

CABINET – 8 JULY 2026

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Carole Warner, Clerk to Welshampton and Lyneal Parish Council

The Parish Council has been made aware of a planning application submitted to Wrexham County Borough Council by Veolia in connection with its contract with Shropshire Council. Veolia's planning application is for a composting facility in Bronington.

The Parish Council's main concern is the volume of traffic generated to and from the site. The highways assessment states:

"If the Proposed Development is operational for 11 hours per day (07:00-18:00), then it could therefore generate up to 5 two-way HGV trips per hour, or 1 two-way HGV trip every 12 minutes, on average"

This will have a huge impact on the A495, the main route to the facility.

The village of Welshampton is directly on the A495 and the Parish Council has historically raised concerns with the lack of visible traffic restriction signage and the current poor level of highway surface maintenance. The increased volume of traffic will not just affect Welshampton but all towns and villages along the A495 and other connecting roads.

The Parish Council would like assurance from Shropshire Council's Cabinet that, should the application be approved, all relevant highways budgets will be reviewed and increased accordingly.

2. Olly Rose

It's over a year now since the petition regarding this proposal was considered by the overview and Scrutiny Committee. At that time they noted the years of frustration regarding the delay in providing such a facility when planning permission was granted back in 2008. We had waited 17 years now it is 18.

They resolved that the matter deserved urgent action and it was then reported twice to Cabinet on the 15th October and 19th November 2025.

It's been hard to work out exactly what SUC has done but I understand that this land was to be included in the transfer of land under shared services from SUC to OTC – however the recent report to OTC on the 10th June detailed ten such areas of land but did not include the land by the Oswestry leisure centre ideally suited for such a facility and previously discussed as the most viable position.

It is a pity the children can't ride bikes on officer's reports and Cabinet minutes...as you can see we have a lot of these. Can you please tell me when this land will be transferred so plans can progress to start work on construction of this long awaited and much needed facility.

3. Mike Streetly

When the council voted to cancel the North West Relief Road on 26 February 2026 it was announced that there would be a separate report on the Oxon Link Road and that there would be a task and finish group to work out what lessons could be learned about how £38M of scarce council funds was spent with no meaningful benefit to the residents of Shropshire. Given how badly wrong the project went, it would seem to be urgent that lessons should be learned as soon as possible and that those involved should have an opportunity to explain how this happened while the events are still fresh in everyone's memory. It is now 4 months since the cancellation of the project but there appears to be no progress on these important matters. Could you please provide an update on these activities?

4. Andrew Sceats

A Council officer has commissioned a review by an independent assessor Chris Bunn, from the LGA, into the future of the Shirehall. He will be reviewing a number of documents before presenting his report to Cabinet prior to a special Cabinet meeting on 14 July. It will include being conducted within the Council's 'legal and financial obligations, including the Best Consideration requirement when disposing of land under s.123 of Local Government Act 1972' The report of the all- party Shirehall Strategic Review Rapid Task and Finish Group included witness evidence from the Council's Estates Manager for Acquisitions and Disposals - he 'clarified that Cornovii would be required to bid on the open market for the Shirehall alongside other potential buyers' (page 7). I have criticised the way that Council- owned land has been transferred to Cornovii, for their developments, without any sites being offered on the open market. I would like Mr Bunn to confirm that he has had access to all documents to see that Best Consideration has been achieved relating to past sites that Cornovii has utilised. It is not good enough for the reviewer to simply have the Council's word that this has been achieved. The Shirehall is such a high profile project that if its sale is required to be on the open market will this requirement now be applied to all Cornovii sites using Council land past/ present/future, and if not why not?

5. Kevin Pardy

I have received statistics via FOI act, for potholes repaired and roads resurfaced within the seventeen wards of Shrewsbury Town Council during the first full year of the Liberal administration.

The results are startling.

1107 potholes have been repaired, and three roads resurfaced

Of the 1107 potholes reported repaired, 775 of those potholes were sited in Liberal wards an astounding 70%.

Leaving just 30 percent shared between the remaining six wards.

The average number of repairs per Liberal ward was 70.45 compared to the remaining wards' average 55.3 potholes repaired.

During the year three roads were resurfaced, all in Liberal wards.

Having had suspicion that there was an imbalance in repairs, I visited three Liberal wards before the request for statistics. Potholes repaired were no larger than potholes in any other ward nor were they in any position more dangerous than in other wards. I did note there was a number of repairs immediately outside of a cabinet members' home.

Harlescott Grange received the joint highest number of repairs at 176 which tied with the deputy leaders' ward, Quarry and Coton Hill. Harlescott also had two out of three roads resurfaced.

As the statistics are so obviously imbalanced, I cannot believe that Highways have not been influenced, it is not coincidental.

Can the portfolio holder explain why there is such an imbalance in favour of repairs taking place in Liberal wards within Shrewsbury Town Council area?

6. John Palmer

It is likely that Andy Burnham and Angela Rayner will order Shropshire Council to get on and build more new much-needed social housing pronto, over and above any Cornovii Development Limited plans.

Is it an option to sell off Theatre Severn to private investors, to help kickstart this hugely welcomed era of social renewal? Seeing as the theatre was originally financed by Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council following the sell off of council housing in Shrewsbury?