

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

Officer: Danny Powell – Operations Manager

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Purpose

To update committee on Grounds Maintenance operations.

Grounds Maintenance Update

Once again, the weather has had an impact on our Operational Work. Last year was one of the wettest on record, Sports fixtures were postponed, ground conditions were too wet for machinery to work, and our Spring bedding and baskets rotted because of waterlogged soil. This year we have the warmest/ driest Spring for 69 years. All summer sports started on time, we have had to water our floral infrastructure, and we are up to date with our verge mowing. It would be nice to have a few days steady rain. How different can it be.

Logistics Team

The team have been busy with playground maintenance, Splash Park testing and painting, Bus Shelter cleaning and looking after the public toilets. They have also helped remove rubbish from 2 Allotment sites.

Mechanics are now repairing machinery as it breaks down and carrying out servicing to vans and machinery.

We are started to Strim around Street Furniture on the main roads of the Town.

The two members of staff on Stepping up work, are being issued new work each week but are also going back over work already completed to spray weeds that are germinating and collect any litter. We hope to have three new members of staff on the Stepping up team by the start of June. This will then allow us to start some of the larger jobs.

Countryside and Green Space

The team have been carrying out their normal duties, path mowing, fencing, litter picking across their sites. Rural mowing has started again, and the 2 staff have started to mow the mop up round. The Tree team are out every 2nd week carrying out tree work across Shrewsbury.

We were notified by the War Graves Commission that they are taking the maintenance of the graves back in house, using their own staff to carry out the work. This is being piloted in this area before being rolled out country wide from next year.

Amenity Team

We are now in the main time of year to produce plants at the Nursery. The Public Open Evening is 21st May and has been advertised in several places.

We are producing plants for several other Councils this year, which I have listed before, and we can now add Church Stretton Town Council to the list.

The spring bedding displays are now going over because of the unusually warm weather and are starting to be remove ready for the summer displays. This will leave some places without plants for several weeks. Hanging basket orders are now being taken ready for the summer months.

The large square planters that we removed from the Town Centre are now ready to go out. We have been asked that they are placed in the Station gyratory area and that new planters will be purchased for the Town Centre.

A competition for School children to design a floral planter has been judged and the winners chosen. The winning designs will be planted up in the Square area planters, this June.

Recreation and Formal Space

From the 1 April we have moved the verge mowing staff into this team, so that all mowing is under one team. The verge mowing started in March this year and we are already on to our third cut of the season. The dry weather is helping to slow the grass growth across all sites, this has improved the quality of the verges and large grass areas, with a reduced amount of grass clippings left on the surface.

All football has now finished on Town Council pitches and the renovation programme has started. A number of meetings have been held with the junior Clubs who use the Town Council facilities to look at next seasons fixtures.

All summer sports fixtures are progressing with the good weather meaning no cancellations so far. School maintenance contract restarted from April, Turf Tank has been used to mark out the Running Tracks at all the schools in a quicker time, than using normal marking equipment.

The maintenance of the General Cemetery has also been moved into this team as several of the verge mowing staff also work in this location during the year.

Since the 1 April the Town Council no longer carries out the Maintenance at Meole Brace Golf Course and Shelton Recreation ground. Shropshire Council own these sites and made the decision to remove them from the Town Council.

Monkmoor Recreation ground has been visited twice by travellers in the past few months, security has been looked at and improved but being a site which is used all year round for sport we must keep emergency access open in case an ambulance is required.

Conclusion

I have only mentioned a small portion of the work that is carried out by the staff week on week. My update only covers the operational staff, the Office Admin staff also play an enormous part in the day-to-day operation of the Council without the team work of all we would not achieve what we all do.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted