

Whixall Parish Council



Chairman: Med Evans

To all Members of the Council. You are hereby summoned to attend a Meeting of the Parish Council of Whixall to be held on **Wednesday 8th July 2026 at Welshend Chapel** which will commence at 7.30pm in order to conduct the business enclosed on the agenda below. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Signed:

A Roberts

Date: 1 July 2026

1. Chairman's welcome, announcements and public session

Should a member of the public so require they will be permitted to speak. Public speaking time will be limited to 15 minutes, 3 minutes per speaker

2. Apologies

3. Election of Vice Chair of the Council

4. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other interests or requests for dispensations

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer. Members are reminded that they must declare non-pecuniary interests relating to agenda items

5. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2026

6. Planning

- a. To receive planning applications from Shropshire Council – none received
- b. To receive planning decisions from Shropshire Council – none received

7. Finance

- a) Monthly balance record and reconciliation to note
- b) To receive the Quarter 1 budget and spending report (circulated)
- c) Internal Control Checks
- d) To resolve to approve outstanding invoices and payments.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Reference
Payments Made Before the Meeting			
A Roberts	Salary June		
HMRC	NI & PAYE June	190.83	
NEST	Pension June	88.40	
Unity Bank	Monthly Charge	7.00	
New Payments to be approved			
NEST	Pension July	88.40	
A Roberts	Expenses June	78.10	
M Spenser	Reimbursement (Marlot/H Green)	15.85	
A Roberts	Salary July	266.96	
HMRC	NI & PAYE July	190.83	

8. Reports

- a. Shropshire Councillors (circulated)
- b. Parish Councillors
- c. Clerk's Progress Report

9. **Shropshire Local Plan Consultation** – to discuss and agree a response
 10. **Policing Priorities** – to confirm
 11. **Parish Newsletter** (Cllr Weedall)
 12. **Format of the Annual Parish Meeting** – to agree (report circulated).
 13. **Shropshire Councillor Ward Walks** – to highlight local priorities
 14. **Parish Matters**
 - a. Marlot & Hollinwood Green Updates – circulated
 - b. Marlot and Natural England – to receive a verbal update
 - c. Playground proposal – to receive a verbal update
 15. **Items for Next Agenda**

To enable Councillors to bring forward items for the 9th September 2026 meeting agenda (Venue: Whixall Marina Café).
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Whixall Parish Council

Chairman: Med Evans

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2026
at Welshend Methodist Church Hall starting at 7.30pm**

Present

Councillors	I Mercer , C Weedall, SJ Lamb, J Spenser, J Hawkes, M Evans (joined at 20.11)	
Unitary Councillors	Cllr G Groves	
Clerk	A Roberts	
Other Organisations	0	Members of the Public: 2

57/26 Election of Chair

In the absence of Cllr Evans, Cllr Mercer took the Chair.

Resolved: Cllr M Evans is elected as Chair of the Council for 2026-27.

58/26 Apologies for Absence

P Rodenhurst, C Schup, Cllr Weedall, Cllr Clorley

59/26 Public Session

No issues raised

60/26 Election of Vice Chair

Resolved: to defer the appointment of a Vice Chair to the next meeting.

61/26 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other interests or requests for dispensations

None declared

62/26 Councillor Appointments

Resolved: The following appointments are made for the remainder of the current term of office:

Personnel Committee	Cllr Evans Cllr Rodenhurst Vice Chair(tbc)
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Flod Liaison Rep	Cllr Hawkes
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Marlot Liaison Group	Cllr Spenser Cllr Lamb Cllr Schup
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NS Area Committee	Cllr Hawkes Cllr Weedall
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Signatories	Cllr Evans Cllr Schup
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63/26 Council Policies

Resolved: The following policies are re-approved

**Standing Orders
Financial Regulations
All GDPR Policies
Planning Policy and Process
Local Connections Policy
Grant Giving Policy
Reserves Strategy
Statement of Internal Controls
Business Continuity Plan
Business & Finance Risk Assessment
Health & Safety Policy Statement
Procedure for Co-options
Training Statement
It & Email Policy
Equality & Diversity Policy
Complaints Policy
Scheme of Delegation
Social Media Policy
Communications Policy
Website Management Policy
Information and Data Protection
Personal Data Management
Privacy Policy
Privacy Notice – basic
Privacy Notice Policy
Subject Access Policy
Website Privacy and Use Policy
Security Breach Protocol
Publication Scheme
Data Management Policy**

64/26 Assets

- a. The asset register was noted
- b. Asset Inspections

Resolved: to continue with the existing asset inspection regime

65/26 Administrative Arrangements

Resolved to accept the following arrangements:

- Insurance provided by Ecclesiastical through Clear Councils Insurance
- Subscriptions to SALC and SLCC
- Direct Debits to Unity Bank, NEST Pensions and ICO
- Meeting dates as shown below

2026

8th July	Welshend Chapel
9th September	Whixall Marina
14th October	Whixall Marina
11th November	Whixall Marina

2027

13th January	Social Centre
10th February	Social Centre
10th March	Social Centre
14th April	tbc

66/26 Accounts

- a. Limited Assurance Review

Resolved: to certify as exempt from the Limited Assurance Review for 2025-26

- b. Internal Audit Report

Resolved: to accept the Internal Audit report for 2025-26

- c. Annual Governance Statement

Resolved: to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025-26

- d. Accounting Statements

Resolved: to approve the Accounting Statements for 2025-26

67/26 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th April 2026

Resolved: to approve as a correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th April 2026. They were duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.

68/26 Reports

- a. Shropshire Councillors.
Cllr Groves gave a verbal report which covered pothole repairs and highway maintenance. The new Chief Executive will be carrying out ward walks -is there anything WPC wishes to be looked at?
- b. Parish Councillors - no reports
- c. Clerk's Progress Report – noted. In addition, the Clerk will contact Whixall Marina to discuss the playground project.

Cllr Evans joined the meeting (8.11pm)

69/26 The Marlot

- a. The monthly activity report was circulated in advance.

Resolved: to note the contents of the Marlot monthly report.

- b. Notes of meeting with Natural England – noted

70/26 Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved: Cllr Hawkes will chair the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting.

It was noted that next year's meeting may take place in March 2027.

71/26 Grants

Resolved to earmark the £300 S137 grant given to Whixall Social centre in 2025-26 and returned in the current year, for future grant funding.

72/26 Newsletter

Resolved: to defer discussion about the newsletter to the next meeting.

73/26 Noticeboards

The work carried out by Dave Birch to Hollinwood noticeboard was noted. The clerk will contact Dave to thank him and discuss Dobsons Bridge noticeboard.

74/26 Planning

- a. Planning Applications from Shropshire Council. – none received.
- b. Planning Decisions from Shropshire Council. – none received.
- c.

75/26 Finance

- a. To receive Monthly Balance Record and reconciliation - noted that Cllr Hawkes has checked the reconciliation and calculation of Clerk's salary.
- b. To resolve to approve outstanding invoices and payments

Resolved: The outstanding accounts should be paid, and the online payment transactions authorised by two approved signatories.

Recipient	Reason for Payment	Amount	Reference
Payments to be Approved			
Whixall Social Centre	Room Hire	112.00	11.26
HMRC	PAYE & NI	102.03	12.26
A Roberts	Salary	355.76	13.26
A Roberts	Expenses	40.40	14.26
NEST	Pension Contributions	88.40	15.26 DD
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly Fee	7.00	16.26 DD
Clear Councils	Insurance	685.85	17.26
SALC	Affiliation Fees	495.39	18.26
Welsh End Methodist	Room Hire	22.50	19.26
Mijan Ltd	Finance Software	84.00	20.26
Per Pro Services	Internal Audit	180.00	21.26
Josh Higgins	Tree Works	1206.00	22.26

76/26 Items for Next Agenda

The meeting scheduled for 8th July 2026 was noted.

77/26 Declaration of Office

Cllr Evans signed his declaration of acceptance of office as Chair of the Council

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Whixall Parish Council Q1 Budget Report

Budget report from 1-Apr-2026 to 30 June 2026 (Figures Exclude VAT)

Payments	Budget	Actual	Variance
<u>Other Payments</u>			
Emergency Tree Works	0.00	1,050.00	-1,050.00
Total Other Payments	0.00	1,050.00	-1,050.00
<u>Administration</u>			
General Admin	252.00	84.00	168.00
Bank charges	84.00	14.00	70.00
Website and Newsletter	540.00	240.00	300.00
Audit	190.00	180.00	10.00
Room Hire	364.00	157.00	207.00
Training	220.00	0.00	220.00
Insurance	716.00	685.85	30.15
Affiliations	648.00	495.39	152.61
Total Administration	3,014.00	1,856.24	1,157.76
<u>Asset Management</u>			
Grass cutting	1,280.00	0.00	1,280.00
Hollinwood Green	50.00	0.00	50.00
Marlot routine works	272.00	26.17	245.83
Total Asset Management	2,922.00	26.17	2,895.83
<u>Community</u>			
Section 137 Payments Grants	500.00	0.00	500.00
S 137 Payments - Events	440.00	0.00	440.00
Total Community	940.00	0.00	940.00
<u>Staffing</u>			
Staff - non-salary costs	478.00	81.25	396.75
Salaries	6,925.00	1,082.53	5,842.47
Total Staffing	7,403.00	1,163.78	6,239.22
Total Payments	14,279.00	4,096.19	10,182.81

Receipts	Budget	Actual	Variance
<u>Precept</u>			
Precept Payment	14,208.00	14,208.00	0.00
Total Precept	14,208.00	14,208.00	0.00
<u>Other receipts</u>			
VAT Repayments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bank Interest	250.00	99.01	-150.99
Miscellaneous Receipts	1.00	301.00	300.00
Total Other receipts	251.00	399.01	149.01
Total Receipts	14,459.00	14,607.01	149.01

Cllr's Alan Holford and Gary Groves update for Ward Town & Parish Councils
May/June 2026

Dear Councillors,

Please find a written summary report of goings on relevant to the ward for you to read.

Relevant News Items:

[Improvements to bus services across Shropshire following review - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Royal response to rural growth programme - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[New sensors to monitor and help manage peatlands - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Face-to-face support for residents to access cost-of-living support at Shropshire Local - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

The mobile service doesn't visit Wem currently but the service is available in Shrewsbury all the time and visits Whitchurch. We could perhaps request visits to Wem if the council thought it would be valuable?

[More than 70 roads surface dressed across Shropshire - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[UKSPF grant enables 24/7 prescription collection at Lunts Pharmacy in Ludlow - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#) – perhaps something the pharmacy working group could look at for Wem – either at the main pharmacy or located elsewhere.

[Tourism Leadership Board appointed to shape future of Telford and Shropshire visitor economy - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Cabinet approves new strategy to improve commissioning, procurement and contract management - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Cabinet approves proposals for service transformation programme to support a new child-friendly Shropshire - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Residents asked for views on council's highways and transport services - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

[Shropshire Council to launch public consultation on future transport plan - Shropshire Council Newsroom](#)

The Warbling Tit

Gary has been dealing with some casework surrounding antisocial behaviour and pavement obstruction from smokers outside this establishment recently. If you have any additional experience or information around this issue, please mention it to Gary.

Updates on road condition - Williams Timber to the Lowe Crossroads

This road has been brought to our attention by several councillors in the Wem Rural PC and constituents.

I requested our local highways manager inspect it which he did within a few days and relayed the following information:

The section of road has deteriorated beyond being able to be surface dressed. The road would need substantial preparation before having an application surface dressing. Looking at the % of deterioration, it would not make engineering and economic sense to patch and dress this road section.

Therefore, the better option would be to highlight this road section with the Council's Asset Management team and ask them to consider it's inclusion within the future capital works programme. However, please be aware that this road section will be competing for funding alongside numerous others.

In terms of how sites are chosen for inclusion within the capital programme, this is managed via a data lead process which draws together intelligence on network condition, customer enquiries and reactive defects recorded. This intelligence is analysed to determine a programme of priorities which is validated by myself as one of the Highway Management team. This Asset Management approach is a structured process for decision making follows current 'best practice approach' and is endorsed by the Department for Transport and is linked to funding allocations. Shropshire Council's Asset Management strategy is publicly available via the Council's website. We the meet as a team in the Autumn to work through the potential scheme list for the following financial year(s).

In the meantime, we will arrange for the safety critical defects to be repaired and continue to monitor the condition of the road surface.

Abandoned cars – Cordwell Park

4 spaces in an 8-space carpark are now occupied by abandoned vehicles – reported by a local resident. I identified the carpark as being managed by Connexus. They are putting notices on the vehicles in the first instance. If they are not engaged with after this they will take steps to identify the owners, find out if they are taxed and insured and have them removed if not. This is a lengthy process so hopefully they will be sorted by voluntary engagement.

Receipt of nomination of Land known as Millfields, off Mill Street Wem, SY4 5DD as an Asset of Community Value.

LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE REGULATIONS [ENGLAND]
2012

The Community Right to Bid was introduced in 2012 as part of the Localism Act 2011. The Right to Bid gives communities the opportunity to nominate land and property which they feel forms part of their community, and they may wish to have the opportunity to purchase in the event that the property was proposed to be sold at some point in the future.

Shropshire Council is responsible for the administration of the Community Right to Bid and has received a nomination of the above asset and is considering whether to decide to list the asset as an Asset of Community Value. An Asset of Community Value is defined as where its main use must further the social interest or wellbeing of the local community and it must be realistic to think that such a use can continue. Social interest includes cultural, recreational or sporting interests.

I engaged with this process and explained how well used this land is for walking with or without dogs, a pedestrian shortcut for residents of The Grove, Fothergill Way, Swain Close and Millstreet. Access to the permissive path and public footpath along the river and to Tilley. Enjoying nature, the fields have been rewilded – making them an important haven for wildlife and a wide variety of plants.

Local Plan drop in session

The day after the last meeting, I requested a drop-in session for Wem as requested by Cllr Cotterell. I realised when writing this report that I'd not heard back so I have just sent a follow up prompt.

Councillor Activities

Gary has also been to several engagements in his roles as Armed Forces Champion, particularly on Armed Forces Day.

I attended the Climate Emergency Briefing screening in the Town Hall put on by WACA which is well worth your time if you have an opportunity to see it.

We both attended the first meeting of the Pharmacy working group – currently the deputy health portfolio holder is doing some background work to see what pharmacy need assessments have been done, and what further can be done. Also, which stakeholders and committees are best to engage with on this. When she gets back to me, I will try and get a visit to the working group and may also ask member questions to the relevant committees to get it onto their work program.

Gary also attended a bus service briefing; I had asked the question about bus provision to serve the pharmacy but I'm not sure if they answered that query at the briefing – Gary can advise.

Road Closures

I wanted to make you aware of two upcoming weekend road closures in Wem as part of utility works.

The closures are scheduled for:

- Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July
- Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 July

The works will take place on Lowe Hill Road and are being managed by our utility's contractor, with full traffic management and a signed diversion route in place via Pym's Road, New Street and High Street. Access to properties will be maintained where possible.

Road Closure: Lowe Hill Road, Wem (Weekend closure only)

Start Date: 4th July 2026

End Date: 12th July 2026

Purpose: Road closed - Provide both gas and electricity connections to the new housing development.

Works Promoter: E S Pipelines Ltd

Works Promoter Ref: ZY027AP2380_ESN037037-03

Enforcement pattern for Lowe Hill Road, Wem:

Weekend working only:

From 08:00 on 4 July 2026 to 18:00 on 5 July 2026; and
from 08:00 on 11 July 2026 to 18:00 on 12 July 2026.

Councillor Briefing: Environmental Data for Wem



"As a councillor for Wem, you will know the area well, but we've brought together some environmental data that you may not be aware of. We hope you can use this information to improve the lives of residents in your ward."

Mike Childs, Friends of the Earth

61%

of homes are poorly insulated

4.0%

**Summer tree canopy cover
(Recommended minimum = 20%)**

5.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

**Annual background concentration of
 $\text{PM}_{2.5}$
(WHO limit = 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)**

Climate Change and Energy

Burning fossil fuels has already led to the planet warming by almost 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is disrupting weather systems and causing more severe storms, droughts and floods.

Our continued high use of gas to produce electricity and to heat our homes and businesses is contributing to this, as well as leaving us all exposed to volatile energy prices. Friends of the Earth is calling for councils to support a faster roll-out of renewable energy and to help householders fit insulation. We are also calling on the government to introduce a social tariff for energy — that is, cheaper energy rates for those on the lowest incomes.

More oil and gas drilling won't reduce energy costs, because costs are set on the global market, but it will exacerbate climate change (for more detail see our [Misinformation briefings](#)).

In Wem, 191 homes are already at high risk of flooding, according to Environment Agency data. In the future this could increase to 333. Climate change will also lead to more heatwaves. In the 2022 heatwaves, the temperature reached 35.8°C in Wem. The government needs to do more to prepare the country for extreme weather events, including with more support for local authorities, so that those most at risk – such as older people during heatwaves or disabled people during flood events – can be properly protected.

Homes need not only to be better adapted for flooding and heatwaves but also better insulated to help keep down energy costs and reduce the number of people living in cold, damp homes.

In Wem, there are 2,422 homes that are poorly insulated (below the EPC C level), making it 28 out of 72 in Shropshire for the number of homes needing an upgrade. Better insulated homes not only cut energy bills but also reduce illness and make homes more comfortable.

Nature and Pollution

Air pollution has fallen over recent years, partly as a result of cleaner vehicles, such as electric buses, vans and cars, replacing petrol and diesel vehicles. But air pollution remains high across much of the country. Air pollution is particularly a concern for young people, as their lungs are developing, as well as for those with respiratory problems such as asthma or COPD. Up to 30,000 people die prematurely due to air pollution in the UK each year.

Wem ranks 47 out of 72 in Shropshire for pollution levels. The level of air pollution, based on government modelling, reaches 5.8 µg/m³ for nitrogen dioxide in parts of the ward, compared to the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended level of 10 µg/m³, and 5.6 µg/m³ for particulates, compared to the WHO level of 5 µg/m³.

Nature can help reduce air pollution, provide cooling during heatwaves and reduce flooding. Research also shows local green spaces are linked with better mental health. Tree cover in Wem is 4.0%, against a recommended minimum of 20%. The proportion of people who are within a 15-minute walk of greenspace is 90% – the [government target](#) is that everybody should be within a 15-minute walk of greenspace.

Sewage pollution of rivers from sewage outfalls has rightly led to public outrage. In Wem there are 4 sewage outfalls that spilled pollution into waterways 64 times and for 255.6 hours in 2025. Sewage pollution is a danger to water users but also harms the nature that residents of the ward enjoy.

Who is Harmed Most by Environmental Damage

While almost everyone is harmed by a degraded environment, including future generations, Friends of the Earth research has identified that people on low incomes, disabled people, and people of colour are disproportionately harmed by air pollution, climate extremes and a lack of access to nature. These people also tend to contribute least to these problems, making this an environmental injustice.

Improving the environment benefits both people and nature. Research shows it is also beneficial for jobs and the economy, with the Climate Change Committee stating that every pound spent brings benefits worth 2.2–4.1 times as much. Those calling for green policies to be delayed or abandoned are not serving the public good.

What Councillors Can Do

The information in this briefing will help you stand-up and speak out for action on climate, nature and equality because of the benefits that action will deliver for your constituents.

Speaking out for action on climate change, energy, nature and pollution is important at a time when powerful vested interests, some politicians and the media are seeking to delay or abandon action. Data in the other Ward reports in your area will also enable you to highlight how councillors speaking out against climate action are not serving their constituents well.

Please e-mail data@foe.co.uk to provide feedback on this environmental data sheet.

Further Reading

- Friends of the Earth's Local Environmental Data tool, which includes local authority-level data and policy recommendations for councils: <https://groups.friendsoftheearth.uk/near-you>
- Friends of the Earth's misinformation briefings, including on energy bills, costs and jobs: <https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/climate-change-lies-vs-facts>
- Friends of the Earth's policy website, with articles spanning all the issues listed here and more: <https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/>

Methodology

Current and future flood risk

Published data on [properties at risk of flooding from rivers and seas](#) was used alongside [risk of flooding from surface water extent maps](#) and property location coordinates, to identify all properties at risk of flooding from either rivers or seas, or from surface water. The data were then aggregated at postcode level to calculate the proportion of properties at risk. This proportion was then used to estimate the population at risk (assuming population is distributed evenly across properties within a postcode) and to estimate the number of residential properties at risk from the ratio of households to total properties.

These metrics were aggregated to Ward level to obtain, for both high and medium risk categories, the number and proportion of all properties, residential properties, and estimated population at risk. Medium risk today was treated as a proxy for future high risk under a climate change scenario, so high-risk statistics were labelled “current high risk” and medium-risk statistics “future high risk”.

For further information on the analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Heat risk (summer 2022 maximum air temperature)

Daily maximum [air temperature data by 1km grids from HadUK \(MetOffice\)](#) for heatwave periods in summer 2022 were aggregated from their original grid resolution to Ward level using an area-weighted approach. For each Ward we calculated the 3-day average maximum air temperature during the heatwaves, providing a simple indicator of recent extreme heat exposure. For more detailed information see [here](#).

Home energy performance (EPC bands)

[Domestic Energy Performance Certificate \(EPC\)](#) records were aggregated to Ward level using a postcode-to-Ward lookup. For each Ward we calculated the number and percentage of homes in EPC bands D to G, providing an indicator of the prevalence of inefficient housing that is more vulnerable to high energy costs and in need of further insulation and other energy efficiency measures.

Air pollution

Modelled background air pollution data for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), published by [Defra at 1 km² resolution](#), were aggregated to Ward level using area weighting. For each Ward we retained mean and maximum concentrations for NO₂ and PM_{2.5} and compared these with the World Health Organization (WHO) 2021 air quality guidelines.

For details on this analysis and methodology see [here](#).

Tree canopy cover

Total summer tree canopy cover was calculated from two datasets published by Forest Research: [National Forest Inventory \(NFI\)](#) and the [Trees Outside Woodland \(TOW\) map](#). These were intersected with Ward boundaries to calculate the total woodland and tree canopy area (m²) in each Ward, and the percentage of the Ward's land area covered by trees.

Greenspace

[Defra's access-to-greenspace statistics](#), originally published at Output Area level, were reallocated to Wards using postcode-weighted OA-Ward lookup tables. For each Ward we estimated the number and percentage of households that meet the “within 15 minutes” walk of greenspace commitment.

Sewage overflows

[Storm sewage overflow statistics for 2025](#) were aggregated to Ward boundaries from their point coordinates. For each Ward, the number of overflow outfalls, the annual number of spills, and the total spill duration (hours) were calculated.

Dear Stakeholder,

Preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan

Shropshire Council has issued an [intention to commence preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan](#) and an [intended timetable](#) for its preparation.

The next Shropshire Local Plan will establish the vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to **2046**. It will also form the mineral and waste plan for Shropshire.

The next Shropshire Local Plan will be informed by assessments of need for housing (including affordable housing and specialist accommodation), employment and other appropriate land-uses. To meet identified needs, the next Shropshire Local Plan will allocate land and provide policies to manage development.

Local Plan Scoping Consultation

To inform preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan, we are undertaking a Scoping Consultation from the **20 May 2026** to the **15 July 2026**.

This consultation is seeking the views of all interested stakeholders on what the next Shropshire Local Plan should contain and our approach to engagement during its preparation. This includes:

- key priorities for the **vision**.
- key considerations for the **spatial strategy**.
- The approach to identifying and assessing **potential site allocations**.
- Matters that would benefit from being addressed by **local planning policies**.
- How we should effectively **engage**.
- Evidence** requirements.

Within this Scoping Consultation we are also seeking views on:

- The methodology and conclusions of a [draft Community Hierarchy for Shropshire](#), which will be used to inform the preparation of the future spatial strategy later in the process; and
- A [draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology](#) which outlines how the Council proposes to assess promoted sites in order to determine future site allocations.

Please note, at this stage of the plan-making process the Council are **not** identifying proposed options or site allocations – this will come at a later stage and the subject of a future consultation.

For more information and to respond to this consultation, please visit our ‘[get involved](#)’ webpage at: <https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>

How to Get Involved

To support stakeholders to 'get involved' in this consultation we have prepared an [online response form](#) available via our ['get involved' webpage](#).

We believe this online response form makes it quicker and easier to respond, it also automates submission upon completion and will help us to consider responses more efficiently. As such, our preference is that responses are submitted in this way.

However, we understand that some may wish to submit their responses in another format. As such, an alternative version of the response form has also been made available on our ['get involved' webpage](#).

We encourage all interested parties to 'get involved', but please ensure responses are submitted and received by the Council by 15 July 2026.

Site Promotions

Sites that have been promoted for development to the Council through a 'call for sites' process, which will be assessed using our finalised site assessment methodology, have been [mapped here](#).

We are continuing to invite stakeholders to promote sites for development. [Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote sites is available here](#).

Similarly, we are also continuing to invite stakeholders to promote land for mineral working. [Further information on this 'ongoing invitation' and details of how to promote land is available here](#).

Please Note: Not all promoted sites will be proposed for allocation. Proposed allocations will be identified through the site assessment process and will be consulted on in future stages of the preparation of the Local Plan

You have received this email as you have requested to be included on the Council's Planning Policy Consultation Database, if you no longer wish to receive these notifications please respond with 'Remove' in the subject line.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Planning Policy

Shropshire Council

If you would like more information about Shropshire Council services, please [visit our website](#) or [sign up for email updates](#)

Shropshire Community Hierarchy - Summary

The Shropshire Community Hierarchy is a framework to group and assess the county's diverse communities by size and connectivity, supporting evidence-based planning and development in the next Local Plan. The hierarchy aims to ensure development is directed to the most suitable locations, supporting sustainable growth and service provision across Shropshire. It is a robust, transparent, and locally responsive tool for planning decisions.

A community hierarchy groups communities (towns, villages, hamlets, etc.) by consistent criteria: population, number of dwellings, and connectivity to employment, services, and social opportunities.

Why?

Shropshire is large and rural, with hundreds of communities of varying size and function. A hierarchy helps understand their roles and guides sustainable development.

(This approach aligns with national planning policies supporting sustainable growth, transport, economic vitality, and housing supply.

Proposed Methodology

- **Identify Communities:** All recognisable named communities included (nb Whixall is identified by communities¹, not as a parish).
- **Analyse Communities:**
 - **Size:** Based on latest population and dwelling data.
 - **Connectivity:** Uses Department for Transport's method (score 0–100) to measure access to jobs, services, and social opportunities via sustainable transport.
- **Categorise Communities:**
 - Combines size and connectivity to assign each community to one of seven categories:
 - a. **Strategic Centre:** Largest, most connected (e.g., Shrewsbury)
 - b. **Principal Centres:** Large, highly connected towns (e.g., Bridgnorth, Ludlow)
 - c. **Key Centres:** Smaller towns with high connectivity
 - d. **Primary/Secondary/Tertiary Connected Villages:** Rural communities with varying size/connectivity
 - e. **Other Communities:** Smallest, least connected
 - Thresholds for each category are set by minimum population, dwellings, and connectivity score (see table below).

Community Category Thresholds:

Category	Population	Dwellings	Connectivity Score
Strategic Centre	50,000+	25,000+	75+ (Band A)
Principal Centre	8,000+	4,000+	60+ (Band A)
Key Centre	1,500+	750+	29+ (Band A)
Primary Connected Village	700+	350+	21+ (Band B+)
Secondary Connected Village	300+	150+	14+ (Band D+)
Tertiary Connected Village	150+	75+	9+ (Band F+)
Other Communities	<150	<75	8 or less

Application:

The hierarchy informs the Local Plan's spatial strategy, helping decide where development should be focused and what role each community plays. It is evidence-based but does not alone determine development; other factors (infrastructure, housing demand, constraints, opportunities) are also considered.

¹ Named communities are: Dobsons Bridge and Roving Bridge, Hollinwood, Platt Lane, Stanley Green, Welshend and Whixall. Edstaston is also named and may include Abbey Green.

Shropshire Local Plan

Sustainable Growth - Flourishing Shropshire

Introduction

The Council has issued an intention to commence preparation of the next Local Plan for Shropshire.

A Local Plan is a statutory document created by local planning authorities that guides future development, land use, and infrastructure in their area.

This next Local Plan will establish a vision, measurable outcomes and a spatial strategy for the sustainable development of Shropshire over the period to 2046. To support achievement of this spatial strategy the next Local Plan will include site allocations and local planning policy.

Before commencing the formal 30 month plan-making period, we are seeking the views of our local communities, Town and Parish Council's, organisations and all other interested stakeholders on the 'scope' of the next Local Plan.

To inform this process, we have prepared a 'scoping' consultation document available via the 'get involved' webpage at:

<https://getinvolved.shropshire.gov.uk/consultations/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/>

If you do not have access to the internet at home, then you can access this link and others provided in this form using computer/tablet facilities at a Shropshire library or Shropshire local during their open times. A hard copy of the 'scoping' consultation document is also on display at the Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ.

This 'scoping' consultation runs from 20 May 2026 – 15 July 2026. Please ensure that the response is submitted and received by the Council by the **15 July 2026**.

To support respondents, an online response form is available via our 'get involved' webpage. However, we understand some may wish to submit their response in another format, to support this we have prepared this **alternative version of the response form** - details of how to submit this form to the consultation are provided at the end of the form.

When responding, if necessary please continue your answer to any question(s) on an additional page, noting the question number to which it relates, and enclose it with your response form.

About You

1. Please tell us your name

2. Please tell us your organisation (if applicable)

3. Please tell us your email address

4. Please tell us your home address

Please note: These details are required for verification and transparency purposes. We cannot accept anonymous responses to planning consultations. Your personal data will be processed in line with our [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/eggjembp/planning-policy-privacy-notice-june-2025.pdf): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/eggjembp/planning-policy-privacy-notice-june-2025.pdf>

The Vision

The purpose of a Local Plan vision is to set out aspirations for how an area will change. The purpose of the associated measurable outcomes is to support monitoring of progress towards meeting the Local Plan vision.

We want the vision of our next Local Plan to be locally distinctive – capturing our aspirations for Shropshire over the period to 2046 and beyond. It will include a Shropshire-specific vision statement supported by ambitious but realistic aims and objectives of relevance to Shropshire.

Our measurable outcomes will 'flow' from the aims and objectives of our vision, outlining how desired changes will be delivered and measured.

The first step in preparing the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan will be to identify 'key priorities' for Shropshire.

Information on the considerations when determining the 'key priorities' of the vision and measurable outcomes is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-vision-and-measurable-outcomes/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-vision-and-measurable-outcomes/>

5. How important do you feel each of the identified national considerations are when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Planning to deliver a sufficient number of homes that are of the right size, type and tenure to meet needs and enhance sustainability.					
Making available sufficient employment land to enable sustainable economic growth.					
Promoting long-term vitality and viability of our town centres.					
Protecting and enhancing our treasured natural, built and historic environment.					
Supporting the transition to net zero and planning for the mitigation and adaptation of our changing climate.					
Delivering well-designed, high quality and sustainable places.					
Promoting connectivity and sustainable/active modes of transport.					
Safeguarding minerals and ensuring a sufficient supply of minerals to provide the infrastructure, buildings, green energy and goods the country needs.					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that any of the identified considerations are unimportant

6. How important do you feel these locally specific considerations are when identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Infrastructure-led: ensuring sufficient infrastructure is available or provided to support development.					
Rurality: embracing the rural characteristics of Shropshire.					
Meeting housing needs of our communities: particular priorities are affordable housing, key worker housing and specialist housing that supports independence of older people.					
Supporting employers: facilitating the growth aspirations of existing and new employers.					
Complementary development: recognising the importance placed on housing and employment development nationally, providing for other complementary land-uses (including open space) and infrastructure to create sustainable places.					
Nature recovery: facilitating the Shropshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy to benefit biodiversity & our wider environment.					
Locally responsive design: achieving high-quality and sustainable design responsive to the diverse characteristics of our communities.					
Health and inclusivity: supporting the well-being and integration of existing and new communities.					
Town centres: supporting their vitality and appropriate diversification.					
Changing climate and net zero: supporting the transition to net zero and mitigation/adaptation to a changing climate in a predominantly rural area.					
Connectivity: use of active travel and public transport and access to services and facilities in a predominantly rural area.					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you have commented that of the identified considerations are unimportant

Shropshire: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats

A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis provides a 'structured' way to understand and present the context of an area. National guidance specifies that SWOT analysis may support the preparation of a Local Plan vision and measurable outcomes.

Strengths	Weaknesses
- The number and the diverse characteristics of our communities. - Rural communities with connectivity to services and facilities. - Network of interconnected towns providing services and facilities. - Rurality valued by our residents, businesses and visitors. - Rich and diverse natural/historic environment. - High-levels of economic activity – amongst those seeking employment. - Valued mineral working infrastructure and significant committed mineral reserves. - Recognition of Shropshire as a leading tourism destination.	- Ageing demographic of our population. - Low wage economy. - High levels of worklessness – people not seeking employment. - Affordability of housing – particularly in our rural communities. - Potential locations with infrastructure capacity constraints – transport, education and health. - Significant reliance on private transport due to our rurality. - Impacts of rurality on the delivery of new electronic communications technologies - Constraints on road and rail networks providing connectivity beyond Shropshire.
Opportunities	Threats
- Embracing rurality and supporting rural services. - Capitalising on locations with 'headroom' or potential to increase infrastructure capacity. - Strategic corridors: particularly that of the A5/M54 and Shrewsbury-Birmingham railway line linking Shrewsbury-Telford-Wolverhampton. - Potential parkway station at Shrewsbury. - Potential for new self-contained communities. - Extensive site promotions during call for sites. - Opportunities promoted for further mineral working if required to ensure sufficient supply. - Wider renewable energy use through greater access to technologies and enhanced supply. - Improving distribution of electric vehicle charging and uptake of electric vehicles.	- Our changing climate. - Challenges in providing services due to our large and predominantly rural geography. - Ageing demographics with implications for labour supply and housing/support needs. - Residential market capacity and absorption rates. - Material and labour supply constraints. - National and international events that impact on Shropshire.

7. Are there any other strengths, weaknesses, opportunities or threats we should consider when determining the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes? Please explain your answer.

Through consideration of national planning policy, local plan evidence, other Council strategies and the Shropshire SWOT analysis we have identified considerations we believe to be of relevance in identifying the 'key priorities' of our vision and measurable outcomes - addressed in questions 5 to 7.

8. Please identify any additional considerations you believe to be of relevance when identifying the 'key priorities' for the vision and measurable outcomes of our next Local Plan. Please explain your answer.

The Spatial Strategy

A spatial strategy provides the 'framework' to achieve the vision and measurable outcomes of a Local Plan.

To do so, it establishes clear expectations for the amount and distribution of development, whilst also identifying locations that should be conserved or enhanced for specific purposes such as landscape conservation and habitat improvement.

Housing requirement

The amount of housing planned to be delivered within a spatial strategy is known as the 'housing requirement'. Further information on the preparation of the housing requirement as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/)

9. Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Local Housing Need - calculated using Government's mandatory standard methodology					
Infrastructure capacity					
Deliverability					
Natural, built and historic environment					
Housing needs of our communities					
Promotion of economic growth					
Unmet neighbouring need sustainable and appropriate to accommodate					
Responses to the 'scoping' consultation (this survey and related feedback)					
Technical assessment					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations

10. Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the housing requirement for Shropshire? Please explain your answer.

Employment Land Requirement

The amount of employment land to be made available for economic development within a spatial strategy is known as the 'employment land requirement'. Further information on the preparation of the employment land requirement as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/>

11. Do you agree with the considerations we have identified to inform preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Local Employment Land Needs - calculated within an Economic Development Needs Assessment					
Balanced growth					
Infrastructure capacity					
Deliverability					
Natural, built and historic environment					
Modernising the local economy					
Needs and aspirations of local employers					
Attracting new employers					
Unmet neighbouring need that is sustainable and appropriate to accommodate					
Responses to the 'scoping' consultation (this survey and relevant feedback)					
Technical assessment					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree with any of the identified considerations

12. Are there any other considerations you believe should inform the preparation of the employment land requirement for Shropshire? Please explain your answer

Distribution of Development

The distribution element of the spatial strategy involves deciding where new development should occur. Further information on the preparation of the approach to the distribution of development as part of the Spatial Strategy for Shropshire is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/the-spatial-strategy/)

13. Do you agree with these 'key principles' for the approach to the distribution of development in Shropshire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Enable our rural communities to become more sustainable and thrive, particularly those that offer their residents and businesses good connectivity to services and facilities.					
Support the continued role of our urban communities as centres for services, facilities and economic development that serve both their residents and businesses and those of their rural hinterlands.					
Facilitate appropriate and complementary new communities which enhance the sustainability of Shropshire.					
Recognise the important role of our strategic corridors – the key road and rail links supporting connectivity.					
Respond to the wider rurality of our County, including enabling appropriate development in the countryside.					

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree

14. Do you agree that the characteristics of our communities form an appropriate 'starting point' when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

Strongly agree	☐	Agree	☐	Neither agree nor disagree	☐
Disagree	☐	Strongly disagree	☐		

Please explain your answer

15. Do you agree with the methodology and conclusions outlined in the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy? If you wish to see the Shropshire Community Hierarchy document, please follow the [link](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf):

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/n5khad52/draft-shropshire-community-hierarchy.pdf>

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The methodology outlined					
The conclusions outlined					

Please explain your answer, particularly if you disagree with the methodology and/or conclusions of the draft Shropshire Community Hierarchy

16. Do you agree that the infrastructure capacity, demand, constraints and opportunities associated with our communities should form an important consideration when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The infrastructure capacity					
Property demand					
Constraining factors					
Significant opportunities					

Please explain your answers, particularly if you disagree

17. Are there any additional matters we should consider when determining the distribution of development in Shropshire? Please explain your answers.

18. Do you agree our spatial strategy should ensure proportionate consideration is given to non-designated heritage assets and areas of archaeological potential?

Strongly agree	☐	Agree	☐	Neither agree nor disagree	☐
Disagree	☐	Strongly disagree	☐		

Please explain your answer

19. Do you agree our spatial strategy should support achievement of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy - maximising the potential of the locations identified where action can provide the greatest benefit for biodiversity and the wider environment?

Strongly agree	☐	Agree	☐	Neither agree nor disagree	☐
Disagree	☐	Strongly disagree	☐		

Please explain your answer

20. Are there any other areas or assets you believe should be identified for conservation or enhancement within our spatial strategy? Please explain your answer.

Identifying and Assessing Sites

Decisions on the forms of development or land-uses for which allocations are required is dependent on a range of factors, including:

- The requirements of national planning policy and guidance.
- The Local Plan vision, measurable outcomes and spatial strategy.
- Evidence underpinning the Local Plan.

Further information on the identification and assessment of site allocations is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/identifying-and-assessing-sites/):
<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/identifying-and-assessing-sites/>

21. In your opinion, how important is it for the Local Plan to include allocations for these uses?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Residential or residential-led mixed use development					
Development of specialist housing for older people					
Gypsy and traveller pitches					
Employment or employment-led mixed use development					
Retail and leisure development					

Please explain your answer

--

22. In your opinion, how important is it for the next Local Plan to include allocations or areas of search for these uses?

	Very important	Important	Neither important or unimportant	Unimportant	Very unimportant
Sand and gravel aggregate working					
Crushed rock aggregate working					
Renewable energy generation					

Please explain your answer

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Identifying Sites

It is important that we consider as many sites as possible, as this will provide greater choice when determining proposed site allocations.

To ensure the identification of sites is comprehensive, we have produced a proposed site identification methodology, which includes consideration of a range of sources.

This proposed site identification methodology is summarised in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document and can be accessed by clicking this [link](#):

next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf

23. Do you agree with our proposed site identification methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Agree

☐

Disagree

☐

Please explain your answer

24. Are there any other sources of site we should consider?

Assessing Sites

We recognise the importance of ensuring proposed allocations are identified through a comprehensive site assessment process.

As such, we have produced a proposed site assessment methodology, informed by:

- Government guidance on 'Selecting Sites for Development' and use of the Department for Transport Connectivity Tool.
- Consideration of local circumstances – recognising the characteristics of Shropshire.
- Responses to a targeted engagement exercise with selected statutory consultees and infrastructure providers.

This proposed site assessment methodology is summarised in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document and can be accessed by clicking this [link](#):

<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/media/o0tfwf2t/draft-methodology-site-identification-assessment.pdf>

25. Do you agree with our proposed site assessment methodology outlined in the draft Site Identification and Assessment Methodology Document?

Agree

☐

Disagree

☐

Please explain your answer

26. Are there any other factors we should consider within our site assessment?

--

Policy Areas

Planning policies set out the standards and expectations of development proposals. They form the 'starting point' when making decisions on planning applications.

Government will shortly be introducing new national decision-making policies, which will provide consistent policy on key planning issues, allowing policies in Local Plans to be more focused on locally specific issues and opportunities.

We have identified 'broad areas' we believe policies, in the next Local Plan, could either positively contribute towards addressing a local issue or support achievement of a local objective.

Further information on the potential 'broad areas' that planning policies in the next Shropshire Local Plan could address is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/policy-areas/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/policy-areas/)

27. Do you agree with these identified 'broad policy areas' that would be addressed in our next Local Plan?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Density, design, climate adaptation/mitigation and health					
Infrastructure, open space and developer contributions					
Housing mix - size, type and tenure					
Approach to affordable housing					
Managing new and existing employment and waste facilities					
Vitality and viability of town centres					
Renewable energy					
Mineral safeguarding and supply					
Site specific requirements					

Please explain your answers

--

28. Are there any other 'broad policy areas' that would benefit from being addressed in our next Local Plan? Please explain your answer:

Effective Engagement

We recognise the significant contribution that our local communities, Town and Parish Councils, organisations and all other interested stakeholders can make to the next Local Plan for Shropshire. We also understand that the next Local Plan will affect everybody who lives, works or visits Shropshire and that planning can be emotive.

For these reasons, we understand the value and importance of proactive engagement during the preparation of the next Local Plan.

Further information on the proposed engagement strategy for preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan could address is available [here: https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/effective-engagement/](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/effective-engagement/)

29. To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach to ensuring engagement on the next Local Plan is:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree or disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Proportionate, with three stages of consultation consistent with Government guidance.					
Clear, through use of plain English and avoidance of acronyms, where possible.					
Well publicised, though a digital-led approach.					
Accessible, through a digital-led approach.					
Convenient, supported by a digital consultation response form.					
Transparent, with a summary of responses provided.					

Please explain your answers

30. Are there any other criteria we could use to ensure our consultations are clear, well publicised, accessible, convenient and transparent - particularly where they can support us engaging hard to reach groups? Please explain your answer.

Evidence

Evidence shapes and underpins Local Plans. It shapes them by providing an understanding of local context (needs, opportunities and constraints) thereby informing proposals. It underpins them by providing justification for proposals – necessary to demonstrate ‘soundness’.

Government specifies Local Plan evidence should be relevant, proportionate, not unnecessarily extensive and drawn from suitable up-to-date sources.

We want to ensure the evidence shaping and underpinning our next Local Plan is proportionate and robust. Reflecting this, we are drawing on a variety of sources in forming our evidence base.

Further information on the evidence base to inform the next Shropshire Local Plan is available [here](https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/evidence/): <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/shropshire-local-plan-scoping-consultation/evidence/>

31. Is there any other evidence you feel we may need to inform our next Local Plan that would be relevant and proportionate? Please explain your answer.

32. Please provide comments on other matters of relevance to the ‘scope’ of our next Local Plan.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this response.

Please return to:

Email: TellUs@shropshire.gov.uk

Drop off: Reception, Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT

Post: Tell Us, Feedback and Insight Team, Shropshire Council, PO Box 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9JL



Shropshire
Council

West Mercia Police Community Charter

Parish Contact Contract

☐ INITIAL CONTRACT

☒ RENEWED CONTRACT

Parish Council: Whixall			
Contract Date: 01/04/2026		6 Month Review Date: 01/10/2026	
Council Chair	Med Evans	Tel:	Email:
Council Clerk	Amanda Roberts	Tel:	Email: clerk@whixallparish.gov.uk
PC / PCSO		Tel:	Email:
			whitchurch.snt@westmercia.police.uk
	PCSO Dave Andrew		
	PCSO Lee Durrant		
	PCSO Jamie Robinson		
	PC Mark Holtschke		
	PC MARK Bates		
Top 3 community issues			
1	2	3	
Anti-Social Driving	Thefts (Farms)	Thefts (Outbuildings)	
Other Comments –			
Agreed contact	<u>Contact type</u> Email	<u>Contact Frequency</u> QUARTERLY	

PLEASE SEND A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR & CLERK, YOUR Local SNT AND TO THE PREVENTION HUB TEAM EMAIL BOX

Proposed Changes to the Annual Parish Meeting

This report outlines proposed changes to the Whixall Annual Parish Meeting, aiming to increase community engagement and ensure the meeting is both efficient and celebratory.

Date of Meeting

The Council has already agreed to move the meeting from May to March because May is a busy period in the civic calendar, with other local government responsibilities and bank holidays.

Meeting Structure and Content

To revitalise the meeting, the following agenda structure is proposed:

- Formalities: Standard opening procedures, including the approval of minutes from the previous meeting and a dedicated session for parish debate.
- Grant Reporting: As a condition of funding, recipients of parish grants will be invited and expected to provide a short, informal summary of how their grant is being used to benefit the community.
- The Whixall Community Awards: This will become the central feature of the event, celebrating local people.

The Whixall Community Awards

These awards are intended to recognise the "unsung heroes" of our rural community. Nominations will come from residents via a simple application form and decided upon by the Council during the January meeting.

Proposed Award Criteria

- Community Spirit: Going above and beyond to help neighbours or improve local facilities.
- Environmental Stewardship: Efforts to protect or enhance the rural landscape and biodiversity of Whixall.
- Volunteerism: Commitment to local groups, youth initiatives, or community events.

There will be a maximum of two primary winners, with the possibility of recognising runners-up. Recipients will be presented with a small trophy and a commemorative certificate. The total annual cost for these materials will be no more than £100.

Venue

The meeting will continue to be held at the Social Centre. To encourage networking and conclude the evening on a high note, tea and cakes will be provided following the formal proceedings.

Marlot Conservation Group (MCG)

Report to Whixall Parish Council for its meeting to be held on

8 July 2026 (Written by Martin Spenser and submitted on 1st July 2026)

The bird-nesting season is not quite finished for this year, but our nest boxes have now been vacated, with varying success. As reported last time, 11 of the 15 boxes on site were occupied; young were fledged from 10 of them, being either **Great Tits** or **Blue Tits**. Sadly, newly-hatched Great Tits were found abandoned in one box, the reason for which remains unexplained.

A single baby Blue Tit was also discovered on the ground and not yet able to fly, along with some nest material, which must have come from a natural nest somewhere in the woodland. On previous visits, I found the remnants of a **Woodcock**'s egg and the remains of a **Moorhen**. Clearly, there are predators at work such as cats, squirrels and crows, but the MCG is unable to provide sufficient cover to monitor or control the situation.

However, in the knowledge that there are bird species which nest on, or close to, the ground, I have stopped dog-walkers on several occasions and asked them to put their dogs on a lead. Occasionally, the response has been less than friendly. Dog-fouling also remains an issue, which is most unpleasant when you are trying to maintain the pathways.

I make no apology for sharing the ups and downs, the joy and trauma of working for wildlife. As a nature reserve, The Marlot needs careful stewardship; the Parish Council has a duty of care and needs to be aware of what we are looking after and what is going on.

For those reasons, I am keen to continue to report sightings of particular species.

On 6th, 9th and 12th May, a **Beautiful Demoiselle** was spotted (yes, that is the actual name of this species of damselfly). I had delayed reporting it, because I wanted a second opinion from experts. This particular insect normally inhabits rivers and streams, not standing water, and my findings had been rubbished on previous occasions, because you would not have expected to see it here on The Marlot. It is such a pity that the life cycle of these spectacular creatures is so short.

27th May brought the first sighting of the year of **Common Blue Damselflies**.

On 30th June, good numbers of **Blue-Tailed and White-Legged Damselflies** were seen.

Finally, let's hear it for the caterpillar of an **Oak Eggar Moth**, found in one of the abandoned nest boxes.

Again, these moments should be cherished, because it will not be long before they are gone.

The normal species of flowering plants can be seen in the front meadow area, together with a few **Common Spotted Orchids**. There are **Monkeyflowers** growing on the bank of the front ditch.

The large willow tree in the front meadow was discussed in my last report. The team has now cleared the area of scrub and turned the ground over, ready for planting. Summer is not the ideal time to do so, but we were not anticipating the damage and after-effects of Storm Dave. The tree itself will take some time to re-generate and the opportunity should now be taken to introduce plant life to enhance the under-storey.

All of the ponds have now dried up, caused by a combination of hot, dry weather and dense overgrowth, which the team has not had sufficient resources to tackle effectively.