

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2024**

Officer: Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

Radbrook Pool

This year our first project is to transform Radbrook Pool with better access and attention to improve the biodiversity of the pool. During our last heatwave we had to attend the pool to battle against a serious water oxygen crash of which was prevented with our water pumps and the help with the Environment agency to prevent fish loss.

Our aim which will be in stages is to replace all but one fishing platforms with new high build platforms including an extra disabled platform. One current platform, that is not fishable, will be relocated to a new position. The existing will be removed and replanted to wild. New pathing will be installed either side of the woodland path to join the existing pathways where it tends to get very muddy. To improve the water surface area and help get more surface water movement, we wish to open up an area to create an air tunnel and cut back an area of tree branches that have overgrown the pool surface by as much as twenty feet. Once cut back some water weed planting will be instigated in the margin to improve oxygen content in the water.

An Angling Trust AIF Environment Agency grant has been applied for to hopefully help us with this project that will transform the pool with easier access for anglers and the local residents and to protect it from further oxygen problems.

Any tree works permissions and agreement will be sought via Jim Goldsmith and Mike Pugh prior to any works.

Sydney Avenue & The Quarry

For Sydney Avenue we shall be replacing two more river platforms that have deteriorated and are in need of replacement with new high build platforms. In addition, in the Quarry Park we also need to replace four river platforms that have suffered from severe flooding damage with new high build platforms. We also need to repair a number of other platforms after initial inspections. The flooding has caused some serious bank erosion and there are three trees down in the Quarry and another down on the County Ground. They have been reported to the EA for removal at some point.

We have applied for a second Angling Trust AIF Environment Agency grant to assist us with this project.

Monkmoor Fisheries

We have recently replaced the gate on the lane entry with a new extensive gate (photo attached) and in addition, once the wet weather has subsided and the Monkmoor lane dried out sufficiently, we shall be carrying out works on the badly potholed section to help strengthen the lane to help illuminate this problem. This will improve access for anglers and members of the public.



Emstrey

Later in the summer we wish to add at least another, maybe two, new high build river platforms to replace existing old and deteriorated platforms on the river.

Mousecroft & Oxon Pool

We are currently looking at plans for these two pools and will confirm these plans later in the year.

Coaching Events

A number of coaching events have been planned and confirmed for our Junior anglers and also adults for the Shropshire Recovery Forum for this year. The junior events will be added to the website for online booking in March and will be free to attend. The events will be run by our Head Coach Ian James and his team.

We are also assisting with a fishing Intervention activity for Belvedere School and is hoped to introduce more youngsters to the sport of fishing.

Website

We have been and are looking at improving the permit purchase area on the website to try and make it easier to purchase our online permits with a simpler system. Any changes will be implemented as soon as possible.

Water Testing and Severn Trent CSO Safari

Our water testing continues on eight locations on the River Severn and we have now increased regular testing on locations for the Reabrook. A new volunteer has been added to our team for this increase and he is also a water biologist.

In addition, we have set up a new scheme working with Severn Trent on the Reabrook of which is a CSO Safari. The scheme involves closer observation, with the help of location plans, of the CSO outflows and also finding various other unknown out flows of which may be contributing to pollution in the Reabrook. These will be looked at during dryer spells and graded as potential problem. i.e., they may have a misconnection of some type or cause and Severn Trent would investigate them, trace them and put the problem right.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the contents of the report are noted.**