

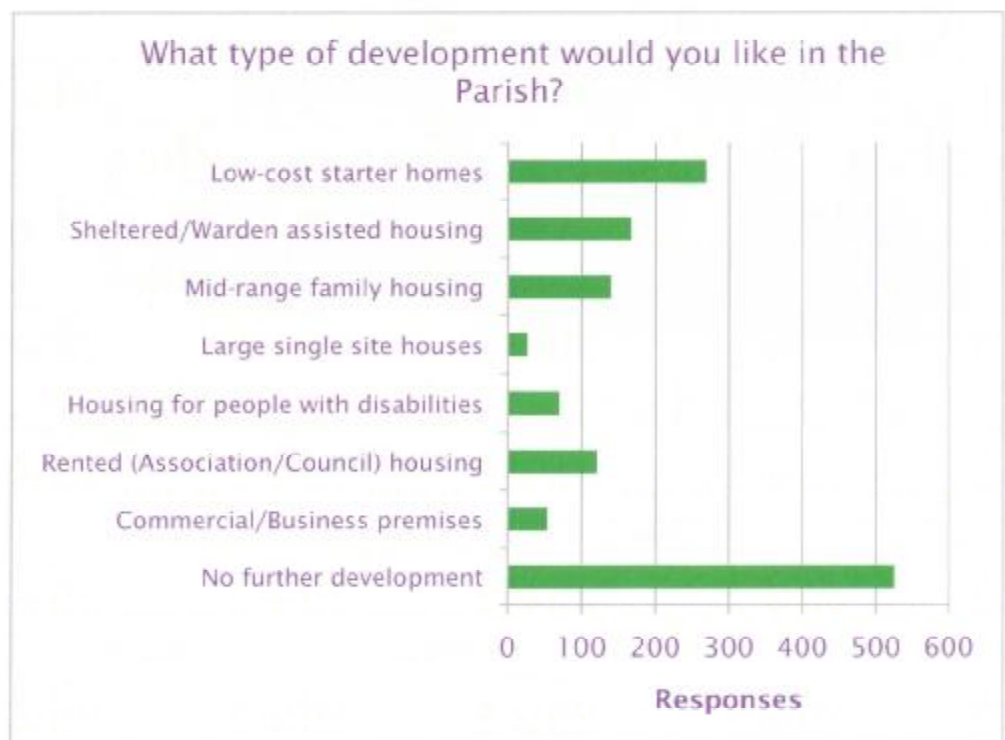


Environment

Housing/development

At the time of the 2001 Census 2,828 people lived in households (92.90%) and 51 people lived in communal establishments. 5.23% of households were lone parents. There were 1,148 households, 41 of which had vacant household status. Owner-occupied properties accounted for 59.32%, whereas for the County it was significantly higher at 69.31%.

The PPQ asked about development in the parish. The results showed that 38.2% didn't want any further housing development, but of those that did, 19.6% favoured low-cost starter homes. Although many respondents do not want any further housing in the area,



it is possible that more development could take place. More development need not be disadvantageous if it meets the requirements of the Parish, is well sited and of good design.

The Parish Council should endeavour to influence the local authority (Shropshire Council) when any new development plan is being prepared so that it meets, as far as possible, the housing needs identified through the PPQ. The current North Shropshire Local Plan runs until 2011, as such the Parish Council should work actively with Shropshire Council's Planners to identify areas and agree housing needs for the Parish. A development strategy "Parish Design Statement" could be produced by the Parish Council to aid this process.

Planning policies



Planning control for housing is the responsibility of the local authority, which is required to consult with the Parish Council and directly affected residents when considering planning applications, which are judged against criteria set out in the local authority's

local plans. The Parish Council's role when commenting on planning applications is only advisory, but any comments are always taken into consideration. There is a defined village envelope, which limits the area for development and precludes housing development outside the boundary.

Consideration might be given to the Parish Council selecting a team to produce a Village Design Statement, which would hopefully be accepted by Shropshire Council as a Supplementary Planning Guide. This would be a simple document describing the quality and characteristics that local people value in their Parish, stating that the development should blend in with the existing properties, is of a scale appropriate to meet the needs of the village, be contained within the existing village envelope and include provision for limited affordable housing. Notwithstanding that, the introduction of a by-pass to relieve the village from traffic might require a more flexible approach to be taken with regards to future development.

Litter and dog fouling

We all want a clean, safe and green environment. For many, the quality of the environment is defined by the amount of litter in evidence. When asked in the PPQ, 62.2% felt that litter/rubbish was a problem in Shawbury. The most commonly found items of litter in Shawbury are tin cans, bottles and take-away packaging.

Shropshire Council is the local authority with the legal responsibility to keep streets clear of litter and refuse. The Parish Council has also, for a number of years, employed a local person for the collection of litter in the middle of Shawbury village. The public of course, have a legal obligation not to drop litter and if caught, can be fined. Businesses, such as those serving take-away food, can be served notice to keep the area around their premises free from litter.



Clearing litter is an effective way of improving the appearance of an area and discouraging further littering. A number of "litter picks" have been instigated over the last couple of years. Indeed, following the electronic voting pod survey, one school decided to carry

out its own litter pick. From the survey of under 11 year olds undertaken at schools, a significant number felt that Shawbury wasn't clean and tidy.

There is the occasional instance of fly-tipping reported in the Parish - most notably along the country lane behind RAPRA. If you see this, please report the details to the local authority.



Whilst a certain amount of litter might be blamed on the wind or passing traffic, it is not possible to blame such elements for dog fouling. The issue of dog fouling was mentioned regularly in the responses noted in the PPQ. When we asked if you suffer from any disturbance, 45.0% of respondents said dog fouling. Many dog owners in

Shawbury behave responsibly and clear up after their pets. It is hoped that those who do not yet do so can be persuaded rather than prosecuted.

Dog fouling has potential health implications. There are a number of areas where dog fouling is a problem the most notable being the Recreation Ground where there are children/young people. So what can we do to stop it? If you see an offence, report it to the local authority and provide them with details of the name/address of the person in charge of the dog, description of the dog and the date/time/location of the offence.

If the fouling takes place at regular times, it may be possible for dog wardens to witness the fouling and warn the offender before taking legal action. We will also ask that a review be undertaken to ascertain whether further legal notices are required in some areas.



Nearly two-thirds felt that litter was a problem in the Parish. Its importance to the community was reaffirmed, as it was the fourth worst feature in the Parish and was ranked joint eighth on the list of the main priorities in the Parish. Nearly 40% of retail businesses felt they were adversely affected by litter and dog fouling. Both these issues have been included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Public rights of way/circular walks



Shropshire Council has a duty to protect the rights of way network. However the responsibility for ensuring the paths are safe and convenient for public use is shared between a number of others, including the landholders and users.

A staggering 61.7% of people said they used public rights of way. Clearly most people in the Parish enjoy walking in the local countryside, with its obvious health benefits. When asked if they encountered difficulties using the public rights of way, 17.3% said they had and mentioned a number of locations and referred to overgrown areas/hedges, inadequate signage, dog mess, blocked/badly maintained routes, wheelchair/disabled access etc. Some respondents may have confused public rights of way with footways (pavements).

At the time of PPQ, consultations were progressing between the Parish Council and Shropshire Council about the Parish Paths Partnership (P3). However, since then, a Shawbury P3 Group has been set up within the Parish to help with the identification of problems and carrying out minor maintenance work to public rights of way. Indeed, the P3 Group is checking routes in the Parish and Shropshire Council's Countryside Access is to replace the old footpath plan displayed on the wall of the butchers shop on Church Street.



When undertaking our initial surveys it was apparent that a number of people liked walking and felt the Parish would benefit from circular walks, one example given was the provision of a footpath along part of Wytheford Road (a class 'B' road) to create a safe circular route for walkers. The PPQ therefore posed the question of more circular walks; the response from the community was high with 73.0% saying they would like to see such routes provided.

Given the response to footpaths/circular walks, the results have been forwarded to Shropshire Council's Countryside Access and will be included in the Parish Plan Action List.

Landscaping

The PPSG in preparing the PPQ felt that there were opportunities to improve the landscape particularly within the urban area of the Parish; the PPQ therefore sought the views of landscaping (trees, planting of shrubs, etc). The community's response to this was high with 73.4% in favour. Some of the responses received suggested that businesses be encouraged to 'pretty-up' their premises with flowers and/or hanging baskets. Also mentioned was the introduction of flower beds.



Softening the landscape is not only pleasing to the eye but also sends out a very positive message creating an identity, a sense of community and drawing people together to encourage a sense of pride. The Parish could also hold flower displays, best hanging basket competitions or even enter the best kept village.

When consulting the Parish Council on the outline action, they felt that landscaping and seating within the Parish needed to be looked at together. It has therefore been included in the Parish Plan Action List. As a first step of the ongoing process the Council has introduced raised planters on the A53 at the entry points to Shawbury village.

Flooding



The River Roden, which runs through the centre of the Parish, is prone to breaching its banks during prolonged wet weather. This can result in dramatic flooding of adjacent fields. The Environment Agency flood map indicates that properties around Beech Grove and the north side of Drayton Road in Shawbury and Moreton Mill could be susceptible to flooding. Development on the flood plain of the River Roden should be avoided.

As mentioned previously in the "Highways" Section, there are problems with localised flooding of Church Street (by the Village Hall) and the A53 Drayton Road (by River Gardens). These issues need to be addressed by improvements to the highway drainage system.

Shawbury Moat

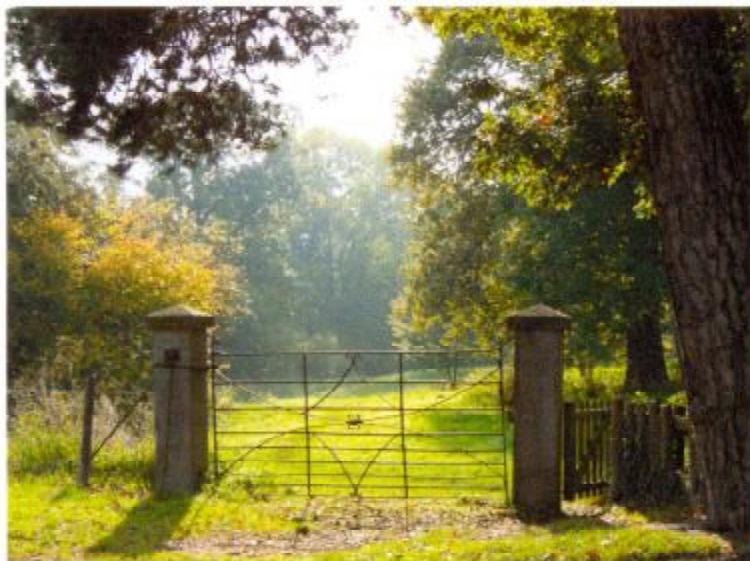


As with the Recreation Ground, the Moat and the surrounding field are leased by the Parish Council from the Diocese of Lichfield. The Moat itself is thought to date from the 13th century and is listed as a Scheduled Monument by English Heritage.

The North Shropshire Local Plan 2000-2011 states that the “presumption in favour of the preservation of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important monuments, and development which would adversely affect their site or setting will not be permitted” but in exceptional cases “when development is permitted and preservation in-situ is not merited, the District Council will require satisfactory provision to be made for excavation and recording”. One can therefore conclude that, as the Moat is one of the best examples in Shropshire, any development at the site or setting would not be supported by the local authority (now Shropshire Council).

The PPQ sought to advise the community of the improvements being proposed by the Shawbury Moat Project Group, such as improved access (pathways and steps), picnic area (benches/tables), seating, creating a meadow, introducing more wild plants and nest boxes for wildlife, historical information boards and information boards on wildlife. All of these, together with research and a geophysical survey of the area, have been discussed with the Heritage Lottery Fund, and will be the subject of a grant application for funding.

From the feedback we received, the main response was to make it vandal proof, although seating, a park for children, better walkways and a riverside walk were amongst a number of



other suggestions. This information has been forwarded to the Shawbury Moat Project Group and has also been placed in the Parish Plan Action List.

Don't forget to get involved with the ongoing Moat tidy-ups that start at 9am on the first Saturday of every month! Even coming along to help pick up litter for half an hour helps keep the area looking good.

Public open space and Glebelands



The land known as the Glebelands (the area surrounded by the Moat field, River Roden and the Glebelands housing estate) is owned by the Diocese of Lichfield and is not leased to the Parish Council. This area is used by a number of local residents for leisure walks and by dog walkers. Due to its lack of maintenance, it is an ideal natural habitat for the local wildlife.

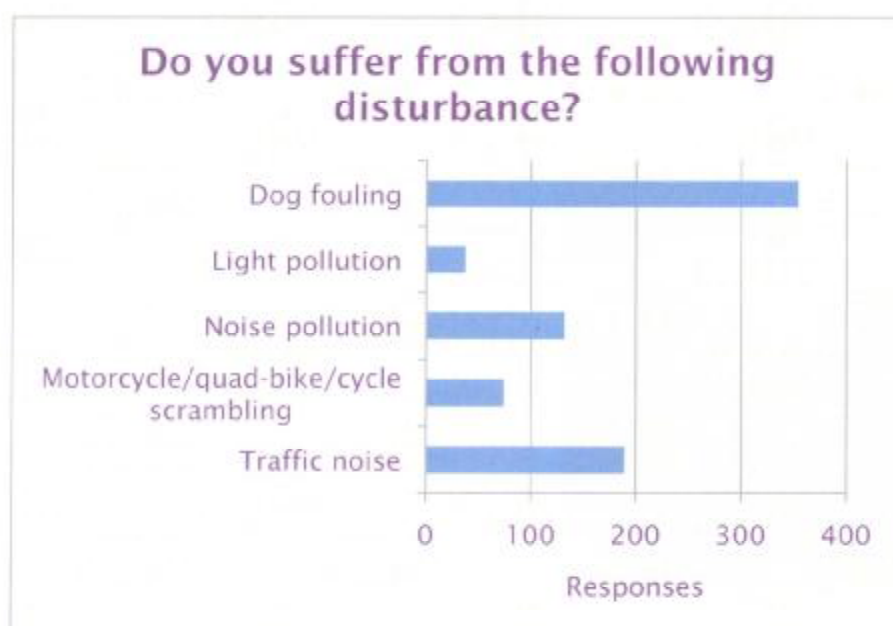
This area is designated under the North Shropshire Local Plan 2000-

2011, with the District Council stating that "it will use its planning powers to protect existing recreational areas, including school playing fields, from development for non-recreational use and will not allow such development unless alternative recreation provision is made which is equivalent or better", and that "planning permission will not be granted for development which would adversely affect the open character or amenity value of those areas defined by virtue of their important contribution to the town or village setting".



The PPQ asked the community if the Moat and Recreation Ground should always remain as public open space - 98.9% said it should. As regards the Glebelands being obtained and maintained for public use, 90.0% were positive to this proposition. Given the significant number of responses received, it was considered appropriate to incorporate this into the Parish Plan Action List.

Disturbance



When we asked the community if they suffered from any particular disturbance, 45.0% of those responding referred to dog fouling, a subject that has already been discussed. Traffic noise accounted for 24.1% of the remaining responses. With regards to traffic noise, one can imagine there will be some noise if

you live in close proximity to the main road. This can be exacerbated by the noise generated by heavy goods vehicles, vehicles (including motorcycles) exceeding the speed limit, night time conditions when noise travels or if the wind is in the wrong direction. Enforcement of the speed limit and/or electronic speed indicator signs may help.

Refuse, recycling and composting

The majority of residents in Shropshire have alternate weekly collections, using separate wheeled bins for general refuse/garden waste, and boxes for recyclable materials – paper, cans/foil, and glass bottles/jars.

In response to the comments received during our initial surveys of the community, we asked residents in the PPQ if they would like to have household waste collected weekly (61.1% said they would); and have green waste collected more frequently during the summer (61.9% said yes).



Under alternate weekly collections, recyclable items are collected from households one week and general refuse the next week. Waste is still collected every week, so residents do not get a reduced service. It has also been found that alternate weekly collections can improve rates of recycling as it encourages residents to recycle more.

There is a household recycling centre at the Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury that can recycle up to 20 different types of waste.

The PPSG informed Shropshire Waste Partnership (Shropshire Council) of these results and also asked about the collection of plastic. They advised that a weekly household waste collection was likely to impact on the Council Tax, which would no doubt reduce the slight majority wishing to have this facility. It was anticipated that a plastic bottle collection from the kerbside in Shawbury is likely to start in late 2010. They advised that there were no plans to increase garden waste collection, but residents can obtain subsidised composting bins.

As regards local recycling points in Shawbury, the PPSG has been successful in having the recycling point reinstated in the Elephant & Castle PH car park, where you can dispose of glass, paper and tins/cans.

Composting is the most effective and environmentally-friendly way of recycling green (organic) rubbish. Making compost will not only reduce our reliance on land filling rubbish, but it can help your garden, the environment and can save you money. It provides a free soil conditioner, which should improve plant health and growth. Using compost will also reduce our reliance on toxic chemicals and pesticides.

Conservation area/listed buildings

There are no designated conservation areas within the Parish of Shawbury, although there are a number of listed buildings. A number of comments were received in the PPQ about the poor architecture/unattractive shops in the centre of the village and how they detract from the village scene. Whilst it may be too late to address this, it is suggested that any future development complements the older buildings in the village centre, whilst at the same time appreciating the need for access and functionality.



Natural environment



There are no sites of Special Scientific Interest within the Parish although there are a number of areas of woodland such as Shawbury Heath, Matthew's Coppice, Wytheford Wood and Brooms Coppice.

The flood plain meadow is a small pocket of now very rare unimproved grassland, rich in plant species, water fowl and other birds and mammals, such as water voles, shrews and stoats. It also provides a hunting ground for owls and bats.

Some ponds are naturally occurring, whilst others are formed by digging out the underlying clay (called "marl"), which was widely used as a soil improver before chemical fertilisers. Many of these ponds have disappeared through development, but they remain a significant feature of the landscape and support a variety of flora and fauna worthy of conservation and enhancement. The "Shropshire Pond Project" is in the process of recording the details of ponds throughout this Parish and Shropshire.





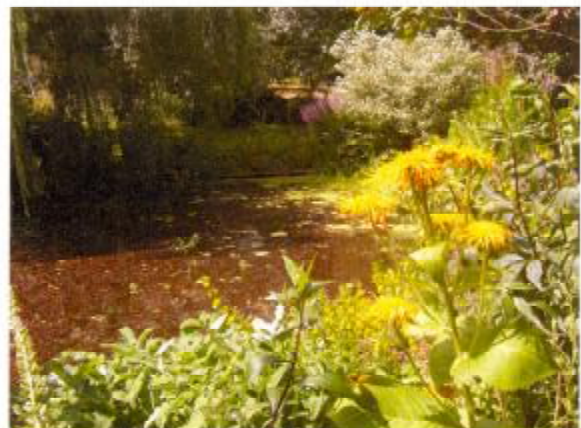
People in Shawbury undoubtedly value the adjacent countryside and its many trees. This is borne out by those that walk the area and the response we had to landscaping. There are a number of trees in the Parish that are protected by Tree Preservation Orders, most notably on the Moat field where we have a rare black poplar. Some trees around the Moat are at least 600 years old.

Some hedgerows are in fact very old boundaries dating back perhaps hundreds of years. In general, the older the hedgerow, the greater the number of species it supports and its importance for wildlife. Hedgerows can be threatened by both housing development and agricultural activity. Neither hedges nor trees should be cut during the birds' nesting season (1 March to 31 July).



Farmers and rural workers play a vital role in the sympathetic use of farm buildings, new ways of generating income from the land and protecting and maintaining the environment.

Gardens in the Parish of Shawbury can also provide refuges for species under threat in the wider countryside. Garden flowers, trees and shrubs provide food and shelter for butterflies, moths, birds and bats, whilst garden ponds provide an ideal habitat for frogs, toads and newts. Walls and rockeries are good places for reptiles and small mammals. Allowing a few logs to rot down naturally will also provide food and shelter for an amazing range of species, including beetles and bugs. This garden biodiversity is of great importance and can be a vital link in preserving elements of the natural environment for future generations.



Community priorities

The community identified Shawbury Parish's best feature as the local facilities/shops with the church second. The close knit/sense of community, friendly/helpful, community spirit, pride and people was third with the Village Hall and Post Office fourth and fifth respectively. The worst features were the vandalism/graffiti/criminal damage (mostly to the Village Hall). Second were the railings around the Village Hall, with gangs of youths congregating/hanging around third and litter fourth.

The main priorities for the Parish	
1st	More police/more police presence
2nd	Stop/address vandals/vandalism
3rd	Shawbury by-pass
4th	Pedestrian crossing/crossing at village shops
5th (joint)	Play area for young children and action against anti-social behaviour
7th	Youth club with facilities
8th (joint)	Facilities for the youth, somewhere organised for youth/children to meet (youth group)/have activities and litter
11th	Find something for youth/teenagers to do
12th	HGV's/traffic speed/speeding traffic in/through village
13th	CCTV
14th	Keep Post Office
15th (joint)	Children's play area/park, family orientated activities/social events to bring youth/families into community/neighbours together, equipment/facilities on playing field, redevelop Fox & Hounds and dog mess
	etc.....