

ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

NO ARTIFICIAL COLOURS

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

THE GUILDHALL, FRANKWELL QUAY, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8HR

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Name	Job Title	Contact No	Email
Helen Ball	Town Clerk	01743 257650	helen.ball-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Overall responsibility for the Town Council and its workforce.			
Gary Farmer	Operations Manager	01743 257651	gary.farmer-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Overall responsibility for grounds maintenance and public conveniences.			
Mike Cox	Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager	01743 257659	mike.cox-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: All recreation grounds and fisheries under the control of the Town Council. Administers bookings and manages the Quarry, and Shrewsbury Market Hall.			
Debbie Entwistle	Technical Officer (Grounds & Arboriculture)	01743 257660	debbie.entwistle-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: The maintenance and refurbishment of Town Council play areas, carries out inspections, handles complaints and manages vandalism. Also involved in planting & landscaping schemes.			
Mark Harris	Technical Assistant	01743 257648	mark.harris-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Provides technical support, carries out inspections of assets and manages Health & Safety issues.			
Hilary Jones	Administration Assistant	01743 257649	hilary.jones-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Providing admin support within the office.			
Coral Kelly	Finance Administrator	01743 257652	coral.kelly-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Raising of orders and processing of all invoices for payment.			
Mike Pugh	Technical Officer (Grounds & Arboriculture)	01743 257661	mike.pugh-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Land identification and issues regarding the Town Council's assets. Tree management and maintenance. Recreational facility maintenance.			
Brian Youle	Technical Clients Officer	01743 257658	brian.youle-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: For all maintenance work to Town Council buildings and properties. Responsible for street lights and bus shelters in the town centre.			

Name	Job Title	Contact No	Email
Dawn Morris	Transport Administrator	01743 257617	dawn.morris-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Providing a full administration service for all transport and equipment and for ordering equipment and parts.			
Rebecca Oliver	Project Officer	01743 257656	rebecca.oliver@shropshire.gov.uk (Currently on Maternity leave)
Responsibility: Works on specific projects as required. Also acts as Committee Clerk for public and council meetings and provides general admin support, including website maintenance.			
Rob Plimmer	Operations Supervisor	01743 257614	rob.plimmer-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Day to day running of external operations.			
Carol Pullen	Town Clerk's & Mayor's Secretary	01743 257655	carol.pullen-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Providing full secretarial service for both the Mayor and the Town Clerk.			
Maggie Spicer	Secretary	01743 257653	maggie.spicer-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: General secretarial duties for officers of the Town Council. Responds to enquiries from members of the public.			
Mark Tinkler	Town Warden	01743 257662	mark.tinkler-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Partnership working with the Town Council and all outside bodies involved within the town to ensure a safe and friendly environment for all users of the Town Centre.			
Andy Watkin	Responsible Finance Officer	01743 257657	andy.watkin-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Responsible for all things of a financial nature.			
Suzi Wilkinson	Marketing and Promotions Officer	01743 257654	suzi.wilkinson-stc@shropshire.gov.uk
Responsibility: Communications and media relations, press enquiries, marketing and promotions and website maintenance.			

The Town Councillors are listed on the back page.

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL OVERVIEW 2012/13



Shrewsbury Town Council serves the whole of the town centre, as well as neighbouring residential areas and, with a population of over 70,000, it is one of the largest town councils in England.

The Town Council is proud to be the 'voice' of Shrewsbury and over the last year we have been involved with a number of town issues including the on-going development of the two

new urban extensions, future housing allocations for the town and protecting the retail heart of the town.

The Town Council is responsible for much of the day-to-day upkeep of Shrewsbury and many of its grass roots services including; horticulture, community facilities, street lights, bus shelters, public toilets, The Quarry Park, the Dingle Gardens, numerous small parks, sports pitches, recreation grounds, the town's award-winning Market Hall and the Christmas lights display. We act as a planning consultee and consider over 1,000 applications per year.



Our motto is '**Putting Shrewsbury First**' and we strive to uphold this in everything we do whether it be our award-winning floral arrangements, being the 'voice' of Shrewsbury or our grounds maintenance of sports and recreational grounds, traffic islands and highway verges and hedges which we maintain on behalf of Shropshire Council.



SHREWSBURY
THE ORIGINAL ONE-OFF



We have also been working closely with Destination Shrewsbury, the tourism management partnership, which consists of representatives from the Town Council, Shropshire Council, the Business Chamber, Tourism Association and Shop in the Loop to further develop the 'Original One-Off' brand which has now been recognised by the Transform Awards—Europe's only dedicated awards celebration of rebranding and brand transformation.

The Town Council continues to support the business community in developing a possible Business Improvement District for the town centre. Adding to services already run by the Council in the town centre, the BID would look to enhance those services or provide additional services which would in turn add footfall, increase spend and improve the town's economic vitality.



This year has seen the town strive for greater recognition with Shrewsbury being a Great Town Awards Finalist, accredited as a Coach Friendly Town, re-accredited as a Fair Trade Town, achieving a Gold Award and Category Winner in the Heart of England in Bloom Awards and being nominated to represent the West Midlands in the national Britain in Bloom Finals for 2013. The town also featured in the national advertising campaign by Santander who recognised Shrewsbury as a town that people would relate to, and want to be like.

2012 was a year of national celebration with not only the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, but also the excitement of the Olympics, and Shrewsbury celebrated like many other towns across the country.



May saw the excitement of the Olympic Torch travelling through Shrewsbury, watched by tens of thousands of residents, school children and visitors. The summer continued with events to celebrate both the Jubilee and the Olympics.

Over the past 12 months the Town Council has looked to supporting young people by providing employment opportunities at both apprenticeship level and graduate trainee level. Not only does it provide them with valuable work experience, it has given the Town Council the ability to begin to plan for our future and ensure that staff are able to meet future challenges.



We have also approved more than £30,000 in grant requests from local good causes including funding towards larger events like the Shrewsbury International Street Theatre Festival and the Cartoon Festival, to smaller and more local projects like supporting the entertainment at the Greenacres Day Centre and purchasing tables for the Meole Brace Peace Memorial Hall



Recreation Ground and the Countryside Unit. We have invested greatly in both services that local residents and users can see and are beginning to appreciate.

One of the key challenges of the Town Council since its creation in 2009 has been to raise public awareness of its work and the differing role it has to Shropshire Council. The Town Council has relied greatly on its Members to be the public voice of the Town Council, many of whom are also Councillors with the Shropshire Unitary Authority. All are actively involved in their Local Joint Committees, keeping residents informed.

There are 17 Town Councillors for Shrewsbury, from which one Councillor is elected each year to act as the Mayor of Shrewsbury. This year has seen Councillor Keith Roberts take office of Mayor, with Councillor Jon Tandy acting as the Deputy.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL



THE QUARRY & DINGLE—The Quarry & Dingle are managed and maintained by the Town Council and continue to be used for a wide range of events from the annual Flower Show to bandstand performances and the Seven Bridges 10k Road Race. The Quarry is also the setting for the highly popular Summer Concerts which last year saw pop superstar, Jessie J, take to the stage. The 2013 act is yet to be announced so watch this space!

The Quarry will also be the setting for Shrewsbury's first ever Food Festival on June 29 and 30 and will also be the start and end point for the town's inaugural marathon on June 23.

As well as planned events, the Quarry is a recreational hub for residents and visitors alike, many of whom visit to see the spectacular landscaped gardens in the centre of the Quarry, known as the Dingle.

The Quarry and Dingle are open all year round, although seasonal opening hours do apply.



PUBLIC FIELDS & OPEN SPACES—The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of playing fields and open spaces in the town. We also keep highway verges and hedges trimmed and look after in excess of 20,000 trees throughout the town



PLAY AREAS, MULTI-USE GAMES AREAS BMX TRACKS & SKATEPARKS—We maintain over 50 play facilities in the town centre. Specially trained staff are employed to carry out our weekly inspections and maintenance checks to ensure public safety. All play areas are annually inspected by ROSPA and every year an extensive refurbishment programme is carried out to keep them in tip-top condition. This year we have made improvements to the Tilstock Play Area as well as improving the BMX Tracks at Mary Webb Road and Springfield Recreation Ground.

SPORTS FACILITIES—The Town Council owns a number of Recreation Grounds with associated pavilions, football pitches and cricket wickets bowling greens and croquet lawns. These facilities are used by numerous local teams in the local leagues and the Town Council is continually on the lookout for providing additional facilities where there is a demand. The Town Council also looks after a number of crown green bowling sites and tennis courts which are all well used. We have also taken over the management of Monkmoor Recreation Ground this year.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES—We own Community Centres in both Ditherington & Castlefields which are run by local residents in the area. We have also begun to install noticeboards throughout the town to help residents keep up-to-date with what we do.



SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM—Shrewsbury is famous for being the Town of Flowers and the majority of the floral displays are the responsibility of the Town Council and its dedicated Grounds Maintenance Team. The town has won Gold Award in the Heart of England in Bloom Campaign during 2012 and has been selected to go forward and represent the region in the national stages of Britain in Bloom this summer. The theme is Incredible Edibles, look out for details of activities and events throughout the summer!

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES—The Town Council maintains seven public conveniences within the town. Work to refurbish the Butcher Row facility started in March 2013 and is expected to take four months to complete. Currently boarded up, the finished site will have male, female and disabled facilities, along with a baby changing area, and specialised Changing Places room, the only one of its kind in Shropshire.



STREET FURNITURE—We are responsible for over 450 Footway Lights (on the many footpaths and pedestrian areas across the town) and also more than 200 bus shelters.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS—The Town Council looks after the Christmas lighting displays across the town and spends upwards of £40,000 each year maintaining and improving the displays. This year saw a number of new displays along Smithfield Road and around St Marys Church. Christmas lights are not just a December job, work starts late summer to test and check displays, to install fixings around the town and to carry out health & safety checks. The Town Council also organises the annual Christmas Cracker event marking the start of Late Night Shopping and we also help to fund the highly popular Carols in the Square Event broadcast by BBC Radio Shropshire.

MAYORALTY—The Mayor of Shrewsbury remains one of the busiest Town Mayor's in the county, attending and promoting many community groups, charities and organisations' activities throughout the year. The Mayor also holds an annual awards ceremony to celebrate those who have significantly contributed to making Shrewsbury a better place to live, work and visit and raises funds throughout the year for a nominated charity.

TOURISM— The Town Council continues to play its part in enhancing Shrewsbury's visitor experience and promotes a 'Team Shrewsbury' approach. During the past 12 months Shrewsbury reached the final stages in the Great Town Awards and became a Portas Town team Partner.

Shrewsbury also featured in a national TV advert by banking giant, Santander.



THE MAYORALTY IN SHREWSBURY



The office of Mayor in Shrewsbury dates back as far as 1638 and is therefore steeped in history and tradition.

The unpaid role of Mayor is an extremely busy one. The Mayor and his/her consort are the official ambassadors for the town and represent Shrewsbury at functions and events across the county and beyond. He/she also presides over meetings of the Council and ensures business is carried out efficiently with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interest of the community.

The Mayor of Shrewsbury continues to be one of the busiest in the county and he/she regularly supports the work of the town's voluntary and community groups, raising the profile of, and much needed cash for, local charities.

The Mayor is involved in major events such as Battle of Britain Sunday and the Remembrance

Day Parade, both large, logistical events organised by Shrewsbury Town Council.

The Mayor also oversees the installation of Freemen of Shrewsbury and ceremonies are usually held twice a year, either at the Guildhall or at Shrewsbury Castle. Since the legislation changed a few years ago, we have seen a large number of ladies wishing to become Freemen of Shrewsbury and many recent Installation Ceremonies have seen multiple generations of the same family taking part.

This year's Mayor is Councillor Keith Roberts who took office in May 2012. Keith was elected to Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council in 2007 to represent the Copthorne and Radbrook ward. He then successfully stood for re-election in 2009 and now represents Radbrook on Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council. He was a Governor at Meole Brace C of E Infant school for several years and continues that role at the newly formed Meole Brace C of E Primary school where his wife Catherine works as a Teaching Assistant. They have two teenage children who have been educated locally.

Both the Mayor and Mayoress are extremely supportive of the local Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides and this year they were delighted that many packs turned out to be part of the Mayor's Sunday Parade, which culminated in a fantastic day and picnic in the Quarry. The Quarry was also the venue for the Mayor's Teenage Kicks event for young people.



Throughout the past 12 months Councillor Roberts has raised funds for his chosen Mayor's Charities; Hope House Children's Hospices and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Some of the activities have included a charity concert and sponsored bike ride from Shrewsbury to the Mayor's birthplace Abergavenny.

The Mayor also has a chance to recognise those who have made a significant impact to the town of Shrewsbury through the annual Mayor's Awards which are held each May prior to the end of each year in office. Awards are presented in a variety of categories including; business, heritage, community, youth, environment and tourism.

COMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (Councillor Peter Nutting–Chairman) – Finance & General Purposes Committee is responsible for the overall running of the Town Council, reviewing the Council's budget, looking after Council assets and reviewing all staffing matters. Much of the Committee's work over the last four years has been focussed on ensuring that the Town Council is financially robust, is able to look after the public assets of Shrewsbury and is resilient being able to tackle the many challenges that the town faces.

The Committee has been at the forefront of developing Destination Shrewsbury, a partnership including representatives from the public, private and business communities to develop Shrewsbury as a place for not only its residents but also shoppers and tourists. A significant amount of the Town Council's funds goes to supporting the town's Tourism Economy and promotion of the town to a wider audience and contributing towards major events has been a high priority.

This year the Town Council successfully bid for funds under the Portas Town Partnership Scheme and this money will be used to better understand our visitors, what makes them come to Shrewsbury and what encourages them to stay and spend.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee also looks after the Market Rights of the Town. The Town Council runs the General Market in the Market Hall and licenses the Sunday Market and Livestock Market.

Every year the Town Council sets aside money to offer Community Grants to local organisations for local projects. This year the Committee has distributed in excess of £30,000 in funding for local events, purchasing valuable equipment, helping to restore community buildings, supporting our elderly and vulnerable, all contributing towards the social and cultural capital that makes Shrewsbury a great place.

PLANNING COMMITTEE (Councillor Jackie Brennand–Chairman) – The Planning Committee is the busiest of the Town Council's Committees, meeting every three weeks to consider planning applications, traffic orders and tree preservation orders in the Shrewsbury area. As a consultee in the planning process, considering upwards of 800 planning applications a year, the Town Council regularly makes representation on behalf of the residents to ensure that development is appropriate.

As well as the every day planning applications and tree orders, the Town Council has been actively involved in developing plans for future housing development. The draft plans for the Site Allocation & Management of Development (SAMDev) were publicised in the summer of 2012. The Town Council organised a number of public meetings that provided local residents with an opportunity to raise their comments and concerns and members of the Town Council will continue to take an active role as these development plans move forward for formal adoption.

The Town Council is delighted to support the Monkmoor Abbey & Column Community Group in developing a Neighbourhood Plan. As one of the national Front Runners, we see the lessons learned in this small area of the town, will help us develop similar plans throughout the rest of the town.

This Committee also maintains a watching brief over development, developers commitments to the Community and the payment of Community Infrastructure Levy and s106 Agreements and the development of Community Infrastructure priorities for the town to ensure that the right development in the right place takes place.

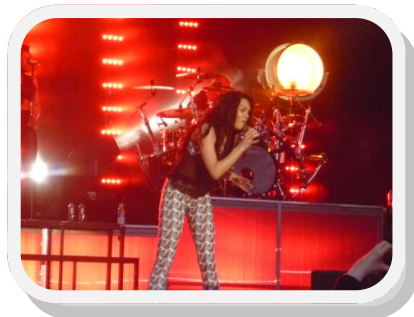
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE (Councillor Jackie Brennand– Chairman)

–The Recreation & Leisure Committee is responsible for the delivery of all the Town Council's services including:

- The use of The Quarry
- Shrewsbury in Bloom
- The development of play facilities,
- The use of open space
- Fishing Rights on the River Severn
- Sports facilities
- War Memorials

The Recreation & Leisure Committee also oversees the work of the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Team which looks after much of the public open space within the town.

The Town Council has developed a reputation for maintenance of excellent quality facilities to high standards which are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.



The Quarry remains Shrewsbury's Jewel in the Crown. This grade listed park which in recent years has seen significant investment is extremely well used and hosts a varied events programme throughout the year. This year it welcomed Jessie J for the Summer Concert and for 2013 it will host the new Shrewsbury Food Festival and Shrewsbury Marathon.

We continue to grow our own plants from our 4000 square metre greenhouse at Weeping Cross, ensuring that the 300,000 plants that we need for our summer beds, hanging baskets and planters are available at the right time, in the right quantities and at the right standard.



This year our Bloom Campaign will take on a different twist with the introduction of fruit and vegetables into our traditional floral beds to complement not only the Britain in Bloom's theme of Incredible Edible, but also encourage residents to grow their own at home.

Our Play Area refurbishment programme continues with improvements this year to Tilstock Crescent as well as plans agreed for the development of BMX Facilities.

Much of this Committee's work has been on incorporating the Countryside Unit and the Monkmoor Recreation Ground (previously run by Shropshire Council) into the Town Council. Improvements to the security and management of Monkmoor Recreation Ground are proving successful and works to improve access to countryside site are on-going..

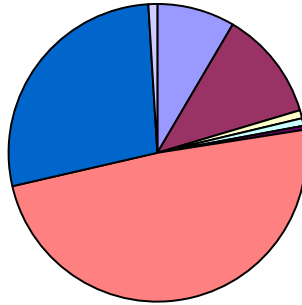
The Town Council remains extremely committed to maintaining good quality green space for all to enjoy.

This year will see the installation of vehicle activated signs on a number of roads where speeding traffic is a cause for concern. These signs are installed to encourage drivers to take more care, particularly through the urban areas where there are cyclists and walkers in close proximity.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2012/13

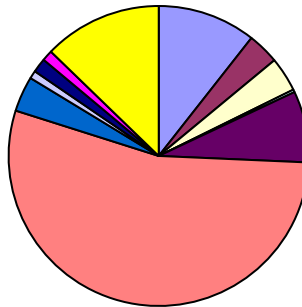
Summary of the Shrewsbury Town Council Budget 2012/13 and where the money is spent.

Sources of income £3.386 m



Grants £291k	Markets £410k
Residential and commercial rents £30k	Interest £28k
Community centres and sports facilities £15k	Grounds maintenance and allotments £1,679k
Precept £950k	Transfer from reserves £33k

Where the money goes £3.386 m



Management and support costs £364k	Democratic £117k
Markets £128k	Residential and commercial rents £10k
Community centres and sports facilities £265k	Grounds maintenance and allotments £1,862k
Public conveniences £131k	Bus shelters £29k
Street lighting £53k	Christmas lights £39k
Capital adjustments £438k	

The notice of appointment of auditors and the exercise of electors rights will be publicised in June for a period to inspect accounts commencing **24 June—19 July 2013**.

The accounts will be published on the website from **1 July 2013**.



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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<p>Alan Townsend BELLE VUE WARD LABOUR Tel: 01743 236302 12 Oakley Street, Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, SY3 7JU Email: alan.townsend-stc@shropshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Andrew Bannerman QUARRY & COTON HILL WARD LIBERAL DEMOCRAT Tel: 01743 351624 16 Crescent Place, Town Walls, Shrewsbury, SY1 1TQ Email: andrew.bannerman-stc@shropshire.gov.uk</p>