

**CABINET 19 April 2023  
MEMBER QUESTIONS**

<b>Question from:</b>	Alex Wagner	
<b>Subject:</b>	Shrewsbury Bus Station	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Ian Nellins	Approved

Do the Cabinet feel bus operators in Shropshire have been consulted adequately on changes being proposed to Shrewsbury Bus Station and the Riverside, and can they outline the steps taken to consult those running the service?

Bus operators are one of the key stakeholders that have been consulted as part of the on-going process and they will continue to be important stakeholders as we transition through the various phases of the strategy for the town. As part of the Councils Bus Service Improvement Plan submission, a requirement to form an Enhanced Bus Partnership with all bus operators serving the County was adopted, as part of any future consultations that group will continue to be one of the key conduits through which we consult with bus operators to ensure all operators views continue to be considered. The emerging Movement and Public Realm Strategy for Shrewsbury explicitly acknowledges the need to provide effective, efficient and well located bus facilities, as part of an integrated public transport/active travel solution in the town centre, its immediate environs and its role across the wider county. The Strategy has been informed by an advisory group of key stakeholders, including bus user groups. The strategy is due to be published Summer 2023.

<b>Question from:</b>	Andy Boddington	
<b>Subject:</b>	Littering	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Richard Marshall	Approved

The state of our major roads and country lanes has become an embarrassment in our beautiful county. Verges, laybys and hedges are badly littered.

Informal volunteer teams have been litter picking across the county from Ludlow to Market Drayton. They often work on main roads with traffic passing at high speed. Around 140 bags were collected this spring from the A49 Ludlow bypass alone.

Observation shows that littering has increased everywhere, especially on roads, since the pandemic. There is clearly a public mood that this has become intolerable in a county that prides itself on its beauty and that promotes itself for tourism.

1. What efforts does Shropshire Council make to clear litter across our county, especially on

significant roads?

Shropshire Council spends millions of pounds every year protecting and improving the public realm. Litter Picking of high-speed roads sits under Shropshire Council control, which includes some National Highways roads. Litter picking these high speed roads demands significant planning and forms part our annual cycle of street scene operations. Orders have been placed with our contractor to undertake this work and a programme is in place. Permits have to be obtained in order to carry out the work safely, as well as ensuring that the relevant health and safety, traffic management and lane closures are properly organised to ensure the workforce undertaking the operation is kept as safe as possible. We are extremely grateful that our communities support the work we do with positive action. We do support this ourselves by providing equipment and materials to groups who want to litter pick and we are currently looking at developing a formal community-centred formal recognition system for their excellent work.

2. What plans does the council have for an anti-litter promotional campaign?

Nationally, all highways' authorities have seen significant increases in the amount of litter selfishly thrown from moving vehicles. As we start to roll out this years clean up, we will be having many communication pieces highlighting the work and encouraging people to bag it and bin it.

3. Will the council consider recruiting volunteer street champions, giving them guidance on litter picking and providing them with insurance?

As the Portfolio Holder responsible, I am extremely keen to aid and encourage local residents to assist in looking after their own areas and we already support many local initiatives with the supply of equipment for 'womble schemes'. Safety, has to be of paramount concern and therefore these initiatives have to be coordinated to maintain those high levels of safety.

4. Will the council consider increasing the number of litter bins in residential areas to reduce litter, including dog poo bags?

As part of the overall service reviews, we are constantly looking at ways to update the development of our comprehensive asset register, which provides for a clearer understanding of service need. As an example, accurate data collection of how full a bin is when emptying it, will enable us to hit 'hot spots' before they become 'hot spots'.