

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND LEISURE  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Officer:** Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

**FISHERIES**

**Purpose of Report**

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

**Monkmoor Fishery:**

With the new river platforms complete and the Environment Agency grant funding received we would like to renew the gate of entry. The current standard bar gate is temporarily repaired as is constantly getting damaged by people climbing over it and also lifting motorbikes over it too. We will replace it with a gate of similar design to our Oxon Pool entry gate (shown below). The Monkmoor gate would look the same, a foot higher than the existing gate, a single not double gate, is stronger and anti-climb. This will be completed in the next month. Public access for pedestrians and dog walkers will still be available.



**Radbrook Pool:**

Water Oxygen and water quality problems have been an issue at Radbrook Pool of which is the worst pool out of our three pools, Oxon Pool is second and Mousecroft Pool being the best. Dangerous levels have needed attention during the summer during hot weather to avoid a mass fish loss and has involved fisheries water keepers attending a spell of 24 hours over 7 days to man pumps. It was so critical that the Environment Agency were contacted to help with a power booster pump to gain ground and resolve the problem quickly. A meeting has been arranged for early November to discuss measures to open a wind tunnel area or areas to get air movement regularly on the pools surface. This has been problematic, as all our pools are totally surrounded by tree growth. The canopy effect suffocates the pools aquatic habitat. There are other measures that we can do to add to the biodiversity of the pool that also can reduce the impact of problematic rodents etc. This work could include removal of some of the dense canopy growing over the pool. The build-up of organic matter can absorb oxygen and create habitats that vermin enjoy, and additional light on the canopy floor can stimulate the growth of wild flowers which attract pollinating insects. Ornamental Water Lilies have grown in front of a fishing platform, rather than attempt to move the lilies, we would like to move the location of the platform slightly to one side so that the platform can be used without the risk of hooking the lilies.

In addition new smarter looking fishing platforms will be installed over the winter period to enhance the look of the pool.

**Fisheries Coaching Round Up:**

Our coaching sessions for our junior members have concluded for this year and was met with great positivity and success. Lots of happy faces and youngsters caught fish with their parents and in some cases for the first time. With the help of our fisheries coaches supervised by Ian James our head coach who reports back to Andy Jones. A new series of events are planned for next year.

In addition, we also organised a number of coaching sessions this year in association with the Shropshire Recovery Forum for adults. The Forum received funding from Shropshire Council for equipment and we helped providing coaching sessions for free to help make a positive difference to people's lives and help give some positives with fishing. It has proved very successful and more of these events with the forum are planned for next year. Another plus from this is that two adults from these sessions have got so engrossed into the events that they wish to be coaches for our future events. With the help of Angling Trust Andy Jones has booked them onto coach training courses in November and once completed the individuals will become qualified certificated coaches with full DBS check certification.







**Water Testing:**

Our volunteer water testers are continuing with our testing on eight locations on the river Severn and the Reabrook. A full up to date report will be available soon from the Angling Trust for Shrewsbury.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report is noted.