

SHROPSHIRE LOCAL PLAN EXAMINATION

Stage 1 Hearing Statement

Representor unique Part A Ref *	A 0655
Matter	8 Infrastructure, Delivery, etc
Relevant questions nos	3, 6/17, 7, 11-13
SHREWSBURY CIVIC SOCIETY TRUST Ltd	

Matter 8. (Policies SP1, SP2, SP14)

Running through the Draft Plan are measures that will be insufficient to keep the County as one with a “Spatial Vision” (policy 2.31) that is recognisable. Past experiences (eg failed “Developer Accreditation Scheme”, previous unused SPDs, etc.) suggest stronger measures are needed to achieve aims. Clearer targets are needed (where appropriate) and methods of monitoring need to be much more specific and robust. Ours is a County under a lot of pressure for development, some of which could undermine its very attractiveness, in both its natural and built environments.

Q3 The degree of detail set out in site allocations is insufficient. A constant difficulty in Shrewsbury has been how the large number of new fringe estates have too few facilities to sustain its residents and to reduce the impact for others. This has prompted protests and new grass-roots organisations. For example, frequently plans include no shop, pub or community focus area or building, just when such facilities are becoming more necessary. The cumulative impact of these insufficiencies can be considerable. More specification and enforcement is needed.

Q6/17 Many residents feel that Shrewsbury is becoming a town encircled by large fringe commuter estates of little distinction, with too little to encourage active travel, community identity, or healthy living. The Draft Local Plan suggests ambitious principles, eg SP1, but has too little to ensure their enactment.

Q7 Prior experience suggests that a good number of infrastructure improvements for which developer contributions have been collected, have not been made for some time.

Q11-13 The monitoring, implementation and enforcement of Policies have been weaknesses. The draft Plan lacks rigour in this respect. Eg SP1 relies on the monitoring and enforcement of other policies and suggests no targets or means of monitoring despite its acclaimed status as a “Gateway” Policy. There are few targets or measurable means of ascertaining the efficacy of these and similar policies. The town of Shrewsbury is of unusually high quality but it needs protection from any factors that might further chip away at its genuine heritage.