

Councillors & staff are being asked make sure the electoral register is up to date and accurate by completing the annual canvass. Residents across the county are currently receiving communications from SC and voters are being asked to complete their registration process. Many people will receive this request, including a unique two-part security code, via email, and others by post. You can update your details online, or via other routes such as text or phone.

Shropshire Council's Free Tree Scheme is now open - applications are invited to plant trees and short sections of hedging, and to create small areas of woodland in Shropshire. This year the scheme can also supply (free of charge) some larger, feathered trees (1-1.5m tall, bare root), suitable for locations such as wide road verges or village greens. Further information at Shropshire Council Community Tree Scheme 2022/23 | Shropshire Council

Other things – not necessarily SC related include:

Government have just published proposals that it will give grants to Councils which will enable them to limit fares on all single local bus journeys from 1st January for 3 months to a maximum of £2.00. How this will be put in place has yet to be announced. Information on what will happen to bus subsidies by Shropshire Council have also still to be announced.

Council apprenticeship levy transfer funding pot opens for Small and medium sized enterprises - Shropshire Council is offering small to medium-sized businesses and other, non-levy paying organisations in the county a chance to apply for free training through apprenticeships. The council has approximately £140,000 available to businesses that are not currently subject to the Government's Apprenticeship Levy, These include: Small and medium-sized enterprises, Voluntary, community and social enterprises and Voluntary aided and foundation schools. The scheme is open to applications from Thursday 1 September 2022 until Friday 23 December 2022. Full details of the levy transfer scheme, including how to apply can be found by visiting the Upskill Shropshire pages of Shropshire Council's website. For further information please email apprenticeshiplevy@shropshire.gov.uk or ring 01743 258521.

Two of our libraries are supporting local people by opening up access to digital training and banking advice provided by Barclays Bank.

In a new initiative the bank will lease space in Bridgnorth and Ludlow where customers can seek digital support, financial advice and help managing their accounts. The non-cash banking service will be available in a private area in Bridgnorth Library on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and in Ludlow on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. SC says - "the service is welcome and demonstrates how our libraries service can work with partner organisations to promote health and well being, improve people's understanding of, and access to, digital services, become a hub for communities, and support enterprise and businesses".

Grant Funding opportunity – Veolia and Shropshire Council are offering grants of up to £1000 to Community groups for local projects in Shropshire. Details are in this link [Veolia's EnviroGrant Shropshire | Veolia Shropshire](#) closing date for applications is 31 October.

Further Grant Funding opportunity - The Prince's Countryside Fund (PCF)

Supporting Rural Communities grants programme is open for applications. The Fund is inviting applications for grants of up to £25,000 from community projects across the UK, with up to £250,000 available. The PCF is interested in projects that will make a difference in rural communities across the UK and clearly demonstrate the need within the community. Further information at Rural Communities - The Prince's Countryside Fund (princescountrysidefund.org.uk)