

Public Questions
Council 27 February 2025

Question from Terri Trickett

The recent Shropshire Council budget consultation gave residents two options for general waste collections: both were 3 weekly collections. The Summer months will inevitably result in 'malodorous waste' and likely become a public health problem by attracting vermin, including flies and rats.

Bayston Hill residents' concerns are:

1. As the council no longer offer food waste collections it is estimated that 27% of food waste now goes into general waste;
2. Composting of food waste can be an alternative. Many in rural locations have tried this and it has attracted vermin so is not viable;
3. Families cannot request a larger bin as they do not meet the current criteria, yet 3 weekly collections will make it impossible to manage their general waste;
4. The Environment Act 2021 states that there is a legal requirement for councils to collect food waste weekly by 31st March 2026 and that this ***'...will ensure frequent collections of malodorous waste, and will stop the trend towards 3 or 4 weekly bin collections.'***

Therefore, my question is

1. what safeguards you have taken to respond to residents' concerns, protect the environment and public health by transferring to 3 weekly collections without the necessary weekly food waste collections and how has this been published?
2. Can the council reconsider this matter and at least wait until weekly food waste collections are introduced?
3. Can the criteria for allowing larger black bins be changed to include all families and those disposing waste associated with personal care?

Question from Carolyn Mahy

As part of the Labour government's push to build 1.5 million homes, it has been reported in the press that landowners will be compelled to sell derelict sites, such as shops, car parks and office blocks to local authorities at a "fair price", excluding the so called "hope value" The House of Fraser building is in my view a prime example of a property calling out to be converted into apartments for rental or social housing, right in the town centre, potentially with small retail shops on the ground floor and the housing above. The increased footfall from such a project would be of great benefit to the town centre. Further examples ripe for compulsory purchase and conversion to housing are the former J W Thornton premises and the Sewing Machine Centre at 57 and 58 Wyle Cop, which is one of the main entrances into the town. Their derelict appearance certainly does not give a good first impression to shoppers and visitors.

To the best of my knowledge all these buildings have been empty since at least 2019. At the same time the number of homeless people requiring accommodation is growing. I therefore wish to ask whether the council has any plans for using its extended powers to acquire these properties and put them to good use in the town centre, preferably for conversion to much needed homes? Would government funding be available for such a scheme?

Question from Victoria Moore

I have lived in the Oteley road area for the last 6 years in new build houses on both the Sutton grange estate and the spinney / Oteley gardens.

These, and other new build estates, including Tudor park, galliers and sovereign park, all of which are built along Oteley road, have all suffered from the same issues.

It's been at least 2years or more since developers have left, yet we are all having issues including no football parking signs and wanting permits for match days, issues with street lights and roads and more dog poo bins especially by the quarry walk. All which are being reported on fix my street like we are told to do but aren't being done as they are yet to be adopted, and the developers don't seem to want to know either.

We are all paying full council tax yet we are not getting a service. When will Shropshire council take over adoption of these estates?

Question from Jon Moore

The council recently ran trial to restrict access to Springfield and Mereside areas of Sutton Farm during school drop off and pick up for Mereside school hours.

This ended on the 24th December yet there has been no confirmation regarding whether the scheme will continue and if so, if any changes will be made based on feedback from residents.

Please can the council confirm what the results of the trial were and what the future plans are?

Question from Shauneey Connor

What enforcement measures are in place to prevent illegal pavement parking, which obstructs pedestrian access, including for wheelchair users and parents with prams and are there any plans for stricter enforcement or additional signage to deter this issue?

Question from Frank Oldaker

The total estimated cost of the North West Relief Road is made up of the estimated cost for the Oxon Link section from Churncote to Holyhead Road added to the separate figure for the remainder from Holyhead Road to Battlefield.

Comparing the estimates in 2019 with the current figures it seems extraordinary that the estimated cost of the Oxon Link has increased by a factor of 3.5 whereas that for the remainder has only increased by a factor of 1.8.

Even allowing for design changes this disparity is difficult to understand so can an explanation please be given.

Also since 2019 the risk from extreme weather events has become ever clearer and a significant amount of work would be in the flood prone Severn Valley. Can clarification of the percentage figures used for contingencies please be given both for the high risk work in the flood zone and for the rest of the project