

Present:- Councillor E Towers (Mayor) Councillors P Broomhall, P Dee, R Dodd, P Glover, C Granger, M Meakin, C Mellings, P Moyses. Mrs P O'Hagan (Town Clerk)

1 Member of the public present

- 1 **Apologies** - To receive any apologies and reasons for absence.

RESOLVED:- to receive the following apologies for absence

Cllr Murray, Cllr Shingler, Cllr Johnson, Cllr White

Absent

Cllr Nash

- 2 **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.

Councillor	Item	Dispensation
Cllr Mellings, Cllr Dee	Twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council	Dispensation to allow participation and voting on all matters relating to Shropshire Council

b) To consider any applications for dispensation – none received.

- 3 **Minutes – to approve the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 6.11.17**

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the Planning and Transport Committee meeting held on 6th November 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

- 4 **Local Plan Review Survey – to consider results of the survey and agree the Town Council's response to the following**

1. Shropshire Council's Preferred Options for the amount of development in the county between 2016 and 2036

The Clerk reported that the survey of all residents undertaken by the Town Council had resulted in 489 surveys being returned which was a response rate of 18%. The results of Question 1 and 2 of the survey on the Local Plan Review were considered and it was,

RESOLVED:- to submit the following comments to Shropshire Council's consultation on the Preferred Scale and Distribution of Development

Questions 3 and 4 Level Of Future Growth

Wem Town Council does not agree with the preferred housing requirement proposed for Shropshire of 28750. The Town Council would prefer to see moderate

growth in the county (as stated in the Town Council's comments submitted in response to the Strategic Issues and Options Consultation).

The reason behind this preferred housing requirement is that the Town Council does not consider the infrastructure is in place across the county to support the high levels of proposed development.

The Town Council does not agree with the preferred employment land requirement proposed for Shropshire of 305 hectares. The Town Council considers that there is a need for economic high growth to create a diverse economy. High growth will prevent the decline of the market towns as it is important that smaller towns are able to offer new employment opportunities that will decrease the migration of skills out of communities and attract into the towns a skilled workforce which will help build the economy of the town from within.

Question 5 Distribution of Growth

The Town Council agrees that the spatial distribution of the proposed housing and employment requirements should have an urban focus.

Question 6 – Key Centre Comments

Wem Housing Development Proposals

As stated previously the Town Council wishes to see moderate housing growth in the town and the Town Council does not agree with the proposal to build an additional 252 dwellings on new housing sites in the town. The Town Council would only support the building of less than 250 dwellings up to 2036. This figure is based on a recent survey of all residents undertaken by the Town Council in December 2017. The results of the survey showed that the majority of respondents wished to see less than 250 dwellings built in the town. However respondents overwhelmingly supported the concept of more development in the town if the local infrastructure was improved prior to any future additional allocations.

Councillors would welcome further discussions with Shropshire Council at the earliest opportunity to discuss how the critical infrastructure requirements for the town identified in the Local Plan Review can be implemented prior to any future allocations.

Economic Development

The Town Council supports the proposal for an additional 2 hectares of employment land to be identified in the Town. This finding is based on a recent survey of all residents undertaken by the Town Council in December 2017, the results of the survey showed that the majority of respondents supported the allocation of an additional 2 hectares for employment land in the town.

Question 12

The Town Council is concerned about development in the rural areas especially close to the Urban Parish borders. As has been seen from previous developments e.g Round Meadow, in Wem Rural Parish, these developments bring no benefit to the town in the form of infrastructure levy payments however the building of these dwellings places further pressure on the town's infrastructure e.g. schools,

highways, health services. Therefore Shropshire Council should be mindful of this when considering housing allocations in parishes neighbouring Wem Town.

The Town Council is also aware that the 281 dwellings that have not yet been built in the town may not have been built due to the existing problems with infrastructure in the town. This provides further evidence as to the fact there is no capacity for additional houses until the infrastructure of the town is improved.

The Annual Review of the Place Plan Priorities for Wem

The results of question 3 of the recent survey were considered along with the suggestions for additional infrastructure priorities and it was,

RESOLVED:- to add the following place plan priorities

Improvements to bus and train services into and out of Wem. Including extension of the Town bus route to include the newer estates in the North East of the Town – Priority

Town Centre regeneration - Critical

FURTHER RESOLVED:- To reclassify the following place priorities as critical priorities

- **Level crossing and footbridge improvements**
- **Highway improvements**

- 5 **Relief Road** – To consider results of the Town Survey and to discuss whether the Town Council continue to support the need for a relief road to address traffic issues in the town of Wem.

The results of the survey identified that the respondents supported the need for a relief road.

RESOLVED:- To meet with Owen Paterson in January 2018 in order to present the results of the survey and urge him to support the campaign at a national level for funding for a relief road in Wem.

- 6 **Survey comments** – to consider mechanism for addressing written comments made relating to traffic and infrastructure issues in the town as part of the survey.

A discussion took place on the best group to progress the suggestions for traffic issues. Due to the fact that Wem Economic Forum Traffic Group were planning to start a consultation process on Highways Issues in the Town it was

RESOLVED:- to share the comments with Wem Economic Forum Traffic Group so they can be fed into the planned consultation.

Thanks were recorded for the staff team for the work they did in a short period of time to collate the survey data.

Meeting ended 19.45

Chairman.....