



Shrewsbury
Town Council

January 2022



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UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR JULIAN DEAN, MAYOR OF SHREWSBURY



Many of us will not be sorry to see the end of 2021.

Mayoral events continued to be limited in number, with some carol services being cancelled last December.

Nevertheless, it was a pleasure to welcome a good number of people to 'Carols in the Square' which was, as always, a joyous affair.



The annual Carols in the Square, broadcast on BBC Radio Shropshire and on the internet

2022 began with the opportunity to attend a performance on the historic Wurlitzer Theatre Organ at the Buttermarket, featuring Phil Kelsall MBE, who is normally heard playing in Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

His musicianship was amazing and he entertained us with a huge range of styles, from seaside sing-a-longs to Shostakovich.



Photo Credit: The Buttermarket. The Wurlitzer Organ

I had a chance to see the Heath-Robinson-esque organ pipes and electronics that live behind a wooden partition upstairs in the venue. It's like a combination of Church organ, fairground organ and 1930s telephone exchange, lovingly maintained by enthusiasts.

Speaking of the Buttermarket, I am hosting a charity Swing Dance night there on Thursday 24th March, featuring the Jim Wynn Swingtet together with professional swing dancers.



Photo Credit: The Buttermarket

There will also be an informal, and fun, Lindy Hop workshop before the performance.

Tickets, to include a glass of something upon entry, will be available very soon and profits will go to the Lingen Davies Cancer Care charity.

I suspect the thing I am missing out on most as a Covid-period Mayor is the range of community-based events. So far, I have only visited one community centre in my role. I suspect that many community organisations have simply not been holding events. I hope they are able to return.

Community and Councillor grants are available for all sorts of things through the Town Council, so I encourage any groups who have struggled and want some help to get back on their feet to get in touch.

Community Grants



UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR ALAN MOSLEY, LEADER OF SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL



At the recent meeting of Shrewsbury Town Council [Jan 24], I proposed the motion leading to the setting of our Council Tax precept demand for next year.

I was particularly delighted to do so, because despite significantly rising costs and ambitious plans for development, we were able to agree that there will be no increase in our share of Council Tax, nor will there be any cuts in existing staff or services.

Here is the speech I made on the night.

As always, our first priority is to best represent our residents, and many of them are suffering from both the impact of Covid-19 and the rising cost of living crisis. Hence, we need to do all we can to mitigate these pressures, and this means that we should be setting a balanced budget with a zero rise in our charges to Council Tax payers. This is the budget I am proposing tonight with thanks to our Head of Resources.

Good financial management, including healthy planned reserves, mean that we are able agree this budget and cover the significant additional costs related to general inflation, staff salaries, NI contributions and materials **without any cuts in services.**

Indeed, we will continue with our ambitious on-going programme for improving our services for all those who live, work and visit our town.

These plans include:
Exciting plans for the top of the Quarry, including an extensive newly-designed contemporary garden, which will highlight and encourage the highest ecological environmental standards. Information and interpretation of the Quarry's heritage along with a refurbishment of the facilities at the horticultural depot. A working party is set to start work on this project.

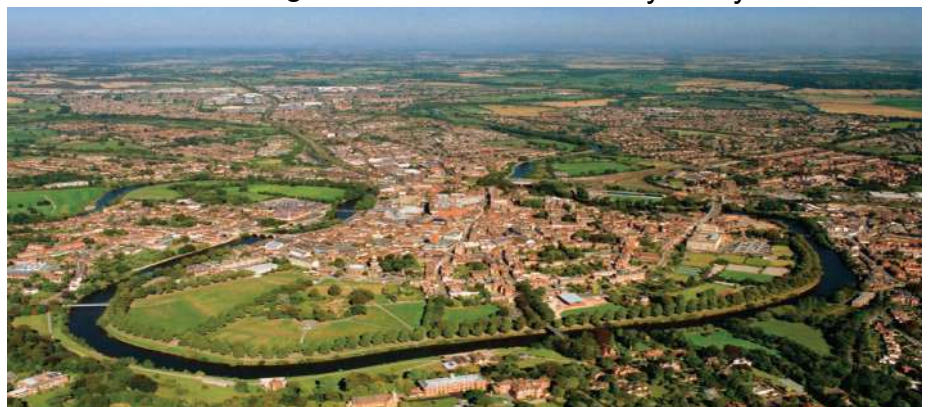
A new nature trail along the river on our Castlewalk land from the English Bridge Gardens to the Weir and on to the Mousefield. This will provide experiences, information and learning for all ages in a way which is sensitive to the natural environment.

On-going work dedicated to our Climate Change commitments adding to the

great progress we have made already.

- New BMX track in Monkmoor;
- Restoration of recreation grounds on Stanley Lane;
- Improved play parks at Greenacres, Kynaston Road and Upton Lane;
- A programme of refurbishment of bus shelters throughout the town;
- An extension of LED lights in the Quarry;
- Public toilet refurbishment;
- Significant work to the County Ground in Frankwell;
- Ongoing contribution to the Big Town Plan including a Movement Strategy;
- The Dana Footpath development;
- Additional works on our footway network;
- Action on the Ash Die-Back crisis.

Shrewsbury Town Councillors and staff can be proud of our record of progress and improved services in recent years and I'm sure residents will be delighted that we are responsive to their needs in what are difficult and worrying times for very many.



HELEN BALL, TOWN CLERK OF SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL



I am often asked what qualifications you need to have to become a Town Clerk and it's often a difficult one to answer. It isn't like being an accountant or an architect where there is a clear qualification pathway.

Being a Town Clerk requires you to juggle lots of balls in the air at the same time. The phrase "Jack of All Trades – Master of None" springs to mind.

There are, however, times when there is a need to learn very specific skills for the job, and over the years, I have acquired Project Management Skills, specialist training in running Burial Sites and Allotment Grounds, technical skills in Health & Safety and, of late, Counter Terrorism and softer skills like Mental Health Awareness to support my staff in what have been very trying times of late.

But I thought I would share with you the benefits of one course both myself and my Deputy, Amanda Spencer, took recently; the Carbon Literacy course.

This was a course that Save Our Shropshire wanted to trial with Parish & Town Councils, and it was thought that we would be good guinea pigs.

Since 2019, when the Town Council declared its Climate Emergency, much of our focus

has been around how we can make the Council, and ultimately the town, more carbon efficient, conscious of our consumption and more understanding of what we need to do to make sure we don't burden future generations.

So, in agreeing to go on the Carbon Literacy Course, we thought we were pretty clued-up on what it would be about.

How wrong were we?

The science bit was mind-boggling and really opened our eyes up to the task in hand, and we both came away thinking this is something we can't even put off to tomorrow, we have to act now.



Town Clerk, Helen Ball, & Deputy Town Clerk, Amanda Spencer, proudly showing their Carbon Literate Certificates

The course also made us look at our own personal circumstances and how we need to change personally. I have to confess that whilst I am pretty smart in thinking what the Town Council needs to do to become carbon neutral, I have never given a single thought to how I am going to personally contribute to carbon neutrality.

By far the biggest thing we learned on the course was how we go on to communicate what we have learnt to others. It's pretty easy to talk to like-minded people about Climate Change, but what about those who might not share the same view; who are so busy in life that they haven't even thought about it; or who think that it's not our problem, it's someone else's. It has been nice to have put some of those skills into practice.

The success of that initial trial has meant that Save Our Shropshire has managed to secure funding to roll out this course to other Parish & Town Councils, and Amanda & I have committed to helping spread that message to ensure that more people become carbon literate.

If we can help to encourage more people to play their part, then the time and money we have expended on this course will be all the more worth it.

Helen Ball (Carbon Literate)

Clearing up after Storm Arwen

Our Countryside and Greenspace Team were busy at the end of November last year clearing up the damage following Storm Arwen hitting the area.

Our mobile teams worked on damage from the storm and dealt with a variety of jobs, including hung up branches, snapped trunks and lifted root-plates.

Due to the volume of work involved, they had to deal with jobs on a priority basis, starting with trees blocking roads, paths or posing a high risk to people and property.



Clearing up damage after Storm Arwen

The brash is chipped and reused on footpaths/allotments and the larger pieces go up for sale each year.

If you know of a tree with storm damage on Shrewsbury Town Council land, please let us know.

Countryside & Greenspace Team

If a damaged tree belongs to Shropshire Council, these can reported here:

Shropshire Council



NEED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH US?

If you need to get in touch with us at the Town Council, you can do this in a number of ways:

Telephone: 01743 281010

E-mail: enquiries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk



@ShrewsburyTC



@shrewsburytowncouncil

Or via our website:

Get in Touch



COUNTRYSIDE & GREENSPACE TEAM UPDATE

WORKS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO OUR TOWN COUNCIL NATURE RESERVES



Work on the steps by the Green Bridge in the Reabrook, between Malvern Close and White Hart.



Work on the steps by the Green Bridge in the Reabrook, between Malvern Close and White Hart.



The Countryside Unit working on steps at one of their sites

Our staff have been improving access to the steps at our Nature Reserves around the town.

We look after over twenty sites in Shrewsbury, ranging from large Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest to small Community Woodlands.

Over the winter months, our Countryside and Greenspace Team has carried out work to repair and maintain the many sets of steps on our sites.

Matt Wilcoxon, our Countryside and Greenspace Manager, said: "Whilst much of the land on our Nature Reserves is wild, there is an emphasis on ensuring that people can access them safely and easily.

"Our work covered about ten different sets of steps across various sites and included everything from full rebuilds, to replacing handrails and refreshing stone to remove trip hazards.

"We have also installed a few more of our rustic benches, made from fallen timber on our sites with a chainsaw mill."

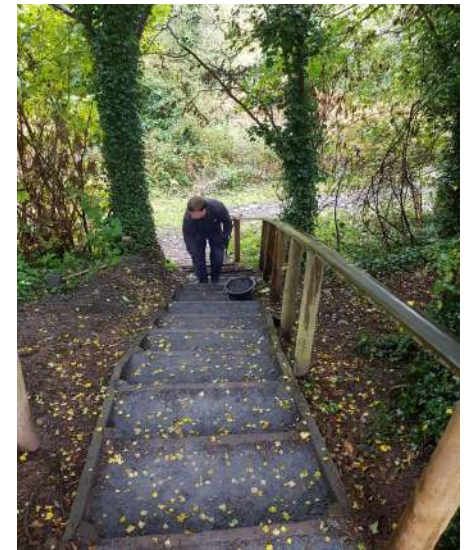
Our Countryside areas are managed with both people and wildlife in mind and support a huge variety of plants and animals. Traditional management methods such as grazing, haymaking and coppicing create a mosaic of different habitats across the town.

Full details of our Countryside sites can be found at:

[Countryside Sites](#)



Completed work on the steps by the Green Bridge in the Reabrook, between Malvern Close and White Hart.



The Countryside Unit working on steps at one of their sites



One of new Rustic benches installed by the Countryside & Greenspace Team

GRANT AWARDS SCHEME FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

We operate a scheme which awards grants to local organisations to help them achieve their aims and objectives. The grant can be used to fund either new projects or continued services and may also be used as matched funding.

We have a policy of assisting local community groups and applications must be from a properly formed group, club, committee or charity, which must show that the group has charitable/community aims whilst benefitting the residents of Shrewsbury.

Organisations will also need to show that they possess a

Constitution/Set of Rules, a bank account and Public Liability Insurance.

If your organisation is interested in our scheme and requires further guidance on whether your community group meets our criteria for financial support, or for an application form, please visit our website at:

Shrewsbury Town Council
Community Grants

All applications will be considered on their individual merits and requests for grants of more than £2,000 are unlikely to be successful.

Applications must be received by the closing deadline of **Friday 28 January** and will then be considered by members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee at their virtual meeting on **Monday 7 February 2022**.

Please be aware that if your project is selected for consideration at this Committee meeting, representatives are expected to attend to state their reasons why funding should be awarded and answer any questions about the project from Councillors.

INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL SOLAR LAMPS IN THE QUARRY

Work started at the beginning of this month to install additional solar lights along the path adjacent to the River Severn in the Quarry park.

Twenty new lights have been installed between Porthill Suspension Bridge and Kingsland Bridge.

Stuart Farmer, projects manager, said: "Following the success of the initial phase of the programme in September 2020, a further twenty lights have been commissioned to light the remaining walkway through the park.

"The initial phase for the installation of the lights between Kingsland Bridge and Grey Friars Bridge received a lot of positive comments from people using the park.

"These new lights will mean that the path from Porthill Suspension Bridge to Grey Friars Bridge will



The new heritage solar lamps in the Quarry

benefit from the light produced from these solar lamps."

We have worked with Zeta Specialist Lighting to create a promenading atmosphere along the stretch of riverside with a heritage look that is respectful of the history of the park and its Conservation Area status.

The solar lights have been designed to provide the necessary wattage to ensure the lights work

both in the summer and the winter.

Councillor Kevin Pardy, chairman of the recreation and leisure committee, added: "We are delighted to work with our partners once again on this project to ensure that these new installations are identical to the ones from the first phase and maintain continuity for the area.

"There was a need to provide sufficient lighting along the pathway, which has been a cause for concern being so close to the river. The lights will not only provide an additional element of safety, but they are also energy-efficient as well, which will help in our commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030."

We are working with local firms Potters Electrical Limited and RA Allmark for the electrical and installation work respectively.

THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

This year sees the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

As part of the celebrations to mark the achievement of a life of public service of seventy years, a major project is taking place across the country which will benefit the environment and our landscape for generations to come.

Companies, landowners, councils and individuals are being invited to plant a tree as a lasting legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership of the nation.

We have been working with Shropshire Council to extend the existing tree nursery at our Weeping Cross Depot, which will enable both councils to meet the demand for trees throughout the county.

Robert Bland, Deputy Lieutenant for Shropshire, said: "The Queen's Green Canopy is an exciting initiative which encourages everyone to plant a tree to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and support the nation's effort towards Carbon Zero.



"I am very proud to lead the Shropshire Lord Lieutenant's efforts to plant trees across our county.

"Our aim is that by the time Her Majesty is presented with the map of the country showing the trees that have been planted, Shropshire will be peppered with Queen's Green Canopy Trees.

"This Community Tree Nursery initiative that Shrewsbury Town Council is running alongside Shropshire Council just shows how easy it is for everyone to get involved, and I am absolutely delighted that the legacy donation from the Mayall family can be put to such good use."

Trees can be reserved from a selection of native trees which have been chosen for their suitability for a garden location.

Helen Ball, town clerk for Shrewsbury Town Council, added: "We are excited to be taking part in such a great initiative and we are doing everything we can to be able to meet the demand for trees within the town.

"We hope that people will get in touch with us to claim their free tree for planting in their garden so that we can ensure that Shropshire is well and truly represented in The Queen's Green Canopy map. We have introduced a policy of one tree per household.

"Any tree planted throughout 2022 will qualify for an entry on the map, so I would encourage people to get out and get planting."

Full details of how to claim your free tree for the Jubilee can be found on our website at:

The Queen's Green
Canopy



Deputy Lieutenant, Robert Bland, being shown the tree nursery at Shrewsbury Town Council's Weeping Cross Depot by Matt Wilcoxon (right) and Mike Pugh (2nd from right)

LIME TREE WORKS IN THE QUARRY

A works programme of tree maintenance is currently underway in Shrewsbury's Grade I Listed Quarry to manage the tree stock within the park.

Following a robust and competitive tender process for the works last year, Shropshire-based Benbow Brothers Limited was appointed to undertake the large and important tree maintenance work.

The work will take place over the course of the next month and visitors to the Quarry are asked to be mindful of the machinery and tree surgeons whilst they go about their business.

Helen Ball, town clerk, said: "The on-going management of these iconic trees in the Quarry is essential in our well-utilised public park to ensure they can be enjoyed for many years to come. We have over 1.5 million visitors each year, and we are aware that the tree-lined avenues help to bring huge mental health and physical well-being benefits for our visitors.

"The lime trees also have a major environmental role to play in the Quarry, as they help to reduce the impact of flooding and help to stabilise the river banks.

"With the Town Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030 we also need to ensure we retain these mature trees with their ability to sequester carbon, helping to reduce the level of oxidants in the area.

"We have around 250 lime trees in the Quarry, which were planted by Percy Thrower as part of the overhaul of both the Quarry and the Dingle when he worked as Parks Superintendent from 1946. Whilst some trees have been felled over time, we want to ensure Percy's legacy continues for many generations to come."

Any trees that need to be felled will be replaced in accordance with the Town Council's Tree Management Plan.

Councillor Kevin Pardy, chairman of our recreation and leisure committee, added: "Our tree stock around the town is inspected on a regular basis and we undertake maintenance on the trees when it is deemed necessary."

The last major Arboricultural work in the Quarry was completed in 2002, which formed part of a Heritage Lottery Grant of £1.5m to refurbish the park. Councillor Pardy continued: "These programmed works are the first major commissioned works on the trees for around twenty years. On this occasion, our inspections of the lime trees in the Quarry identified signs of dead wood and our priorities are not only to ensure the longevity of the lime trees, but also public safety."

Full details of our Tree Management Policy can be found on our website at:

Shrewsbury Town Council Tree
Management Policy



With around 250 lime trees in the Quarry, a regular programme of maintenance is required to ensure their longevity

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR SHREWSBURY'S UNSUNG HEROES

Nominations are being sought to recognise and celebrate those unsung heroes who have made an outstanding contribution to the town of Shrewsbury within the categories below.

Built Heritage Award – This award recognises the achievements of individuals, organisations and companies that own buildings in Shrewsbury and have worked towards enhancing the built heritage through new development in sympathetic heritage settings to reuse and the conversion of existing buildings.

Business Award – This award acknowledges the work of businesses, organisations and individuals who have contributed to the economy of the town, be it through providing job opportunities, business expansion or general promotion and marketing of the town. Not-for-profit organisations are also considered in this category.

Climate Emergency Award – This award recognises the work of individuals, groups, organisations and businesses that have undertaken activity to raise awareness of Climate Emergency locally, promoted efficiency and sustainable use of resources or undertaken initiatives to reduce the impact of carbon.

Community Award – This award celebrates the work of community groups and individuals who have contributed to the social well-being of the town, from major community projects to someone who looks out for their neighbours.

Courtesy Award – This award recognises individuals, companies or organisations within Shrewsbury who have taken extra measures in promoting Shrewsbury as a friendly and courteous place.

Environmental Award – This award celebrates the work of organisations, community groups and individuals who have contributed to enhancing the environment and promoting the green space around Shrewsbury.

Tourism Award – Acknowledging businesses, individuals, groups and organisations who have contributed to tourism within the town.

Youth Award – This award acknowledges the work of schools, groups and individuals who have contributed to the well-being of young people within the town. This includes young people who have shown great initiative as well as organisations that have promoted the wellbeing of young people locally.

Lifetime Achievement Award – This award will be given to one person who, in the view of the Mayor, has provided distinguished service and has made a significant impact to the Shrewsbury community over a sustained period.

Mayor's Special Awards – these are awards that are personal to the Mayor, presented to people he has met throughout the Mayoral Year that have played a key part in helping make Shrewsbury a special place to live and work.

Please complete the online nomination form.

For any further details, please contact Carol Pullen on 01743 257655 or e mail carol.pullen@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Closing date for this year's nominations is 4.30 pm on Friday 1 April 2022 & successful nominees will be contacted after this date and an Awards Evening will take place on Thursday 28 April.



Winner of the Courtesy Category for 2020 - Martin Wood collecting his award from Councillor Phil Gillam



Winner of the Tourism Category for 2020 - Sarah Hopper from Ferndell B&B collecting her award from Councillor Phil Gillam

Please complete the online nomination form

Mayor's Awards 2022



SHREWSBURY'S MARKET HALL TRADER OF THE YEAR 2022

Shoppers to Shrewsbury's award-winning Market Hall are being asked to cast their vote to find the Market Trader of the Year for 2022.

People visiting the indoor market before March 31 can nominate their favourite trader to win a Mayor of Shrewsbury Award.

The trader with the most votes will be presented with a trophy at the annual Mayor's Awards ceremony in the Walker Theatre at Theatre Severn on April 28.

Since the inception of the award for Market Trader of the Year in 2014, previous winners have been:

- The Market Buffet in 2014 and 2017,
- Amess Brothers fruit & vegetable stall in 2015,
- Café Aleoli in 2016 and 2018,
- The Card Stall in 2019



- Ewe & Ply in 2020.

The awards were not held in 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Nomination forms are available in the market and completed forms should be deposited in the ballot box provided.

Duplicate entries will not be counted.

Mayor of Shrewsbury, Councillor Julian Dean, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the public to vote for their favourite Market Hall trader and I would encourage people to visit and cast their vote. With such a great range of businesses there, it won't be an easy decision."

Mike Cox, outdoor recreation and asset manager for Shrewsbury Town Council, added: "We know just how popular the Market Hall is with shoppers, and we are delighted to be able to celebrate all of the wonderful businesses we have here. There's always tough competition for the top spot so every vote really does count!"

SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM 2021 - TOWN OF FLOWERS AWARDS

Last year's Shrewsbury in Bloom Town of Flowers competition was one like no other.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, the Bloom Group decided to continue with the competition, albeit with photo entries as opposed to physical judging.

Competitors were judged in a range of categories including best residential front or back garden, best commercial premises and best floral container.

Entries were judged throughout the year by members of the Shrewsbury in Bloom Group..

Residential Front Garden:

Winner: Andrew Pugh
Second Place: Tony Bywater
Third Place: Mr & Mrs Brooks

Residential Back Garden:

Winner: Tony Bywater
Second Place: Liz Granato

Best Floral Container:

Winner: Mr & Mrs Brooks
Second Place: Andrew Pugh

Commercial Property:

Winner: The Woodman
Second Place: The Royal Oak
Third Place: The Dun Cow
Third Place: Terry Jones Solicitors

Chairman of Shrewsbury in Bloom, Keith Roberts, extended his thanks to everyone who had entered the competition and acknowledged their hard work this year. He said: "We have such dedicated residents here in Shrewsbury, who all help to play their part in the town's entry in the Bloom competitions.

"I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who entered and for playing their part in helping to make Shrewsbury *the* town of flowers. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate our enthusiastic green-fingered residents throughout the town."

GET SNAPPING FOR OUR SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM PHOTO COMPETITION 2022

We're inviting residents of Shrewsbury to submit their photographs in a bid to be featured on the front or back cover of the annual Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio of Evidence.

The Shrewsbury in Bloom Group is offering local residents the opportunity to have their photo of the town on the front or back cover of the annual portfolio, which is presented to the Royal Horticultural Society's judges as they assess the town against exacting criteria.

The portfolio contains details of life in Shrewsbury under the 'Bloom Ethos' over the course of a twelve-month period.

With Coronavirus restrictions still in place last year, judging of the Bloom competitions was undertaken through the submission of the Portfolio.

Shrewsbury in Bloom was awarded Gold in the Heart of England in Bloom Small City Category.

When we think of Shrewsbury in Bloom, we automatically assume that we're talking about the plants and flowers we see around town.

As part of the town's entry into the Bloom competitions, the town is judged on a number of criteria, including Horticultural Excellence, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation.

Chairman of Shrewsbury in Bloom, Keith Roberts, said: "We had an amazing response to our competition for the 2021 Bloom Portfolio and it was wonderful to

see so many people helping to support us with the work we do in the town. I would like to thank everyone who entered our competition.

"We had two worthy winners with Robert Gwilliam's photo of the Library in spring time for the front cover with Nigel Thorpe's dramatic photo of the Porthill Bridge whilst the River Severn was in full flood last January featuring on the back cover.

"Whilst we're not necessarily looking for photos of flowers, we want to showcase our beautiful town with pictures of buildings or places of local interest. I would encourage people to get snapping throughout the year and send their best photos for a chance to be featured on our Bloom Portfolio."

Photos should be taken within the last twelve months in the town of Shrewsbury.

Entries should be emailed to: hilary.humphries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk at any time until the end of May 2022.

To view our previous editions of the Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio, visit our website at:

Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio



Shrewsbury
in Bloom

2021 Portfolio

Front cover of the 2021 Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio, taken by Robert Gwilliam



We would like to thank all those organisations, companies and individuals who contribute to Shrewsbury in Bloom which helps to improve the quality of life for visitors, residents and those who work in the town.

Shrewsbury Town Council (Shrewsbury), The Library (Shrewsbury), Shrewsbury, 2021-2022

www.shrewsbury.gov.uk www.shrewsbury.gov.uk www.shrewsbury.gov.uk

Shrewsbury in Bloom

Back cover of the 2021 Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio, taken by Nigel Thorpe

List of Forthcoming Council Meetings

In accordance with Schedule 12 10(2) (a) Local Government Act 1972, notice is hereby given of the following meetings of the Council.

Tuesday 1 February 2022

Planning Committee – 6pm

Monday 7 February 2022

Finance & General Purposes Committee – 6pm

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Planning Committee – 6pm

Wednesday 9 March 2022

Recreation & Leisure Committee – 6pm

Tuesday 15 March 2022

Planning Committee – 6pm

Monday 21 March 2022

Full Council – 6pm

Thursday 31 March 2022

Climate Change Standing Committee – 3.30pm

Full details, including Agendas and paperwork, can be found on our website at:

Shrewsbury Town Council
List of Meetings





TEAM SHREWSBURY LATEST UPDATE

SHROPSHIRE SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD & WREKIN SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE FREE TO ANYONE LIVING OR WORKING IN SHROPSHIRE AND TELFORD & WREKIN

- People (and organisations and communities) bereaved by suicide are themselves at much higher risk of suicide....and each suicide is estimated to affect a large number of people.....family, friends, workmates, sport club members, pupils, students and staff, scouts and guides, customers.....anyone and everyone!
- After nearly three years of work, the Shropshire and Telford Suicide Prevention Action Groups helped the local Public Health teams to gain funding from NHS England to establish a wholly new Suicide Bereavement Support Service for the two local authorities.
- Such a service is still relatively rare across England.
- Two Bereavement Support Officers now work, one in each council area, to function as the key and ongoing contact to support people bereaved by suicide.
- They are hosted in local charities to help emphasise the “community support for people in local communities” ethos they are seeking to promote...although, of course, they will work closely with a full range of statutory and community sector services.
- Their role is to provide immediate support and, as and when the person is ready, to facilitate specialist support appropriate to the person’s needs and to be able to do this for up to and beyond three years – the time research indicates people might well need in these very difficult circumstances.
- The more specialist support might include... financial advice and support (STEPCHANGE), legal help (CAB) emotional support (SAMARITANS)..... and the Support Officer will link schools and other young people settings directly to the Educational Psychology Service and Samaritans Step by Step Service.
- At present, the Shropshire Support Officer has around 35 people actively needing support with many more needing time before accessing specialist support. That’s 35 highly vulnerable people who, last year, would have had no such service. And numbers are growing as people suffering past suicide bereavements learn of the service.
- **Please spread the word – as we all know only too well these are very difficult times for many of our fellow Salopians.**

Suicide Bereavement Support Service

- Early contact
- Face-to-face, phone or email
- Practical and emotional support

Telford talk2@telford-mind.co.uk 07857 977616
Shropshire bereavementsupport@shropshiremhs.com 07483 906788

 **Suffered a bereavement?**

NEED TO TALK?
0345 678 9028

www.shropshire.gov.uk

 **FREE COUNSELLING**

Help is just a phone call away

If you live in Shropshire and you're struggling with the loss of a friend or loved one, give us a call.



COLD MORNINGS



Urgency: 3 2 1



COMMUNITY SAFETY

Although vehicle crime is low across West Mercia, every winter the force receives a number of reports from drivers who have had their cars stolen after leaving the engine running, while they wait in

the warmth of their home for it to heat up and defrost the windscreen.

Some vehicle owners nip inside for just a few seconds to collect a bag or finish the last mouthful of their breakfast coffee - but that's all the time an opportunist thief needs. To 'freeze out' the thieves, West Mercia Police advises motorists to:

- Clear windscreens with de-icer and a scraper
- Sit in vehicles while the heater de-mists the windscreen.

Drivers who ignore this advice are taking big risks.

Thieves will drive around residential areas looking for likely targets - when they spot a vehicle with its engine left running on a drive or outside a home, it's there for the taking.

One person will be dropped off, gets into the target vehicle and simply drives away.

Many of the vehicles are never recovered, and some - especially high value models such as Mercedes, BMW and Audi - may be shipped overseas.

It is also worth remembering if your car is stolen when keys have been left in it, you may find your insurance will not cover you. If your house keys are stolen along with your car, your home is then vulnerable too.

So, this winter, don't give criminals an easy ride by leaving your car running unattended.



SHROPSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

www.shropshirefire.gov.uk



Shropshire
Fire and Rescue Service

**SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE
LIVES**

Fit a smoke alarm

The best way for you to protect yourself, your family and your home from fire is to buy a smoke alarm. They cost from as little as £15 and you can get them from supermarkets and in DIY stores.

Make sure you test the battery every week. If you need help or advice on which is the most suitable alarm for you or where you should install it, contact Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service on 01743 260 260. We will be happy to give you advice.

**DO YOU HAVE A WORKING
SMOKE ALARM AT HOME?**

**IF NOT YOU ARE FOUR
TIMES AS LIKELY TO
DIE IN A FIRE**



Plan a safe escape

If your smoke alarm went off in the night, would you know what to do?

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- Make sure all exits are kept clear.
- The best route is the normal way in and out of your home.
- Think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.
- Take a few minutes to practice your escape plan.
- Review your plan if the layout of your home changes.



Shropshire
Fire and Rescue Service



**Putting Shropshire's
Safety First**



FRAUD UPDATE FROM WEST MERCIA POLICE ECONOMIC CRIME UNIT

WHATSAPP FRAUD

There have been a significant number of reports of scammers pretending to be a family member or friend on WhatsApp.

This was highlighted earlier last month and the warning is repeated here again.

The basic method they use is as follows:

- The suspect will send the victim a message via WhatsApp claiming to be their son/daughter/friend and that they have had to change their number, having lost or damaged their phone.

- The scammer will then say they are now using a new phone number.

- As a result of this, the scammers will claim they are getting in touch in order to borrow money to purchase the new device or pay off a debt.

- After this, the scammer will give their bank details so a payment can be made to them, with some coming back with further demands for money.

LOTTERY FRAUD

Analysis of reports to Action Fraud by the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified a dramatic increase in Advance Fee Lottery Frauds over the last six months.

Over £925,000 was lost by victims during that period. Victims reported an average loss of just over £1,500.

70% of victims reported to be aged 50 or over.

Fraudsters will contact the victim in the following way or similar:

- Lottery fraud occurs when criminals use fake messages and calls to convince a person that they have won a lottery or a prize draw.

• The victim is then informed that they will need to pay an advance “fee” in order to receive the winnings.

• Victims are commonly asked to pay these advance fees by purchasing gift cards, and relaying codes to the fraudster.

• In some instances, victims have reported being asked for personal and financial information in order to obtain their “winnings”. Some victims reported providing their bank details thinking they would be sent a small payment to verify the account. In reality, criminals use these details to steal the victim’s money.

(Source:NFIB)



IF YOU THINK YOU ARE BEING SCAMMED OR DO NOT RECOGNISE THE CONTACT

• **Stop** – Taking a moment to stop and think can keep you and your money safe.

• **Challenge** - Keep your money and information safe from criminals by only purchasing items from authorised sellers and doing your research fully before making a purchase.

• **Protect** – if you think you’ve fallen for a scam contact your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

For further information visit:

Action Fraud

Take Five to Stop
Fraud



(Source: Take Five)



SHREWSBURY CENTRAL SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM (SNT)

About your team

Insp **1385 Safdar Ali** **Sgt 3250 Rebecca Thomas**

PCSO	6835 Chris Zacharek	07870 512392
PCSO	6774 Joe Bradley	07870 218574
PC	21125 Rich Walters	07814 044875
PC	21510 Cat Hughes	07971 395345
PC	21652 Holly Burrows	07866 215162



Safer Neighbourhood Teams work with local people and partners to identify, tackle and problem solve issues that matter to the community. Making neighbourhoods safer by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour by working with partner agencies and the community is the focus of your SNT.

We are keen to further enhance our relationships with the community and work together to identify what impacts you the most and resolve the concerns raised.

A key aspect of this approach is giving the community a voice through groups such as *Neighbourhood Watch*, *Community Speed Watch*, *Rural Watch* & *Horse Watch Schemes* – they are easy to set up & require little effort to maintain, the SNT can assist in setting these up so please get in touch if this interests you.

How to get in touch

 **101** Extension **7702282/ 7702283** to talk to your local SNT at Monkmoor Police Station

 mail to: shrewsburycentral.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

 www.westmercia.police.uk

 [@ShrewsburyCops](https://twitter.com/ShrewsburyCops)

The easiest way to report non urgent matters is via the only platform at www.westmercia.police.uk. These reports are reviewed and then sent to the relevant SNT and can be the most efficient way of reporting non urgent ASB/crime especially when the demand to 101 is extremely high. Alternatively you can contact the SNT via the team email address listed above.



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SHROPSHIRE RESIDENTS

Financial assistance for Shropshire residents from Shropshire Council's Welfare Support Team

The Council's Welfare Support Team administers Local Welfare Provision schemes that can provide support for people who are struggling to meet their essential living costs:

For more information on this, please call the Shropshire Council team on **0345 678 9078**.



NEIGHBOURHOOD MATTERS



Find out what's really happening in your area and keep in touch with West Mercia Police through their free messaging service.

The Neighbourhood Matters messaging system enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with local policing teams. You can receive updates

on crimes, latest information on on-going incidents and learn more about what they're doing in your community.

To sign up for Neighbourhood Matters, please go to

[Neighbourhood Matters](#)





Shrewsbury
Town Council

Allotments
Public Open Space
Leisure & Recreation
Play Areas
Shrewsbury in Bloom
Christmas Lights
Events & Festivals
Footway Lighting
Mayor of Shrewsbury & Civic Events
Bus Shelters
Youth Services
Memorials on Town Council Assets
Toilet Facilities in Shrewsbury

Telephone: 01743 281010

Email: enquiries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk

Which Council does What?

Do you know which Council empties your dustbins, plants and maintains the flowers around the town, or is responsible for education and social care in the county?

We know it can be confusing and it's not always easy to find out who is responsible for what. This information is designed to help point you in the right direction.



Shropshire
Council

Education
Housing
Council Tax & Benefits
Waste Collection & Re-cycling
Social Care
Public Rights of Way
Highways, Gritting, Street Lights & Potholes
Towpath gates & Cleansing of towpath
Public Protection
Planning
Libraries
Leisure & Recreation
Shrewsbury Shopping Centres
Museum & Art Gallery / Visitor Information Centre
Youth Provision
Car Parks & Blue Badges
Bus Passes

Telephone: 0345 678 9000

Email: customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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 www.facebook.com/shrewsburytowncouncil

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