

CABINET – 10 SEPTEMBER 2025
PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

1. Graham Betts

In section 6.6.8 of the Officer Report for planning application 13/03285/FUL, concerning Darwin's Walk and Bowbrook housing developments in Shrewsbury, it is stated that the road is designed to accommodate a bus service and a subsidy has been negotiated with the developer. That subsidy is quoted as £519,480 in section 6.9.1.

The CIL etc. accounts provided using a Freedom of Information Request state that the bus service should start within three years of the link between Hanwood Road and Mytton Oak Road being completed. The stated completion date is 2019, the service should have started by 2022 at the latest, and therefore the first bus is three years late.

Those accounts also state the sum now available is now zero and £33020.93 has been spent without a bus being provided. It is assumed that the £33020.93 has been used to subsidise another bus service that does not pass through the development.

On the basis of the above, it appears the residents of Darwin's Walk and Bowbrook developments have paid significantly for a service that the Council has not provided, the money is lost and another bus service not mentioned in the Officer Report has been subsidised by those residents.

Can the cabinet please explain these anomalies, why the stated bus service does not exist, when it will be provided and where is the money paid by residents for the service?

2. John Palmer

420 affordable homes were completed in 2024/25, well above target. ("Delivery of affordable homes" - paragraph 4.1 of the Performance Monitoring Report Q1 2025/26, agenda item 10) Whilst prominently highlighting and celebrating this, does the Cabinet wish to accelerate these numbers, and move heaven and earth to fulfil the Government's seachange target of 1,994 new homes a year in the council area? (BBC Verify housing tracker online) Younger people want and need much more new housing, and surely helping move earth and creating heaven - and defying the NIMBYs - would build on these impressive affordable homes stats? Only 1,110 new homes in the area received their first Energy Performance Certificate in the year to

June 2025. (BBC Verify housing tracker). We have a housing crisis: are you going to help fix it?

3. Olly Rose

I am pleased to see the report on item 6a the pump track in Oswestry. Having worked for years to secure this, it is the first time it has been on an SUC Cabinet agenda.

It would be remiss of me not to remind the Cabinet that this is an urgent matter. As well as the great need for young people's health and wellbeing, damage is being done to the Oswestry Hillfort and to the adjacent coppice and that is one reason why there is strong support from the community, English Heritage and Oswestry Town Council for this provision, the construction of which can be funded by the Town Council.

A new, accessible to all, pump track/skateboard park has the potential to be a great demonstration of partnership working between Parish and Shropshire Councils but only if you seize the initiative and make rapid progress now. So can I have a re-assurance from the Portfolio-holder that Shropshire Council will proceed at pace and not continue to bank this land in the hope that at some stage in the future it will have the finances to develop it.

That has been the situation since you first got planning permission in 2008 and it would be good to hear his agreement that as this hasn't worked in the last 17 years it needs this change

MEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Cllr Craig Emery

In February 2025 Shropshire Council gave permission for a temporary road closure in Pantglas due to a collapsed area of carriageway - this temporary road closure has been extended several times with no progress to works being completed on the ground. The road closure has split the community of Pantglas. Can cabinet members update the community as to an expected timetable for the completion of works in the area? Can they further provide reassurance as to how similar schemes will be better managed from now on, so that local members can track progress.

Background Information

Email received 15/08/2025

To whom it may concern,

Please find enclosed details of a temporary road closure:

Road Closure: Unnamed Road Pantglas, Oswestry

Start Date: 26th February 2025

End Date: 26th September 2025

Purpose: Urgent Road Closure due to collapsed carriageway.

Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

Works Promoter Ref: Unknown (promoter_works_ref)

Enforcement pattern for Unnamed Road Pantglas, Oswestry: All the time

2. Councillor Chris Naylor

I and other Councillors are excited by the new Administration's Partnership initiative, and I'd thank the Deputy Leader for his recent presentation to Condover Parish. Another of my Parish Councils, Church Preen - which has more than a few pothole problems - has seen the successful Parish Partnership project in Devon, and is now keen to offer a volunteer team to fix signs, check drains and even do minor pothole works. I'd be very grateful for an update on the overall progress of this important initiative.

3. Councillor Andy Boddington (joining meeting remotely)

Numbers 4-5 King Street, which have been knocked into one, were formerly a Costa Coffee. The fabric of the buildings deteriorated during that period. Decay has increased since Costa Coffee closed in May 2023. Cement has flaked from the front wall. A pane of glass fell out onto the pavement of King Street.

This Ludlow's greatest eyesore and an embarrassment to the town and Shropshire. Despite a year and a half of discussions between myself, council officers, the owner and the contractor, nothing significant has been done to the building. It is opposite a popular venue, the owner of which says it is affecting his business.

Ludlow has run out of patience on this. Shropshire Council can move it forward by issuing a notice under Section 54 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

Can the council:

- 1) Conduct an urgent building inspection of both the exterior and interior of the building?
- 2) Issue a Section 54 notice on the owner to ensure there is a maximum focus on bring this Grade II listed building into repair?

4. Councillor Teri Trickett

Will Cabinet consider ensuring that site visits for planning applications are arranged in line with Local Government Association good practice guidelines, so that all controversial and significant sites have a visit planned? <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/applications/planning-committee/planning-committee-support/planning-committee-protocols>

In addition:

Will Cabinet ensure that local Members are invited to these site visits and sent the details alongside Planning Committee Members, as the current practice of not inviting them is undemocratic?

In accordance with the Council's own policy, will Cabinet ensure that landowners of land adjacent to a prospective planning application are notified directly, rather than having to find

out indirectly through parish or town councils or via their local Member?<https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/planning/applications/planning-committees/committee-site-visits/>

5. Councillor Rosemary Dartnall

I've pursued road safety measures in Column & Sutton, a residential area that's accommodated 2000 new homes with traffic volume increased, just as anyone would expect.

Following complaints I have engaged in extensive discussion with residents, local police, the PCC and council officers. Despite successfully making the case for a number of improvements, with officer agreement, change simply does not happen.

Examples;

- Wenlock Rd - new Toucan crossing – first lobbied for by my predecessor to 2021, but now more needed. Highways applied for CiL funding end 2024 with decision March 2025.
- yellow lines on a section of Wenlock Rd and Huxley Close
- upgrading existing zebra crossings, speed limit reduction on London and Wenlock roads.
- no externally funded footpath from Weir Hill to London Rd nor improvements to Beldivere Bridge – S106 funded

Although I have regularly pushed for information I have received no communication of consequence. Not even an update that shows progression and/or a timeline for completion. I've heard nothing concrete about any of these and other necessary minor projects. Residents simply do not understand and neither do I. What is the problem?

The administration of CiL and S106 monies is opaque when it should be managed openly with full transparency including the involvement of elected members. Please explain why S106 and CiL allocation is managed so mysteriously? What is being done to change this?