

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE
Wednesday 9th November 2022**

Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

FISHERIES

Purpose of Report

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

UPDATE

Mousecroft Pool.

The fisheries will be receiving a grant from the Environment Agency for £3000.

This will finance the installation of the last three platforms.

These will be installed over the winter months. The bailiffs will also be carrying out regular maintenance at the pool, until the spring.

Monkmoor / Belvidere Fishery.

Some additional boundary signage to be installed on the boundary at Belvidere.

Oxon Pool.

Oxon Pool is still closed due to low water levels, it has not recovered from the heatwave this summer. We are hoping to have it open again from December.

The Fisheries manager does have concerns with the large scale house building in the area may be having an impact on the natural water supply due to increased drainage. He is also concerned that one of the footpaths is directed towards the pool and there are concerns about children from the new properties getting into the pool area, which could be dangerous and also increase anti-social behavior. The field adjoining the pool outer boundary of the woodland is owned by Shropshire Council and should be re-fenced as the old fence is damaged and non functional.

Reabrook Fishery.

Installation of the new signs is nearly complete.

Radbrook Pool.

The fisheries manager will be contacting the countryside manager, as there is some tree work required next to some of the platforms, which cannot be done by the fisheries team

County Ground and Quarry

Grass cutting and maintenance has been completed around all the river platforms.

Emstrey Fishery.

The fisheries team have been busy installing the new car park for the bottom section of the Emstrey fishery. The fencing and installation of a gate with a combination lock will be completed this week. New signs will be added in approximately 10 days time.

Fish Fry and Sewerage.

The Environment Agency carried out a fish fry survey on three locations for the fisheries on the river Severn. This provides an important indication of our future fish stocks in those locations and also their health. These were carried out in an identical operation at the West Midland Show ground, Pengwern Boat Club and Monkmoor.

The Monkmoor and Showground fisheries produced a reasonable mix of species with a satisfactory number of juvenile fish. But the Pengwern Boat Club area which represents the Quarry fishery area was terrible with only three fry captured of two species. The fisheries manager can only put this down to high levels of sewerage continuously present in this location as it comes from the Coton Hill area and affects the entire length through to the English Bridge.

Complaints to Severn Trent are not responded to in a manner that give a sense of hope in the future. Anyone associated with Angling finds this demoralising when they cannot do anything about the impact and the damage this is doing.

The popular three-day festival is not taking place this year due to the fishing being very poor over the past three years. The fisheries manager is embarrassed about our water when complaints come in that anglers are catching more sanitary products than fish. The fisheries manager will be attending a meeting in December with the Angling Trust, the Rivers Trust, Fish Legal and other organisations with respect to the Severn's poor water quality.

The fisheries team continue to test the water on behalf of the Angling Trust, which will continue for the foreseeable future. Water is being regularly monitored at the County Ground, Quarry, Sydney Avenue and Emstry. Similar to the fry survey, the Quarry is showing the worst results so far although the entire length is not ideal.

Enforcement.

We have added an additional three bailiffs / water keepers to our fisheries group of volunteers. This gives a total of 18. Three of them have been approved by the voluntary bailiff service of the Angling Trust who have been carrying out patrols with the Environment Agency Enforcement Team and the Police to give us a stronger presence on our fisheries. In addition, 11 of our bailiff team are now trained and equipped to use throwlines. An extra three will be equipped by January subject to equipment availability. Further throwline training will be taking with the fire service in the coming weeks

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the report is noted**