

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**  
**RECREATION AND LEISURE**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Officer:** Helen Ball – Town Clerk

**SECURITY IN THE QUARRY**

### **Purpose of Report**

The aim of the report is to provide further update to the one made to the Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> September

### **BACKGROUND**

At the last meeting the Town Clerk reported on the need to appoint security staff under operational expediency to:

- (i) To meet the Council's duties under the Health & Safety At Work Act
- (ii) To address growing concern from front line staff around ASB matters in the park
- (iii) To address growing public concern about ASB matters in the park

### **PROSECURE APPOINTMENT**

Prosecure were commissioned to provide patrol cover and locking at key times and locking facilities at others. Two SIA staff had been deployed to provide the following cover:

Monday	18.00 - 20.00 – Locking Up
Tuesday	18.00 – 20.00 – Locking Up
Wednesday	18.00 – 20.00 – Locking Up
Thursday	13.30 – 19.30 – Patrolling & Locking Up
Friday	13.30 – 19.30 – Patrolling & Locking Up
Saturday	13.30 – 19.30 – Patrolling & Locking Up
Sunday	13.30 – 19.30 – Patrolling & Locking Up

As the days have got longer this longer patrolling cover has been amended to 14.30 – 20.30

Duties include:

- Patrolling the Park including play area, toilets & Dingle
- Visiting the Butcher Row Toilets
- Closing Mardol Quay
- Closing Butcher Row Toilets
- Closing the two sets of Quarry Toilets, Splash Park & Dingle

A core team of 4 Prosecure Staff have been utilized on a rota which has provided excellent continuity and the staff liaise with both the Quarry Grounds Staff and the Neighbourhood Wardens & Toilet Cleaners to ensure a smooth handover. The Prosecure Staff have also got to know the key protagonists who cause antisocial behavior both in the park and around the Butcher Row Toilets.

Those Prosecure Staff keep themselves updated via a closed messaging tool to ensure that all are aware of any issues on other shifts and understand any matters that might need addressing. They in turn provide a weekly report to the Town Council which:

- (i) Is added to the Town Council’s ASB Logs
- (ii) Helps to inform multi-agency working through Team Shrewsbury
- (iii) Is passed onto relevant partners

**OUTCOMES**

Prosecure staff have also been involved in a number of key ASB issues; namely:

- Violence Against Women & Girls
- Potential CSE/Safeguarding matters
- Catching Drugs Deals & Usage
- River Rescues
- Providing Education to young people under the influence of alcohol and other substances
- Removing individuals from the park who were causing ASB

The key benefit of all of this has been the improved morale with the operational staff. Productivity has increased, sickness absence has reduced, and the general feeling of a happy workforce has improved exponentially.

**FUTURE**

At the last meeting the need to review this service in the Autumn was essential as the benefits seen with the project were evident.

The Town Clerk worked reported on collaborative work with West Mercia Police Crime Reduction Hub to submit a bid to the Home Office for Safer Streets 4 Funding. This would allow for expanded coverage in the park, the development of a Taxi Marshalling Scheme and a Town Rangers Scheme to be run by the BID. The funding bid of in excess of £500k was successful and provides focus on the following areas:

- (i) Support for the Town Centre & Quarry area featured in the Top 10 hotspot areas in the force
- (ii) Funding to specifically support Violence Against Women & Girls

The funding was profiled over the financial years 2022/23 and 2023/24 with all Home Office Funding needing to be spent by September 2023, with a monthly spend allocation. Therefore, delaying spending would result in less funding being available.

The Extent of the Town Council’s responsibility within the funding allocation is as follows:

Lighting of Throwline Boards & Lifebuoys	£43,700
Quarry Security & Taxi Marshalling	£168,480

Tendering has begun for the Lighting and the revised schedule for Security has now been deployed:

Monday	12.00 – 20.00	
Tuesday	12.00 – 20.00	
Wednesday	12.00 – 20.00	
Thursday	12.00 – 20.00	
Friday	12.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 04.00 (Taxi Marshalling)
Saturday	12.00 – 22.00	22.00 – 04.00 (Taxi Marshalling)
Sunday	12.00 – 22.00	

The same Locking Up arrangements are continuing with extended patrols throughout the Quarry. Prosecure Staff are also able to patrol further into potential outliers where individuals might displace to with increased patrols in the park.

As the focus of the funding is to prevent Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG), this has become a key priority and in the month that extended patrols have been operational.

The United Nations defines VAWG as ***“Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”***

VAWG includes the following:

- Domestic Abuse
- Rape & Sexual Assault
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Early & Forced Marriage
- Honour Based Violence
- Spiritual Abuse
- Sexual Harassment
- Stalking
- Modern Slavery
- Forced Prostitution / Sexual exploitation

This funding relates to publicly accessible locations and already Security staff have identified VAWG related matters. It is not possible to go into details as a number have been reported to police for investigation.

The feedback of the extended security has been extremely positive. The small core team have been able to build relations with stakeholders and develop multi-operational activities as well as building trust and confidence with the public and in particular those who are vulnerable including Children & Young People and especially those at risk of exploitation, Homeless, Individuals prone to alcohol & substance misuse.

Prosecure are now providing an enhanced level of reporting which will allow us to track the outcomes of the funding and determine what happened once the funding is exhausted. This committee will be appraised of activity throughout this 15-month funding project.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report is noted
2. That the Committee approve the course of action taken in the interests of operational expediency