

**21/02/24 Cabinet**  
**MEMBER QUESTIONS**

<b>Question from:</b>	Julian Dean	
<b>Subject:</b>	Promoting Better Planning	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Chris Schofield	Approved
<p>Shropshire council agreed two motions in recent years setting out ways for planners to promote better outcomes on travel and sewage and river health.</p> <p>In May 2022 a motion agreed to: promote 'Transport for New Homes' guidance to developers and to ask questions regarding sustainable transport:</p> <p>What measures have been/will be taken to limit car dependency and to maximise opportunities for the take up of active travel and public transport? What measures have been/will be taken to ensure connectivity and access to services and to opportunities for work, rest, play within distances reachable by walking, wheeling or cycling?</p> <p><a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgAi.aspx?ID=17158">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgAi.aspx?ID=17158</a></p> <p>This work forms part of both our spatial strategy contained with the draft Local Plan and our emerging Local Transport Plan 4 Strategy which is due to be presented for adoption later this year. The LTP has been delayed pending further government guidance. The Local Plan is due for formal adoption within the next 12 months and the Local Cycling &amp; Walking Infrastructure Plan is imminent.</p> <p>In March 2023 council agreed planners should "Ask Severn Trent Water, from this date onwards, in its planning consultation responses for major development, to clarify which treatment works will be managing the sewage; whether it has the information available to assess the impact on the number or duration of sewage discharges into local rivers, and if it does have this information to share it (noting that this can only be requested not required), and to consider requiring as a condition for support that Grampian conditions are applied to allow time for upgrades in waste water systems to be completed where appropriate." <a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgAi.aspx?ID=21254">https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/mgAi.aspx?ID=21254</a></p> <p>In a recent planning meeting it became evident that at least one of these requirements was unknown to case officers.</p> <p>How were these motions followed up? In how many planning application cases have the relevant enquiries been made? How have these enquiries impacted planning outcomes or officer reports?</p> <p>First to say, the Council has entered into a Statement of Common Ground with STW as part of the Local Plan process regarding the delivery of the proposed allocated sites and overall quantum of growth proposed - <a href="#">duty-to-cooperate-statement-of-common-ground-severn-trent-water-ev026.pdf</a> (<a href="https://shropshire.gov.uk">shropshire.gov.uk</a>). On some sites/settlements this will show there is likely to be a need for upgrades to existing works to accommodate growth, and this should then inform their capital investment programme - AMP8 WINEP – which we understand is currently sitting with Ofwat for approval. In terms of the consultation process on major planning applications, this formed part of a detailed set of wider actions within the motion most of which have been picked up as part of the the recent scrutiny committee review on this topic.</p>		

<b>Question from:</b>	Andy Boddington
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<b>Subject:</b>	Play Areas Across Shropshire	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Dan Morris	Approved
<p>Shropshire Council is responsible for many play areas across Shropshire, including in Ludlow. The Tollgate Lane play area in Ludlow has been in a state of disrepair since late October. The already rotten fencing blew down in an early winter storm. The safety barriers blew down in the next storm shortly afterwards. No action has been taken by Shropshire Council to secure children's safety at the site since. This has caused a lot of concern in the community in which I live. They see Shropshire Council's officers on the site most weeks but no action taken.</p> <p>My questions to the cabinet are:</p> <p>1) How often does Shropshire Council inspect the safety of the play areas it is responsible for?</p> <p>Every two weeks</p> <p>2) Does Shropshire Council engage ROSPA or another safety body to conduct annual reviews of its play areas?</p> <p>Yes – see attached</p> <p>3) Could the council supply the latest safety assessment for the Tollgate Lane play area?</p> <p>Ref 2 above</p> <p>4) When is the Tollgate Lane area going to be repaired and made safe for the children in our community that play there?</p> <p>Quotes have been sought for permanent repairs to the play area but costs circa £25k are prohibitive in the current financial climate. It is recognised that the condition of the existing fencing is unacceptable and damaged sections will be removed, made safe and temporary repairs instigated so that children can play safely. This will be undertaken shortly.</p>		

<b>Question from:</b>	David Vasmer	
<b>Subject:</b>	Future of the Quarry	
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Robert Macey	Approved
<p>In the report, presented by Councillor Rob Macey and Assistant Director Homes and Communities, Jane Trethewey, at the Call-in meeting of the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Committee on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February a commitment about the future of the Quarry Pool in Shrewsbury was confirmed as follows:</p>		

“The Cabinet report was clear that a decision on the future of the Quarry has not been made and,.....,the recommendations were explicit in committing to undertake an assessment of future options in the Quarry in due course.”

Would the Portfolio Holder for Cultural and Digital, Cllr Rob Macey, give a commitment to the public of Shrewsbury that the options to be considered will only be swimming and fitness ones. And that the option of selling the Quarry site will not be considered.

Thank you, Cllr Vasmer, for your question.

As you point out in your preamble the council through myself, the Leader and officers have been quite clear no decisions have been taken on the Quarry site.

We have also been equally clear that we are committed to undertaking an assessment of future options for the Quarry site in due course as laid out previously.

Therefore, without judgment on these or any future requests, I will not be making any commitments on this subject.

To do so risks giving the public the impression that decisions (even in the form of commitments) are or have been made which would not be fair given the previous statements from myself and the council on this matter.