

# May 2026

## OVERVIEW

April has been a month of two halves with the first two weeks fairly quiet due to the Easter Break and then the latter half has been very busy. This month I have been dealing with a significant amount of individual casework across the division.

As the new council tax increase of 8.99% came into force along with precept and police & fire increases, it is important to remind residents that Shropshire Council (and the Government) have a Crisis Reliance Fund and cost of living help. I have included key contact information at the end of this report.

As we mark the end of our first year as the council administration, the Liberal Democrat team have been reflecting on the considerable changes we have made at council. We appreciate that not all decisions are visible and that we have had to make some tough choices, however, with support and encouragement from the LGA and the MHCLG, we are pleased that our Improvement Board are implementing the changes required and that we are already seeing the grass routes of those changes. Our focus for 2026/27 will be on stability and improvement and as part of this, the administration have taken advice from our peers and are making the changes to better scrutinise the council. We have conducted a cabinet reshuffle, not only of people but also the portfolio/scrutiny focus and have created a brand new scrutiny board. On a personal level, I am moving from Children and Education and into Vice Chair of People and Place to work alongside some new officers who are joining the council in the next few months.

As I have outlined previously, a large percentage of the EFS money will be used for staffing capacity at the council, not only to recruit officers but also to strengthen the teams in place.

One of my final responsibilities in portfolio is to support our amazing education team during our current SEND Ofsted Thematic Review. The team received 'the call' on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> which will last for 3 weeks.

As Shropshire Council's political representative at the Rural Services Network, at a meeting this week we were encouraged to hear the RSN is actively lobbying Government about the financial settlement for rural communities. Across the country, rural residents will be receiving 17% less funding than currently with urban residents seeing a 20% increase. This is a gap of 37% in funding. Shropshire Council have been raising this with the MHCLG as part of our EFS discussions and I will continue to support the RSN as part of this lobbying.

Finally I would like to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers across the division who work tirelessly to keep our parishes the wonderful places we love to live in. In April, I once again put on my Hi-Viz jacket at Cheswardine's 2<sup>nd</sup> Classic Car show. This event raised over £2,000 for the parish hall. Thank you to everybody who attended. I am always happy to support our local events so please do ask!

The latest cabinet meeting was held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=130&MId=5250&Ver=4>

### Summary of my meetings during March:

(12/04/26) Lib Dem Internal Meeting

(15/04/26) Joint Portfolio Meeting | Children & Education and Adult & Children Social Care

(24/04/26) SEND Portfolio Ofsted Update

(27/04/26) SPARSE Meeting | RSN

(29/04/26) Lib Dem | AGM

## 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"><li></li></ul>
Speed Testing / Signage   Childs Ercall	PCC John Campion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NB to liaise with highways engineer Harry Guest regarding SatNav issue and discuss Newport rd/Eaton rd junction.</li><li>28/04/26 CEPC have completed the grant application, NB to forward to the PCC.</li></ul>
23/03138/FUL Mixed 28 Residential Dwellings   Childs Ercall	PLANNING: This has gone to 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(23/03/26) I have emailed Andrew Huntley (new case officer) to ask for an update - awaiting response.</li></ul>
25/03608/FUL Chicken Egg Production   Caynton	PLANNING: This is still at 'recommendations/committee'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meeting with the local action group and residents in early May to discuss strategy for potential committee hearing.</li></ul>
Land Ownership   Glebe Close, Cheswardine	Overgrown piece of land between Glebe Close and the School.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Met with resident onsite to discuss the concerns.</li><li>Raised with the Headteacher of the school who confirmed with the deeds that the land doesn't belong to the school.</li><li>Liaised with land registry who confirmed that the land of part of the school 125yr lease and are investigating why this wasn't transferred as part of the academisation process.</li><li>NB updated residents and school and will pursue.</li></ul>
26/01212/FUL   25 dwellings   Childs Ercall	Proposal of 25 dwellings just off Eaton Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Listened to the views of many residents at the CEPC.</li><li>NB: written a formal letter of objection to the case officer and completed a 'call-in' form.</li></ul>
Dodecote Drive   Childs Ercall	HIGHWAYS: ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Highways have instructed a technician to visit the road and to address current potholes.</li></ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li></li></ul>

## 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 road signs cost and can a parish move hidden road signs (overgrown hedges etc) to better locations?	(29/04/26) NB to email Harry Guest.

Why was an enforcement restriction put in place in Childs Erroll if the council had no option to enforce?	Internal enquiry started, waiting response.
Is there still an environmental maintenance grant? How much?	Yes - up to £1,000 per parish.
A41 Speed Camera Update	Deputy PCC Tracey Onslow to chase with PCC John Campion.

## CRISIS RESILIENCE FUND

For more information please visit the council's cost of living webpages - [Cost of living help | Shropshire Council](#).

For those who are in urgent need of financial support (*whether that be heating oil, other energy costs or wider support*), our existing welfare support routes remain available and open, and can be accessed through the following phone number and email:

0345 678 9078 (and select option 2) between the following times:

- 8.45am and 5pm on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
- Or between 10am and 5pm on a Wednesday, to make an application

or via [localsupport@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:localsupport@shropshire.gov.uk)

Also ask Shropshire Local Teams or visit our Community and Family Hubs. The finance resilience fund for 2026-29 currently stands at £4.4m and is broken distributed across various departments and services.