



Much Wenlock Town Council

Town Council Meeting

4th September 2025

Supporting Papers

Broseley and Much Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

Update to Much Wenlock Town Council: 30/07/2025

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. The SNT comprises PC Emma Strangwood and PCSO Helen Scott.

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 for this period as:

Theft (from outbuildings). No reports this month.

Anti-Social Behaviour. No ASB reported this month

Speeding. No reports of Speeding.

Again, Much Wenlock has had few issues reported this month. Let's hope this continues.

We received a further 4 hoax calls from one household (the same household which has been reported over the last few months for nuisance calls). The occupants will now be issued with a Community Protection Notice; this will basically allow officers to arrest the individuals if their behaviour continues. We are still working alongside STaR housing to resolve the issue.

There have been two reports of vehicle thefts, a motor home from Much Wenlock and a caravan from Bourton. One call was received for a domestic incident which involved alcohol and another for indecent exposure. Four reports of theft (making off without payment), one for a missing person who was eventually located and one report for blackmail. Gunshots were reported by walkers; this was believed to be a clay pigeon shoot in the area.

Road Traffic Issues:

We received one call for an RTC involving a deer.

The Safer Neighbourhood team have attended community events this month, including Much Wenlock Summer fete and Cuan Wildlife open day. They have also been involved with several multi agency meetings, including housing due to neighbour disputes.

PCSO Scott

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock at 7 pm on Thursday, 10th July 2025

Present: Councillors Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick, Jill Robinson, Paula Sivertsen, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Chris Tyler and Daisy Whiteman.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, Police Inspector Damien Kelly, Sergeant Stephen Mason, Revd Matthew Stafford, one member of the public.

1. Mayor's Welcome

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

It's been a fantastic month for Much Wenlock, with the successful festival and other events happening in the town. The festival featured a range of performing arts events, including a family fun day and open gardens. My thanks go to the organising committee volunteers who gave up their time to make such a successful event, as well as to the local businesses that sponsored the event; without their generosity, the event wouldn't have happened.

Our Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Claire Brentnall, as part of the Wenlock Olympian Society, organised an excellent 10-mile charity walk, raising money for the Society. It was a well-attended event in our fantastic countryside, with Lord Lieutenant Anna Turner also taking part. As Mayor, I was invited to present certificates to competitors, and I was delighted to support the society.

Last week marked 25 years since Reverend Prebendary Matthew Stafford was ordained to the priesthood. On behalf of this Council, I'd like to thank Matthew for his service and hard work in our community and congratulate him on this achievement. I am sure all of us would agree that Matthew has had a big impact on our community.

A Wenlock resident, Lieutenant Colonel Joanne Patrice D'Arcy, of the Royal Army Medical Service, was awarded an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours list. Congratulations to Jo, and well done.

This morning, our PSCO Mal Goddard formally retired after 19 years' service in our local policing team. Mal has been a stalwart of the team and is a familiar face in the town. To mark the occasion, the Council and the Church presented him with a St Milburga award for outstanding service to the community, and we wish him a happy retirement.

On Saturday, our Town Councillors were invited to view the Cavalier Centre. The centre offers inclusive horse-based activities such as riding, carriage driving, vaulting (gymnastics on horseback), hippotherapy (physio on horseback) and horse care, all supported by volunteers and team members. The visit was very much enjoyed and Cllrs were impressed by the centre and its team of volunteers.

Lastly, as a Council, we'd like to welcome our new staff members: Kevin Carter, our handyman, and Emilie Cleary Sullman, our additional Admin Assistant. Kevin has already started to make a difference around the town, and Emilie will be joining us on Monday, working 15 hours per week, Monday to Wednesday. Welcome to them both.

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Paul Madeley, Duncan White and Cherie Whiteman – holiday.

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.

4. Dispensations

None requested.

5. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

6. Police Report

The Mayor welcomed Police Inspector Damien Kelly and Sergeant Stephen Mason to the meeting.

Inspector Kelly gave an overview of recent policing activities. He reported that, upon his retirement, PCSO Mal Goddard had been presented with a West Mercia Force shield by the Assistant Chief Constable. PCSO Goddard had been a staple in his communities and Inspector Kelly was pleased to hear how much he had been valued.

When Inspector Kelly had previously visited the Council, just over 12 months ago, he had promised that there would be no vacancies on the local policing team. However, now PCSO Goddard had retired. There was an ongoing recruitment drive for PCSOs with a course scheduled for October. There were some local candidates and good talent coming through the system. PC Emma Strangwood and PCSO Helen Scott continued on the local team.

As a result of restructuring within the force, the size of some neighbourhood policing teams had been increased. This did not directly affect the Broseley and Much Wenlock team, but there were two extra police officers for Bridgnorth, which would alleviate some of the pressure on PC Strangwood's time outside of the Broseley & Much Wenlock area. An additional Sergeant for South Shropshire would also allow Sergeant Mason to spend more time out of the office.

Following an internal consultation, changes had been made to the working times of PCSOs. This would save the police force money as the cost of PCSO time increased after 8pm. Statistics showed that anti-social behaviour reduced significantly at around 8pm. Police visibility after this time would have to be taken on by police officers who would be working more late shifts in future.

Much Wenlock statistics were positive with quite a low crime rate.

The police had carried out at least 35 operations in the last 18 months to tackle drug dealing, had conducted several speeding and anti-social driving initiatives and had addressed rural thefts. An organised crime group had been stealing farm equipment and some of those concerned were now in prison, with others out on bail awaiting trial. The police were continuing with Operation Whitebeam, including high intensity engagement with the rural community, and another operation was planned shortly.

The Mayor stated that the local team was excellent: they attended Councillor advice surgeries and dealt with any relevant issues following those meetings. He noted that attendance at Council meetings might be affected by the change in working times for PCSOs. Inspector Kelly replied that attendance at Much Wenlock Town Council meetings was likely to continue as the PCSOs would still be able to return to Bridgnorth station by their finish time of 8pm.

The Inspector urged Councillors to report any suspicious activity. The theft of a camper van from Farley Road the previous night had been reported and the police were investigating.

Inspector Kelly was asked about a recent incident when youths were seen on the roof of a building at the rear of the High Street. The Inspector agreed to speak to PC Strangwood to ensure that this had been followed up as far as possible, including informal conversations with those concerned, if appropriate.

Inspector Kelly and Sergeant Mason were thanked for attending and left the meeting.

7. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas, gave the following report:

Much Wenlock Leisure Centre Update: I recently attended a meeting with Shropshire Councillors in our local area, discussing the ongoing work to secure the necessary funding for the 3-18 Education Trust, which runs William Brookes School. The Trust has put in an application for a significant sum of CIL money, which will be considered on Tuesday, 29th July, by the internal CIL Committee at Shropshire Council.

North West Relief Road: Shropshire Council's leadership met with the Government's Transport Minister, Lilian Greenwood MP, to discuss the Council's proposed North West Relief Road scheme, where they failed to get the required funding. For all intents and purposes, the scheme is dead in the water. It remains to be seen whether the £38m already spent needs to be paid back to central Government; if so, then the Council is bankrupt. This will be considered by Shropshire Council in September.

Gaskell Arms Junction Study Update: the Gaskell Arms junction study, involving Shropshire Council, WSP Consultants and Much Wenlock Town Council, is currently on hold due to Shropshire Council's financial situation. The junction has been modelled extensively by Shropshire Council's external partners WSP, who have designed a potential improvement scheme, and this draft report will remain confidential, pending further testing related to the Tasley Garden Village planning application. This review, expected to take three months, is crucial because the existing traffic model for Gaskell Corner accounted for 1,000 houses at Tasley Garden Village, while the current application is for 1,500, necessitating additional VISSIM model testing by WSP. The Town Council's Transport Working Group and I emphasised the importance of this testing to prevent operational failure at the Gaskell corner. Furthermore, it was clarified that a £350,000 contribution from the Ironbridge Power Station, previously thought to be a Section 106 trigger, is actually part of the Community Infrastructure Levy, potentially allowing an earlier application for Gaskell corner improvements. Much Wenlock is also due similar contributions from the Tasley Livestock Development of 550, as well as the potential Tasley Garden Village development.

Issues with the Buildwas Traffic Lights: Cllr Susan Coleman (Severn Valley) and I have been working extensively with Shropshire Council around the issues we've had with the lights put up near Buildwas as part of the Power Station development. After we expressed concerns about the lack of signage, more signage has been installed, making the area safer.

Changes to Farley Road around William Brookes School: Shropshire Council is consulting on some changes to Farley Road around William Brookes School. The proposals include changes to the road markings to prevent cars dropping off students on Farley Road, a 20-mph speed limit around the school and speed cushions to slow down traffic. The Town Council's Planning Committee will consider this at their next meeting but all can get involved and share their views by visiting Shropshire Council's website.

Advice Surgeries: my next advice surgery is on Saturday, 12th July, between 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon at Much Wenlock Museum. No appointment is necessary. I'll be joined by a Town Councillor and a representative from the Police. There will no advice surgery in August.

8. Minutes

- a. **It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th June 2025.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 25th March 2025.**
- c. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th April 2025.**

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the written and verbal report provided by the Town Clerk. The Clerk advised that Councillor Heather Kidd, Leader of Shropshire Council, would be visiting on 6th November. Councillor Kidd would meet selected community groups first and then attend the Town Council meeting at 7pm. Receipt of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had been acknowledged by the external auditor. Energy Performance Certificates for the Library and Corn Exchange would be considered by the Council's Finance & Asset Management Committee.

The Clerk was advised that there was no need for continuing checks of the Local Plan Examination in Public website.

10. Policies

- a. Members reviewed the Lone Working Policy. **It was RESOLVED to approve the Lone Working Policy.**
- b. Members reviewed the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. **It was RESOLVED to approve the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and to review its operation after six months.**

11. Terms of Reference for Finance & Asset Management Committee

- a. **It was RESOLVED to rescind the decision taken at the full Council meeting held on 22nd May 2025 to approve the Terms of Reference for the Finance & Asset Management.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Finance & Asset Management Committee incorporating an increased delegated authority to award contracts of up to £15,000.**

12. Guildhall – Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) Grant

Members were advised that the Expression of Interest to the AHF for funding for the Guildhall project had been accepted and the Council had been invited to submit a full application for a development grant. Members noted that an application for the development phase had already been submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the outcome of this application was awaited. Greenwood Projects were providing consultancy support to the Council.

It was RESOLVED to approve the submission of an application to the Architectural Heritage Fund for a development grant of £60,000 for the Guildhall project from the Architectural Heritage Fund's Heritage Revival Fund.

13. Neighbourhood Plan Review

Councillor Thomas provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan Review. Consultation was ongoing until 25th July. However, the Government had halted funding support for Neighbourhood Plans. The Town Council had already received all funding available for review of the Much Wenlock Plan so would not be affected in that regard. What was not clear was whether the grants payable to local authorities to fund the examination and referendum were impacted or not. Shropshire Council was awaiting clarification on whether they would receive funding for the referendum and examination for the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan. The authority had a legal obligation to pay for this work and the Government was legally obliged to provide funding, as the legislation placed an 'additional burden' on local authorities. Shropshire Council was awaiting confirmation of whether funding would be provided before appointing an inspector for the examination. It was not known when this information would be received and, therefore, when further progress would be made with the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

14. Future of Neighbourhood Planning Support Services

- a. Members considered information from SALC and other County Associations on the implications of Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government funding changes to Neighbourhood Planning support.
- b. **It was RESOLVED to:**
 - i. **Call upon His Majesty's Government to provide increased and sustained funding to support the development, review, implementation and maintenance of Neighbourhood Plans.**
 - ii. **Request the Government ensures funding is accessible to all communities, to promote inclusivity and fairness in the planning process.**
 - iii. **Write to Stuart Anderson MP and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to communicate this resolution and advocate for enhanced support for neighbourhood planning.**
- c. Members reviewed the draft letter to the MP provided by SALC. **It was RESOLVED to approve the draft letter to Stuart Anderson MP regarding changes to funding for neighbourhood planning and to add a request for clarity on the situation and that funding support for principal authorities should be retained.** Councillor Thomas would also raise this in his capacity as Shropshire Councillor for Much Wenlock.

15. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Neighbourhood Fund

- a. Members reviewed information from Shropshire Council on the Community Infrastructure Levy, Neighbourhood Fund collected between 2012 and 2024 by parish, and Neighbourhood Fund payable to Towns and Parishes in 2025. The Clerk was asked to clarify whether the 2012 – 2024 figures included the 2025 payment to the Town Council.
- b. Members noted that the Neighbourhood Fund payment of £7,401.98, due to Much Wenlock Town Council in 2025, had been received.

16. Shropshire Council – A New Approach to Partnership with Town and Parish Councils

- a. Members noted a letter from Shropshire Council dated 3rd June 2025 regarding a new approach to partnership with Town and Parish Councils.
- b. Members noted a letter from Shropshire Council dated 17th June 2025 regarding a Call for Information in relation to a new approach to partnership with Town and Parish Councils. Members were pleased to see that Shropshire Council was seeking a better relationship but expressed concerns about Shropshire Council's approach to planning matters and the lack of enforcement and compliance with statutory duties.
- c. Members reviewed the 'Call for Information' survey. In considering a response, they referred to Shropshire Council's secrecy about the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy funds and the slow response to enquiries and action on matters raised.
It was RESOLVED that Councillors Susan Crooke-Williams, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas and the Clerk should review the 'Call for Information' survey and compose a draft response. The draft should be circulated to all Councillors for any further comments before submission to Shropshire Council by the requested date of Monday, 18th August.
- d. Members noted that a 'Shropshire Together' conference for Clerks and Councillors would be held on Friday, 25th July, 9.00am – 3.30pm at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. **It was RESOLVED that Councillors Susan Crooke-Williams, Paula Sivertsen and Daisy Whiteman and the Clerk should attend.** It was noted that Councillor Daniel Thomas would be speaking at the conference in his capacity as a Shropshire Councillor.

17. Register of Electors for Town Councillors

Members noted information from Shropshire Council's Elections team regarding the application process for Town Councillors requiring copies of the Register of Electors for Much Wenlock for the performance of their duties.

18. Christmas Lights Switch-on

- a. **It was RESOLVED that the date of the 2025 Much Wenlock Christmas Lights switch-on would be Thursday, 27th November.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED that the Tourism and Events Working Group would take forward arrangements for the Christmas Lights Switch-on event.**

19. Shropshire Council Youth Offer Questionnaire

- a. Members noted correspondence from Shropshire Council regarding future youth provision in Shropshire.

- b. **It was RESOLVED that Councillor Daisy Whiteman should respond to the questionnaire on youth provision, with input from Councillors Paul Madeley, Daniel Thomas and Cherie Whiteman, by Friday, 18th July.**

20. Consultation

Members noted the following consultation:

- a. **Public Consultation on a new five-year plan to set the direction for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape,** open until the end of July 2025.
Councillor Jill Robinson had reviewed the draft plan and already submitted a personal response on climate implications. Members noted the plan made no reference to areas bordering the National Landscape and there was no suggestion of expanding the currently designated area. Farley Quarry was close to the National Landscape boundary and Councillors expressed concerns about ongoing activities there and the lack of engagement from the Shropshire Hills National Landscape officers. This point could be raised as part of the Council's response to the consultation.
It was RESOLVED that Councillor Jill Robinson would seek input from other Councillors and draft a response to consultation on the new five-year plan for the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, to be submitted by the end of July.
- b. **Shropshire's Great Outdoors Annual Public Survey 2025,** 30th June to 14th September 2025.
Councillors were encouraged to reply individually.

21. Correspondence

Members noted the following items, which they had received by email between meetings:

- 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. VCSA Shropshire newsletters
- f. News from Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
- g. What's On at The Edge Arts Centre
- h. Friendly Transport Service Newsletter
- i. Climate Action News for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
- j. The Rural Services Network Rural Funding Digest
- k. Future Ready Homes Newsletter
- l. Events at the Cavalier Centre.

22. Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda of the next meeting: Christmas lights switch on.

23. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, 4th September 2025 at 7.00pm at the Guildhall, Wilmore Street, Much Wenlock.

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.

24. Staffing Matters

Members received further information about the appointment of new Council staff.

24. Lease of Library Premises

No further information had been received.

25. Leisure Centre

Members received an update on proposals for the future operation of Much Wenlock Leisure Centre and considered the Town Council's position. **It was RESOLVED to await further developments.**

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed Mayor Date

01/25

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
FINANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
 meeting held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
 at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 19th June 2025

Present: Councillors Susan Crooke-Williams, Jill Robinson, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas (until minute 8a) and Duncan White.

In attendance: Janet Evans – Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

1. Election of Chairperson

It was RESOLVED to elect Councillor Susan Crooke-Williams as Chairperson of the Committee.

2. Election of Deputy Chairperson

It was RESOLVED to elect Councillor Duncan White as Deputy Chairperson of the Committee.

3. Apologies

Cllr Paula Sivertsen – holiday, Cllr Daniel Thomas – mayoral engagement (left at item 8a).

4. 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.

5. Dispensations

None requested.

6. Minutes

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Asset Management Committee held on 25th March 2025 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.

7. Town Clerk's report

Members noted the Clerk's report on action taken since the last meeting.

It was RESOLVED to ask the Town Clerk to include all outstanding maintenance issues in her report.

8. Finance

- a. The RFO presented a written and verbal report. She gave a short explanation of the accounting basis and the appointment of a new internal auditor, for the benefit of councillors new to the Finance & Asset Management Committee. The RFO informed the committee that the internal auditor had queried the level of our fidelity insurance and this would be considered at the next meeting. It was confirmed that the end of year Rialtas closedown took place on 1st May 2025; this went smoothly and there were no issues to report. Subsequently, Cllrs Themans and Crooke-Williams had come into the office to review and sign off bank statements, invoice records and petty cash to the end of March 2025. The AGAR had been approved at the June council meeting and the end of year return would be submitted week commencing 23rd June 2025.
- b. Members noted the balance sheet as at 30th April 2025.
- c. Members noted the income and expenditure to 30th April 2025.
- d. Members reviewed bank reconciliations to 30th April 2025. **It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 30th April 2025.**
- e. Members noted the balance sheet as at 31st May 2025.
- f. Members noted the income and expenditure to 31st May 2025.
- g. Members reviewed bank reconciliations to 31st May 2025. **It was RESOLVED to approve the bank reconciliations to 31st May 2025.**
- h. **It was RESOLVED to approve payments from 25th March 2025 to date.**

02/25

9. Approval of Invoices and Bank Authorisation for Payments

Members noted and reviewed arrangements for approval of invoices and bank authorisation for payments.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Susan Crooke-Williams and Cllr Marcus Themans would continue in this capacity with Cllr Duncan White continuing as back-up should either of the above be unavailable.

10. Budget Virements

Members considered virements for selected, extraordinary costs within the 2025/26 budget.

- a. **It was RESOLVED to vire £1,054 from Contingency (4604) to Environmental Services – Public Toilets (201/4527) to cover the unexpected level of increase in costs.**
- b. **It was RESOLVED to vire £150 from Town Celebrations (105/4425) to Mayoral Civic Events (110/4319) and that the balance of costs of the mayor making celebrations would be vired from the Mayors Allowance (110/4322) as required.**

11. Guildhall

Members noted that, following submission of an Expression of Interest to the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Council had been invited to submit a full application for funding for a project development grant of £60,000 from the AHF's Heritage Revival Fund. Greenwood Projects were able to support the Council with the application at no additional cost and further information was awaited from the consultancy. The Council had six months from 13th June to submit the full application. It was hoped to achieve the submission date of 14th July but if this was not possible, the next deadline would be 13th October 2025.

The outcome of the Council's application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was awaited.

It was RESOLVED that Greenwood Projects be authorised to continue with this application.

12. Summer Floral Displays

It was RESOLVED to retrospectively approve the cost of the summer floral displays in the amount of £911.

It was RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to Richard Gould for watering the hanging baskets until a handy person is appointed.

13. Correspondence from Tenant of The Corn Exchange

Members considered correspondence from a tenant of the Corn Exchange regarding signage for the front door.

It was RESOLVED approve signage as per the submitted proof with one amendment (1st Floor, not Ground Floor).

14. Operation of Corn Exchange Market

Members reviewed the operation of market stalls under the Corn Exchange.

The RFO offered a thank you to all volunteers who had set up and put away Corn Exchange market stalls during the period we are without a handy person.

It was RESOLVED that the RFO would attend the market before the next meeting to ensure that the market was operating as per the terms and conditions.

15. Management of Car Park at Rear of the Corn Exchange

Members considered the report from the Town Clerk and reviewed management of the car park at the rear of the Corn Exchange, as agreed at the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 22nd October 2024.

It was RESOLVED that the current arrangements would remain in place, but that the Committee would review operation of the car park annually and might reconsider previously suggested charges should usage of the car park be abused.

16. General Property Maintenance

Nothing to report.

17. Visit Shropshire Membership

Members noted the current situation with regard to membership of Visit Shropshire for 2025/26.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Susan Crooke-Williams and Cllr Duncan White would raise the matter again at the next meeting of the Guild (scheduled for September). The Council remained willing to contribute £750 (50%) of the annual subscription cost.

18. Date of next meeting

Members noted that next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on 24th July 2025 at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock.

03/25

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

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

19. Security at Corn Exchange and Guildhall

Members reviewed arrangements for security monitoring at the Corn Exchange and Guildhall.

It was **RESOLVED** that the CCTV monitoring app should be transferred from the previous Councillor to Councillors Marcus Themans, Duncan White and one other, who would be responsible for responding to alerts from the intruder alarm monitoring station or elsewhere, as necessary.

It was **RESOLVED** that there should always be three named Councillors with this responsibility, to be reviewed annually, that the named persons would be issued with keys to the Corn Exchange and Guildhall and that they would comply with the Council's Lone Working Policy.

20. Street Lighting Electricity

Members noted that the current contract for street lighting electricity would expire on 31st July 2025 and considered quotations to hand. It was **RESOLVED** to extend the contract with SSE for street lighting electricity for a further two years.

21. Library Lease

No further information had been received on proposals for renewal of the lease for the library premises.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....
Chairperson

Date.....

01/25

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 10th June 2025 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors Paul Madeley, Daniel Thomas, Chris Tyler and Cherie Whiteman.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, 10 members of the public.

1. Election of Chairperson

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Daniel Thomas as Chairperson of the committee.

2. Election of Deputy Chairperson

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Chris Tyler as Deputy Chairperson of the committee.

3. Apologies

Councillor David Fenwick – holiday, Councillor Daisy Whiteman – family commitment.

4. 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 Thomas declared an interest in agenda item 12, Correspondence from Lovell Strategic Land.

5. Dispensations

None requested.

6. Public Session

Two members of the public had requested to speak on applications 25/01655/FUL and 25/01656/LBC for the Raven Hotel, Barrow Street:

- a. The speaker stated that the proposed three dwellings and ancillary areas would cover a disproportionate amount of the total property and would significantly impact on its future use and benefit to the community. The building was Grade II listed and Plot 1 included the restaurant where Baron Pierre de Coubertin spoke on his visit to Much Wenlock, which inspired the modern Olympic Games. This Olympian connection was not mentioned in the planning application. The hotel's potential to bring further value to the town should be retained for wider public use. Conversion of the historic, Grade II listed building would be an irreversible mistake and should be reconsidered.
- b. The second speaker spoke on behalf of the occupants of four properties adjacent to The Raven. He stated that, overall, those residents supported the development of the site into residential properties. However, they had several key concerns and objections. In summary, these were:
 - Licensing and covenant issues – it was understood that there was a covenant on the property stating it must remain a hotel; would the current licence for a hotel be valid after conversion?
 - Access and construction management – residents had vehicular access to their properties via The Raven driveway. This was misrepresented in the application. Concerns were also expressed about disruption during construction and the need for a detailed Construction Management Plan.
 - Environmental and amenity concerns – including lighting and landscaping.
 - Wildlife and ecology – the need for ecological assessments.
 - Dated documentation – the layout plans submitted were out of date and did not accurately reflect the current layout of properties adjoining The Raven driveway and car park.
 - Waste management – concerns about management of waste collection for the new dwellings.

Concerns were also expressed about the current use and long-term intentions for the property.

7. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th April 2025 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

02/25

8. Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications and resolved to respond as noted:

<p>25/01655/FUL Raven Hotel, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Conversion of (disused part) of hotel/restaurant into three dwellings, formation of parking area.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to object to the application on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policy MW16 in the emerging Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan protects hotels and public amenities. 2. There is a lack of detail in the application, particularly around access for existing properties, environmental and amenity concerns. NB. The layout plan is out of date and does not accurately reflect access for the adjacent properties. 3. Lack of parking provision in the town; having three dwellings greatly reduces the amount of parking for visitors to the pub, which will cause problems on Much Wenlock's congested streets as many will refuse to pay for parking in public car parks. 4. The heritage statement is insufficient and does not mention the historic importance of the hotel and its Olympian connection: the Raven Hotel has a long and distinguished connection to the revival of the modern international Olympic movement. In 1890 the Raven hosted a banquet to honour the visit of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the man credited with reviving the modern Olympics. Speeches given by Coubertin and William Penny Brookes, WOS founder, are the first mention of the formation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Since then, the Raven has continued to host events and visits by leading Olympic figures. The hotel forms part of the Olympian Trail around Much Wenlock and is visited by international and national media as well as visitors to the town due to its importance in Olympic history. 5. There is no detail on interior alterations to the building. 6. There is a lack of detail in the landscaping plan. 7. There is no ecological assessment provided. 8. There appears to be insufficient capacity for waste and recycling bins. 9. The loss of a significant part of the hotel premises, including the kitchen, would have an adverse and irreversible effect on tourism in the town. 10. Comments from the Conservation Officer cannot be viewed on the website. <p>In addition, Councillors wished to raise the following queries:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. It is understood that there is a covenant on the property which states that it must remain a hotel – could this be investigated? 12. Would the current hotel licence still be valid if the conversion went ahead?
--	--

The members of the public left the meeting.

<p>25/01656/LBC Raven Hotel, Barrow Street, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Works to Listed Building to enable conversion (disused part) of hotel/restaurant to three dwellings.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to repeat the comments stated above for application 25/01655/FUL.</p>
<p>25/01732/LBC Gaskell Arms, High Street, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Minor external repair works and redecoration.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to support the application.</p>

03/25

25/01849/TCA The Old Vicarage, Victoria Road, Much Wenlock	Various works to trees (see schedule) within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. It was RESOLVED no objection.
25/01722/OUT Proposed Residential And Commercial Development Land, Tasley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire	Outline application, with all matters reserved except for principal means of access, for development comprising up to 1,500 residential dwellings (Use Class C3) including specialist housing for older people (Use Class C2 or C3), up to 14.6ha of employment land of Use Class E, B2 and B8a uses, a mixed-use local centre of up to 1,500sq.m of Use Class E and F.2 uses, a primary school (Use Class F.1), country park and other open space including sports pitches and associated facilities, access roads and landscaping with associated works including demolition, infrastructure, earthworks and drainage. It was RESOLVED to submit the following representation: Much Wenlock Town Council's position is NEUTRAL on the above planning application; however we would make the following comments:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Tasley Garden Village development will deliver considerably greater traffic movements (<i>171 am peak/155 pm peak</i>) through the Gaskell Corner junction, than either the Ironbridge Power Station site (<i>83 am peak/80 pm peak</i>) or the Tasley Gateway site (<i>74 am peak/80 pm peak</i>). 2. For this reason, Much Wenlock Town Council considers it to be imperative that the impact of the Garden Village traffic on the Gaskell Corner is fully tested and understood. 3. Shropshire Council's Highways consultants, WSP have built a microsimulation traffic model (VISSIM) <i>exactly</i> for this purpose. The traffic from 1000 of the Garden Village houses has already been tested using the model, but <i>not</i> the additional 500 homes. 4. Much Wenlock Town Council's expectation is that the VISSIM model will be run to test the impact of the additional 500 Garden Village houses on the Gaskell Corner improvement scheme proposed by WSP in their Feasibility Study. 5. Much Wenlock Town Council strongly supports Shropshire Council's consistent approach towards financial contributions for highway improvements connected with the Gaskell Corner. The Tasley Garden Village development should contribute £350 per dwelling; the same as the Tasley Gateway scheme.
25/01576/FUL 17 St Marys Road And Wheatland Garage, Much Wenlock, Shropshire, TF13 6HN	Change of use of C3 dwelling to storage associated with service station and use of rear amenity to form parking area with EV chargers. It was RESOLVED to object to the application on the following grounds: Councillors object to the change of use for 17 St Mary's Road and the loss of a three bedroomed residential property in the town. The Draft Local Plan indicates that Much Wenlock should deliver around 200 additional dwellings, illustrating the need for housing in the town. The property is in good repair and currently occupied.

13. Planning Decisions

Members noted the following planning decision:

25/01350/TCA Apple Tree Cottage, Sheinton Street, Much Wenlock	Remove approx. 40-50% of the height of 1no Silver Birch within Much Wenlock Conservation Area. Decision: Consent by Right – Trees
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04/25

14. Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted that the Regulation 16 consultation on the Submission Version of the Draft Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2024 to 2028 was expected to commence on 13th June and run until 25th July 2025.

15. Correspondence from Marrons

Members noted that the Clerk had written again to Marrons on 5th June regarding their request for a meeting with Councillors, made on 24th March, but had received no response to date. Councillor Thomas reported that the Development Director of Boningale Homes had been in touch with him in his capacity as Shropshire Councillor to request a meeting. Councillor Thomas had responded asking that the Director contact the Town Council to arrange a meeting with Town Councillors.

Having declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Daniel Thomas left the meeting.

16. Correspondence from Lovell Strategic Land

Members noted correspondence from Lovell Strategic Land. **It was RESOLVED to arrange a meeting between members of the Planning Committee and representatives of Lovell Strategic Land.**

Councillor Thomas returned to the meeting.

17. Potential Solar Development at Bourton

To date, the Clerk had received no response from the landowner to the Town Council's letter of enquiry regarding a potential solar development at Bourton, sent on 12th May 2025. Members noted correspondence received by a resident of Bourton on the subject.

It was RESOLVED to send a copy of the Town Council's letter to an alternative address for the landowner.

18. Flooding Matters

- a. There was nothing to report from the Strategic Flood Working Group.
- b. Councillors noted that the Much Wenlock Flood Action Group had significant criticisms of the Reservoir Safety Report on Shadwell Quarry, prepared by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Environment Agency. The Flood Action Group had discussed the report with the National Flood Forum and a response was being prepared. Once the report was ready, the Planning & Environment Committee would consider their support.
- c. Other flooding matters: Councillors considered how to store the sandbags by Back Lane car park in a better way. Councillor Cherie Whiteman agreed to investigate options.

19. Transport and Highways Matters

There was nothing to report from the Transport Working Group.

20. Much Wenlock Road, Buildwas

- a. Members noted correspondence regarding Section 278 highway improvement works on the Much Wenlock Road, Buildwas, associated with the new housing development at the former power station, from Monday, 9th June until Friday, 13th June, between 20.00 and 06.00 hrs.
- b. Members considered correspondence regarding diversion works on Buildwas roundabout, Buildwas Road, scheduled from 14th July 2025 for 8 weeks. The Clerk was asked to seek confirmation that the road would be open outside of the hours with manual control in operation.

21. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies***22. Street Lighting *****23. Street Naming *****24. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*****25. Footpath Diversion Orders***

Members noted that the Clerk was awaiting further information on the situation on the ground in relation to the diversion of the Atterley footpath before addressing this with Shropshire Council's Rights of Way officer.

05/25

26. Road Closures*

Members noted the following road closures:

- a. Location: Much Wenlock Road, Buildwas
Date/Time: Monday, 9th June to Friday, 13th June 2025, 20.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs
Purpose: Highway resurfacing
Agency: Shropshire Council
- b. Location: High Street, Much Wenlock
Date/Time: Saturday, 21st June 2025, 06.30 hrs to 16.30 hrs
Purpose: Made in Shropshire market
Agency: Much Wenlock Town Council

27. Tree Preservation Orders***28. Stopping Up Orders*****29. Speed Limit Orders*****30. Prohibition Orders*****31. Date of Next Meeting**

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 1st July 2025 at the Guildhall, Wilmore Street, Much Wenlock.

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.

32. Planning Enforcement

Members noted correspondence relating to an ongoing enforcement matter.

The Clerk had requested further information regarding a safety concern reported to Shropshire Council's Building Control department.

The Clerk was asked to submit an enquiry form in relation to another possible enforcement matter.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....

06/25

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st July 2025 at the Guildhall, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors David Fenwick, Paul Madeley, Daniel Thomas (from minute 11), Chris Tyler, Cherie Whiteman and Daisy Whiteman.

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Councillor Daniel Thomas for 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.

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 10th June 2025 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

Members considered the following applications and resolved to respond as noted:

25/01992/LBC 1 Bourton Road, Much Wenlock	To replace one window. It was RESOLVED no objection.
25/01965/FUL Lapwoods, Homer, Much Wenlock	First floor extension. It was RESOLVED no objections subject to new roof tiles matching existing in type and colour.

A concern was raised about the display of planning notices on properties. It had been observed that the planning notice for The Raven was on a lamppost on the other side of the road and no notice could be seen on 17 St Mary's Road. The Clerk was asked to pass on the concerns to the responsible planning officers at Shropshire Council.

7. Planning Decisions

Members reviewed and noted the following planning decisions:

24/04760/VAR Shadwell Quarry, Farley Road, Much Wenlock	Variation of Condition 2 and removal of Condition 15 attached to planning permission 09/-2701/FUL dated 23 December 2009. Decision: Grant Variation of Condition Councillors Thomas and Tyler had both spoken against the application at the Southern Planning Committee meeting on 24 th June 2025. The only concession obtained was that additional planting would be required along the site entrance to provide visual screening. It was RESOLVED to request that Shropshire Council notify the Town Council when applications were received to discharge the various conditions.
--	--

07/25

25/01056/FUL 5 Shrewsbury Road, Much Wenlock	Erection of single storey extension, replacement of all existing windows, refurbishment and re-tiling of roof, groundworks, creation of driveway and parking area following demolition of the store/garage Decision: Grant Permission
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8. Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan

Members noted that the Regulation 16 consultation on the Submission Version of the Draft Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan 2024 to 2028 was underway. The consultation had been advertised on noticeboards around the town and on the Town Council's website. A reference copy of the documentation was available in the library.

9. Correspondence from Marrons / Boningale Homes

There had been no further contact from Marrons or Boningale Homes.

10. Correspondence from Lovell Strategic Land

It was noted that a meeting between members of the Planning Committee and representatives of Lovell Strategic Land had been arranged for 24th July 2025.

Councillor Thomas joined the meeting.

11. Planning Policy Update – Shropshire Council Local Plan

- a. Members reviewed the Planning Policy Update provided by Dan Corden, Principal Planning Policy Officer at Shropshire Council, which summarised the situation regarding progress of the Shropshire Local Plan. Shropshire Council would be calling for sites as part of their early scoping work, which had already commenced. There was currently no clear idea of the housing numbers required in Much Wenlock. The policies from the adopted Local Plan remained applicable but Shropshire no longer had the required five-year land supply. This was likely to encourage speculative applications from developers.
- b. **It was RESOLVED to note the Planning Policy Update and await progress.**

12. Potential Solar Development at Bourton

To date, the Clerk had received no response from the landowner to the Town Council's letter of enquiry regarding a potential solar development at Bourton, sent on 12th May and to an alternative address on 11th June 2025.

13. Flooding Matters

- a. No flooding issues had arisen recently. It was reported that the Chair of the Flood Action Group had resigned due to non-payment of an outstanding bill by Shropshire Council. A multi-agency meeting was scheduled for the following day. Councillor Tyler offered to attend the meeting to represent the Town Council in the absence of Councillor Thomas. A Flood Response scheme had been under discussion for some time and would be considered at that meeting. If agreed, this would allow emergency closure of roads in the case of flooding.

Some matters considered by the Flood Action Group were of a more strategic nature and might be dealt with more effectively by the Strategic Flood Working Group. There could be benefits in combining the two groups.

- b. It was understood that members of the Flood Action Group had prepared a report in response to the Reservoir Safety Report on Shadwell Quarry, prepared by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Environment Agency, which was not yet ready to be shared.
- c. The sandbags by Back Lane car park had been tidied into a neat stack on a pallet. A wood store might be suitable for under cover storage of the sandbags, but such stores were not available locally with doors, which would be needed to keep out the weather. **It was RESOLVED to request a spend of up to £400 to purchase a suitable sandbag store to be located adjacent to Back Lane car park.**
- d. There were no other flooding matters to hand.

14. Transport and Highways Matters

- a. There was nothing to report from the Transport Working Group.
- b. **It was RESOLVED to request that Shropshire Council Highways department arrange a re-run of the VISSIM model for the Gaskell corner in the light of potential additional housing development in the local area.** Councillor Thomas would pass on this request. Further discussions on proposals for the Gaskell corner were scheduled.

08/25

15. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies*

As the Town Council's representative, Councillor Cherie Whiteman had met with members of Plastic Free Wenlock who were working enthusiastically to reduce single use plastic in the town as well as engaging with other environmental initiatives.

16. Street Lighting *

17. Street Naming *

18. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*

19. Footpath Diversion Orders*

Members noted that the Clerk was awaiting further information on the situation on the ground in relation to the diversion of the Atterley footpath before addressing this with Shropshire Council's Rights of Way officer.

20. Road Closures*

21. Tree Preservation Orders*

22. Stopping Up Orders*

23. Speed Limit Orders*

24. Prohibition Orders*

Members noted that 'The Shropshire Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order 2009 (Various Streets, Much Wenlock) (Amendment no. 1) Order 2025', confirming no waiting at any time in areas of Sheinton Street, had come into operation on 13th June 2025.

25. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 29th July 2025 at the Guildhall, Wilmore Street, Much Wenlock.

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.

26. Planning Enforcement

There were no enforcement matters to report.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed.....(Chairperson)

Date.....

08/24

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an extraordinary
HR COMMITTEE MEETING
held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
at 6.00 pm on Tuesday, 29th April 2025

Present: Councillors David Fenwick, Marcus Themans and Daniel Thomas (in the chair)

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Councillor O'Dowd – family matter.

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.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the extraordinary HR Committee meeting held on 25th March 2025.

5. Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be called as required.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

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

6. Members noted an update on recruitment of an additional Administrative Assistant.

It was RESOLVED to approve the job description, person specification and job advertisement for the Administrative Assistant. It was RESOLVED that the vacancy would be posted on 19th May with a deadline of 9th June for applications and interviews the following week.

7. Members considered the recruitment of a new Handy Person.

It was RESOLVED to approve the job description, person specification, rate of pay and job advertisement for the Handy Person. It was RESOLVED that the vacancy would be posted on 19th May with a deadline of 9th June for applications and interviews the following week.

The meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

Signed:Chairperson

Date:

Actions from Town Council meetings

MONTH	MINUTE NUMBER	RESOLUTION / ACTION	TASK COMPLETE	COMMENT
2025				
February	17b	Set up a working group to move forward with a project to restore roadside verges in and around the town.	Yes	Town Council working group members appointed May 2025. Project to be taken forward by working group.
July	10b	Review operation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy after six months.	Pending	For review early in 2026.
	12	Approve the submission of an application to the AHF for a development grant of £60,000 for the Guildhall project.	Yes	Application submitted and outcome awaited.
	14	Write to Stuart Anderson MP and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government re funding changes to Neighbourhood Planning support.	Yes	Response awaited.
	15	Clarify whether the 2012 – 24 Neighbourhood Fund payment figures included the payment to the Town Council received in 2025.	No	Enquiry sent to SC CIL on 16 th July, chased on 28 th August. Response awaited.
	16c	Compose a response to the SC 'Call for Information' survey with Cllrs Crooke-Williams, Themans and Thomas for comment by other Cllrs and submission by 18 th August.	Yes	Submitted by RFO in Clerk's absence.

Other activities:

- Induction of new Administrative Assistant.
- Attendance at meeting with Cllrs Madeley and Tyler with Lovell Strategic Land.
- Meeting at cemetery re work of the Friends of the Cemetery.
- Visit to Linden Lodge with Handyman re repairs required.
- Responded to follow-up enquiries from NLHF and AHF relating to grant applications.

Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan Review: Tim Jones

Questions	Please delete as applicable		Notes
Are you able to accept this referral?	Yes	No	If your answer is ' No ', please delete as appropriate in the above box and return this form by email to me. If your answer is ' Yes ', please complete the rest of this form and return it by email to me.
Can you undertake the task without delay or unnecessary expense?	Yes	No	
Do you have appropriate professional indemnity cover?	Yes	No	
If appointed, you will undertake this examination in accordance with the costs and fees detailed in the attached 'NPIERS Examiner fees & costs' document?	Yes	No	
Have you made appropriate enquiries, and are satisfied that you have no current involvements that would give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest?	Yes	Yes but see below	Please use the space below to provide any further information in relation to any of the above questions, if appropriate:
Have you made appropriate enquiries, and are satisfied that there are no involvements within the past five years that would give rise to a real or perceived conflict of interest?	Yes	Yes but see below	Please use the space below to provide any further information in relation to any of the above questions, if appropriate:
Do you comply with any special requirements (if stated) that may be listed in the application details, contract and/or the application form?	Yes	Yes but see below	Please use the space below to provide any further information in relation to any of the above questions, if appropriate:

Please use this space to provide any further information in relation to any of the above questions, if appropriate:

Q3: I have £2 million professional indemnity cover.

Q7: In addition to being a planning barrister, I am a life FRSA with a longstanding interest in design. I have been involved in policy making and development throughout my career as a planning barrister. My career has included much work involving environment and energy, including wind and solar energy. I conduct training in biodiversity net gain. My private interests in energy has included visits to micro hydro-electric and pumped-storage power stations.

Timothy Jones

Call: 1975



Timothy Jones sits as an Arbitrator and Mediator, and writes reports for public bodies including neighbourhood planning examination reports.

Expertise

Planning

Tim Jones has retired as a barrister, after a career which included appearances before the House of Lords and the European Court of Human Rights. He now sits as an arbitrator and mediator.

He has written and taught arbitration (both UK and international). He has particular knowledge of arbitration in sale of goods law (both UK and international).

He writes reports for public bodies.

He has particular expertise in neighbourhood planning examinations (both neighbourhood plan and neighbourhood development orders), being qualified under the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service (NPIERS) and conducting training in neighbourhood planning for NPIERS and the RTPI. He has completed 35 neighbourhood planning examinations.

He has passed the Mynediad and Sylfaen exams in Welsh.

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Bristol

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Tel: +44 (0) 117 917 8501

Awards



Accreditations

- Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (FCIArb) in both UK and International law.
- Accredited mediator (London School of Mediation).

Memberships

- Business Arbitration Scheme Panel membership
- Neighbourhood Planning Independent Examiner Referral Service

Qualifications

- Tim was educated at Cambridge University where he studied engineering before moving to the London School of Economics where he studied law.

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Subject: West Mercia PCC - Town and Parish Council Survey
Date: Tuesday, 22 July 2025 at 15:08:55 British Summer Time
From: OPCC Comms
Attachments: image001.png, Town and Parish Council Survey 2025.docx

Your views matter. Help shape the future of policing in your area by completing my eighth annual town and parish council survey.

This is your council's opportunity to have your say on policing in your local area, raise any concerns and identify the improvements you would like to see, and I will ensure they are delivered on.

Since the survey's launch I have continued to hear from you about wanting to see greater police visibility.

This is also my expectation - with delivering record numbers of police officers serving across West Mercia, I want to ensure local communities are feeling and seeing the benefits of that investment.

In March of this year, after working closely with West Mercia Police, it published its refreshed Local Policing Charter which outlined its three priorities – visibility, accessibility and engagement.

Within the Charter, it also outlines the force's commitment to engage with you, with regular contact through written updates.

And whilst its launch was only four months ago, this survey is your opportunity for you to tell me how you feel West Mercia Police is doing and whether you feel improvements are being made.

What will I do with the results? I will once again compare this year's results to those I received in previous years and will use them to inform my discussions with the Chief Constable on local policing.

Have your say online – [Town and Parish Council Survey 2025](#).

If your council wishes to complete an 'offline' survey. I have attached a Word version of the document to enable them to do so.

You can then email the completed survey response to:
opcc@westmercia.police.uk or post it back to OPCC on the postal

address given.

The survey closes at midday on Tuesday 14th October.

Yours sincerely,

John Campion
West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner



Town and Parish Council Survey 2025

Please select one answer for each question, unless asked to do otherwise.

Please ensure to answer all questions, incomplete questionnaires are not included.

This survey can be completed either individually or on behalf of the council.

The closing date for the survey is midday on Tuesday 14th October 2025.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey.

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

West Mercia Police's Local Policing Charter launching in 2021 and refreshed in 2025 is built on the core principles of visibility, accessibility, and engagement, with aims to foster a two-way dialogue between the police and the public, ensuring local teams effectively address community concerns and enhance trust in the service.

The Charter, co-produced with the PCC, focuses on addressing crime, safety, and anti-social behaviour (ASB) through targeted high-visibility patrols in high footfall areas and data-driven strategies.

You can find the charter by visiting the West Mercia Police website.

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

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

About your council

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

22) How have you completed this survey?

- ☐ Individually, these are my opinions
- ☐ The whole council, these are the opinions of all of the council

23) 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

24) 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.

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

☐ Yes

☐ No

Thank You!



Youth Offer and Community Profiling Town and Parish Councils

Purpose

This questionnaire aims to help Shropshire Council better understand the needs of young people (aged 11-19) across your community, the current level of Youth Provision (the Youth Offer) and how your council support or link into wider community profiling and youth development efforts at a local or council level.

What is a Youth Offer?

The Youth Offer refers to a range of activities, services, support and safe spaces available to young people in a community. This may include Youth Clubs, Sports and Leisure activities, wellbeing and mental health support, mentoring, volunteering opportunities and involvement with local decision making.

Please do your best to provide any information you have available. Your input will be really valuable in understanding the youth offer in Shropshire.

1. Which town, parish council or parish meeting do you represent?

Much Wenlock Town Council

2. If you are happy to provide your details, and would be happy to have future conversations about the youth offer, please include details below:

Name	
Role	
Email	
Telephone	

2. Understanding Youth Needs

3. In your opinion what are the top 3 issues currently affecting young people in your Town or Parish

1	lack of reliable transport for young people such as an unreliable bus service and lack of affordable taxi's between the ages of 15-19 to link the small town of Much Wenlock to larger towns such as Shrewsbury or Telford. While we
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	have buses to Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth, the timing of the last bus often prevents evening activities. The buses to Telford from Much Wenlock aren't that regular and take a very long time. There is no public transport for rural villages, and cycling to towns is often dangerous on main roads so our young people are reliant on parents to drive them.
2	A lack of activities available for young people in the area and/or a lack of information about activities already taking place for them to get involved with.
3	A lack of a suitable meeting place / hub for young people – too young for the pubs and too old for the playground. The space for children and young people to generally hang out such as the Gaskell Recreation Ground is somewhat far from the town centre.

4. Do you believe the current youth provision your area is adequate to meet young people's needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Please use the space below for any comments:

Don't know/no as there is a lack of things for young people to do mainly those between 12-17.

3. Current Offer and Engagement

5. Are you aware of any existing youth groups, clubs or services regularly accessed in our area?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6. If yes, please list them. If there are too many please have a conversation with us to help us collect this valuable information from you. You can request a conversation via TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk

Yes,
 Much Wenlock Young Farmers,
 Guides, Brownies and Rainbows,
 scouts, various sporting clubs mainly held at William Brookes School or in the leisure centre such as Wenlock Lightning.

7. Does your council currently provide any direct funding for youth provision in your areas e.g. youth groups, sports activities and mentoring?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

8. If yes, please can you describe what these are?

Yes, Shropshire Council provide Shrewsbury Town in the Community Football clubs during school holidays.

9. Are there any venues or spaces in your area accessible and suitable for youth activities e.g. community centre, outdoor areas, halls, spaces that could be developed into Youth Hubs (utilising a space within spaces concept)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

10. If yes, please list spaces and places:

Yes,
leisure centre,
William Brookes School,
Priory Hall,
Gaskell Games Ground,
Scouts hut.

11. How often does your council engage directly with young people or youth workers (e.g. consultations, events and forums?)

- ☐ Regularly
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

12. We would love to hear more about your work engaging with young people or youth workers. Please describe below:

Occasionally, the Town council arranges many family events throughout the year however this can be more well received by younger families and there could be more done for the teenagers within the town from the council with support and ideas provided by Shropshire Council.

13. What barriers, if any, do you think prevent young people from engaging in local activities? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ No barriers/ Not applicable
- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Transport
- ☐ Awareness
- ☐ Lack of Interest
- ☐ Limited Availability
- ☐ Limited provision for young people aged 13 plus.

Other (please specify)

transport, awareness, limited availability, cost, limited provision for young people aged 13+ and general rural isolation

4. Community Profiling and Moving Forward

14. Would your council be interested in contributing to or receiving regular updates on the development of the Youth Offer for Young People in Shropshire?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15. What support, resources or partnerships would help your council enhance its youth offer or involvement?

Yes,
More ideas on what to provide for young people and how to engage with them and understand what can be done to help young people in the area. Funding for trips and events as well as youth club type activities available.

16. If your council funds or supports youth provision directly, do you work with any external partners to deliver this?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please list your partners below:

N/A

17. Please list any other organisations, charities, freelancers or voluntary groups you partner with, and briefly describe the nature of the support or service they provide.

The Cavalier Centre (Riding for the Disabled) was supported a charity. The Town Council has given grant money to Wenlock Warriors football club on a regular basis.

18. Please use this last comment box to add anything else you would like to tell us about the youth offer and support in your area.

The toddlers group only meet on a Tuesday in work hours so little is provided for working mums when not on maternity leave. Teenagers struggle with things to do in Wenlock, having more things to do can help teenagers stay on the right path in life and encourage more teenagers to improve the decisions they make.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

Your insights are invaluable in helping us build a more accurate and focused needs assessment for young people across our communities. By working together, we can ensure that youth services and opportunities for young people are shaped by local knowledge and real need.

How we will use your information

The information you have provided will be used to inform decision making and the developing Youth Offer and Strategy for Shropshire.

The survey results data will be shared within Shropshire Council. We will not share the survey data with any third parties. We will only publish anonymised responses, parts of responses, or a summarized version of responses and will ensure individual survey respondents cannot be identified. Your response will be stored securely and kept in line with Shropshire Council's Retention Schedule.

We comply with data protection laws concerning the protection of personal information, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For more information on how information is held by Shropshire Council and your rights to gain access to the information we hold on you please see our corporate privacy policy at www.shropshire.gov.uk/privacy

If you have any questions about the survey please email: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk

Please return using the email above or post to:

Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team
Shropshire Council
PO Box 4826
Shrewsbury
SY1 9LJ