

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Communities & Environment Committee
Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill
At 6.00pm on Wednesday 12 August 2026**

PRESENT

Councillors J Daniels (Chair), A Fejfer, E Micklewright, A Mosley, D Vasmer (sub for Cllr Bentick) and R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer) and Andy Hall (Youth & Community Manager)

15/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received from Councillors Bentick, Dartnall and Gratton.

That apologies also be received from Ruth Jones (Office Manager) & Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets & Events Manager).

16/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Wilson	Portfolio Holder for Transport & Economic Growth and member of SC cabinet

17/26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 3 June 2026 were submitted as circulated and read.

Councillor Mosley pointed out a correction on the minutes under 05/26 which says that they had engaged with over 12,000 pounds worth of young people.

RESOLVED:

That upon the correction noted the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 1 April 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

18/26 MATTERS ARISING

Min 06/26 – PSPO - Town Centre Public Space Protection Order. Members were advised that Cabinet had met to approve the PSPO for a new term. Discussions were continuing regarding delegated authority for Town Rangers to use the associated powers.

Min 09/26 - Cost of Living Grant - The requested grant details had been circulated to all councillors, including their KPIs and achievements to be delivered over the three-year period.

Min 11/26 – Local Nature Recovery Strategy – An officer working group had been scheduled for 1 September. The Green Space Manager at Shropshire Council and the LNRS Co-ordinator were also interested in participating.

Min 12/26 – Management of POS on new Development Sites – The Policy and Resources Committee had considered the same report and was supportive. Officers had begun discussions with the Forward Planning Manager and had also sent the report to the MP for consideration of advocacy routes.

19/26 YOUTH

19.1 Young Shrewsbury activity

The Youth Manager provided an update on Youth activity. The youth clubs were now on summer break and there were various HAF youth activities in the summer holidays; these were funded by Shropshire Council through the Department of Education.

Activities were being delivered three days a week over the six-week summer period, including cooking and regular youth-club activities. An additional educational trip had been arranged each week. Trips already undertaken included a farm visit and bowling. The planned Attingham Park visit was cancelled and would be rescheduled because of forecast temperatures of approximately 34°C and limited shade.

19.2 Million Hours Funding

It was reported that engagement work had identified young people's priorities including affordability and inclusion, available facilities, safeguarding, transport,

affordable spaces and outdoor sports. Activities had subsequently been arranged in response to this engagement, with good attendance reported.

The Gaming Bus was identified as particularly popular. Partnerships with the Hive and other community venues had supported delivery. Engagement was reported to have reached tens of thousands of young people, with nearly 400 young people being spoken to per day during the summer period.

Youth Rangers had undertaken training and were engaging with young people on issues and providing trusted contacts. Members thanked the team for the work.

The Town Clerk discussed the need for the youth service to evolve, including more flexible spaces and places for engagement and a youth service shaped around the needs of a modern service. Youth transformation funding and proposals for a local youth partnership for Shrewsbury were also discussed. Officers intended to remain actively involved. Members requested further information on governance, needs analysis and local input, including engagement with ward councillors.

The Committee also received an update on the Young Enterprise events programme delivered in partnership with the Shrewsbury Business Improvement District.

The programme had been successful and had provided young people with opportunities to engage directly with businesses and employers and gain experience across a range of different areas. The programme had been delivered as a pilot, with five key areas of activity. Members noted the diversity of the opportunities offered, including podcasting, digital production and sessions delivered by local businesses.

A particularly positive outcome was highlighted, with one young person who had attended the programme subsequently securing a part-time job.

Members welcomed the programme and discussed the potential for it to be developed further. It was suggested that similar opportunities could provide particular benefits for young people who may not demonstrate their potential through conventional academic routes or simply through a CV.

The Committee also discussed the limited capacity of individual sessions. The programme had been significantly oversubscribed, with some sessions limited to approximately five participants because of the capacity of the businesses involved.

Members supported the principle of expanding the programme and exploring opportunities to involve more businesses and other organisations, including the college.

Councillor Wilson hoped that other small independent businesses would get involved following this pilot. He suggested that a letter of thanks from the Mayor be sent to the businesses that had been involved.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted;
- (ii) That further information be provided on governance, needs analysis and local input, including engagement with ward councillors;
- (iii) That a thank you letter from the Mayor be sent to businesses involved.

19.3 Knife Angel Impact

The Town Clerk reported that the Knife Angel had been in Shrewsbury for approximately seven weeks and had generated significant footfall, including visitors during both day and night. The visit was considered to have delivered strong messages concerning knife crime.

Youth engagement by Rangers and youth workers focused on discouraging young people from carrying knives and promoting collaborative prevention work.

Feedback was reported as excellent, including particularly strong feedback from the British Ironwork Centre, reporting their greatest engagement from any of the 67 places the Knife Angel had visited.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

20/26 TEAM SHREWSBURY

20.1 Team Shrewsbury Update

The Town Clerk provided an update in the Office Manager's absence. The report noted fluctuations in incidents over the preceding three months, with a spike in shoplifting in May. Compared with 2025 data, incidents in 2026 had subsequently reduced significantly.

Shropshire Council's financial assistance through the Crisis Resilience Fund remained available to people struggling with essential living costs.

A new town-centre police sergeant, Tom Atkinson, had been appointed. West Mercia Police had scheduled engagement dates, including an event at Lord Hill's Column; the time had been changed from 5.00 pm to 1.00 pm.

Councillor Wilson commented that it would be nice to meet the new Sergeant and if he could attend a meeting to introduce himself to Councillors. Members requested

continued engagement with the local policing team and the Town Clerk confirmed that they were engaging with the team and considering a different format for staff induction so that the police understood the Town Council's role.

Members asked whether policing engagement could cover areas beyond the town centre. The Town Clerk agreed to raise this with the Inspector.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted;**
- (ii) That Sergeant Atkinson be invited to a future meeting**

20.2 Policing Priorities

The Town Clerk provided an update in the Office Manager's absence. The report presented to members required ratification, as this detailed the Policing Priorities from July 2026.

The next quarter would be submitted to West Mercia Police in readiness for October start and ratified at the next Community & Environment Committee on 14 October.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

20.3 Town Centre PSPO renewal

The Town Clerk had briefly reported at the start of the meeting that The PSPO item was noted as linked to the earlier matters arising discussion. Cabinet approval for a new term and delegated authority for Rangers was being progressed.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

Councillor Vasmer joined the meeting

21/26 QUARRY EVENTS CALENDAR

The Town Clerk provided an update in the absence of the Commercial, Markets & Events Manager.

By August, approximately 50 of the 75 events scheduled for 2026 had already taken place. The summer music sessions on the bandstand were in their final month, with the concluding performances still to take place, and had proved successful.

The Rum and Reggae event had generated some complaints about noise. Members were advised that noise levels recorded by the organiser and Shropshire Council regulatory services were within the premises licence limits. However, the dry, hard ground conditions and weather contributed to noise travelling further than expected.

The Town Clerk had responded to complainants and intended to hold a wash-up meeting with the organiser if the event returned. Other feedback related to the number of bars and concessions and queuing capacity. These matters would be considered in planning any future event.

Protest marches had begun to affect the Quarry and town-centre events. The July protest resulted in cancellation of events in the Quarry and the Square. A further march was planned for 22 August, with staff working with police and partner agencies to mitigate impacts.

Further enquiries had been received for medium-sized festivals in 2027. Most organisers had expressed a strong desire to return.

Councillor Mosley commented that he had been informed that ticket prices for Rum & Reggae were around £50 but as the event wasn't sold out by 9.30pm they had opened the gates for anybody to walk in without a ticket so there would be enough people to make it look worthwhile and to make a bit of money on the bars. He commented that this needed to be looked into.

The Town Clerk confirmed that nobody was allowed entry for free and they did have to pay on the day. This was the first time the organisers had ever done an event in the Quarry and there was infrastructure that they needed to work on with the event organisers who were amenable and wanted to make it a better event if they wished to return next year.

Councillor Daniels asked if there was any further information regarding the return of the Flower Show. The Town Clerk confirmed there would not be a return of the Flower Show. She had recent discussions with the Shropshire Horticultural Society, and they were keen to work with the Town Council on a potential Flower Festival for the town. They would also return to addressing their charitable aims of providing an educational remit more.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

22/26 MARKETS

The Town Clerk provided an update in the absence of the Commercial, Markets & Events Manager.

Trade improved as spring moved into summer, although overall spend remained sluggish during some periods and the heatwave affected conditions within the market building. Visitor numbers and trade improved significantly during the latter half of the reporting period.

The Town Clerk praised the work of Commercial, Markets & Events Manager and Amy Williams at the Shopping Centre working as a collective team supporting the market and its revitalisation. They had done a great job in really revitalising the market over the last year.

In June the Town Council hosted a visit of the National Association of British Market Authorities to look at Shrewsbury and why it had been so successful. This was a fabulous opportunity for both Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council to work together to promote their joint activity. As a result, they had also been asked to be involved in a Think Tank looking at the national picture of markets now and in the future.

Both council management teams had been invited on a visit to Barnsley by Julia Buckley MP, in her role as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Local Markets, to see how the town's recent regeneration had brought the market, transport links and community services together to create a genuinely thriving town centre. It proved to be a very interesting visit, with the indoor and outdoor markets playing a pivotal role in a town centre which felt very well connected.

The market also hosted a delegation from the Austrian City of Tulln who were in the UK on a fact-finding mission looking at successful examples of thriving town and city centres. A key part of the visit was to tour some of the country's best markets and the delegates specifically asked the organiser to include Shrewsbury.

Regarding the Sunday Market the recent hot and sunny weather had enabled the operator to make significant progress. Trader numbers had doubled, reaching a peak of 26, and new food options had been introduced. Car boot participation had more than doubled, reaching a peak of 94. Average footfall was around three times that of the previous trading period, with peak figures exceeding 500. Regular police surgeries continued and were reported to be popular and to enhance site security.

Cleanliness remained an issue, including a report of 17 bags of litter being collected on one occasion.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

23/26 FISHERIES

23.1 Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Fisheries. Due to extreme air and water temperatures, several fisheries were closed during the week commencing 11 July to protect fish stocks and the health and wellbeing of anglers. Water temperatures in some pools approached 30°C. Mousecroft Pool and the River Severn were reopened following testing. Radbrook and Oxon Pools and the Reabrook remained closed because of low water levels pending significant rainfall.

Four new river platforms had been installed on the River Severn, bringing the total to 140.

The July coaching event was fully booked and the next August event was also fully booked.

At Radbrook Pool, overgrown branches were being removed, with permission, to improve the surface of the pool and assist dissolved oxygen levels.

RESOLVED:

That the Fisheries report be noted

23.2 Severn Trent and River Health

The Town Clerk reported that Officers had continued discussions with Shropshire Council and Severn Trent regarding the company's five-year programme of works intended to reduce the impact of combined sewer outflows and improve river health. The programme was still being developed. Once more finalised options were available, officers proposed inviting Severn Trent to present to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

24/26 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Town Clerk reported that as the Committee were aware, the Council had set a target to be net carbon zero by 2030. To achieve this, the current emissions needed to be understood, and regular audits undertaken. They had reviewed the scope of the previous audit carried out for the 2023/24 period to ensure any future procurement were the same and they have two quotations:

- 1) Carbon Footprint Ltd – working on a new Carbon Tracking Platform working on the same Scope 1&2 emissions by location with a list of recommendations at a cost of £4,500 with a further one off £2,460 for net zero target setting, utilising this new platform Sustrax package.
- 2) Marches Energy Agency following the same Scope 1&2 emissions, indicative recommendations for carbon reductions as well as possible sources of funding to develop opportunities. They would also offer basic training on how to convert energy bills to carbon emissions so they could continue to track changes over time. This would cost £2,500. Oswestry Town Council had commissioned a similar report from them. It would also align with additional work they were doing for them around our advocacy in encouraging the 39,000 households to change their approach to reducing carbon.

The Town Clerk asked if members were happy for the Town Council to commission the local provider; Marches Energy Agency

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the update be noted;**
- (ii) **That Marches Energy Agency be commissioned to provide a Carbon Audit for 2025/26.**

25/26 COMMUNITY CENTRES

The Deputy Town Clerk had produced a report concerning health and safety responsibilities at Castlefields Community Centre. The existing lease had not been reviewed for a long period and did not clearly reflect current responsibilities between the parties.

A number of significant risk-assessment issues had been identified. The management committee of the Community Centre had offered some funding support, but a funding gap remained.

Councillor Mosley asked whether the work should be delayed pending a wider review of the Council's estate. It was agreed that known high-priority fire and safety issues should not be delayed.

The high-priority works were estimated at approximately £42,000. The principal items included replacement of five fire doors, associated accessibility works, a shutter between the kitchen and main hall, and replacement of sections of a ceiling that was not fireproof.

Members agreed that the fire-risk-assessment works should be treated as the priority, with wider refurbishment considered separately. The Committee also

discussed the need for a sustainable approach to ongoing maintenance and for the long-standing lease to be reviewed so that responsibilities were appropriately allocated.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that they would work with the Castlefields Community Centre Management Committee on policies and procedures and review the lease arrangements.

The centre was reported to be heavily used, with an average of approximately 13 activity sessions per week planned for September, including yoga, baby ballet and other activities.

Councillor Mosley enquired about Martyn's Law and the Town Clerk commented that Martyn's Law risk assessments were being established for community buildings and would be undertaken across the estate.

Councillor Fejfer questioned the potential declarations of interest of Councillor Mosley. The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Mosley was the Town Council representative on the Castlefields Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Mosley asked if Ditherington Community Centre would have a similar risk assessment. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a similar risk assessment process had been carried out and some resultant works completed. It was however less of a risk than Castlefields Community Centre.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the report be noted;**
- (ii) That all identified high-priority fire-risk-assessment works at Castlefields Community Centre be carried out;**
- (iii) That Officers work with members of the Castlefields Community Centre Management Committee to develop up to date policies and procedures;**
- (iv) That Officers review the long-standing lease and clarify responsibilities for future maintenance and works**

26/26 ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE

The Town Clerk informed members that they had received notification from Shropshire Council regarding a nomination for the Belle Vue Tavern to be considered as an asset of Community Value. The nomination had been successful and the asset was partially listed on 4 August 2026. This provided formal notification that in accordance with section 91(2) of the Localism Act this asset had been added to the

Assets of Community Value List, which would be published on the Council's website and that a Land Charge would be placed against the property for a period of 5 years.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

27/26 GRANTS

Councillor Mickelwright, Chair of the Grants Committee presented the recommendations of Community Grant Awards following the Committee's recent meeting.

The Committee had noted that a number of organisations had presented strong cases and that some requests exceeded the amount available.

Councillor Mosley asked whether grant recipients provide reports on how funding had been used and requested that future reports include positive outcomes and examples of how previous grant funding had been spent.

The Town Clerk advised that successful grant activity was used for public relations, including videos and other material for larger grants.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Grants Sub Committee in relation to Community Grant Awards be approved.

28/26 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this Town Council meeting and thanked the staff involved in this meeting. All papers related to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk.