

Shrewsbury Comprehensive Master Plan

September Question of the Month Summary

Overview

Every month, the consultant team will post a new question on the project website to collect public input throughout the Master Plan process. Results from the previous month's question will be shared at Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) meetings. The current month's question will be on the project website homepage. Previous questions will be moved to the "Community Engagement" website page and left open for new responses in case community members miss a month or begin contributing later in the planning process.

MPSC members are encouraged to answer each Question of the Month, help advertise the monthly questions, provide suggestions to the consultant team for questions they would like asked, and utilize the input received through this engagement opportunity as they steer the Master Plan process.

Summary of September Question of the Month

The first Question of the Month, posted on the project website homepage for the duration of September, received 57 responses as of 10/7/2026. Community members were asked: **In five words or less, what do you want the Master Plan to address?**

The thematic grouping of comments summarized below helps synthesize the responses received.¹ The bullet points below pull out common topics. The subsequent table (page 2) categorizes these topics by Master Plan Element and includes all responses received. Some comments cover multiple categories and are either included in the "Multiple" category or are repeated (denoted by *repeated*).

In general, respondents want the Master Plan to address the following:

- overdevelopment (both residential and commercial/industrial development)
- overcrowding (in general and specifically in schools)
- bike and pedestrian infrastructure
- traffic congestion and intersection issues (especially in the Town Center)
- more open space and recreation opportunities (neighborhood open space, park improvements)
- responsible municipal operations (fiscal management, planning, taxes)
- more public spaces/amenities (teen space, public art)
- environmental concerns (Town water quality, climate change, biodiversity, ecosystem health)
- land use topics (industrial land, neglected properties, non-taxable properties)

¹ A note on thematic coding: Thematic coding is an inherently subjective exercise with no one clear answer. Different coders can and will group responses differently. Responses were grouped to help guide interpretation of the results rather than attempt a comprehensive summary of all sentiments captured in each response.

Thematic Coding of What Shrewsbury Wants the Master Plan to Address		
Master Plan Element	Topic	Comment
Transportation	Bike & pedestrian infrastructure	• bike facilities and lanes • address the need for safe pedestrian travel along Prospect St. • Walking & Cycling Route Improvements
	Traffic congestion, intersections, & parking	• Solution to traffic congestion in the center of the town. Ex Main and Rt 140 intersection. Ex Main , WMain and Maple Ave intersection • Traffic, Downtown Parking!!! • Traffic congestion Main Street • Traffic congestion and flow/patterns
	Road condition	• Fix the roads.
Natural Resources	Environmental concerns	• Protect pets, owls, hawks, and other animals from accidentally bleeding to death by joining the other towns which have banned rodenticide. • Recreation, outdoor space. Environmental concerns [repeated] • Climate change walkability biodiversity
Historic & Cultural Resources	Culture/ community	• A socially engaged town center • More public displays of art. [repeated]
Open Space & Recreation	More open space & recreation opportunities	• Green space and trails • Lack of consideration for creating green and open spaces in town while saying the Town cares about it. • Recreation & Open Space - swimming/skating. • Youth Sports Recreational Space • Edgemere park playground please • Recreation, outdoor space. Environmental concerns [repeated] • Maintain open space in neighborhoods • Identify park improvements needed now
Community Services & Facilities	Schools	• Reduce per pupil spending increases. • School crowding
	Municipal operations	• Eliminate unpopular paper bag requirement • Eliminate overrides with better management. • Serve citizens within fiscal responsibility • Pensions to match private sector. • Overdevelopment and consistently poor planning decisions and approvals. [repeated]
	Town water	• Reduce unpaid Town water

		• Achieve better tasting Town water
	Public spaces/amenities	• Speedier town center beautification • MorePublicSpaces (e.g. DogParks, BikeTrails, EveningGatheringSpaces) • More public displays of art. <i>[repeated]</i>
Housing	Too much residential development	• Over building apartment complexes • How to reduce the proliferation of new housing? This results in increased congestion and traffic and strain on resources across the board. <i>[repeated]</i> • Excess Housing and the At Home/Staples lot. • Stop building residential housing • Overcrowding from too much housing • halt apartment building, assess impact
	Affordability	• Affordable housing, not huge apartment complexes.
Land Use	Industrial land	• Sell town owned industrial land. • Prohibit large industrial buildings! • Avoid AI data centers & Keep Shrewsbury safe
	General land use	• Overdevelopment and consistently poor planning decisions and approvals. <i>[repeated]</i> • 1. Zoning... increase building lot size. 2. Ordinances regarding neglected property • Properties that are non-taxable.
Multiple		• Overdevelopment [sic]. School crowding. Traffic • How to reduce the proliferation of new housing? This results in increased congestion and traffic and strain on resources across the board. <i>[repeated]</i> • Maintain school excellence, embrace diversity, safety. • Address traffic problems (especially in/around the center), build more sidewalks, ease school overcrowding. • Recreation, affordability, housing, and schools. • Housing, Diversity, Growth and Development • Overdevelopment, teen Community space, town center traffic • Open land increase. Control industrial expansion • Overdevelopment, over crowding, traffic nightmare • Less development. Taxes, schools, parks
Overall	Quality of Life	• Enhance living conditions for all • Make Shrewsbury desirable again • Prioritizing generational residents over attracting new comers
	Master Plan Process	• Please compile & release an exec. summary on how well the town met the objectives of the 2016 Master Plan. That could set the course now. • Progressive comprehensive macro plan

