from central government for the redevelopment of the Riverside area in Shrewsbury has enabled us to move the project forward. Over the summer there will be a number of public events being held and we will also be publishing the Movement Strategy which will affect Shrewsbury.
- **The Local Plan:** Shropshire Council has fulfilled its ‘Duty to Cooperate’. The Inspection is continuing with a lot of work to be undertaken to get to the next stage.
- **The Future of Shirehall:** it was agreed at a meeting of Full Council that we would be leaving the Shirehall for a new home in the town centre. I have made no secret of the facts surrounding this building, which is expensive to run, no longer fit for purpose and will be very expensive to refurbish, therefore the future of the Council is in the town centre.
- **The North West Relief Road:** the final public consultation period has now concluded, and we move closer to getting the application to Committee. We are still expecting the meeting to be held in early summer.

**Surgery:** my next advice surgery will be held on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> of June, between 10.30 am and 12 noon at the museum. No appointment is necessary. I’ll be joined by Town Councillor Susan Crooke-Williams and a representative from the Police.”

Councillor Thomas was asked when further electrical work in the High Street would be undertaken. He advised that further work was required but the problems had been mitigated. With Much Wenlock being a tourist town, it was likely that the work would be carried out in the autumn.

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**8. Minutes**

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council Committee meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- c. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- d. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**9. Town Clerk's Report**

Members noted the written and verbal report from the Town Clerk and the Clerk's forthcoming annual leave.

**10. Finance & Asset Management Committee Meeting Date March 2024**

Members noted that there had been an error in the 2023/24 Council meeting schedule and **RESOLVED** to approve the date of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting for March 2024 as Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**11. Internal Audit Report**

- a. Members considered the final Internal Audit Report for 2022/23 and noted the recommendations of the auditor. Thanks were expressed to the RFO and Clerk.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the action taken by the Finance & Asset Management Committee in nominating Councillor Susan Crooke-Williams to carry out periodic checks of the petty cash, in response to the recommendation of the auditor.

**12. Annual Accounts 2022/23**

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve income and expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the balance sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.
- c. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the bank reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

**13. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/2023**

- a. Members noted the Annual Internal Audit Report 2022/23 forming part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- b. Members considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the Town Council's response to the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 - Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- c. Members considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the Accounting Statements for 2022/2023 - Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- d. Members considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the Explanation of Variances.
- e. Members considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the reconciliation between boxes 7 and 8 in Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.
- f. Members noted and **RESOLVED** to approve the period for the exercise of public rights from Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**14. Additional Signatory for Unity Trust Bank**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of Councillor Susan Crooke-Williams as an additional signatory for Unity Trust Bank, as recommended by the Finance & Asset Management Committee.

**15. The Guildhall Project**

- a. Members received a report from the Council's consultant, Greenwood Projects, on progress with the Guildhall project and noted a verbal report from Councillor Themans. A list of stakeholders had been provided to Greenwood Projects for consultation. The outcome of two grant funding applications was awaited, however, the Council might be required to make up any shortfall from its own funds.  
**It was RESOLVED** to provide Council funds from the Heritage and Property earmarked reserves to make up any shortfall in funding for the viability study for the Guildhall.
- b. Members reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the tender brief for the viability study and to move forward with the tender process.

## 16. CCTV

Members noted a report on progress with research into options for upgrading the town's CCTV system. Due to the cost, a reduced scheme was being considered for the centre of the town only and revised quotations would be requested. Potential funding options were also being investigated. Contact would be made with the police for information and advice. Options would be presented to Council in due course.

## 17. 'Meet the Leader' 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Members noted that Shropshire Councillor Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council, would be coming to Much Wenlock to hold a 'Meet the Leader' session on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> July, between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon, under the Corn Exchange. This event was aimed at members of the public.

## 18. Shropshire Council Powers to Enforce Driving Offences

Members noted that Shropshire Council had been granted 'moving traffic powers' by the Department for Transport, due to come into effect on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023. Shropshire was the first rural county in the country to be granted this power.

## 19. Correspondence from Philip Dunne MP

Members noted the response from Philip Dunne MP to the Town Council's correspondence regarding support for the Climate and Ecology Bill. Mr Dunne stated that whilst the Bill had been formally given a date for a second reading, it was unlikely to receive Parliamentary time. He advised that tackling climate change was a top priority for the Government and listed past legislation.

## 20. Consultation

Members considered a response to the following consultation:

- a. Draft recommendations for division boundaries in Shropshire, response deadline 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (full details available on the Local Government Boundary Commission website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/shropshire>).

Members were informed that the recommendations from the Boundary Commission were different to the proposals submitted by Shropshire Council. The Boundary Commission proposed to move Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long out of the Much Wenlock division and into the Brown Clee division. Members noted the close community ties with those parishes. It was also proposed to move Hughley, Kenley and Church Preen into the Much Wenlock division. It was proposed to leave Broseley Wood in the Much Wenlock division, rather than moving it into the Broseley division, as would be appropriate for its community identity. The proposals were focussed on numbers, rather than community links.

**It was RESOLVED to object to the removal of Easthope, Shipton and Stanton Long from the Much Wenlock division as the community identity of this parish was aligned with Much Wenlock. Further, to recognise that Broseley Wood residents felt part of Broseley and that Much Wenlock Town Council would support the inclusion of Broseley Wood in the Broseley division, rather than retention in the Much Wenlock division.**

- b. Shropshire Great Outdoors Annual Public Survey 2023, deadline for response 6<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Members noted that the survey was aimed at members of the public and that individual responses to the survey would be appropriate.

## 21. Correspondence

Members noted the following items, which had been emailed to Members:

- a. SALC information bulletins and other information
- b. NALC newsletters and other information
- c. Press releases from Shropshire Council
- d. Rural Bulletins from the Rural Services Network
- e. Information from the RSN Rural Market Town Group
- f. Police Neighbourhood Matters alerts
- g. Friendly Bus Newsletter June 2023 and notification of AGM and celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm at the Birchmeadow Centre, Broseley
- h. VCSA newsletters
- i. News from Shropshire Hills AONB
- j. South Shropshire Youth Network information regarding Youth Conference on 24<sup>th</sup> June
- k. Lord Lieutenant's Newsletter, Coronation Special, May 2023
- l. News from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- m. Zero Carbon Shropshire Green News June 2023

## 22. Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting.

**23. Date of next meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.00pm at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock. The Mayor gave apologies in advance and stated that the Deputy Mayor would chair the meeting.

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**Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **RESOLVED** that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press should not be present.

**24. Consultants for Neighbourhood Plan Review**

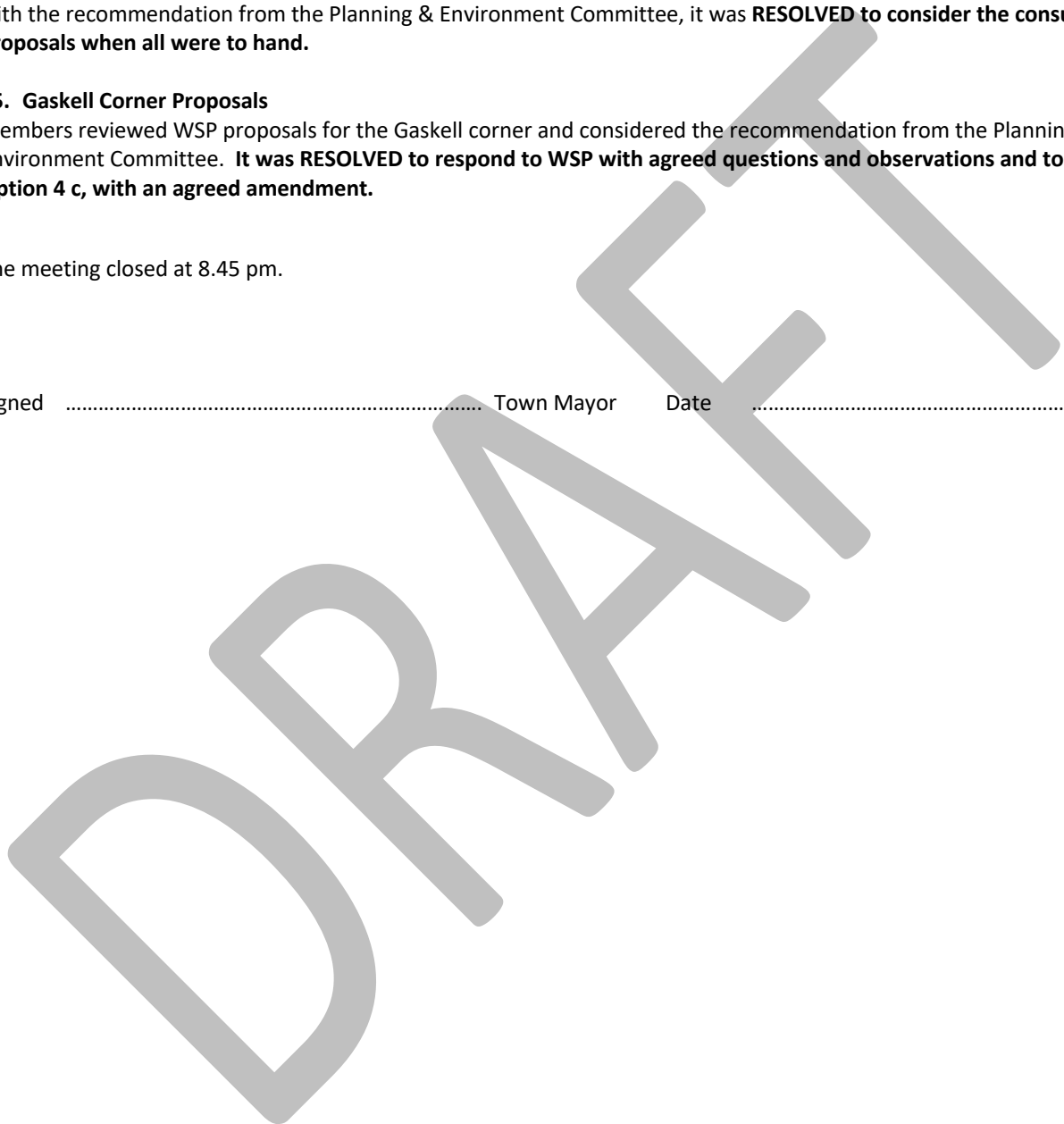
Members noted that the Clerk had obtained three proposals from consultants and was awaiting a fourth. In accordance with the recommendation from the Planning & Environment Committee, it was **RESOLVED to consider the consultancy proposals when all were to hand.**

**25. Gaskell Corner Proposals**

Members reviewed WSP proposals for the Gaskell corner and considered the recommendation from the Planning & Environment Committee. **It was RESOLVED to respond to WSP with agreed questions and observations and to support Option 4 c, with an agreed amendment.**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed ..... Town Mayor      Date .....





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# MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**  
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

**Present:** Councillors William Benbow, David Fenwick (in the chair), Daniel Thomas (from minute no. 9), Chris Tyler, Linda West.

**In attendance:** Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

## 1. Apologies

Councillor Wilf Grainger – family commitment, Councillor Christian Toon – work, Councillor Daniel Thomas – late arrival

## 2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the Register of Members' Interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Benbow declared a pecuniary interest in planning application 23/01388/FUL, 1 Manor View, Bourton.

## 3. Dispensations

None requested.

## 4. Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

## 5. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

## 6. Planning Applications

Members considered a response to the following planning applications:

Having declared a pecuniary interest in application 23/01388/FUL, Councillor Benbow left the room.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 23/01388/FUL<br>1 Manor View, Bourton, Much Wenlock | Erection of 2No storey side including Juliet balcony to rear, single storey rear extensions complete with porch to frontage.<br><b>It was RESOLVED no objection.</b> |
|---|--|

Councillor Benbow returned to the meeting.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 23/01653/LBC<br>48 High Street, Much Wenlock            | Reinstatement of internal porch by front door - removed in c.2005 as part of previous renovations. Replacement of 2x (modern) doors and 1x internal (modern) door. Replacement of 5x windows to rear aspect of the property.<br><b>It was RESOLVED no objection.</b> |
| 23/01756/TCA<br>11 Barrow Street, Much Wenlock          | Fell 1no Norway Spruce, 1no Leylandii & 1no Mountain Ash within Much Wenlock Conservation Area.<br><b>It was RESOLVED no objection.</b>  |
| 23/01852/TPO<br>Land Adj. 2 High Causeway, Much Wenlock | Prune back canopy from building by 3-4m of 1no Sycamore covered by the Bridgnorth District Council (Land at 2 High Causeway, Much Wenlock) TPO 2007 (Ref: BR/TPO/142).<br><b>It was RESOLVED no objection.</b>   |

## 7. Planning Decisions

It was **RESOLVED** to note the following planning decisions:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 23/01107/TCA<br>Oak Cottage, 42A Barrow Street, Much Wenlock | Remove 1no. Goat Willow within Much Wenlock Conservation Area.<br><b>Decision: No objection</b> |
|--|---|

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|   |   |
|---|---|
| 23/01289/TCA<br>32 Barrow Street, Much<br>Wenlock | Remove new growth and shoots back to original pruning points for 1no Yew within<br>Much Wenlock Conservation Area.<br><b>Decision: No objection</b> |
|---|---|

#### 8. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

Members were informed that the most recent activity had been in relation to minerals and waste, which did not directly affect Much Wenlock. There was nothing further to report.

#### 9. Neighbourhood Plan Review

- a. Members considered information received from Shropshire Council's Planning Policy & Strategy Manager regarding a review of the Neighbourhood Plan. They noted the advice to involve an external person to chair the steering group, which aligned with the Council's decision to seek quotations from an external consultant.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted several consultancies regarding support services, had received initial responses and was awaiting further information.

Clr Thomas joined the meeting.

- b. Members considered a paper prepared by a member of the public headed 'Monitoring the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2017-2023' regarding housing targets and completions for the town. Members noted, with thanks, the useful information provided.

#### 10. Flooding Issues

- a. Report from the Strategic Flood Working Group: Councillor Benbow reported ongoing correspondence with Philip Dunne MP and the Environment Agency (EA) relating to the status of Much Wenlock as a rapid response catchment area and the lack of a strategic plan to deal with this risk. The EA had advised that while this was a useful designation, it had no legal status and simply raised awareness of the potential for serious flooding. On a positive note, the landowners concerned had now given permission for topographical surveys of land identified for attenuation ponds around the town. WSP could now make progress with producing detailed drawings and contact would be made with Shropshire Council's Drainage and Flood Risk Manager to request a timescale for completion of this work.

There had been no progress with revision of the Flood Action Plan due to pressure of other work for Shropshire Council's Drainage and Flood Risk Manager.

- b. There were no other flooding issues.

#### 11. Transport and Highways Matters

- a. Members received a report from the Transport Working Group which covered agenda items 11b and c, and 12.
- b. Members considered the response from Shropshire Councillor Richard Marshall to the Town Council's request for a 20mph speed limit in the town centre. Councillor Marshall had responded that Shropshire Council were implementing trials on a School Streets Scheme and were actively exploring the 20's Plenty implications. When he knew more, he would let the Council know.
- c. Members considered the response from Atkins regarding the generation of traffic by a potential rail link at the Ironbridge Power Station site. Councillors were content that their concerns had been acknowledged by Atkins and the Town Council's engagement had been registered.

#### 12. A458 Shrewsbury Road – Highways Concerns

Members considered the response received from the responsible Shropshire Council Highways Engineer regarding the possibility of introducing a white, 'town gateway' on the A458 near to Cornmeadow Cottage at the top of Harley Bank. The engineer had advised that the roadside verge was not wide enough for gates but suggested introducing red patches on the road surface, reducing in size as they became nearer to the hazard. Councillors remained keen to promote a buffer speed limit at this location and members of the Transport Working Group would be pursuing this with the highways engineer.

Members noted that Shropshire Council's aim was to move all such highways requests to the Place Plans and that a review of Place Plans was imminent.

#### 13. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies

**14. Community Benefit from Solar Farms in Shropshire**

Members reviewed draft guidance prepared by SALC and Shropshire Council to support local councils in negotiations with prospective developers of solar farms. Members welcomed and supported the guidance. However, no reference was made to batteries, which were often added on to solar farms. Councillors considered that there should be a community financial contribution for ancillary batteries installed with solar farms, as these added huge financial benefit to solar schemes. The Clerk was asked to respond to the consultation accordingly.

**15. Consultation\***

- a. Members considered a response to the formal consultation on proposals for the extension of the 30mph speed limit in Callaughton Lane. **It was RESOLVED to wholeheartedly support the scheme and to stress the urgency of its implementation.**
- b. Members noted that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was consulting on the new Infrastructure Levy until 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- c. **It was RESOLVED to make no response to the NALC request for comments on the proposals, nor directly to the DLUHC consultation.**

**16. Street Lighting\***

**17. Street Naming \***

**18. Footpath Issues**

Members considered concerns about the very muddy entrance to the footpath off the Bull Ring, which formed part of the route of the Olympian Trail, and action which might be taken to remedy this. One option could be to stone the surface of the footpath to encourage pupils walking to William Brookes School to use this route all year round, instead of Sheinton Street, as well as improving the footpath for other walkers. Better drainage might also be introduced to reduce waterlogging. A gate that would permit pushchairs to pass would be a welcome improvement.

Councillor Thomas was asked to approach the Shropshire Council Rights of Way officer to seek a meeting on site between the officer, Town Councillors and the landowner to consider how to improve the path.

**19. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders\***

**20. Footpath Diversion Orders\***

**21. Road Closures\***

**22. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)\***

**23. Stopping Up Orders\***

**24. Speed Limit Orders\***

**25. Prohibition Orders\***

**26. Date of next meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting was expected to be Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7pm at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock (to be confirmed at the reconvened Annual Town Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023).

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

**Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it was RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present.**

**27. Planning Enforcement**

Members noted enforcement issue 23/09550/ENF.

Members received an update on enforcement issue 22/09018/ENF.

The Clerk was asked to raise several enforcement issues with Shropshire Council.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....

| MONTH        | MINUTE NUMBER | RESOLUTION  | TASK COMPLETE | COMMENT   |
|--------------|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| June 2022    | 13            | Continue to check the Local Plan EIP website for updates.   | Ongoing       | Councillors and associates also requested to check EIP website themselves, in case of delay with Clerk checking.                |
| October 2022 | 6b            | Mayor and Clerk to draft a procedure for making CCTV footage available to the police.                     | In progress   |   |
| June 2023    | 1             | Send a letter of thanks to Mr and Mrs Ryan.   | Yes           |   |
|              | 13f           | Approve the period for the exercise of public rights from 14 <sup>th</sup> June to 25 <sup>th</sup> July. | Yes           | Notices displayed   |
|              | 15b           | Approve the tender brief for the viability study for the Guildhall.                                       | Yes           | Greenwood Projects notified   |
|              | 20a           | Submit comments to the Boundary Commission regarding the Boundary Review.                                 | Yes           |   |
|              | 24            | Consider the consultancy proposals for a review of the Neighbourhood Plan when all were to hand.          | In progress   | Proposals on agenda for Planning Committee meeting on 4 <sup>th</sup> July and on full Council agenda for 6 <sup>th</sup> July. |
|              | 25            | Respond to WSP with agreed questions and observations and to support option 4c with an agreed amendment.  | Yes           | Acknowledgement received from WSP.  |

Other activities:

- Annual leave
- Piece written for Wenlock Herald
- Meeting with Greenwood Projects on 29<sup>th</sup> June
- Meeting with Place Plan officer scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> July

**From:** Gillian Davis  
**Date:** Monday, 29 May 2023  
**To:** Town Clerk <[townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: prospective motion to MW TC

Dear Trudi Barrett,

You kindly offered my friend John Crowe the opportunity for us to submit a draft motion, which we hope can be added to the agenda for the next full Council meeting.

The prospect of the Future Fit/Hospital Transformation Plan (HTP) for a single 'Emergency Department' only at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to serve the urban and rural populations of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin is of clear concern to most people, as evidenced by the survey responses. The 'Outline business case' is in preparation for later this year, so our Council's support for the clear majority of Much Wenlock people would be appropriate and timely.

Should the Council agree to adopt such a motion, we should be happy to provide contact addresses for the strata of NHS management relevant to this matter.

If you would like more information or have any questions do please contact me.

Kind regards  
Gill Davis

### **Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin A&Es- draft motion to Much Wenlock Town Council:**

*Much Wenlock Town Council recognises the strength of public opinion reflected in a Much Wenlock public survey of opinion, in which 92.7% of those polled responded 'YES' to the proposition - [Should both Shrewsbury A&E and Telford A&E remain fully functioning A&E's ?](#)*

*The Much Wenlock poll response confirmed similar results obtained from surveying 11 other Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Towns from which the average response is 96.7% support from 1,560 people polled. This is a statistically significant sample, well exceeding a 95% 'confidence level' and a 3% 'error margin' from a population assumed to be 500,000.*

*This Council notes these survey results and, resolves to formally request that NHS Shropshire Telford and Wrekin, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, NHS Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit, and NHS England and NHS Improvement commit to re-considering the Future Fit/Hospitals Transformation Programme (to have a single Emergency Department), in light of these significant polling results. We request responses from the above mentioned NHS entities.*

ENDS.

### **Additional Information**

The Much Wenlock survey was conducted on 17th Feb. 2018. The first of such surveys across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin was undertaken in November 2017 and the last in Oswestry on Jan. 7th 2023.

The Much Wenlock survey attracted 82 participants of whom 92.7% affirmed the proposition ' - [Should both Shrewsbury A&E and Telford A&E remain fully functioning A&E's ?](#)

At a sample population size of say 500,000 (across ST&W), to establish the statistical significance of this survey response, it is necessary to identify some contingent variables. Thus, what confidence level (CL) you wish, as well as the margin of error (EM) you wish to tolerate. E.g. for a CL of say 95% and an EM of 3% the ideal surveyed number is 1065. The aggregate response was 96.7% in support derived from 1560 Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin participants. Overview of progression; 'Future Fit' (FF) was 10 years in April 2023 and is now also referred to as 'Shropshire Telford and Wrekin NHS - Hospital Transformation Programme (HTP). The £312m. original HTP budget was increased to £500m. which HMG rejected and the formal, next stage, 'Outline Business Case' is in preparation for submission later this year - based upon original £312m. This spend is predominately on a new build hospital on the existing Royal Shrewsbury Hospital site.

Telford's population is 186,000 (2021 Census) and Shrewsbury 77,000. Both have extensive dispersed rural catchment populations across market towns, villages and hamlets. Royal Shrewsbury Hospital already has emergency responsibility for the population in central East Wales.

The FF/HTP clinical model for a single Emergency Department is to concentrate all emergency services on one site (Shrewsbury) and all/most 'planned care' at Princess Royal, Telford. The model claims - that it will deliver better patient care and attract clinicians; - that getting emergency patients to the right care is more important than 'time to hospital'. Telford's A&E commenced in 1989 in recognition of the growth in population (today the 18th fastest growing in the UK.)

The model claims that 2/3rds of A&E/urgent care patients will continue to attend the same hospital as now. From this therefore, 1/3 of A&E patients at PRH would need to travel to Shrewsbury. In the year to Oct. 2022 (from FOI data SaTH ref. 22-1147) 13,528 (av.37 per day) emergency patients would have needed to be transferred from PRH to RSH.

The 'blue light time' from Telford area to RSH is c.25 + minutes - conditional upon ideal road and traffic conditions. The Highways Agency have confirmed that in the year to Feb. 2023 the West-bound M54 into the A5 was closed to traffic on 37 occasions.

In addition, I attach the summary of the assessment of the FF 'formal public consultation' in late Summer of 2018 conducted on behalf of ST&W CCGs by 'Participate Ltd.' (below)

## **Shropshire CCG and Telford and Wrekin CCG – Future Fit, formal public consultation summary report, Nov. 2018. Participate Ltd.**

### **p.18 Perceived Impact of the Proposed Model**

- The most frequently mentioned theme was that Shrewsbury (as in the preferred Option 1) would be too far for people to travel for emergency care, stating that Telford has a growing urban population which therefore needs its own 'A&E'
- However it should be noted that this theme was most prevalent from Telford & Wrekin survey respondents and meeting participants
- There was disagreement with the model from all localities in terms of people stating that two 'A&Es' are needed, one at each hospital site
- It was felt that travel was going to be a key issue if the proposed model was adopted, with irregular bus services (especially in rural areas), a lack of direct public transport to hospital sites and traffic congestion on the A5/M54
- There were also concerns about increased pressure on ambulance services and fears that there would be potential risks to lives with increased ambulance journey times
- It was also felt that Telford could be too far for people to travel for planned care, with a particular impact on carers (in Option 1)
- There were concerns about a perception of wasted investment into the Princess Royal Hospital in the past and how the proposed model (with the move of Women's and Children's) would be funded
- Some respondents felt that a provision for Powys should be the responsibility of the Health Board and others felt that Welsh residents should be entitled to their own services stating that this model would leave 'them worse off'
- There were concerns that the model will exacerbate already intense pressure on staff
- There were statements that there is no clear clinical evidence that the model will improve clinical outcomes
- Alternatively, there was some support stating that it is a sensible and fully integrated model.

Shropshire Council - 21/06/2023

## **Council seeks views on Statement of Licensing Policy 2024 to 2029**

Interested parties are invited to have their say on Shropshire Council's revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2024 to 2029. The policy provides guidance to anyone with an interest in licensing under the Act; in particular, but not restricted to:-

- people who wish to apply for premises licences, club premises certificates, temporary event notices and personal licences
- people who hold existing licences and notices, including those that are the subject of review
- Shropshire Council, in its capacity as the licensing authority, including licensing officers and members of the relevant licensing committees
- licensing consultants, solicitors and barristers advising and/or representing applicants and licence/notice holders
- the responsible authorities under the Licensing Act 2003
- magistrates and judges hearing appeals against Shropshire Council decisions.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'), Shropshire Council is the licensing authority and is responsible for licensing and overseeing licensable activities as set out in the Act.

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the council to prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy with respect to its licensing functions at least every five years.

As part of the process the council will be consulting on a general basis, but in particular with all responsible authorities under the Licensing Act, and organisations who represent the interests of persons carrying on licensable activities and organisations who represent persons who are likely to be affected by the exercise of the council's functions under this Act.

Richard Marshall, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for highways and regulatory services, said:-

**"The council is required to prepare a statement of the principles that it proposes to apply in exercising its functions under the Licensing Act during the next five years, and to then publish that statement.**

**"We've taken the opportunity to revise the content of the policy to reflect the latest guidance issued under the Act and amendments made to the Act itself since the current policy was adopted. The policy also provides practical clarity to existing and potential licence holders, and assists council officers to correctly apply the legal provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.**

**"I would encourage all interested parties to take part and provide feedback on the revised content in our current policy."**

Frances Darling, Shropshire Council's head of business and consumer protection, said:-

**"The preparation, consultation and publication process that is being undertaken is a legal requirement placed on the council. However, this is not only about the council complying with its legal obligations: this is a genuine opportunity for all stakeholders to make their views known, and I encourage everyone who wishes to comment to do so over the next 10 weeks."**

Roy Aldcroft, Chair of Shropshire Council's Strategic Licensing Committee, said:-

**"The Licensing Act covers a number of activities that affect us all as we go about our daily lives. From the bottle of wine that we buy at the supermarket to enjoy at the weekend, to the play that we go and see at the local village hall, to the drink we enjoy with friends at the local pub, and the wide range of takeaways that we buy from late at night.**

**"It is hoped that the proposed policy will support both businesses offering these goods and services, as well as our residents.**

**“I would encourage everyone who has any concerns that our proposed policy does not sufficiently support these objectives to make their views known as soon as possible, and clearly to do so before the consultation period ends.”**

The consultation period closes on **Sunday 27 August 2023 at midnight**. All comments and representations should be made, and further advice may be sought from, the licensing team at:-

**Email:** [licensing@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@shropshire.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 0345 678 9026

**Post:** Trading standards and licensing, Shropshire Council, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

#### **Further information**

Shropshire Council, as the licensing authority for the Shropshire Council area, has commenced a consultation process on its Statement of Licensing Policy under provisions contained in the Licensing Act 2003.

Following the formal consultation process, an analysis of the responses received will be undertaken and the results collated for the Strategic Licensing Committee to consider. A revised policy document will be made available to the Strategic Licensing Committee in time to ensure the revised policy is in force by 1 April 2024.

## **Shropshire Council**

### **Statement of Licensing Policy 2024 – 2029 consultation**

Period: 19 June 2023 - 27 August 2023

#### **Why are we consulting?**

Under the Licensing Act 2003 ('the Act'), the council is the licensing authority and is responsible for licensing and overseeing licensable activities as set out in the Act. The Licensing Act 2003 requires the council to prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy with respect to its licensing functions at least every five years.

The council's current Statement of Licensing Policy came into effect on the 1 April 2019 and will cease to have effect on the 31 March 2024. The council must be in a position to formally adopt a revised policy with effect from 1 April 2024. In order to satisfy the specific legal requirements set down in the Act, the council needs to carry out a consultation process on the proposed Statement of Licensing Policy from 19 June 2023 to the 27 August 2023.

#### **What does the revised policy seek to achieve?**

The council has taken the opportunity to revise the content of the policy to reflect the latest guidance issued under the Act and amendments made to the Act itself since the current policy was adopted. The policy also provides practical clarity to existing and potential licence holders and assists council officers to correctly apply the legal provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

Following the formal consultation process, an analysis of the responses received will be undertaken and the results collated for the Strategic Licensing Committee (SLC) to consider. A revised policy document will be made available to the SLC in time to ensure the revised policy is in force by the 1 April 2024.

The council welcomes and encourages all interested parties to provide feedback in relation to the content and format of the whole policy.

The Policy is available to view at:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/statement-of-licensing-policy-2024-2029-consultation/>



**From:** OPCC Comments <comments@westmercia.police.uk>

**Date:** Thursday, 22 June 2023 at 16:26

**Subject:** Town and Parish Council survey 2023

Dear Parish/Town Council

As the voice of the public in policing, I want to ensure communities are able to shape policing priorities and raise the issues that matter to them.

For the sixth consecutive year, I have once again launched my Town and Parish Council survey, so you can have your say on police visibility, accessibility, and crime and disorder in your area.

The opinions and feedback provided last year helped to show where improvements needed to be made and I acted on those by providing extra investment which has seen officer numbers reach record levels in West Mercia.

Working in the heart of the communities you serve; I am now inviting every town and parish council across West Mercia to complete this year's survey and would encourage you to complete it.

Once again, I will compare this year's results to those I received in previous years and will be using the results to inform my discussions with the Chief Constable on local policing.

I have also sent this out through the Association of Local Councils, that you may be a member of, but I wanted to send this directly to you to ensure you received it and have the chance to respond.

The results of the survey will be available to view on my website: [www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk).

If possible, please complete your survey online, by clicking on the link below – this will take you straight to the survey.

<https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90569091/Town-and-Parish-Council-Survey-2023>

Please submit only **one response** for your town and parish council.

If you wish to complete the survey 'offline' I have attached a Word version of the document to enable you to do so. Please email your completed survey response to: [opcc@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:opcc@westmercia.police.uk) or post it to the address given at the bottom of the questionnaire.

Please submit your completed survey by midday on Monday 14 August.

I look forward to receiving your completed survey.

**John Champion**

**West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

## Town and Parish Council Survey 2023

### Local Policing

**1) In the Council's opinion, how good a job do you think the police are doing in your town / parish?\***

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very Poor
- Don't know

**2) In the Council's opinion, how would you rate the visibility of police in your town parish?\***

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor
- Don't know

**How much does the Council agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**3) The police work well with the Council to identify and address local crime and disorder issues\***

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

**4) The Council has confidence in the police to resolve crime and disorder issues raised within the local community\***

- Strongly agree
- Tend to agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Tend to disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't know

**5) On average, how often does the Council contact the police to raise concerns about crimes or incidents?\***

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every 2 - 6 months
- Once a year
- Never
- Don't know

**6) Overall, how would you rate the police response to crime and disorder issues or incidents raised by the Council?\***

- Excellent
  - Good
  - Fair
  - Poor
  - Very poor
  - Don't know / N/A
- 

### **Contact and Engagement**

**7) Are you aware of the Local Policing Charter?**

- Yes
- No

**8) Have the police been in touch to identify your priorities as a Town/Parish Council?**

- Yes
- No

**9) If answered yes in question 8. In the Councils opinion have the police acted upon the priorities you set out?**

- Yes
- No

**10) In the Councils opinion have you seen an reduction in crime and increased feeling of safety as a result of the launch of the Local Policing Charter in March 2021?**

- Yes
- No

**11) In the Council's opinion, how easy and convenient is it to access your local policing teams? (This may be in any form - face to face, email, telephone etc)\***

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult
- Don't know / N/A

**12) In the Council's opinion, how easy and convenient is it to access relevant information for the local community from the police?\***

- Very easy
- Fairly easy
- Fairly difficult
- Very difficult
- Don't know / N/A

**13) In the Council's opinion, how would you rate the level of contact you have with the police?\***

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor
- Don't know / N/A

**14) How does the Council contact the police to discuss local issues, seek information or invite to meetings / community events? (Not including reporting crimes). *Please tick all that apply\****

- Phone (land line)
- Phone (mobile)
- Email
- Letter
- Social media
- In person (at a police station etc)
- Website
- Other
- Don't contact the police

**15) How often does the Council contact the police to discuss local issues, seek information or invite to meetings / community events? (Not including reporting crimes)\***

- Weekly
- Monthly

- Every 2- 6 months
- Once a year
- Never
- Don't know

**16) How would the Council rate the police response to requests for information / meetings etc?\***

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor
- Very poor
- Don't know / N/A

**17) How often do the police attend Council meetings or other community events in your town or parish area?\***

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every 2 - 6 months
- Once a year
- Never
- Don't know / not invited

**18) How often do the police proactively contact the Council to raise awareness of local issues, share information etc?\***

- Weekly
- Monthly
- Every 2 - 6 months
- Once a year
- Never
- Don't know

**19) Does the Council know the members of the police's local Safer Neighbourhood Team? These teams include Inspectors, Sergeants, PCs and PCSOs\***

- Very familiar
  - Somewhat familiar
  - Not well known
  - Totally unknown
  - N/A
-

**Crime and anti social behaviour issues**

**20) In the Council's opinion, how much of a problem, if at all, would you say that crime and anti social behaviour is in your town / parish area?\***

- Not a problem at all  
 Not a very big problem  
 Fairly big problem  
 Very big problem  
 Don't know

**21) Which if any of the following issues would you say are currently a problem in and around your council area?**

**Please tick one box in each row**

|   | <b>Not a problem at all</b> | <b>Not a very big problem</b> | <b>Fairly big problem</b> | <b>Very big problem</b> | <b>Don't know</b>     |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Domestic burglary   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Violent crime   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Anti social behaviour   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Online crime  | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Vehicle crime   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Criminal damage / vandalism   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Crimes against businesses   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rural crime   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Offence of a sexual nature  | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Crime committed against people due to their age, race, ethnicity, disability or sexuality | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Road safety   | <input type="radio"/>       | <input type="radio"/>         | <input type="radio"/>     | <input type="radio"/>   | <input type="radio"/> |

## About your council

**What is the name of your council (or councils if it is a combined parish council group)?\***

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**22) Please confirm which Borough / District / City / Unitary area your council is in\***

- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Redditch
- Wyre Forest
- Worcester City
- Malvern Hills
- Wychavon
- Bromsgrove

**23) Approximately how many people live in your town / parish area?**

- Less than 500
- 501 - 1000
- 1001 - 5000
- 5001 - 10,000
- Over 10,000

**Please provide an appropriate current email address which the Commissioner and his staff may use to contact the Council when necessary. Your email will be held securely in web-based databases. It will not be shared with any other third party.**

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**24) Would you like to receive the Commissioner's monthly newsletter to this email address?**

- Yes
- No

**Thank You!**