

April 2026



OVERVIEW

March has been a busy month with all four parish council meetings and a variety of other meetings across the division with residents and organisations. In my role as SYA Chair of Trustees, I met with a representative of the National Lottery Communities Fund to discuss our Future Leaders Program which is funded by the NLCF. This program is supporting the development of tomorrow's youth group leaders as well as supporting youth clubs across Shropshire and the division.

It was also a pleasure this month to be joined by Anna Turner, Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire to present awards in recognition of our youth volunteers across Shropshire. I was also invited to present a number of cheques to local groups across Cheswardine from funds raised by the activities of the Fox & Hounds Fun Run. A total of £3,000 has been raised over the last year with £1,500 distributed to local groups and £1,500 donated to Macmillan who are supporting a local resident. Thank you to all the volunteers and also to the generosity of the residents who support these activities.

Earlier in the month I met Market Drayton Golf Club chairman Steve Fulcher to discuss some collaborative approaches to highways issues along Sutton Lane. I have raised these points with StreetScene & Highways and hopefully we can develop a way of working that supports residents across our rural communities. Also this month I met with Deputy PCC Tracey Onslow in Childs Erroll to discuss potential speed testing options in the village as well as other highways issues. Parish Council chair Cllr James Maddocks joined us for our walk around the village to highlight first hand some of these issues. We are hoping to secure some funding from the PPC for testing equipment future support.

This month the Lib Dem administration has started the process of recruiting a permanent CEO of Shropshire Council. An external recruitment campaign is now underway supported by the external recruitment agency, Solace in Business. The successful candidate will need to share our vision for the council's future as well as continuing to support the organisation through our improvement plan.

As the 8.99% council tax rise comes into force this April, we really appreciate that many residents question exactly what our council tax pays for. With this in mind, we have asked the council to produce a 'receipt' outlining these services. I have included this on the final page of this report to be shared with residents.

The full council meeting scheduled for the 26th March was cancelled as this was an additional meeting in case the budget did not pass at February's meeting. The latest cabinet meeting was held on the 11th March: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ielistdocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=5249>

Summary of my meetings during March:

(01/03/26) Market Drayton Golf Club

(06/03/26) SYA Presentation Evening

(09/03/26) Fox & Hounds Fun Run Presentation Evening

(11/03/26) National Lottery Community Fund | The New Lodge, Shrewsbury

(16/03/26) Portfolio Meeting | TEAMS

(17/03/26) Corporate Parenting Board | TEAMS

(24/03/26) Deputy PPC Tracey Onslow | Childs Ercall

CASEWORK

Casework	Issue Raised / Portfolio	Actions
Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall	PLANNING: Various planning applications have been passed yet conditions not met (esp highways)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk can be used to report any breaches of planning.I am still chasing updates on this one.
Speed Testing / Signage Childs Ercall	PCC John Campion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(24/03/26) Meeting with Dt.PCC in Childs Ercall.PC to confirm 2x testing locations.NB to liaise with highways engineer Harry Guest regarding SatNav issue and discuss Newport rd/Eaton rd junction.
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(23/03/26) I have emailed Andrew Huntley (new case officer) to ask for an update - awaiting response.
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production Caynton	PLANNING: This is still at 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">No update regarding potential committee meeting. I have spoken with the local action group to prepare for this scenario so that representatives are ready.
Artificial 'Lake' Cheswardine	Off Westcott Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(23/03/26) Confirmation that dialogue exists between landowner and council. The owner is keen to investigate once the water level subsides. The council will continue to monitor water levels.
Dog & Waste Bins Sutton Upon Tern	Market Drayton Golf Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none">SC Response: StreetScene (who are the only service that deals with public waste bins) will not supply or service a bin here and that the Outdoor Partnerships Service do not have any bins on the public rights of way network.(25/03/26) I briefly raised this at parish council but will make a formal recommendation to council.
Dodecote Drive Childs Ercall	HIGHWAYS: ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Highways have instructed a technician to visit the road and to address current potholes.
Abandoned Vehicles Sutton Upon Tern	MD Swimming Baths	<ul style="list-style-type: none">(26/03/26) I have reported both vehicles individually.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

Here are questions posed by parish councillors across the division and updates/answers at present.

Question	Answer / Outcomes
Grit Bins not filled as requested.	(28/02/26) Still no response received, will escalate.
How much do we pay for Fix My Street?	£39,100 +VAT.

How many grit Bins in Childs Ercall?	(20/02/26) Initial check shows no bins are currently mapped; technicians to verify. (25/03/26) Will ask PC to suggest locations within the parish for grit bins.
A41 Speed Camera Update	Deputy PCC Tracey Onslow to chase with PCC John Campion.

COUNCIL TAX 'RECIPT'

Shropshire Council 2026/27 Council Tax Receipt

Charges for a Band D property

**** Universal Services ****

- * Buses and Sustainable Transport £36.18
- * Highways and Environmental Maintenance £94.46
- * Leisure and Outdoor Spaces £16.18
- * Libraries £14.59
- * Registrars, Coroners, Bereavement Services, Trading Standards, Licensing, Regulatory Services and Public Health £11.82
- * Theatre, Arts, Museums and Archives £2.12
- * Waste and Recycling Collections £184.57

**** Adult Services ****

- * Adult Social Care £909.43
- * Housing, Housing Benefits and Welfare £42.06

**** Children's Services ****

- * Children and Families Early Help Services and Youth Services £14.95
- * Children's Social Care £477.30
- * Education, Schools, and Home to School Transport £120.36

What your Council Tax pays for

**** Economic Growth ****

- * Broadband - Rural Rollout £0.47
- * Economic Growth £6.02
- * Planning £8.66

**** Local Government Running Costs ****

- * Organisational & Democratic Costs of the Council £349.49
- * Financing Costs - Debt Repayments and Interest Payments £191.31
- * Reserves Transactions £253.83

Voucher

**** Income and other funding to supplement Council Tax ****

- * Car Parking Income (Net of Costs) -£26.65
- * Net Use of Non Ring Fenced Grants -£92.90
- * Exceptional Financial Support -£645.16

*** Total to Pay £1,969.09**

09:00 01/04/26 123456789

This receipt broadly illustrates the Shropshire Council services that the average Band D Council Tax supports and excludes specific grant funded services such as schools.

Council Tax Rankings 2026/27

- **Statistical Neighbours**
- Northumberland **Highest** £ 2382.00
- Herefordshire **Average** £2067.63
- Bath & Somerset **Lowest** £1914.03
- **Shropshire** £ 1969.09

Statistical Neighbours Band D – 2025/26 – 2026/27

Council Tax 2025/26

RANK	Statistical Nearest Neighbours	2025/26 Band D Council Tax
1	Northumberland	2,268.79
2	Stockport	2,076.06
3	Sefton	2,061.70
4	Isle of Wight	2,003.78
5	Cornwall	1,987.20
6	Wirral	1,982.44
7	Cheshire West and Chester	1,978.08
8	Herefordshire	1,969.36
9	Wiltshire	1,886.99
10	Cheshire East	1,882.04
11	East Riding of Yorkshire	1,871.10
12	BCP	1,855.41
13	Bath and North East Somerset	1,823.06
14	Shropshire	1,806.67
15	North Somerset	1,793.35
		29,246.03
	Average	1,949.74

Council Tax 2026/27

RANK	Statistical Nearest Neighbours	Increase 2026/27 %	Council Tax 2026/27
1	Northumberland	4.99	2382.00
2	Stockport	4.99	2179.65
3	Sefton	4.99	2164.58
4	Isle of Wight	4.99	2103.77
5	Cornwall	4.99	2086.36
6	Wirral	4.99	2081.37
7	Wiltshire	4.99	1981.15
8	Cheshire West and Chester	4.99	2076.79
9	Herefordshire	4.99	2067.63
10	BCP	6.74	1980.46
11	Cheshire East	4.99	1975.95
12	Shropshire	8.99	1969.09
13	East Riding of Yorkshire	4.99	1964.47
14	North Somerset	6.99	1954.57
15	Bath and North East Somerset	4.99	1914.03
			30881.87
	Average		2058.791333