

January 2026

OVERVIEW

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful Christmas break.

It was a pleasure to see our communities at our best over throughout December with Christmas fayres, light switch-ons and carol services. A special thanks to all the cllrs and local volunteers who organise and run these events for the benefit of the whole community.

December was a busy month for the council as a whole; finances are still a priority and the senior team and cabinet are working hard to liaise with government about our options, we are hopeful for some concrete decisions later this month. The canal breach at Whitchurch was a timely example of how important it is that the council has appropriate reserves and contingency funds.

There is a public survey for residents to have their say regarding the budget setting for the financial year 2026/27 which can be found here: [Budget consultation | Get Involved - Shropshire Council Consultation Portal](#). This closes on January 16th 2026.

I emailed Deputy Leader Cllr Alex Wagner with some suggestions from our parish council's regarding the Shropshire Partnership and the current statutory requirements of the council. He sends his thanks to members for their suggestions and is currently working on a document that will be shared with clerks/cllrs across Shropshire making clear the "Minimum Service Provision" (*this terminology has been requested by our external auditors*) from Shropshire Council. Such a document doesn't currently exist but we hope that this will make clear which services are statutory and to what level they should be provided.

As we are in the winter period, please be aware of potential disruption to waste & recycling collections. The council will communicate emergency information via its website/social media.

Summary of my meetings during December:

(03/12/25) SEND School Transport Briefing

(11/12/25) Full Shropshire Council Meeting: [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 11th December, 2025, 10.00 am – Shropshire Council](#)

(16/12/25) Corporate Parent Steering Group

(18/12/25) SYA Leadership

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">Resident communication shared with planning portfolio holder.(03/06/25) Emma Green (<i>Planning Enforcement Leader</i>) has replied directly to a

		<p>resident concern outlining the stages for legal involvement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I will continue to chase. planningenforcement@shropshire.gov.uk can be used to report any breaches of planning. • 05/01/26) I am still chasing updates on this one.
A41 Safety	HIGHWAYS/POLICE: Update on the installation of average speed cameras along the A41.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amey are producing a quote for the work outlined in their highway report (this is T&W lead).
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (09/06/25) I have contacted the case officer regarding the general position of this application having been made aware of community concerns. • (17/07/25) No communication received, concerns raised by the Lib Dem administration over the lack of response from officers. • (01/09/25) Email received from case officer to confirm the current position of this application (updates available on the planning portal). • (21/09/25) Request for this to be called-in to the Northern Planning Committee.
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production Caynton	PLANNING: This is still at 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have held a meeting with residents on site and have formally objected to the proposal on environmental reasons. • I attended an extraordinary PC Meeting with Childs Ercall PC to object. • Continuous communication with the residents.

PARISH COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS

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

Question	Answer / Outcomes
What services are specifically provided by SC across our Parishes?	See above.
Eaton On Tern Solar Farm - Will residents benefit financially?	Officers still investigating. I have had no updates.
How much do we pay for Fix My Street?	Still awaiting a response from the council but the administration have raised concerns with this service so it is on our radar for improvement.
Is there a public consultation on proposed Council Tax Rises?	<p>There was (briefly) an option for members of the public to have their say specifically on potential council tax rises, however this is now been incorporated into a broader 'Have Your Say' survey (above).</p> <p>Any changes to council tax above 4.99% have to be directly negotiated and lead by central government based on a significant number of factors.</p>
How many enforcement officers are employed at Shropshire Council?	Still waiting for a response.