

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
14 May 2025**

Officer: Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

Mousecroft Pool

We have recently completed works to make further improvements and maintenance. A new gate with an added kissing gate has been installed complete with new fisheries signage and also additional dog littering and control signage as per Council templates. A new stone surface has been added to two thirds of the lane to improve drainage and repair potholes. Also, we have repaired part of the footpath around the pool and raised one part where it was tending to flood during the winter. (see photos)

Radbrook Pool

There have been issues with three domestic runner ducks that seem to have been dumped on the pool sometime last autumn. This has once again encouraged people to feed them with large amounts of bread which gives us water quality problems. Also, rats are beginning to increase in numbers of which at some point will start to cause problems with local residents. To help resolve the situation we have found a new home for the three domestic ducks and after consulting with Cuan Wildlife Rescue, we can remove them as they are domestic ducks and take them to their new home. Additionally, we have installed new metal signage to educate people about over feeding ducks and not to feed bread. I am also supplying Jim Goldsmith of Shrewsbury Town Council with two additional signs that he can use on Springfield Mere where there are similar duck over feeding problems.

In the next few days, we shall be adding some new stone footpath areas where it gets very wet and muddy to improve access for all.

River Fishing New Season Works

At the beginning of June, we shall be strimming around the fishing platforms on our Fisheries at Sydney Avenue, Monkmoor and Emstrey in anticipation for the new coarse fishing season which begins on June 16th. The Quarry, County Ground will be strimmed at the end of September to leave alone for the bees and wildlife.

Later this summer we shall be replacing three river platforms at Sydney Avenue, Monkmoor and Emstrey as the existing are getting beyond temporary maintenance after winter flooding.

Oxon Pool

We are adding one more platform on the pool this summer to once again improve access to an old platform location.

Junior Coaching

Our coaching activities for juniors begins with our first event at Mousecroft Pool on May 24th followed by further events throughout the summer and also working in partnership with the Angling Trust and the Canals and Rivers trust with schools in Shrewsbury. We also shall be adding some individual one to one days for youngsters with their parents. We are pleased the demand is increasing year on year.

Water Testing

We continue our water testing on the river in eight locations in association with the Angling Trust Water Monitoring Network with Angling Trust. A new Freshwater and Campaigns Officer has been appointed to replace Kristian Kent. His name is Alex Farquhar, and he will be providing up to dates reports for the River Severn Catchment in a few days.

The fisheries also test the pools frequently to prevent or take action should we have any water quality issues. Radbrook is tested more frequently as it can be more problematic than the other pools.

Fisheries Enforcement

With the river season currently closed for coarse fishing we recently apprehended two individuals on the Reabrook without permits and environment agency licences. The two are currently being prosecuted by the Police for theft of fishing rights and fishing without a valid rod licence. The enforcement sends a message to anyone fishing illegally or without permission.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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



