



AN INTRODUCTION TO SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

SHREWSBURY

Shrewsbury is a vibrant town with a long, distinguished history. First recorded in a Charter of 901, Shrewsbury developed as a market town aided by the natural defensive qualities of a large meander in the River Severn. The original Castle (thought to replace a Saxon fortress) was built by Roger de Montgomery under order of William the Conqueror and was rebuilt and enlarged by Edward II. The public library, where Charles Darwin studied as a schoolboy, and the timber framed Rowley's House are among a wealth of historic listed buildings on steep narrow streets and little alleyways which make Shrewsbury a major tourist destination.

The town has a population of more than 70,000 and is surrounded by the ancient Shropshire hills of the Stiperstones, the Long Mynd, Wenlock Edge and the Wrekin. The county has a scenic landscape made famous in A E Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*. North of Shrewsbury lies the site of the Battle of Shrewsbury (1403) where Henry IV defeated the rebellious Barons of the Welsh Marches and Hotspur was killed. The town is 40 miles west of Birmingham and about 60 miles east of the Snowdonia National Park.

Shrewsbury has a thriving commercial and cultural scene, served by numerous specialist shops as well as two main shopping centres, an indoor market and out of town retail parks. The town experiences a lively nightlife based around the numerous pubs, bars and restaurants, as well as Theatre Severn which opened in 2009. Other highlights include The Quarry & Dingle Gardens (the town's municipal park designed by Percy Thrower); the Abbey made famous in the Brother Cadfael detective novels of Ellis Peters, The Square, Shrewsbury Castle and, of course, the River Severn.

The town is also home to a variety of well attended festivals and events including the annual Flower Show, Shrewsbury Food Festival, the Folk Festival, Cartoon Festival, the Christmas Lights Switch-On and Carols in the Square to name a few.

THE COUNCIL

Shrewsbury Town Council was established on 1 April 2009 as a result of Local Government reorganisation in Shropshire. The Town Council's area includes the whole of Shrewsbury town centre and adjoining residential areas. With a population of over 70,000 it is one of the largest town councils in England.

It currently operates from Riggs Hall at The Library on Castle Gates in the centre of town.

The Town Council is responsible for the following:

- Floral features
- The Quarry (Municipal Park)
- Market rights (excluding land/buildings)
- Sports pitches etc (excluding the golf course and larger sports centres)
- Closed churchyards
- Recreation grounds and pocket parks

- Play areas
- Other open spaces
- Community Centres
- Public Toilets
- Footway lighting
- Provision of Christmas lights and management of Carols in the Square/Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Allotments
- Investment properties
- Co-manages the indoor market
- Youth Services

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

The Town Council's staff comprise 16 office-based staff (both full and part time, including the Town Clerk), circa 60 operational staff and a Youth Services Team. The Council also employs additional casual staff engaged on horticultural activities during the summer months.

BENEFITS

Shrewsbury Town Council offers numerous benefits to employees. Some have been detailed below.

- ❖ Occupational sick pay/maternity pay scheme
- ❖ Eligibility to join the Local Government Pension Scheme, which requires a contribution of salary
- ❖ A smoke-free environment
- ❖ Leave entitlement is 23 days (or pro rata equivalent if part time) rising to 28 days after five years of continuous service in local government, plus bank holidays

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- ❖ You are paid within the Council's salary pay scheme. A 'cost of living' rise is negotiated nationally and paid annually on 1 April. Salaries are paid on, or around, the 25th of every month
- ❖ All permanent and temporary posts will be subject to medical clearance and usual references