

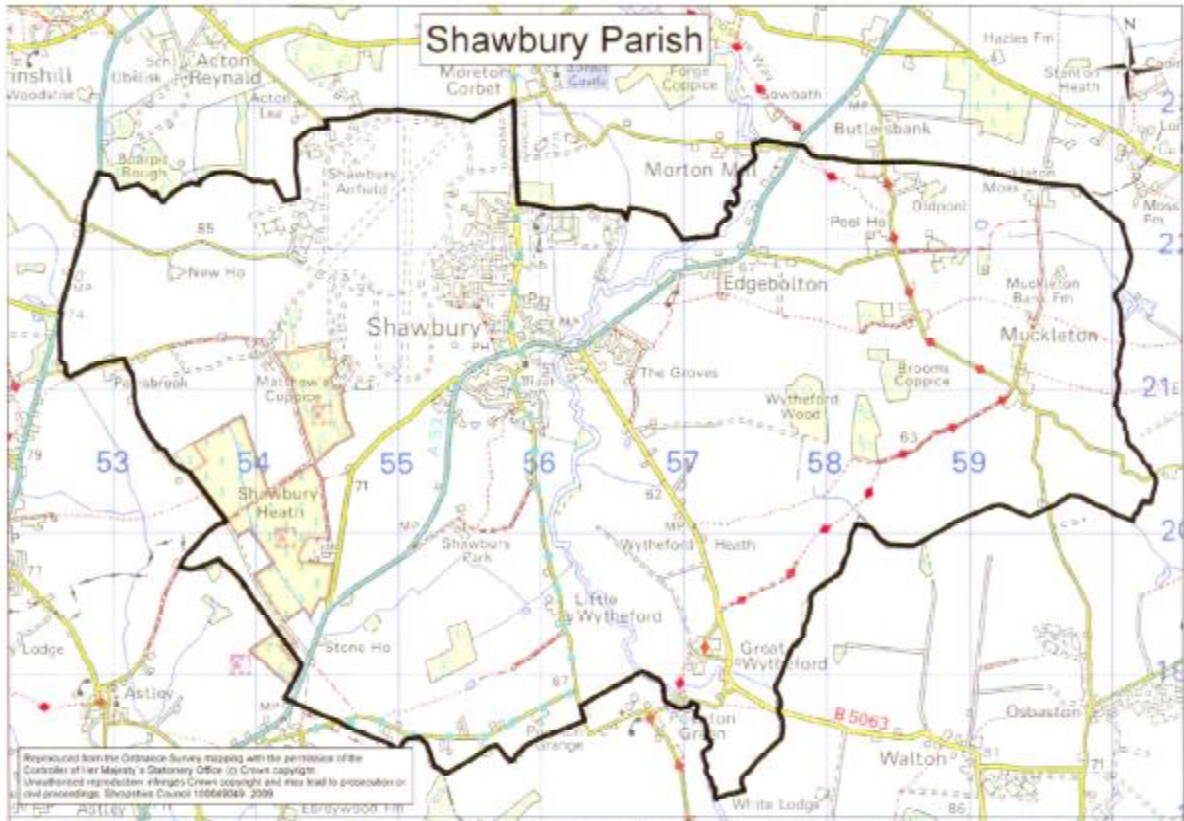


# SHAWBURY PARISH PLAN



Our views of the parish and our hopes for the future

Published January 2010



Special thanks to those who have financially contributed and/or supported the development of a Parish Plan for the Parish of Shawbury



SUPPORTING PEOPLE  
ACHIEVING CHANGE



# SHAWBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

A government initiative to consult within parishes was presented to the Parish Council in July 2007, which threw down the challenge to find out what the residents of the Parish really wanted for the future.

Since then we have, as the Parish Plan Steering Group, sought the views of our parishioners. This has taken us to the outer reaches of the Parish, into schools with state of the art electronic voting, onto the streets and into homes. We have been well received and residents have welcomed our lead.

The questionnaire achieved a 60% return rate, largely because it was personally delivered and in most cases personally collected. Pat yourselves on the back Shawbury, this was one of the highest return rates in the county.

Collation and prioritisation of the enormous amounts of data gathered has taken some time, with often robust discussions at our meetings!

Now the task is completed it is not the end, merely the beginning as the Parish Council, our partners on Shropshire Council and the Police have much work to do. Several suggestions are already underway, including youth equipment and activities. The bonfire returned, walking groups have started and Shawbury now has an angling club.

The highest priority from all age groups and certainly the most challenging was to reduce the reality and fear of anti-social behaviour. Much work has been done, often unseen, by the Police and Parish Council in trying to tackle this. There is still a lot to do and only time will tell if the efforts have been successful.

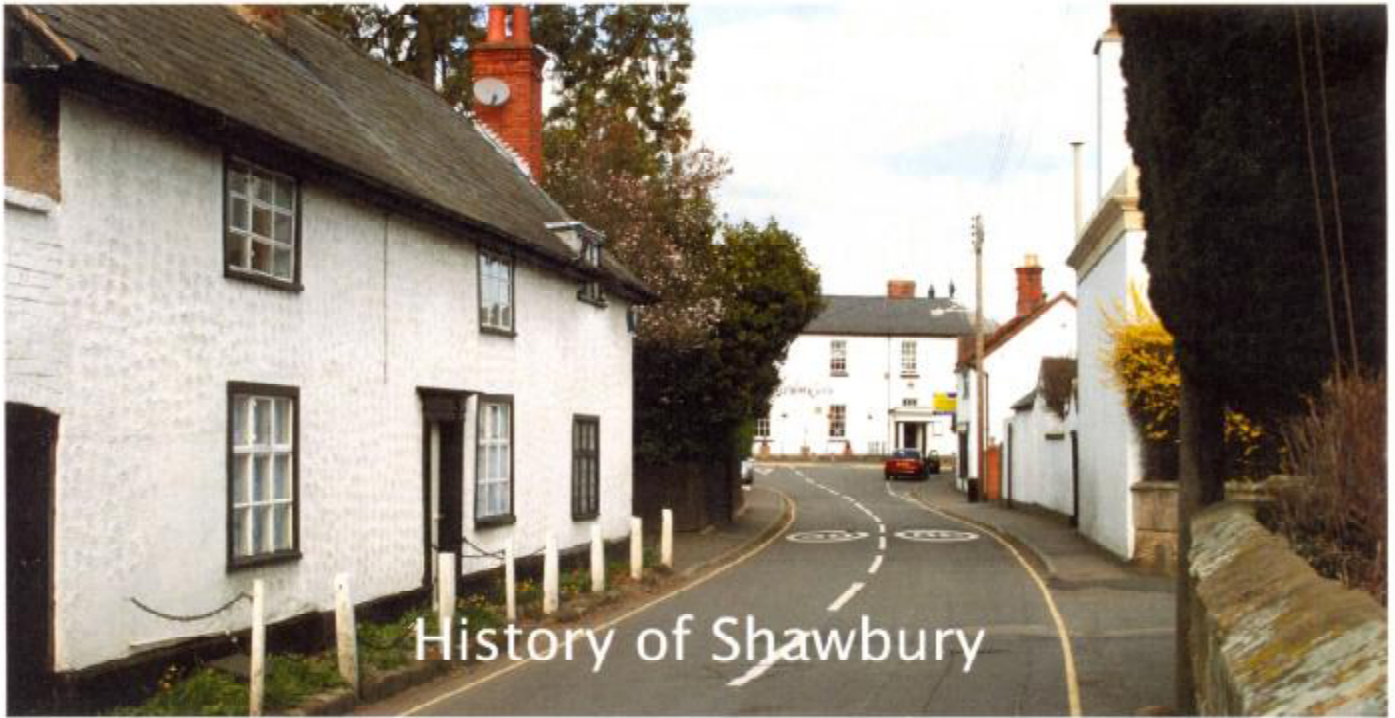
The members of the Group have been tireless in their work at endless meetings and I thank them for their ideas, encouragement, endurance and good humour.

I am particularly grateful to fellow Councillor Adrian Brown who has been secretary/ co-ordinator and my right hand man on the Group, without his computer skills the project may never have reached fruition.

It has been a great privilege to lead the Parish Plan Steering Group from its inception to the final document and I look forward to the future of Shawbury with much enthusiasm.

Richard Bailey

Chairman of the Shawbury Parish Plan Steering Group



Shawbury can trace its roots back to Saxon times when Edric and Elict held the area. "Sawesberie" means fort in the wood (bury meaning fort) or an area more fortified than



one would expect. Thus the Moat surrounded a fortified dwelling. This would have been an ideal place to set up such a dwelling with the natural spring line providing fresh water.

The Roman road came from Virconium (Wroxeter), past the Moat area and what are now The Glebelands and the playing fields onto the Wem Road and across the fields towards Whitchurch.

By the time of the Domesday entry in 1086, Gerard held Sawesberie, with the De Sawesberie family living in and ruling the area, which consisted of

*"arable land for V111 ox team"*

*"In demesne (meaning landed property or dwellings) there is one team and two serfs, 1 church, 1 priest and 1 mill"*

The Saxon "fort" was replaced by a wooden Manor House, and although nothing of it survives today, it probably looked something like the Manor house which has survived at Brockhampton.



The Saxon church was replaced by a Norman stone building and was important as the mother church to the smaller churches in the nearby villages and would have been the centre of village life.

In the 13th Century the Erdington family held a grant of Free Warrant in Shawbury. Henry de Erdington (son of Giles) leased his mill at Shawbury to Robert de Stanton. Later this mill forms part of a gift to the church of St. Mary to sustain a chaplain.

*1. Henry de Erdintone*

*2 God and St. Mary of Shawbury of land for a chaplain at Shawbury*



*"1 grants to 2 for the sustentation of one chaplain to celebrate divine office in the church of St. Mary of Shawbury in free pure and perpetual --- for the health of my soul, those of my ancestors and heirs, that messuage which Robert the miller nicknamed 'Cergan' holds from 1 in the town of Shawbury. Together with one virgate of land in fields of Shawbury, namely 16 acres. 7 acres of land in fields towards Morton Toret above 'Crokeforlang' and 9 acres*

*between the land of Cherleton, the Abbot of Lilleshall, and Cressewallebroke with the field springs of water which the said plain contains.*

*Witnesses John of Ercall, knight, John son of Aer, Robert Corbet of Morton Toret, knights, Adam vicar of Shawbury, Reyner of Acton and others.*

*Endorsed 'a gyfte of landes by Sir Henry Erdington to the chappell of Shawbury viz a messuage meadowe and a yard land contayninge xvi acres in every field (in total) and without date for a chantry priest in Shawbury Church.'*

Mills formed an important part of the local life and economy. There is evidence that there were at least two mills in Shawbury plus one at "Edgeboulton", one at Moreton Mill and one or possibly two in Wytheford.

The Church and the Moat are all that really remain of ancient Shawbury, the Moat now is an English Heritage Scheduled Monument. The Civil War largely bypassed the village. Skirmishes occurred in the surrounding



area but Shawbury remained intact. A garrison of men were, however, stationed next to the church (the church being a safe, sturdy building to hide in and from which the surrounding area could be viewed). The church records show that in 1647 £1 was paid

*"Repayring the clocke being spoyled by ye garrison"*

And 10 shillings was paid

*"Fillinge uppe the trenche that the garrison had caste uppe about the Churche"*

The latter might account for the lumps and bumps now visible at the church end of the playing field.

Education came to Shawbury originally as two Dame schools. In May 1872 Shawbury National School opened.

The "old school house", now private dwellings, still remains at the bottom of the Mytton estate.



Education ended for many pupils as they reached the ages of 11 or 12, when they were old enough to go into service or work on the land. The privileged few were able to continue their higher education.

From the census returns it can be seen that all the usual trades for a rural area existed in the village. In 1841 Thomas Smith, 45, in Edgebolton was a Blacksmith, Thomas Powell, 15, a Miller. In Muckleton Henry Lawley, 35, was also a Blacksmith. In Shawbury, Richard Bayley, 20, was a Shoemaker and in Wytheford Richard Rolph, 25, a Mason. In 1881 Richard Rayner and his wife ran the Elephant and Castle and Margaret Bayley was the publican at the Fox and Hounds. Henry Madeley, 53, was a farmer, Henry Foulkes, 38, a Blacksmith, Samuel Cartwright, a Master Saddler and William Leighton, 38, was a Shepherd. In 1901 John Friend was the Postmaster and had been for at least 20 years (he was also a church warden).

Today Shawbury is synonymous with the helicopter training school on the RAF Base. Shawbury is an expanding village, yet many of the families, in and around the Parish, can trace their roots back many hundreds of years.

Acknowledgements:

*'Shawbury, the village and its people'* Evelyn Lea,

*'Victorian and Edwardian Shropshire'* Urszula Rayska

Shropshire Archives