

COUNCIL – 26 FEBRUARY 2026

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Tim Ashton

To ask the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth, if they will make a statement on the Council's progress in **aligning the 2026–2029 Destination Management Plan** with the objective of reviving the 'Grand Tour of England'; and, with reference to the information first presented to this Council in February 2024 regarding William Shakespeare's familiarity with Shropshire, what assessment his department has made of the cultural and economic implications of the recent public research identifying the presence of the relics of **Saint Erkenwald** and the **High Altar stone of Old St Paul's** within the county?

2. Question from Adrian Tacchi

I speak as Chairman of the Sovereign Park Residents Association.

We are very concerned at the lack of progress in Shropshire Council not adopting the roads and sewers at Sovereign Park. We therefore ask what action are you taking against Miller Homes to address the numerous highway and Planning consent breaches, some of which are of a very serious nature, furthermore what process is in place should this Authority need to recover a deficit when a Developer's Bond does not cover outstanding works after they have left the site and why is this Authority allowing Miller Homes to build elsewhere in Shropshire when their previous performance is or should be well known, we feel that Residents are being treated very unfairly by Miller Homes and their Grounds Maintenance Company and call upon Shropshire Council to explain why they appear to allow Miller Homes to flout Planning requirements at the expense of your hard pressed Ratepaying Residents, many of whom have chosen to retire to this beautiful County Town which prides itself with its Floral Displays and Open Spaces when at the same time allowing raw sewage to spew into the roads allegedly caused by the removal of a Sewage Pumping Station which formed part of a Planning Consent, Finally, what action can this Authority take against Miller Homes for not carrying out or not completing the Grounds Works on Sovereign Park in accordance with the Landscaping Plan.

3. Question from David Kilby, Shropshire Playing Fields Association

Shropshire Playing Fields Association note from press reports the decision in January 2026 by Shropshire Council to pause the proposed £28.8m extension to the Shrewsbury Sports Village, which would include two new pools and multiple fitness suite, "pending a review of Shropshire's overall leisure requirements".

SPFA would like to ask why the project needs to cost so much for an eight lane competition size swimming pool, especially given that Shropshire Council already own the land, whilst existing amenities include car-parking, fitness suites, reception area, cafe, grass pitches, a premier league grass pitch, floodlit all weather pitch, climbing wall. children's soft play area, hardcourt tennis and netball courts and national grade floodlit cycle track.

Could Shropshire Council provide a breakdown of how much it would cost if the proposal was simply for a stand-alone purpose built, eight lane competition pool size complex, plus learner pool with appropriate changing room facilities and spectator area?

We note other similar recent projects in the West Midland area costing nearer to £11 million rather than the massive £28.8 million project being suggested, which in our opinion for an extension, seems massively excessive and unsustainable as a debt moving forward, especially given the historical data and evidence relating to the utilisation of the facility in its recent history.

4. Question from John Palmer

Today you are setting your annual budget for 2026/27. Impacted greatly by £39m spent under the Conservatives on the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road project, with nothing to show for it but a monumental budget line problem of a road in the hole.

What the public want to know is exactly who did what, when, how and why?

Is this Council going to stop dillydallying, before the evidence records, and recollections, magically disappear, and announce a fully transparent Inquiry?

5. Question from Andrew Sceats

At Council meetings in 2025 of 17 July and 11 December I asked public questions about the type of accommodation being providing by, and the financing of, the Council's Cornovii Development Limited company. Including remuneration of its directors and costs of accommodation used by the company. I have recently been in correspondence with Councillor James Owen about what is happening. He informed me that the only capital receipts to the Council are through the sale of sites to the company and none through profits from the sale of properties. To date, no capital has been received by the Council for sites- only shares in the company which are 'worthless' as they only have a paper value. I would think that after 5 years operation the undisclosed directors' fees and other related expenditures probably exceed revenue for the Council. If the Council had offered any available sites on the open market to other developers much needed revenue would be have been generated. If Council decides that the Shirehall is demolished and

its valuable site redeveloped the use of an alternative development company to Cornovii should be used to generate much needed funds.

My question is -why was I, and many others, under the false impression that Council receipts from Cornovii Developments were from both the sale of sites (which hasn't happened to date) and also from profits made from the sale of houses provided and have the Directors and staff benefitted more than the Council from the way the company was set up and has been managed?

6. Question from Caroline Price

Given that Shropshire is currently determining major planning applications without an up-to-date adopted Local Plan, what measures will the Council introduce to ensure that development decisions are consistently supported by fully tested infrastructure evidence, including, where developments rely on constrained existing access routes, independent highways review or safety audit prior to determination so that planning decisions remain genuinely planned, evidence-based and sustainable in the long term?