

Background

Wem Jubilee Square is owned by Shropshire Council. However, there is an informal agreement that allows the Town Council to manage bookings for the square.

The Town Council has long recognised the need to make the square a more attractive and central feature for the town. Over the years, the Town Council has been given permission to place benches, floral planters, and other items on the square to make it more welcoming. In 2025, the Council also agreed to fund the planting of a new tree by the bus stop to replace the one that died.

However it has always been difficult to get Shropshire Council to carry out maintenance on the square.

Bollards



A series of bollards are installed on the square to prevent vehicles from driving onto it. Four of these are retractable. One bollard has been stuck in the down position for some time and another was damaged after being hit by a vehicle in Spring 2024.

This issue has been reported to Shropshire Council repeatedly as a major concern. Large delivery vehicles (HGVs) now regularly drive onto the square, and over the weekend of 18 October, two caravans and several vehicles were parked there for two days.

There has been no indication from Shropshire Council as to when repairs will take place. If similar incidents occur again, they could disrupt the weekly market or the Christmas Festival.

The estimated costs for replacement are as follows:

- Replacement of both retractable bollards: estimated cost of **£800** plus installation of **£360**. Total **£1160**
- Replacement of only the bollard stuck in the down position: **£625**.

Options for Consideration

As the site would benefit from being made secure asap from a safety and environmental health perspective, the Town Council is asked to consider the following options:

1. Fund the repair work from the Town Improvement Budget (£5,000).
2. Continue to press Shropshire Council to carry out the necessary repairs.
3. Town Council offers to fund the repair work in exchange for Shropshire Council permitting free car parking on the main square every Saturday from 12:00 noon, between 29 November 2025 and 22 November 2026. Based on last year's figures, the estimated loss of car parking revenue to Shropshire Council would be £320. It should be noted that a quick response to this suggestion may not be possible.