

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE****1 July 2026****Officer:** Stuart Farmer – Operations Manager**STEPPING UP TEAM UPDATE****Purpose**

To update the Council the work and implementation of the Stepping Up Team.

Ward Visits

The planned ward visits have continued over recent months with the visits to Porthill, Coton Hill and Radbrook being completed in May and June.

The dates of the ward visits have been diarised for the final ward visits area as follows

- Sundorne + Old Heath – 15th July – Works planned 10th August 2026
- Underdale – 5th August – Works planned 31st August 2026

There is a further visit to the Town centre that is yet to be diarised, this will include other stakeholders such as Shrewsbury BID and Town Centre residents

Programme of Works

The Operations Manager maintains the master spreadsheet of works with these being added to from public enquiries, councillor requests as well as officer reports.

In addition to this a new form that is to be used on the ward walks is now in operation, this will be shared with the ward member and will allow them to see progress and will assist with land ownership identification issues when they arise.

Criteria of Works

The team has a spreadsheet with all tasks that have been identified either by the staff themselves, by Councillors, by the public and of late forwarded by Shropshire Council because their team haven't the resources to do them. Each task is reviewed to determine whether.

- (i) it is the responsibility of others and if it is, they are informed
- (ii) we have the capacity and resources to undertake the work
- (iii) whether there are any timeframes that need to be considered for the work to be done (for example, working out of nesting periods, knowing when other traffic management functions are being undertaken at the same time, any embargos and whether there are clusters of work in one area). Upon that staff allocate jobs to the Stepping up Team.

Officers are currently speaking to colleagues at Shropshire Council regarding issuing letters to residents with privately owned hedges that over footpaths, this letter is currently in draft and will be issued following agreement with Shropshire Council.

Work Completed to Date

The teams have continued to work across Shrewsbury on several different projects, the photographs below are a snapshot of some of the works completed of late and include.

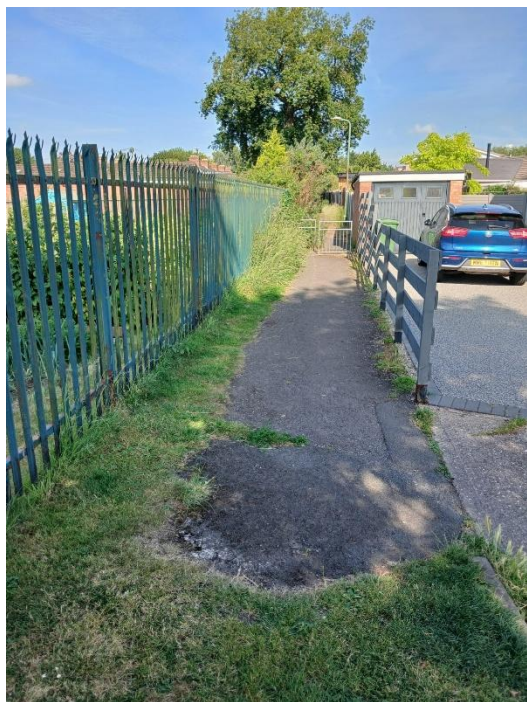
Old Potts Way has seen a lot of work on both sides of the road and included the clearing of the footpath above the road, this was completed in collaboration with the logistics team to assist with the flailing of the bank.

Castlefields has seen the teams completing weed removal from kerb lines and boundary walls this has been completed in collaboration with the street cleaning team meaning the smaller sweeper has been assisting with final sweeps of areas following the tidy up.

Footpath and alley works have continued over recent months to provide the full width of walkways where possible, this has included the removal overgrowth protruding through fence lines and the clearance of channels along the paths.

Where possible these areas these areas have been treated for weeds, growth following the removal to prevent further visits being required this season.

Castlefields Footpath





Coton Hill Footpath



Whitchurch Road Alley Ways



Old Potts Way





Recruitment

Following a successful recruitment process two new members of the team have been appointed, at the time of writing this report they don't have a start date, but this is currently being worked on with the thought of starting as soon as possible.

Litter Picking

if Councillors are arranging litter picks the team will be able to assist with the delivery of equipment and collection of the bags. This can be arranged by contacting the Operations Managers, giving advance notice.

Weed Spraying

Although mentioned in the Street Cleansing report, the Stepping Up Team have also been tasked with weed spraying a housing estates and road ways of late, a contractor has now been appointed for this task going forward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.