

Shrewton Neighbourhood Plan

The key point: This is a draft, not an approved plan. It proposes how Shrewton should grow from 2025 to 2040, but the number of additional houses, site choice and environmental conclusions remain provisional.

What the plan is and why it matters

A neighbourhood plan is a legal planning document written by a community. If it passes independent examination and a local referendum, Wiltshire Council must use it when deciding relevant planning applications, unless other important planning considerations outweigh it. If local people vote yes and the plan becomes official, Shrewton Parish Council would get a bigger share of money from new building projects to spend on things like paths, play areas and community facilities - 25% instead of 15%.

- the plan covers **Shrewton Parish** and nearby village areas,
- **local volunteers** helped write it,
- they used **local views, expert studies and planning rules**.

Wiltshire Council stopped working on its new Local Plan in May 2026. So, for now, this draft uses the older planning rules. The number of 72 extra homes is only a rough number used to compare possible building sites. It has not been agreed yet.

The 2040 vision

Keep Shrewton looking and feeling like a country village, with its history and wildlife protected.

Build the right kinds of homes, including homes local young people and families can afford.

Help people live, work, learn, travel, play and meet others safely, with the services the village needs.

What the evidence says about Shrewton

Homes and age: Shrewton has many larger homes, but the draft says the village needs more smaller homes. Many residents are aged 45 or older.

Traffic: Many vehicles pass through Shrewton, especially on the A360. The draft says traffic, speed, noise, pollution and unsafe crossings are big problems.

Environment: Shrewton is near the River Till and important wildlife areas, so water, rivers and nature must be protected.

Community and work: Shrewton has lost several pubs and some community buildings need support. Small businesses, working from home and visitors to Stonehenge could bring new chances.

History and services: Shrewton has many old and important buildings. The school, GP surgery, bus service, countryside and volunteer groups are important strengths.

How it becomes part of planning law

- ❑ local people are asked what they think,
- ❑ the plan can be changed,
- ❑ Wiltshire Council and an independent examiner check it,
- ❑ local people vote on it,
- ❑ it only becomes official if most voters say yes.

Environment comes before occupation

Water is the biggest environmental issue for Shrewton. New building must not harm the River Till, the River Avon, groundwater, drains, or make flooding worse. If the sewage system or drainage needs fixing first, people should not occupy the new homes until the fixes are ready and working.

The plan supports green spaces, water areas, wildlife, native plants and ways to help nature recover. New building must protect important habitats. Trees and plants should be put in the right places, so they do not damage grassland, birds, archaeology, views or the open Salisbury Plain landscape.

Four terms to know: **SEA** checks which choices are better or worse for the environment. **HRA** checks whether protected wildlife places could be harmed. **LNRS** maps show where nature is already important and where it could be helped to recover. **Basic Conditions** require a neighbourhood plan to meet 6 basic conditions.

Housing: need, mix and affordability

The plan wants a good mix of homes. It says Shrewton needs more smaller, cheaper and easier-to-use homes, especially homes with two or three bedrooms, rather than lots of large expensive houses.

If 72 homes are agreed later, about 22 of them could be affordable homes. Affordable homes cost less to rent or buy. People with a strong link to Shrewton would usually get first chance, then people from nearby parishes, then people from wider Wiltshire.

Important: None of the possible building sites is ready yet. Problems with sewage, water, nutrients and wildlife still need to be solved. A site cannot be chosen if it would badly harm protected wildlife places.

The four site positions

Site	What it means	Main problems to solve
S154 Preferred site about 72 homes	This site looks best so far and has enough space.	Experts still need to check nature, water, sewage, drainage, road safety, views, history, dark skies and walking links.
S151 Backup site	This could fit enough homes, but it is not as good as S154.	There are concerns about traffic, walking to school, road access, distance from services, views and wildlife.
S113 Small fallback site 18-22 homes	This is a smaller backup if the bigger sites cannot be used.	It is near the river area, so flooding, drainage, access, lighting and wildlife links need careful checks.
S146 Not chosen	It is close to some services, but the problems are judged too serious.	There are concerns about water protection, the river, the skyline, landscape, access, drainage and how many homes could really fit.

Source: Draft V2.6, Policy 6 and SOAR V2.5 summary. Distances are approximate and do not prove ecological impact on their own.

Rules applying to any housing

Any new homes must fit well with Shrewton. They should not be squeezed in too tightly, and they should protect affordable housing for local people. New building must look good, cope with climate change, and respect the village lanes, views, countryside edges and landscape. Each site also needs safe walking and cycling routes, drainage, more nature, green spaces, water features and any other improvements needed to make it safe and suitable.

Traffic, access and transport: Policies 10-15

Traffic and highway safety

Any big new building project must show how cars, people walking, people cycling and buses can get there safely. It must not make traffic, speeding, noise, air pollution or dangerous roads worse. Builders may have to help pay for things like crossings, pavements, cycle paths, bus stops or traffic calming if these are needed because of the new building.

Active travel and the wider countryside

The plan supports better routes for walking, cycling and, where suitable, horse riding. It also supports careful links to places and paths such as Stonehenge, King Alfred's Way, the Imber Range Perimeter Path and the Ridgeway, as long as the countryside and important views are protected.

Public transport

The plan supports better walking routes, cycle parking, bus stops, live bus information and travel plans. Bigger building projects may need to help improve transport. The bus is very important for people who do not have a car, but the draft needs to fix two different figures it gives for how many households this affects.

Community, work and tourism: Policies 16-18

The plan wants to keep important community places, improve them, or replace them with something just as useful. This includes places and activities for young people. A community place should only be lost if it is no longer useful, cannot be kept going, or is replaced in the village.

The plan supports small local businesses, home-working spaces, meeting rooms, shops, cafés, places to stay and visitor services. New visitor or business sites near the A360 must be well designed, safe to reach, have enough parking, and must not hurt the village shop or push more traffic into the village centre.

Safety, heritage, education and health: Policies 19-22

Safe design

New places should be designed to feel safe. This means good lighting, clear paths, windows facing public spaces, safe storage and open areas where people can see what is happening. Some ideas, like community watch or fraud awareness, are helpful community actions, but they are not planning rules.

Historic character

The plan protects Shrewton's old buildings, archaeology, historic streets and the Stonehenge landscape. If a new project could affect history, it must explain why the place matters and try to protect or improve it. Any harm must have a very good reason.

School, medical and dental services

The draft says the primary school and preschool could take more pupils and may have space to grow. The plan supports better medical and dental services, as long as they are easy to reach and do not cause serious traffic, parking or noise problems.

A limit on what builders pay for: Builders can only be asked to pay for improvements that are needed because of their project, are linked to it, and are fair. One building site cannot be made to pay for every problem in the village.

What must be completed before the plan relies on S154

Wiltshire Council must say how many new homes Shrewton needs, or the plan must clearly explain the number it uses.

Exact map analysis must check the possible sites carefully, including nature areas and wildlife links.

The environmental check must compare the different site choices and explain why one is better.

Experts must show that protected wildlife places will not be harmed.

Water, sewage, drainage and river quality problems must have a legal and workable solution.

Road safety, walking routes, views, history and village boundaries must all be checked and shown to be acceptable.

Who delivers and monitors the plan

If local people vote yes and the plan becomes official, the Steering Group will disband. Shrewton Parish Council and Wiltshire Council would then help make sure the plan is followed. The Parish Council may also set up a group of experts. The draft also suggests a special community group could help provide and look after affordable homes.

The plan should be checked over time. This means looking at new homes, affordable homes, roads, water quality, traffic, community places and wildlife. It should be reviewed at least every five years, or sooner if new information changes what Shrewton needs.

What the plan can - and cannot - do

It can help decide where building happens, what it looks like, and the rules builders must follow.

It cannot stop all new building, promise 72 homes, make a bad site safe, or control water companies, buses, police or national roads.

The plan is strongest when it uses clear facts and follows legislation and environment checks.

Draft issues to correct before formal consultation

The draft still has a few mistakes or old details that need fixing. For example, it gives two different numbers for homes without a car, mentions dates that have already passed, and has one policy that needs clearer wording. These problems do not change the main idea, but they should be fixed before the plan is shared formally.

Bottom line: This draft does not promise 72 homes on site S154. It says Shrewton may need more homes, but only if the right checks are done first. Water, wildlife, views, history, roads and village life must be protected. The plan only becomes strong if the missing expert work is finished and local people vote for it.

Provide Feedback. This NP is our village document, we need to show that we have all contributed or had the opportunity to do so.

Please email your comments to info@shrewton.info.