

9. MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS

To receive any motions from Members, notice of which has been given in accordance with the Town Council's Standing Orders:

(i) Support of a Town Centre Swimming Pool – Presented by Councillor Alex Wagner

Motion to support a Town Centre swimming pool

This Council notes:

- 1) Uncertainty regarding the future of the Quarry Pool, which Shropshire Council say they have made 'no decision' over.
- 2) Recent proposals for a new swimming facility at Sundorne, which has been proposed in previous years as a replacement for the Quarry Pool.
- 3) The 2023 spend of over £400,000 on the Quarry Pool to fix the roof and improve other parts of the facility.
- 4) The importance of keeping a swimming facility within Shrewsbury Town Centre that can be accessed by residents from all parts of town, especially those who do not have access to a car.
- 5) The Quarry Pool is a leisure attraction that benefits the economy of Shrewsbury by: a) drawing in families looking for a day out with children and those attending swimming lessons every week and, b) attracting people from town and beyond looking for a day out combining some healthy exercise in the pool with time visiting the shops or going out for something to eat.

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Send a letter to the Chief Executive and Leader of Shropshire Council making clear the Town Council's view that a swimming facility should continue to be provided within Shrewsbury Town Centre.

(ii) Cooperative Council Innovation Network affiliation – Presented by Councillor Julian Dean

This council recognises that the unprecedented challenges facing the public sector and local communities mean that traditional top-down governance models and economic growth are no longer fit for purpose. Discussions in our visioning exercise sessions have confirmed that we want to promote community action, community engagement, and civic empowerment that can transform communities. This approach will help deliver innovative programmes designed, led, and delivered in partnership with communities and other sector partners, maximising the social dividend they bring.

The Cooperative Council Innovation Network exists to bring together councils, cooperative organisations and others who share this vision. In recent years the CCIN has helped Local Councils develop projects such as Burntwoods 'Enabling a dementia-friendly Burntwood' and Woughton's 'Social Return on Local Council Provision'. The CCIN also provides opportunities

for both members and officers from like-minded councils to network and develop projects, together with third sector partners.

Council therefore asks the Town Clerk to approach the CCIN to investigate the option for Shrewsbury Town Council to join CCIN (at an estimated cost of £500pa) and to bring back recommendations to the next full council.

(iii) Neurodiverse Friendly Town – Presented by Councillor Julian Dean

Recent years have seen an increasing awareness of the scale and impact on individuals of living with neurodiversity conditions. Many groups and individuals in Shrewsbury have worked to ensure neurodiverse people are catered for, welcomed and valued as members of the community, however there remains scope for the town to become more 'neurodiverse' friendly.

Therefore, the town council agrees to establish a working party to consider measures that would enable the town to be considered as a Neurodiverse Friendly Town. We ask the Town Clerk and members to nominate people in the community with experience and expertise to contribute to this work. We ask staff and members to research similar projects elsewhere, to help inform our work. We ask the working party to look to bring forward proposals to the Town Council by the end of 2024.

([This project exists in Ireland that](#) promotes Neurodiverse Friendly Towns but we have not found anything similar for the UK so far).

(iv) Car parking charge increases – Presented by Councillor Alan Mosley

Shrewsbury Town Council has great concerns about the recently announced car parking charge increases and changes to the evening and Sunday charging policy. We therefore call upon Shropshire Council to recognise the serious issues for residents, workers, businesses and visitors:

1. The proposed hikes, ranging from 29% to 67%, will have a profound and serious impact on our Town's economy and attraction without any other mitigating improvements to town centre access, for example public transport, park and ride, highways infrastructure, active travel. Hence, the new charges pose a significant risk to the Shrewsbury town centre economy and its on-going post- Covid recovery.
2. The swingeing increases for Abbey Foregate and Frankwell will have a particularly serious impact on those commuting to work, especially those on low income, where they have no affordable or convenient alternatives.
3. The changes are contrary to proposals within the movement strategy aimed at encouraging parking outside of the river loop.
4. Changes to Sunday and early evening charges will have a particularly serious impact on those employed in the night-time, hospitality and cultural economy and on visitors and residents in the town.
5. Many will be deterred from using designated car parks and will seek on-street parking around the town centre, much to the detriment of local residents.

6. Recent surveys and submissions by Shrewsbury Bid provide evidence that there is massive concern about the adverse impact on businesses of all types.
7. There has been a complete failure by Shropshire Council to have any meaningful engagement with businesses or the wider public on the rationale and potential impact of the changes.
8. The SC Cabinet recognised the need for a new Parking Strategy to be developed and for a review of the role, structure and staff in the Parking Services operation. Surely, these should be completed and with full consultation, before such significant proposals.
9. Furthermore, the changes are contrary to theme within the Shropshire Plan:- “We'll develop Shropshire as a vibrant destination that attracts people to live in, work in, learn in and visit. We'll deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, and increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities. We will communicate clearly and transparently about what Shropshire Council delivers, signposting to the right places for services and support, and listen to what communities say about their place and what they need.”

Hence, Shrewsbury Town Council calls for a halt to the current plans for changes to evening and Sunday car parking arrangements and where increases in charges are above the current rate of inflation.