FULL COUNCIL – 25 SEPTEMBER 2025

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. **Rev Paul Cawthorne**

   Please confirm:

   1. What percentage of claims are paid out where an invoice or receipt from a garage is submitted 2. Why repairs needed on the Clive to Hadnall road reported in the spring have not all been repaired including several near Sansaw which are now deep and dangerous and causing further damage 3. When the potholes marked by council employees 2-3 months ago will actually be repaired, now the markings are fading and not visible while driving at night, so that potholes are not avoidable, especially when cars are coming on other side of road 4. When the current multipothole chicanes at the bottom of Clive bank and in Sansaw will be repaired, to ensure one does not have to scare drivers coming in the opposite direction by swerving right across the road in front of them.

2. **Emma Bullard, Sustainable Transport Shropshire**

   Sustainable Transport Shropshire welcomes the adoption of the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Spaces Strategy (SMPSS) and we look forward to contributing to its successful implementation.

   In the years preceding the SMPSS various schemes were proposed to support and enable active travel across the town. Some of them gained approval and had thousands of pounds spent on design and consultation but have not been delivered. Shropshire Council's Active Travel webpage has no current information about any active travel schemes.

   Please provide an update on the following schemes. Are they going ahead or have they been superseded by the SMPSS?

   If they are going ahead please give details of the timescale.

   1. Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). How will the proposed routes be prioritised for delivery? Will they be incorporated into LTP4 so that they are a factor in future developments?
   2. The Bicton Active Travel Corridor, including
   3. Crowmeole Lane point closure. The intention was to enforce this through ANPR but it is still not enforced.
   4. Bank Farm Road/Longden Road. A government grant was used to design improvements here.
   5. Copthorne Road crossings and Porthill 20mph zone. Approved but still not delivered.
   6. Weir Hill to London Road connection.

   We welcome the news that a new Active Travel Manager will start work soon. In addition to the schemes already mentioned, will this officer also have input into other developments, such as new housing and employment, and the RSH expansion, where there is an important active travel component?

3. **Ron and Jane Berry**

Shropshire Council's pension fund, LGPS Central, invests over £142m in companies directly linked to Israel's genocidal assault on the people of Palestine. Public questions, in March and June 2025, have asked the Pensions Committee to consider divestment, but so far LGPS Central has maintained its existing policy.

Shropshire Council, like all local authorities in England and Wales, has received a letter from Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), detailing councils' legal obligation to divest from companies enabling genocide. The council has yet to issue a response.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars states that Israel's conduct in Gaza meets the legal description of genocide defined in the UN convention, a view supported by many human rights organisations, including some in Israel itself (notably B'Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights). They contend that Israel's western allies have a legal and moral duty to take action.

Despite those arguments and despite a great deal of available evidence, the UK's Foreign Secretary recently declared that Israel's behaviour in Palestine doesn't constitute genocide. In doing so he defends the UK Government, which is itself supplying arms and extensive logistical support to Israel's campaign.

Is it not time for Shropshire Council to respond to PSC's letter by debating the issue of divestment? Shouldn't the full council consider members' individual and collective responsibilities in light of the mounting evidence of genocide?

We ask: Will Shropshire Council join the growing number of councils who have withdrawn investment from companies which aid Israel's assault on the people of Palestine?

4. **Susan Wedlock (TC to read)**

The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Shropshire prohibits dogs from running freely in public streets, with a £100 fine for non-compliance. Unlike other PSPOs, there is no exemption for hunt dogs. Yet on Boxing Day, the Ludlow Hunt brings a large pack into town, all running loose. Any ordinary dog owner would be fined. There are also serious hygiene and health & safety concerns, documented on the AAF website, when hounds interact with children.

We asked why the hunt is given privileges denied to others. The council's response claimed that farming activity, livestock movement, hunts, and possibly shoots could be exempt, despite hunts not being farms and hounds not being farm animals. This reasoning was muddled, particularly as it suggested exemptions might apply to "organised and timed events, for example hunts." Our requests for clarification, supported by evidence regarding road closures and PSPO law, were ignored for months.

After formal complaints, the council replied but made a **fundamental error**, incorrectly stating the Ludlow Hunt is a humane drag hunt. It is not; it is a controversial trail hunt, which will soon be illegal.

The council also admitted it unofficially allows the hunt to ignore the PSPO because of who they are and because of tradition. This is scandalous. Everyone must obey the PSPO; the council has a duty to enforce it fairly and consistently. The PSPO exists to

protect the public, and tradition should never override this legal duty. Granting exemptions undermines safety, the rule of law, and public trust.

5. **Frances Rickford**

What plans there are for regulating the proliferation of self-contained holiday accommodation, to mitigate the impact on residential neighbourhoods and on the availability of homes to rent. Some English councils (eg Wiltshire) now require change of use planning permission for the conversion of a residential home into a full time Airbnb-type business. Will Shropshire do this, and if not why not?

6. **John Palmer**

On 26 September 2024 this Council, in its desperate last throes of Conservatives Administration, approved plans looking to sell 10 of its car parks, for 125 years, using a financial agreement called an Income Strip. The upfront additional capital receipt secured was budgeted at up to £30m, and the council would lease back the car parks for a fee each year. This controversial plan quietly disappeared before the 2025/26 budget was set in February 2025. Was that because it was found to be illegal? What were the reasons it was dropped? Can the current Council confirm this idea is definitively consigned to the dustbin of history, or is a revival option not ruled out?