



Much Wenlock Town Council

Full Council Meeting

2nd March 2023

Supporting Papers

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
held at The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 7 pm on Thursday, 2nd February 2023

Present: Councillors William Benbow, Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick, Wilfred Grainger, John O'Dowd, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon, Linda West, Duncan White (in the chair).

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk, two members of the public in person and three remotely, including Cllr Tyler.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the following report:

"Things are now back in full swing. Our work towards obtaining funding for the Guildhall is well underway and after getting the first application through successfully we are now at the next stage to apply for funding for a feasibility study.

I attended the recent surgery at the Museum with Councillor Dan Thomas and PC Andy Boardman.

After a reshuffle of Council personnel, Councillor West has joined the Gaskell Management Committee as a Council representative.

I attended a recent SALC Chairs meeting where I raised the issue of the proposal by Shropshire Council to charge for road closures. There was considerable opposition to the proposal and the matter is going to be raised by the Chair of SALC in upcoming meetings. This matter is on tonight's agenda for discussion.

The Clerk and I met with members of the Windmill Trust in an effort to move forward the proposal to designate Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve - again this is on the agenda.

This morning I attended with others the briefing in respect of the "Ironbridge Passenger Transport Study" for the new development on the "old power station site". This includes the development of rail links for the site and surrounding area and will include other public transport. More information will be released in the coming months.

On the horizon are St Milburga Day on 23rd February and, of course, the Coronation in May. We will discuss arrangements for the Coronation weekend later on the agenda."

2. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Chris Tyler and Linda West – unwell. Councillor Benbow for late arrival.

3. Disclosure of pecuniary interests

Members were 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.

4. Dispensations

None requested.

5. Public Session

There had been no requests to speak.

6. Policing

The local policing team had sent apologies. Members noted with thanks the written police report provided and were pleased to read about some of the local team's recent successes.

7. Shropshire Council Report

Shropshire Councillor, Daniel Thomas, presented the following report:

"Parking Proposals: on 11th January, I was joined by Cllr Chris Tyler, representing the Town Council, in a meeting with WSP to discuss the latest parking map. We made several alterations, including those from the Town Council, which included Station Road, Sytche Close and Farley Road. WSP agreed to amend the map and re-issue it within two weeks, and they achieved this! I've sent it to all Town Councillors, and from here, we will start the preparations for the public consultation.

Traffic Survey: on 17th January, another meeting about the Gaskell Corner Feasibility Study took place. Local resident and retired transport planner Paul Hanafin and Cllr Chris Tyler joined me. The meetings are proceeding well, and an excellent working relationship is being established between WSP, Shropshire Council and ourselves. Paul's expert input is being appreciated and respected by the WSP members. The highlighting of rat-running issues features highly in the considerations.

As mentioned previously, WSP agreed that the feasibility study will consider all options "from doing nothing, signing and lining; up to signalised option and a bypass". With our urging, the feasibility study is being expanded to look wider. As Councillors know, you cannot look at the corner in isolation, so modelling is being done on King Street, Sheinton Street and others to survey the rat running. A further meeting is to take place in February.

Benthall Grange: like many residents of Much Wenlock and beyond, I have concerns regarding Harworth calling the 1,000-home development at Buildwas Power Station 'Benthall Grange'; there's already a house called Benthall Grange in Benthall, it's not fair on them, not to mention people getting lost looking for Benthall Hall. But ultimately Benthall is its own place with its own history. Harworth could choose a different name for their new development representing it as a new town. I met with Harworth's Development Director to raise my concerns and look for a better name; I was joined by Shropshire Councillor for Severn Valley, Cllr Claire Wild, who echoed my concerns.

Today I attended a virtual meeting looking at the transport for the Buildwas Power Station development with other Town Councillors, where there was a focus on using the rail line to get into Telford.

Local Plan: on 17th January there was an extra public hearing looking at whether Shropshire Council met their requirements regarding the Duty To Cooperate, particularly with the Black Country authorities. We were advised we would get a letter within two weeks if the examination was not permitted to proceed to the second stage, but we haven't had one yet. One presumes, therefore, that the Examination will now look at sites in detail.

Barrow Street & Back Lane: I'm delighted with the recent works on Barrow Street which have repaired the potholes in the road and pavement. Similarly, since our last meeting, Back Lane has also undergone repair.

Electric Car Charging Points: I'm pleased to see that work has started on the 12 new electric car charging points, six on Falcons Court and six on St Mary's public car parks. It should be completed and opened soon, helping residents and tourists visit our town.

Surgery: the next Council surgery will be held on Saturday, 11th February, between 10.30 am and 12 noon at the museum. No appointment is necessary. I'll be joined by Town Cllr Christian Toon and a representative from the Police."

8. Minutes

- a. **It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 5th January 2023.**
- b. Clarification was provided for minute 11 of the Planning & Environment Committee minutes from the meeting on 29th November 2022: it was expected that Shropshire Council would invite the Town Council to review the Neighbourhood Plan following approval of the Local Plan. However, this would not prevent the Town Council from commencing a review of the Neighbourhood Plan at an earlier date, should Councillors agree to do so.
It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022.
- c. **It was RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the Finance & Asset Management Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2022.**

Cllr Benbow joined the meeting.

9. Town Clerk's Report

Members noted the written and verbal report from the Town Clerk on outstanding matters and action taken since the last Council meeting. The Clerk reported that a proposal for a new CCTV system had now been received and this would be circulated to all Councillors for information.

10. Interim Internal Audit Report

Members noted the Interim Internal Audit Report from the inspection carried out on 16th January 2023. All was in order and no action was required. Thanks were expressed to the RFO and Clerk.

11. The Guildhall Renovation

- a. It was noted that a meeting had been held with Greenwood Projects on 10th January 2023 to discuss the Architectural Heritage Fund grant and next steps.

- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve submission of a grant application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for further funding towards the feasibility study for the Guildhall.

12. Annual Town Meeting – 9th March 2023

Members noted that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on Thursday, 9th March at the Priory Hall.

It was **RESOLVED** that the meeting should follow a similar format to the previous year and be publicised widely.

13. Windmill Hill – Designation as Local Nature Reserve

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to request that Shropshire Council delegate power to Much Wenlock Town Council to enable the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the principle of a Local Nature Reserve Agreement between Much Wenlock Windmill Trust, Wenlock Estates and Much Wenlock Town Council.
- c. It was **RESOLVED** that Tony Jones and John Box, Trustees of Much Wenlock Windmill Trust, be given authority to begin the process of drafting the Nature Reserve Agreement, for discussion between Wenlock Estates, Much Wenlock Town Council and Much Wenlock Windmill Trust.
- d. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the location plan drawn up by Shropshire Wildlife Trust to support the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.

14. New Electric Vehicle Charging Points in Much Wenlock

Members noted that Shropshire Council were installing six new electric vehicle charging points in St Mary's Lane car park and six new charging points in Falcon's Court car park and that the parking spaces would be restricted to use by electric charging vehicles only.

15. Shropshire Council Proposals to Charge for Road Closures

Members considered draft proposals from Shropshire Council to charge for road closure applications. It was noted that the proposals had been withdrawn from the Shropshire Council Cabinet meeting on 18th January. It was understood that Shropshire Council's Place Scrutiny Committee had recommended charging for commercial events only, not for community events.

Town Councillors were concerned about the effect that the introduction of charges, whether for commercial or community events, would have on the vitality and economic performance of small towns. It was noted that there was little Shropshire Council administration involved in straightforward road closures and that the Town Council undertook much of the work: printing and displaying the required signs and putting out the barriers.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the portfolio holder for Highways and Regulatory Services, Councillor Richard Marshall, to express Much Wenlock Town Council's strong objection to the introduction of any charges for road closures.

16. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

An extra public hearing had been held on 17th January 2023 concerning the Duty To Cooperate, particularly with the Black Country associations. The subsequent report from the Inspectors was still awaited.

17. Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

- a. It was noted that the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III would take place on Saturday, 6th May 2023 and that an additional bank holiday had been proclaimed on Monday, 8th May 2023 in honour of the event.
- b. Members considered how the coronation might be marked in Much Wenlock. The PCC of Holy Trinity Church had given permission for the Church green to be used for celebrations and a community picnic on the green was suggested for Sunday, 7th May.

It was **RESOLVED** to set up a working group to consider how the coronation might be celebrated in Much Wenlock and to report back to the Council. Councillors Susan Croke-Williams, David Fenwick, Wilfred Grainger, Daniel Thomas, Christian Toon and Duncan White volunteered to join the working group.

It was noted that members of the Much Wenlock Women's Institute were keen to be involved and had offered to help with arrangements.

18. Voters in England to show ID at Polling Stations from May 2023

It was noted that from 4th May 2023 voters in England would need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

19. Consultation

Members considered a response to the following consultation:

- a. Shropshire Council revision to Extremely Hazardous Routes Policy (home-to-school transport policy on unsafe walking routes for school children) – deadline for response 10th February 2023.

It was RESOLVED to respond to the consultation, making no comment on the policy but raising concerns about specific routes in town: no current 20 mph speed limit on Racecourse Lane outside the primary school, the need for a crossing point on the A458 near to the primary school, the lack of a footpath in part of Bourton Road, the difficulty in crossing the Gaskell junction, the risk from silent electric vehicles and the issue of vehicles cutting through town centre roads, in particular Sheinton Street.

- b. Shropshire Council Draft Sustainable Affordable Warmth Strategy – deadline for response 5th March 2023.
It was RESOLVED to make no response.
- c. Draft Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site Supplementary Planning Document – deadline for response 20th February 2023. **It was RESOLVED to make no response.**

20. Correspondence

Members noted the following items, which had been circulated via email:

- a. SALC information bulletins and other information
- b. NALC newsletters and other information
- c. Press releases from Shropshire Council
- d. Rural Bulletins from the Rural Services Network
- e. Information from the RSN Rural Market Town Group
- f. Police Neighbourhood Matters alerts
- g. Notification of Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust news and events
- h. South Shropshire Climate Action Newsletter January 2023
- i. TREES (Together Reducing & Ending Exploitation in Shropshire) Newsletter Winter 2023
- j. Letter from Shropshire Council regarding 'Warp It' scheme and other climate action information
- k. Shropshire Council Leader's Update – January 2023 Levelling Up Funding
- l. Zero Carbon Shropshire newsletter – February 2023 Green News
- m. Friendly Bus Newsletter – February 2023
- n. Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust – January update
- o. Safer Neighbourhood Team Newsletter – February 2023
- p. Shropshire Rural Housing Association Board & Committee Recruitment Campaign

21. Agenda items for next Town Council meeting

Members were invited to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting: Coronation celebrations

22. Date of next meeting

Members noted that the next meeting would be held at 7.00pm on Thursday, 2nd March 2023 at the Guildhall.

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **RESOLVED** that, due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press should not be present.

23. 2 Burgage Way

Members noted the Sale Report prepared by the Council's solicitor relating to the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the lease between the Town Council and the buyer and the accompanying lease plan.

It was RESOLVED to approve and sign the Contract for the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

It was RESOLVED to complete and sign the Payment Instruction Form for the proceeds from the sale of 2 Burgage Way.

24. Gaskell Recreation Ground

It was RESOLVED to approve the proposals concerning the Gaskell Recreation Ground contained within the confidential report submitted to the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed Town Mayor Date

30/22

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Planning & Environment Committee meeting**
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 3rd January 2023 at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock

Present: Councillors William Benbow, David Fenwick (in the chair), Wilf Grainger, Daniel Thomas, Chris Tyler and Linda West

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

Cllr Christian Toon

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were 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.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

5. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning & Environment Committee meeting held on 29th November 2022 be **APPROVED** and signed as a true record.

6. Planning Applications

Members considered a response to the following planning applications:

<p>22/05214/EIA Farley Quarry, Farley, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Restoration of part of Farley Quarry by means of the recycling of construction, demolition and excavation wastes and the engineered placement of the rejects from the recycling process to raise levels in the Quarry to create a restoration landform, together with ancillary activities and improvements to the site access.</p> <p>It was noted that some Councillors had undertaken a site visit to Farley Quarry with the agent on 15.12.22.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to object to the application, on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application is contrary to policies LL1 and LL2 of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan: 2. The traffic statement provided is inadequate and the time frames used are not representative of the proposed working hours. 3. The application will have a detrimental effect on the Shropshire Hills AONB and is contrary to SamDev policies MD12 and MD17 and Core Strategy Policies CS17 and CS20. 4. There are concerns about noise and dust emanating from the site. 5. Councillors do not support the use of permissive paths on the site due to the lack of legal certainty and add that existing footpaths should be re-opened.
<p>22/05360/FUL Wheatland Garage, Bridgnorth Road And, No. 17 St Marys Road, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Partial demolition of the existing retail convenience store and construction of extensions, revision to car parking facilities, provision of four electric vehicle charging points, installation of solar panels on extension roof and change of use of the ground floor of 17 St Marys Road to a cafe and hot food takeaway.</p>

	<p>It was RESOLVED to object to the application on the following grounds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The commercialisation of St Mary’s Road by conversion of 17 St Mary’s Road to a café and the noise, smell and disruption to local residents arising from a café on the street. 2. The loss of a residential unit. 3. The transport statement does not deal with the potential problems of accessing St Mary’s Road (Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan policy EJ3 refers). <p>In addition, the following comments regarding transport issues, provided by the Town Council’s Transport Working Group, are to be submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Transport Statement accompanying the Planning Application claims that the current site is served by two accesses; one from A458 Bridgnorth Road and another from St Mary’s Road. This is a mistake that should have been rectified at the site visit: there is a third, well-used access, also onto St Mary’s Road. This is only acknowledged in the scheme drawings. 2. There is no plan of the existing site layout or operation, which should be provided to allow proper comparisons. 3. The statement at 3.7 that there has been no Personal Injury Collisions within 500m of the site in the last five years is wrong. A female driver was killed and two children injured in an accident on the A458 in July 2022. 4. In Much Wenlock there are retail options and cafés nearer to the majority of residents than Wheatland Garage. These residents are unlikely to walk past existing cafés to get to Wheatland Garage. It is therefore likely that the majority of customers at the Wheatland Garage café and take-away will be car-based. 5. Table 4.1 describes a small increase in the retail floorspace and claims that 40-50% are walk-in customers. Therefore this does not justify a parking increase of 81% (22-40 spaces). The Transport Statement at para 4.10 concedes this point, stating that 21 spaces would be the normal, acceptable provision. The report provides no logical, acceptable justification for this over-provision, which will generate more traffic, contrary to Shropshire Council’s Adopted Policy. 6. The report completely relies on a TRICS analysis of the traffic forecast for the development. There is no reason why observed, empirical data could not have been used. This would have provided a more realistic assessment of the impact of adding on the café and take-away traffic. 7. Traffic leaving the existing garage onto St Mary’s Road already causes problems by blocking the road. No thought has been given to how a new development might mitigate this problem. The increased traffic flows from the over-provision of car parking will only exacerbate this issue. 8. The Transport Statement describes the complicated means by which large HGVs will manoeuvre and service the site. The Statement does not describe how the developer proposes to ensure that delivery vehicles approach the site from the A458 Shrewsbury direction. Lorries entering from any other direction will cause chaos.
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7. Planning Decisions

It was RESOLVED to note the following planning decisions:

<p>22/04579/FUL Yew Tree Cottage, 9 Bourton Westwood, Much Wenlock</p>	<p>Conversion and extensions to existing dilapidated cow shed and pigsty to a self-contained annex ancillary to main dwelling. Decision: Refuse</p>
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22/04208/FUL Proposed Barn Conversion at Bourton Westwood Farm, Bourton Westwood, Much Wenlock	Conversion of former agricultural building to 1No dwelling with associated parking and garden areas Decision: Grant Permission
22/04794/TPO Pinefield House, 40 High Street, Much Wenlock	To reduce 1 lateral branch by 1.5 metres, reduce branches (max. 50cm) away from chimney by 1.5 metres and reduce and reshape by 0.5 metres crown of 1no. Oak (T1) protected by the Shropshire Council (Land to the rear of 40 High Street, Much Wenlock) Tree Preservation Order 2016 Decision: Grant Permission

8. Draft Shropshire Local Plan Review 2016 - 2038

It was noted that the statements for the additional hearing on Local Plan Matter 2 – Duty to Cooperate had been published on the Shropshire Council website and the hearing would take place on 17th January. There was nothing further to report.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

Members noted correspondence from a member of the public regarding a review of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan. Members noted that the Shropshire Local Plan and the town's Neighbourhood Plan needed to be in alignment. Councillors were monitoring the situation with regard to a review of the Neighbourhood Plan at the appropriate time.

It was RESOLVED that Councillor Fenwick should respond to the correspondent accordingly.

10. Flooding issues

- a. It was noted that the Strategic Flood Working Group was to meet to discuss the provision of Flood Sax in the town. Members noted correspondence between Philip Dunne MP and the Environment Agency, prompted by members of the working group, with regard to flooding in Much Wenlock and its rapid response designation.
- b. There were no other flooding issues.

11. Transport Working Group

- a. Members noted a report from the Transport Working Group. Comments had been provided for the Farley Quarry and Wheatland Garage planning applications. Following on from previous discussions, a representative of '20's Plenty' had been invited to attend the following month's Planning & Environment Committee meeting.
- b. An initial meeting had taken place with WSP on 8th December 2022 to discuss the feasibility study for the Gaskell junction. The next meeting was scheduled for 19th January 2023.

12. Climate Change and Ecological/Nature Emergencies*

- a. Members noted a verbal report from the meeting of Broseley Town Council's Climate Change Action Group on 7th December. Councillors White and Toon and the Town Clerk had attended the meeting on behalf of Much Wenlock Town Council. Barrow Parish Council had also been represented. A representative from South Shropshire Climate Action had presented an overview of relevant initiatives in Shropshire and had subsequently provided further details by email. Broseley Town Council intended to hold a community event in the spring to publicise energy saving and other climate action initiatives and Much Wenlock could consider something similar later in the year. It was agreed that there was value in the three councils keeping in touch and sharing information and a further joint meeting had been proposed for six months' time.
- b. There were no other relevant matters.

13. Consultation*

14. Street Lighting*

15. Street naming *

16. Footpath/Bridleway Creation Orders*

17. Footpath Diversion Orders*

A response was awaited regarding the Atterley footpath diversion.

18. Road closures*

Members noted the following road closure:

Location: Barrow Street, Much Wenlock
Date/Time: 16th to 20th January 2023, 9.30am to 4.00pm
Purpose: Road and signage repairs – full resurface of road and footpath
Agency: Kier Highways

It was noted that a letter drop and door knock was to be undertaken on Barrow Street to raise residents' awareness of the planned works.

19. Highways matters *

- a. There was no update on discussions with the local policing team regarding the use of private driveways for speed monitoring. It was suggested that the matter might be discussed at the forthcoming Council surgery, when a police officer would be present.
- b. Members noted correspondence regarding the Clee Hills Classic Trial to be held on 22nd January 2023.
- c. Other highways matters:
 - Dates were awaited from the local policing team for a meeting between the police, the Priory manager and Councillors regarding anti-social behaviour on the Priory car park.
 - An invitation had been received to attend a meeting arranged by Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council regarding safety and speed on the A458. The meeting was to be held on 10th January at Harley Village Hall and would involve those parishes affected, Shropshire Council and the police.

20. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)*

21. Stopping Up Orders*

22. Speed Limit Orders*

23. Prohibition Orders*

24. Date of next meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 31st January 2023 at 7pm at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock.

PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act and due to the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted it was RESOLVED that the public and press should not be present.

25. Planning Enforcement

Members noted enforcement matter 22/09367/ENF.

The following confidential agenda item was requested for the next meeting: to consider concerns about how Shropshire Council addresses enforcement matters.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Date.....

04/22

MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a
HR COMMITTEE MEETING
held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd November 2022

Present: Councillors John O’Dowd, Marcus Themans, Daniel Thomas and Duncan White (in the chair)

In attendance: Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

1. Apologies

None

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

Members were 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.

None declared.

3. Dispensations

None requested.

4. Minutes

It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the HR Committee meeting held on 11th October 2022.

5. 2022/23 Local Government National Salary Award

- a. Members noted that agreement had now been reached on the 2022-23 Local Government National Salary Award.
- b. **It was RESOLVED to implement the new pay scales for those employees concerned with effect from 1st April 2022.**

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Signed:

Chair

Date:

Actions from Town Council meetings

MONTH	MINUTE NUMBER	RESOLUTION	TASK COMPLETE	COMMENT
May 2021	22	Defer consideration of the Council's policies relating to data protection to a future meeting.	In progress	Privacy notice approved 12 th May 2022. Other policies to follow. Information obtained from Council's advisor.
Sept 2021	15	Invite community activists to an introductory workshop in order to explore a Council and community-wide approach to climate change.	Pending	
Dec 2021	20a.iv	To check the Council's VAT position with regard to the Guildhall project.	No – to be completed at later date	Advice obtained from NALC – clarity on proposals for Guildhall needed to determine VAT implications.
June 2022	13	Continue to check the EiP website for updates	Ongoing	
October 2022	6b	Mayor and Clerk to draft a procedure for making CCTV footage available to the police.	In progress	Information obtained from Shifnal Town Council.
	6c	Carry out further research and explore options for upgrading or replacing the Council's current CCTV system.	Yes	Proposal provided by ORP Surveillance. Information obtained on funding available from West Mercia PCC.
February 2023	11b	Approve submission of a grant application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund for further funding towards the feasibility study for the Guildhall.	Yes	Greenwood Projects advised.
	12	The Annual Town Meeting should follow a similar format to the previous year and be publicised widely.	Yes	Local Policing team unavailable to attend.
	13	Request that Shropshire Council delegate power to Much Wenlock Town Council to enable the designation of Windmill Hill as a Local Nature Reserve.	Yes	On agenda for SC Cabinet meeting on 22 nd March 2023.
	15	Write to the portfolio holder for Highways and Regulatory Services, Cllr Richard Marshall, to express Much Wenlock Town Council's strong objection to the introduction of any charges for road closures.	Yes	Reply received: "This is not happening for not for profit or community events and is yet to be agreed for consultation, for charges to be applied to profit generating organisations"
	19a	To make comment on SC consultation on the Extremely Hazardous Routes Policy (home to school transport policy on unsafe walking routes for school children) raising concerns about specific routes in town.	Yes	Receipt acknowledged and shared with lead officer dealing with the consultation.
	23	To approve and sign documents required for the sale of 2 Burgage Way.	Yes	

Other activities:

- Meeting with representatives of the 'Get a Word in Edgeways' festival and letter of support provided
- Article written for March edition of the Wenlock Herald
- Meeting with Wenlock Olympian Society archivist regarding Olympian Trail panels
- Meeting with Greenwood Projects on 28th February

Local Plan Examination in Public Report

As you will have seen from the various emails, links and press reports that have been issued, the Inspectors have made initial comments in respect to the Stage 1 hearings. Although they have indicated that the Examination will proceed, they have found the Local Plan to be unsound and have requested Shropshire Council (SC) to review, update and answer questions that they have raised. The effect of this will be to cause further delays with the programme.

SC have to produce 2 Topic Papers, respond to 13 mentions of MMs (Main Modifications), update their Sustainability Assessments, review the Black Country unmet needs allocation for 1500 extra dwellings and 30 hectares of employment land, accept the pause as per Clause 24 of their letter and attend a further open consultation meeting(s). Only then, after the Inspectors have reviewed the SC responses and pronounced on these and if the Plan is found to be sound, can they proceed to Stage 2 Site Assessments.

SC's response to the initial findings is to consider that the Local Plan is acceptable, and that such findings are a matter of course. This may well be so, but the timeline that SC have to give to the Inspectors will be interesting to observe. I cannot say, but it is more likely to be October/November before moving to Stage 2 and that is unlikely to complete before the middle of 2024.

Cllr Chris Tyler

18.02.23

B4378 Bourton Road, Much Wenlock
Community Speed Monitoring from private property

**Information received from Rod Lake, Traffic Management Advisor, Road Safety Team,
West Mercia Police**
7th February 2023

In certain circumstances following a full site risk assessment private land can be used, however I would stress that is far from the norm and only done if there are no other suitable safe locations to operate from.

I have spoken to Mark Booth who is the West Mercia Police Community Speedwatch Coordinator for Shropshire and I have been instructed that irrespective of this issue, speed data taken on Bourton Road, Much Wenlock has indicated that travel speeds are too high and therefore does not comply with the set criteria to safely conduct **Community Speed Watch** by volunteering members of the public.

The West Mercia Police Road Safety Team have however identified a location on the public highway which can be utilised by the motorcycle enforcement officer. The site has been risk assessed and is awaiting approval before speed enforcement commences as a **Community Concern** site. Hopefully this will help to promote greater compliance to the 30 mph speed limit and provide some reassurance to the residents of Bourton Road.

I must stress that speed enforcement is only one element of achieving effective speed management. Engineering measures should be sort to bring about safe and appropriate driving speeds in order to attain long term self-compliance.

Information received from the Operations Supervisor, Road Safety Team, West Mercia Police
15th February 2023

We hope to have the alternative location we have found for Bourton Road up and operational sometime in March. As with the other sites we have operating in Much Wenlock on Farley Road, Stretton Road and Bridgnorth Road we will be prosecuting any drivers / riders detected speeding. We plan to carry out regular enforcement at all the sites in Much Wenlock.

20's plenty for us

THE CASE FOR AREA-WIDE 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS (updated January 2023)

Why 20 mph?

- reduces casualties by 22% average. Injuries are less serious. Fear of road danger reduces.
- promotes a calm, even flow of traffic and reduces air pollution.
- helps to build healthier communities. Public health improves generally with cleaner air and as more people take regular exercise with active travel (eg cycling and walking).
- Improves community togetherness - the elderly, families with small children and those with mobility issues or without cars are more able to cross roads, reducing isolation.
- does not require traffic calming (humps, bumps and chicanes) These are very expensive and encourage frequent acceleration and deceleration and make air quality worse.
- very cheap to implement and estimated to cost less than £800,000 for the whole of Shropshire

The national *20's Plenty for us* movement campaign for 20mph to become the default speed limit on residential and urban streets.

Already over 20m people live in local authorities which are adopting or have adopted this policy.

The current 30 mph default speed limit in built up / residential areas is an arbitrary limit established in the 1930's when traffic volumes, vehicle engineering and road infrastructure were vastly different to those of today.

Traffic speed is a road safety issue where restrictions play a critical role in the incidence of death and injury involved in road traffic incidents.

20mph is supported by all major public bodies and public health professionals e.g.

- The House of Commons Select Committee on Transport
- The World Health Organisation
- The National Association of Directors of Public Health
- The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence
- Public Health England
- The Royal College of Paediatrics and child health

The Shropshire wide campaign now has support from nine town councils (Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Shifnal, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Broseley, Bishop's Castle, Cleobury Mortimer and Ruyton XI Towns) who have all written to Shropshire Council requesting they investigate how best a wide area 20 mph limit can be introduced in their town. In every case support has been endorsed by local communities through public consultation: in Ludlow's case surveys showed 94% in favour of a 20mph limit in their street with 80% opting for a wide-area limit.

The campaign encourages support from all Parish and Town Councils to increase the pressure on our Highway Authority to adopt this life enhancing measure.

The Council's response to date is that they will only consider 20 mph outside schools but their Place Scrutiny Committee is currently considering the matter. West Mercia Police have also rejected lower area wide speed limits even though supported by other police authorities including West Midlands Police.

Enforcement a frequently raised concern. A House of Commons Briefing Paper on Speed Limits in England states that – "The enforcement of 20 mph speed limits is the same as any other speed limit".

The Association of Chief Police Officers Speed Enforcement Guidelines 2011 – 2015 state: "Limits which are clear to drivers achieve high compliance, require less enforcement and meet public expectation, together with targeted enforcement against those who refuse to comply" "

Shropshire Destination Management Plan

- Period: 06 February 2023 - 31 March 2023

[The draft Shropshire Destination Management Plan \(DMP\)](#) is designed as a blueprint for how the county intends to manage its visitor economy between 2023 and 2025.

Shropshire has not had a whole county tourism plan for some years, but under the leadership of Shropshire Council a new partnership is forming, comprising people and organisations from across the public and private sectors. Collectively, this partnership has identified priorities and related actions that will begin to transform Shropshire as a visitor destination. These are detailed in the draft Destination Management Plan 2023-25.

The DMP aims to use best practice from elsewhere whilst retaining a keen sense of what will be right for Shropshire. It details a proposed visitor economy strategy and a set of priorities agreed by sector stakeholders from both private and public sectors. The plan will also form a reference document for future funding and a basis for future bids into government programmes. It builds on the local Shropshire Recovery Plan (assessing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic) and can be used by developers and tourism businesses to shape their investment and it will inform, guide, and influence how resources are used and allocated. The plan complements national, regional and neighbouring plans and reviews (such as the national Tourism Recovery Plan, De Bois Review, West Midlands Combined Authority Tourism Strategy, Marches LEP Tourism Strategy and others outlined in section 3 of the draft document). The DMP has been created to work in conjunction with our wider strategic plans, notably the Economic Growth Strategy 2022 – 2027 and the delivery of the Shropshire Plan 2022 – 2025.

To reflect the context the Shropshire Destination Management Plan will need to develop over time, and will be reviewed in autumn 2023.

It's now important for us to consult on the draft document and obtain feedback from a wider range of stakeholders and members of the public before the plan is formally approved and implemented.