

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
18 JANUARY 2023**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

SAFE STREETS 4 FUNDING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Committee on the submission of a Safe Streets 4 Project funded from the Home Office

BACKGROUND

Officers have previously reported on the success of the Safer Streets 4 Funding bid made to the Home Office by the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner on behalf of Team Shrewsbury.

£548,178 was awarded of which the following sums were awarded to the Town Council to manage:

Lighting of Life Saving Equipment along the River	£43,700
Expansion of the existing Quarry Security to include Taxi Marshal	£168,480

Security provision in the park was increased in August from 30 hours a week to 60 hours a week with 12 hours a week Taxi Marshalling added to the contract to manage the night-time economy.

Officers have also undertaken a tender process to install solar lights to all Throwline Boards and all high profile Lifebuoy Stations along the river; this project has now been complete.

UPDATE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Quarry Security have been operational since April with enhanced hours paid for by Safer Streets since August. Taxi Marshals began in August and have worked every Friday/Saturday night. Town Rangers are managed by the BID and have been functioning since October.

The Town Clerk & Office Manager receive weekly reports on all three sets of activity; those reports are reviewed and key partners are notified on a need to know basis. All incidents are recorded on the Town Council's ASB logs and 101/Online Reporting or Crimestoppers is used to report matters of concern to the police. This collective reporting is now beginning to show trends of people, locations and activity and this is helping to priorities patrols and work flows.

As anticipated statistics are spiking and there have been disturbing incidents of Violence Against Women & Girls. This isn't a bad thing as it brings this serious issue into the public focus and sets our a stance of this not being acceptable behaviour.

Quarry issues are being well managed. The Security Staff are well received by staff, the public who use the park and in particularly young people who see them as safe individuals to talk to. There remains concern about under-age drinking and further discussions are taking place with Public Health.

Taxi Marshals have helped enormously in improving relations between the Hackney Carriage Drivers and the Private Hire Drivers. Licensing arranged for Licensing training for all Taxi Marshals and they now inspect bookings with drivers and report any variances directly to Taxi Licensing. The Taxi Marshals also support individuals who find themselves incapacitated from over-exuberance and working with the Street Pastors they ensure these individuals return home safely.

Town Rangers are exceptionally busy primarily addressing issues associated with Rough Sleepers; this includes, drug taking and dealing, drinking alcohol on the streets, begging and shoplifting. They have started to instil a regime of better behaviour. Discussions are ongoing as to how the Town Rangers can be incorporated in the Rough Sleeper Drug & Alcohol Misuse Treatment Project the Office Manager spoke of in the Team Shrewsbury Report.

The First Quarter Return (July/August/September) was sent to the Home Office. This instigated a Visit to Shrewsbury by the Safer Streets Team in December. They were extremely impressed by their visit and in particular the partnership working with all agencies involved.

The Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner have also visited the project and were keen to discuss further collaboration on projects, a potential Safer Streets 5 bid and how West Mercia Police can assist. Further discussions are taking place, particularly around the matter of sustainability as it is evident that this project is greatly supporting the police, making the town a safer place and addressing some of the endemic issues around rough sleeping.

The Town Council and BID have instigated Quarterly meetings with Prosecure to look at setting the right priorities, looking at crossover of the three separate projects and ensuring that the right level of evidence is gathered. This joint working has also extended to developing training to include Town Council Staff, BID Staff and Prosecure to ensure that there is a consistent approach across partners. Recently the Town Council's Youth & Community Manager delivered Contextual Safeguarding training and all commented on how valuable it was.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (I) That the report be noted**
- (II) That Officers continue to report on progress to the Recreation & Leisure Committee**