



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
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SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL CONTACTS

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Andy Watkin Responsible Financial Officer	andy.watkin-stc @shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257657	Overall responsibility for finance, payroll, pensions, insurance
Ruth Jones Office Manager	ruth.jones-stc @shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257656	Manages Admin Support Staff, Adhoc Projects, Team Shrewsbury Co-ordinator
Rebecca Oliver Committee Clerk	rebecca.oliver @shropshire.gov.uk	Services Council & Committee meetings, Manages Planning Register
Carol Pullen Town Clerk & Mayor's Secretary	carol.pullen-stc @shropshire.gov.uk 01473 257655	Secretarial services to the Town Clerk & Mayor, Organises the Mayor's Diary & Civic Events
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Coral Kelly Finance Administrator	coral.kelly-stc @Shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257652	Raising Orders, Processing Invoices, General finance support to other staff
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Mike Pugh Technical Officer (Grounds & Arboriculture)	mike.pugh-stc @shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257661	Responsibility for external contracts, tree planting, land ownership
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Mark Harris Asset Maintenance Officer	mark-harris-stc @shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257658	Responsibility for Council Buildings, Pavilions, street lights, bus shelters
Stuart Farmer Technical Officer	stuart.farmer @shropshire.gov.uk 01743 257648	Technical support to the Operational Management, Co-ordinates Bloom Hanging Baskets
Adam Purnell Youth & Community Development Officer	adam.purnell @shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk 07710 716063	Manages the Youth Service
Rob Plimmer Head of Logistics	rob.plimmer-stc Shropshire.gov.uk	Manages Toilet staff, Neighbourhood Wardens, Civic Parades
Matt Wilcoxon Green Space & Countryside Team Leader	mathew.wilcoxon-stc@shropshire.gov.uk	Manages Countryside, Cemetery, Grass Cutting, Tree Works
Danny Powell Recreational Green Space Team Leader	danny.powell-stc @Shropshire.gov.uk	Manages Recreation Grounds, Football, Cricket & Bowling, Golf Course
Mark Bowen Amenity Team Leader	mark.bowen-stc @Shropshire.gov.uk	Manages Quarry, Castle, Crematorium, Roundabouts, Greenhouse



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL OVERVIEW 2016/17



Leader Cllr Alan Mosley

Shrewsbury Town Council, with a population of over 70,000 residents, is one of the largest and most influential Town Councils in the country. But whilst we do play an influential role in local government, we are first and foremost a council that is firmly rooted in the community it serves.

With its motto of “Putting Shrewsbury First”, the Town Council prides itself in being the voice of Shrewsbury, supporting local communities and local initiatives, providing good quality play and recreation areas for all, providing facilities and activities for the young and generally promoting the town as a great place to live, work and visit.

This year has continued to be a struggle as we see cuts to local government funding biting hard in our communities. Last year we had to make radical reductions in some service standard areas to meet a reducing sum we receive from the grounds maintenance contract we have with Shropshire Council and whilst it certainly was not our wish, we had to reduce the grass cutting frequency in some areas. That being said, our members and staff have worked tirelessly to maintain the high standards that we have all come to expect.

We have also continued to adjust to previous reductions in funding from Shropshire Council following cessation of the Council Tax Support and the Civics Grant.

Prior to the elections, we had detailed discussions with colleagues at Shropshire Council regarding the future of some crucial local services; namely the Library, Castle & Museum and the Swimming Pool. These are all assets that Shropshire Council has said they need to find an alternative management arrangement for.

We had a very well attended Annual Town Meeting last year where we were heartened to hear that all present wanted to see these assets kept going and if it meant we might have to increase precepts to fund them so be it. Whilst we wouldn't resort to that without having thought through the implications, we do need to carry on those discussions.

This year we have relocated our base from the Guildhall to Riggs Hall, which is part of the Library. This has meant that our staff are closer to the general public and hopefully over time, we can help to transform the Library into more of an information hub and a “one-stop-shop” for those needing assistance.



Young People enjoying the Youth Services sessions

We have been delighted by how our Youth Service has developed. At the beginning of last year, we took over the Youth Service from Shropshire Council and continued to run the weekly Youth Centre sessions at The Grange, Upton Lane, Sundorne and Flaxivity. Since then we have developed an Outreach Team, a Youth Forum based at The Hive and added senior sessions to our list. Our Youth Workers have also done youth activities in local schools, been part of the Kids Festival in the Quarry and helped run sessions for the

National Citizenship Scheme. Our original grant from

Shropshire Council has been reduced this year and over time, we envisage that it will go completely; so we took the difficult decision of increasing the council tax to continue to run this vital service.

Last year saw the opening of our most ambitious play area yet; the Quarry Play Area and Splash Park. With a £375,000 budget, the old play area and paddling pool have been transformed into a multi-functional dry and wet play facility that caters for all ages. This facility has been so successful and people from much further afield from Shrewsbury have made special journeys just to visit it.



The Quarry Splash Park



The Town Council has been at the forefront of establishing greater co-operation and partnership in Shrewsbury through its active role in leading #TeamShrewsbury. This multi-agency partnership made up of the two councils, Police, Fire, Business Community, Housing Associations, University and many more, has created a platform where we can share information and intelligence, develop joint solutions to problems and generally make a difference. We have held a number of Community Action Days and local areas have seen improvements.

#TeamShrewsbury has been the group who introduced the Alternative Giving Scheme, a scheme designed to target those who purport to be homeless but beg on the streets to fund alcohol and substance addictions. Since the scheme was introduced last year, we have collected over £1,600 and this has gone to help genuinely homeless people in Shrewsbury find accommodation and get their lives back on track.

The Town Council has also played a significant role in re-accreditation of Purple Flag, a scheme designed to promote the night-time economy; and the development of a Public Space Protection Order which will help to combat some of those unsavoury night-time activities in town.

Our Shrewsbury in Bloom group continues to maintain exacting standards when it comes to floral embellishments in the town. We again entered the Heart of England in Bloom Awards and achieved Gold Standard and we were delighted to see the Quarry achieve a Gold Standard in the new Parks & Open Spaces Category and a special award for Horticultural Excellence.



The Castle grounds where the Dana footpath will emerge

I have been delighted to learn that planning permission has been granted to create a level access through the Castle grounds from the Dana Footpath. This will allow people with pushchairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters to access Castle Street without having to either navigate the flight of steps from the Dana footpath or the long trek down Howards Bank and through the railway bridges. I have been heartened to see both Town Council and Shropshire Council working collaboratively to develop the plans to make this happen and with the Town Council agreeing to contribute £50,000 towards its creation it will be a great addition to the town.

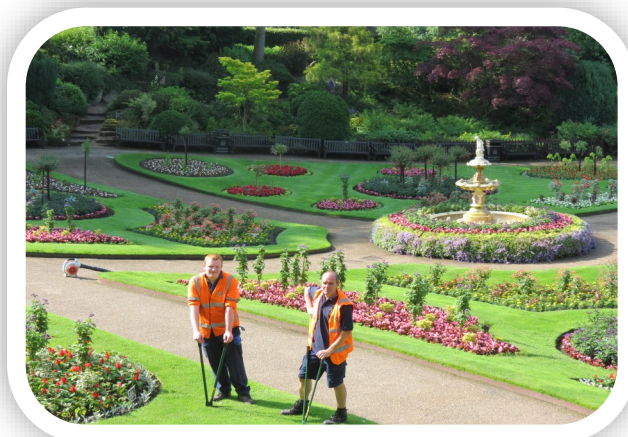
The coming year will inevitably be full of challenges but I am confident that the Town Council, with members and staff working together, can face these challenges and continue to maintain, develop and enhance services for all our residents. We already have plans to progress a number of schemes including additional lighting in the Quarry, improvements to toilets and improved recreational facilities.

I want to conclude by thanking the many members of the public, stakeholder organisations, businesses and charities who have supported our ambitions and given positive endorsement for our plans. At the same time I want to give clear recognition to the excellent staff we have at all levels

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

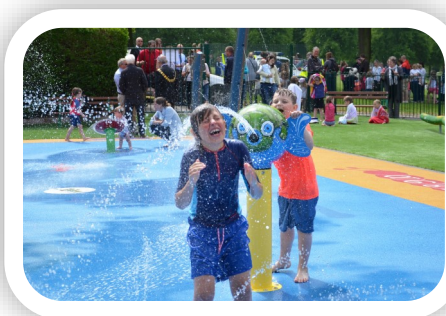
THE QUARRY & DINGLE—The Quarry & Dingle are used for a wide range of events, from the annual Flower Show, to bandstand performances and the Shrewsbury Food & Shropshire Kids' Festivals. We also welcome over 1million visitors to see the spectacular landscaped gardens .

SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM—Shrewsbury is famous for its horticulture and the majority of the floral displays are the responsibility of the Town Council and its dedicated Grounds Maintenance Team. More than 300,000 blooms are grown in our own Greenhouse each year, with 30,000 plants alone being used for the town's centrepiece in the Dingle, which won the Horticultural Excellence in the 2016 Heart of England in Bloom Awards.



The Award Winning Dingle

PUBLIC FIELDS & OPEN SPACES—The Town Council looks after the majority of playing fields, recreation grounds and open spaces in Shrewsbury. In addition, we keep over 120 miles of highway verges and hedges trimmed and look after in excess of 30,000 trees throughout the town. We also manage more than 250 acres of Countryside Land within the town boundary. Many of these sites are Special Sites of Scientific Interest, Local Nature Reserves and Community Woodlands.



The Quarry Splash Park

PLAY AREAS, MULTI-USE GAMES AREAS, BMX TRACKS & SKATEPARKS—We look after more than 50 play facilities in the town. They are inspected weekly and kept in good order. We regularly upgrade our facilities with the Quarry Play Area & Splash Park being the most recent project.

YOUTH SERVICES— Since the launch of Young Shrewsbury in 2016, we have run regular junior sessions in various locations in town and have recently added senior sessions, detached youth work and a Youth Forum based at the Hive in the town centre. Youth Workers are also contracted to work alongside a number of senior schools.



SPORTS FACILITIES—The Town Council owns a number of Recreation Grounds with sports pavilions, football pitches and cricket wickets, bowling greens, tennis courts and croquet lawns. These facilities are used by many local teams in the Shrewsbury area. We have been working with local sporting clubs to improve facilities. We also look after the Golf Course grounds for Shropshire Council.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES—We own Community Centres in both Ditherington & Castlefields which are run by local residents in the area. We have also installed noticeboards throughout the town and in each of the wards, to help residents keep up-to-date with what we do. We look after hundreds of streetlights and bus shelters throughout the town.

TOURISM—The Town Council contributes greatly to improving the tourism offer in the town. We maintain the public conveniences in the town centre; we have an extensive planting programme and we spend upwards of £50,000 each year making sure the town has fantastic Christmas Lights and great Christmas Events to come to including Carols in the Square.



The annual Carols in the Square

THE MAYOR OF SHREWSBURY

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

The unpaid role is an extremely demanding 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, 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.



Councillor Ioan Jones, Mayor of Shrewsbury

This year's Mayor is Councillor Ioan Jones who took office in May 2016.

Ioan was born in Bedford during the war to a Welsh father and a mother from Manchester and was one of eight children. In the late 1940's the family moved to East Shropshire settling in Horsehay, now part of Telford, where Ioan grew up, later moving to Wellington in 1964. Educated at St Patrick's School in Wellington and the Birmingham College of Food and Domestic Arts obtaining City & Guilds and National Diploma where he trained as a Baker, Confectioner and Patisserie. Following a number of years as a baker, Ioan moved on and had employment as an Insurance Agent, Lorry Driver and retired as a Senior Storekeeper and Team Leader at the MOD in Donnington seven years ago.

Ioan moved to Harlescott Grange in Shrewsbury on marrying Sue in 1988 and has three daughters, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ioan has had an interest in his community from his early years running errands for older neighbours as a child, starting and running a youth club in his teens, involvement in local politics from the age of eight, delivering leaflets in the 1951 election and contesting his first election in 1964.

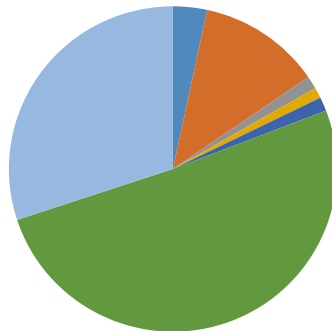
He was elected to Shropshire County Council in 2001 and Shrewsbury Town Council in 2010 and 2013. Ioan has experience as Shropshire's first Champion for older people, Fire Authority, Planning, Recreation and Leisure, Personnel and WW1 Commemoration committees. He was a volunteer in the Light Infantry for twenty seven years attaining the rank of Warrant Officer. Today he has voluntary involvement as Chairperson of Age Concern Shrewsbury, North Shrewsbury Friendly Neighbours and has been a Governor of three schools in North Shrewsbury over the past twenty years. At home he enjoys gardening.

Throughout his Mayoral Year, Councillor Jones has been raising funds to purchase defibrillators in each of the 6 senior schools as well as the 2 colleges. He has held a number of successful fundraising events including the Flower Show Sunday Luncheon and a Mayoral Ball.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2016/17

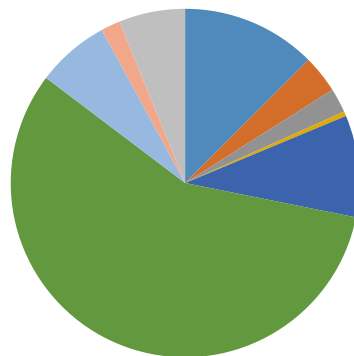
Summary of the Shrewsbury Town Council Budget 2016/17 and where the money is spent.

Sources of income £3.001m



■ Grants £101k	■ Markets £363k
■ Residential & commercial rents £38k	■ Interest & Investment income £32k
■ Community & sports facilities £41k	■ Grounds & allotments £1,524k
■ Precept (council tax payer) £902k	

Where the money goes £3.001 m



■ Management & support costs £375k	■ Democratic £106k
■ Markets £68k	■ Residential & commercial buildings £13k
■ Youth, Community & sports facilities £284k	■ Grounds & allotments £1,714k
■ Infrastructure £203k	■ Christmas lights £53k
■ Planned upgrades / New services £185k	

The notice of appointment of auditor and the exercise of electors' rights will be publicised in June for a period to inspect accounts commencing
19th June 2017 - 28th July 2017

The accounts will be published on the website from **1st July 2017**



SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCILLORS

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BELLEVUE Councillor Harry Taylor (L)	harry.taylor@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk	6 College Hill, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LZ
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