

## Councillor Report to Prees ward, August 2025

### Councillor Updates

- Meeting attendance:
  - Audit Committee 16<sup>th</sup> July
  - Whitchurch Civic Centre Steering Group 16<sup>th</sup> July
  - Full Council 17<sup>th</sup> July
  - Members' Enquiries Task & Finish Group 31<sup>st</sup> July, plus follow-up meetings
  - MP Helen Morgan "summer tour" at Higher Heath Village Hall, update on current campaigns and news from parliament, Q&A session with local residents 6<sup>th</sup> August
- Selected casework:
  - Supporting residents in various planning and issue reporting

### Council Updates

- See update on Local Plan, as requested
- [Whitchurch Civic Centre 'needs analysis' report completed - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

### Other News

- [Rural Funding Digest - August 2025 - Rural Services Network](#)
- [Current Government Consultations - August 2025 - Rural Services Network](#)
- [Living in Rural England? Help Inform Future Utility Decisions - Rural Services Network](#)

### Upcoming Road Works

Date / Time	Location	Reason	Link
4 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> August	A41 between Hinstock and Newport	Road closed 07:00-16:00 on weekdays for carriageway resurfacing. Diversions via A53 / A442 / A518 (Telford)	
18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> August	Longslow Farm	Dig down, investigate and repair pipework	<a href="https://one.network/?tmi=GB39283741">https://one.network/?tmi=GB39283741</a>
27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Unnamed road at Steel Heath	Road closure to enable bridge parapet repairs	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=143782232">https://one.network/?tm=143782232</a>
8 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Bletchley Road, Calverhall	Multiveo carriageway repairs	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=143751432">https://one.network/?tm=143751432</a>
15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Church Street, Prees	Drainage repair (POSTPONED from July)	<a href="https://one.network/?GB144634229">https://one.network/?GB144634229</a>
29 <sup>th</sup> September – 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Longford	New water connection	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=144237932">https://one.network/?tm=144237932</a>
20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Rooms Farm junction to Chapel Lane end, Norton in Hales	Aerial cabling work. Diversions via A529 through Adderley	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=144920207">https://one.network/?tm=144920207</a>

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Date / Time	Location	Reason	Link
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Ash House Farm junction to Lea Hall junction, Ash Parva	Pole test Diversions through Bletchley Road	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=144969580">https://one.network/?tm=144969580</a>
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Longford junction Orchard House to Shrewsbury Road	Road excavation	<a href="https://one.network/?tm=144984032">https://one.network/?tm=144984032</a>

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## **Shropshire Local Plan**

### Background

The Shropshire Local Plan is made up of several planning documents, known as Local Development Documents (LDDs). When adopted, the policies and guidance contained in these LDDs will play an important role in the assessment of individual planning applications within Shropshire. Two of the key documents which make up the Shropshire Local Development Framework (LDF) are:

- Core Strategy Development Plan Document [1], adopted 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011
- Site Allocations and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan [2], adopted 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015

The draft Shropshire Local Plan (2016 – 2038) [3] was produced in 2020 and the decision to submit the plan for examination was made at a meeting of the full Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 [4].

The draft Shropshire Local Plan (2016 – 2038) was subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021.

### Review

The secretary of state appointed Planning Inspectors Louise Crosby [MA MRTPI], Elaine Worthington [MTP MUED MRTPI IHBC] and Nick Palmer [BA (Hons) BPI MRTPI] to carry out an independent examination of the draft Shropshire Local Plan (2016 – 2038).

In 2021, Council opposition tried to delay submission as there were serious concerns about soundness at that point. The Stage 1 hearing sessions of the examination occurred in July 2022. A further follow-up hearing session on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 considered whether the "Duty to Co-operate" had been properly dealt with. The Inspectors' report on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 concluded that it had, but required Shropshire Council to carry out a lot of further work to make the Draft Plan sound.

During 2023, Shropshire Council worked towards updating the Local Plan to meet the Inspectors' concerns. There was a revised submission in July 2023, but this was again rejected by the Inspectors. The Council asked for clarification and in April 2024 there was a third attempt at producing the Local Plan. A six-week consultation on the 1,500 or so pages of new material closed on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024; the new material proposed to increase the housing requirement by another 500 houses to 31,300.

The Inspectors wrote to the Council following public hearing sessions in October 2024, asking the Council to undertake further work and set out about how this could be achieved in the next six months. On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, Government published an updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and associated updated standard methodology for assessing local housing need [5].

### Withdrawal

A further letter from the Inspectors to the Council 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 outlined further issues and recommended that the Plan should be withdrawn [6], or the Inspectors would have written a report of the examination within which they would recommend that the Plan is unsound and that it is not adopted.

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The Inspectors' letter left the Council with two options: voluntarily withdraw the plan or face a formal rejection, declaring it unsound and preventing its adoption. Consequently, Shropshire Council has reluctantly agreed to withdraw the plan, opting to focus its efforts on developing a new Local Plan for 2025-45, aligning with the government's updated planning system. Shropshire Council formally withdrew the Draft Local Plan on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 [6].

### Next Steps

The withdrawal of the Local Plan means the Council will not be able to adopt the Local Plan as hoped in 2025. This means the current development Plan for the area will remain the adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocation and Management of Development (SAMDev) Plan, adopted by the Council in 2011 and 2015 respectively, as well as a range of adopted Neighbourhood Development Plans [7].

All sites in the withdrawn draft and any proposed development boundaries are now void. All sites need to be resubmitted for inclusion, with no carry over. New National Planning Policy Framework, (NPPF), with new Grey Belt and steep mandatory housing targets (2,025 dwellings per annum) means everything has be reassessed:

- Call for sites has now gone out [8] and runs until October 2026;
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) coming out in September 2025;
- Local Nature Recovery Scheme (LNRS) about to go out for consultation;
- Local Transport Plan (LTP) reviewed soon;
- New Gypsy and Traveller policy document publish so Shropshire Council now has 5-year supply for those sites.

The Council have set out a positive programme of work to commence work on a new Local Plan process under the Government's new plan making system in January 2026. In line with Government's expectations this process is expected to lead to an adopted Local Plan in 2028, subject to Government confirming new scheme for how plans are drafted which yet to be released. This schedule is faster than anything previously achieved and is set by Government at 30 months.

### References

1. [Core strategy 2006-2026 | Shropshire Council](#)
2. [SAMDev Plan 2006-2026 | Shropshire Council](#)
3. [sd002-draft-shropshire-local-plan.pdf](#)
4. [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 15th July, 2021, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)
5. [Shropshire Local Plan and NPPF Position Statement.pdf](#)
6. [Supplement To Follow Report - Withdrawal of Local PLan 17072025 1000 Council.pdf](#)
7. [Neighbourhood and community-led plans | Shropshire Council](#)
8. [Call for sites as work set to begin on new Local Plan - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)