

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Meeting of the Communities & Environment Committee Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill At 6.00pm on Wednesday 8 October 2025

PRESENT

Councillors J Daniels (Chair), B Bentick, R Dartnall, A Fejfer, R Gratton, E Micklewright, A Mosley and R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Ruth Jones (Office Manager), Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets & Events Manager) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer).

Also in attendance were Tom Coekin (Environment Agency) and Sam Wilson and Hannah Lister (Severn Trent Water).

34/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That no Councillor apologies received.

Apologies were received from Andy Hall - Youth & Community Manager.

35/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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36/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 6 August 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

37/25 MATTERS ARISING

Min 23/25 Climate Forum Terms of Reference – The Town Clerk reported that she had not got around to developing the Terms of Reference for the Climate Forum but she was in contact with external bodies from the old Climate Committee and the terms would be drafted as soon as possible

Min 24/25 Road Safety outside Woodfield School – The Town Clerk reported that she had drafted a letter and had circulated to all members but had not really got any feedback other than it wasn't something the Town Council should be looking at.

Councillor Dartnall commented that 20mph outside of schools gets in the way universally.

Councillor Wilson commented that there was little evidence that 20mph outside a school improved the environment.

Members were in agreement that no further action should be taken on this by the Town Council.

38/25 BATHING WATERS/RIVER QUALITY

38.1 Update regarding Bathing Water and River Quality

Tom Coekin from the Environment Agency joined the meeting to provide members with a summary of the 2025 bathing water season. The second bathing water season had now finished and overall, the Statutory Bacteriological results were overall relatively low and fewer higher results were brought on by the rainfall, comparing to last year.

Tom confirmed that spikes in testing come against heavy rain spells and there was still work to do on the causes of the high results. He provided a comparison from 2024 and 2025. It was likely that Shrewsbury would fail this year but there was still work to be done in Shrewsbury.

He provided project results and informed members that they had installed a bacteria sensor at the bathing site and the information it had produced was well received and they were seeing key pieces of information from the sensors, but more data was still required. The official classification of 'Poor' was supported through project results.

Rainfall appeared to impact the percentage of E. coli but had less impact on the concentration. Temperature also increased the range of results. The project had taken 98 samples rather than the statutory 28.

The Shropshire Wild Bathing App was a well-received project which had been introduced in Ludlow and Shrewsbury. There had been 1300+ downloads and the app now provided data on a daily basis straight to the app for the public to decide if they wished to swim. E. Coli was also showing on the app. A lot had been learned through the project.

The question was asked how Shrewsbury Town Council could support the project going forward with the monthly costs for the monitoring projects, looking at the 2026 season.

Councillor Dartnall asked if Defra funded last year and Tom confirmed it was all their own funding. They did receive funding from Defra to run in Ironbridge but no funding for Shrewsbury and Ludlow as yet.

Councillor Dartnall also commented that every rainfall was different and asked if there was certain rainfall that would set it off and if the CSO at Pig Trough would affect it. Tom suggested that Severn Trent would be better placed to answer that question regarding the Pig Trough.

Councillor Mickelwright said there were two different methods of monitoring and three ways of reading bacteria data, were they also looking at using proxys. Tom confirmed the work was ongoing and all data was available to view, and he would send a link out to all members to view.

Councillor Wilson asked when the monitoring would stop and start again to which Tom confirmed it finished on 30 September, but the monitoring project would carry on until October and the sensors would carry on to March 2026. The bacteria sensor could only continue when they had money available and would look to run from May-September 2026. Councillor Wilson asked where they were looking for funding to which Tom confirmed they were applying to Defra for an extension, but they would be open to partnership working on this.

Representatives from Severn Trent were present at the meeting and were asked to provide an update as the Bathing Water Status allowed Severn Trent access to funds they wouldn't otherwise have if there wasn't that designation and that they were aware that they also tested at the same location. How did their results compare and had they accessed additional funding to support improvements? It would be good to understand what they thought the Coton Hill works might do to test results.

Severn Trent confirmed that they supported river health activity but would like to come back to a future meeting with a more detailed update for members. Pig Trough was only one piece of the works. Councillor Dartnall added they would like an update on the works and results so far.

They confirmed that they were trying to set up a meeting regarding an investment plan for Shrewsbury, but they could prepare for a separate meeting and provide data. In May 2024 when it was designated a review went to OFWAT who granted a specific amount of money to do feasibility and wished to meet with the Town Council and Shropshire Council so feasibility could be done as quick as possible. It was added that Severn Trent and Environment Agency would join forces away from the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted**
- (ii) That Severn Trent return to the next meeting on 3 December to give an informed update.**

Tom Coekin, Sam Wilson and Hannah Lister left the meeting.

38.2 The continuation of specialist testing of water quality

The Town Clerk informed Committee that the continuation of specialist testing of water quality above the statutory testing required under Bathing Water Regulations was vital. She asked members if they would be happy to contribute towards the testing. With regards to the bacteria sensors the Town Council would be happy train staff to take daily readings if this helped with costings.

Councillor Wilson suggested that the Town Clerk was to engage with Tom to discuss further but not committing to a figure and bring it back to the next meeting to discuss but this could be made a partnership project.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk meets with the EA to discuss funding and bring back to next meeting in December.

39/25 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

The Town Clerk informed the Committee on this year's budget process and the Committees input into that process.

The Responsible Financial Officer took a report to the last Policy & Resources Committee about engaging with the standing committees regarding setting the budget for 2026/27.

They had a final Committee meetings scheduled for 3 December ahead of the Policy & Resources Committee starting budget setting on the 8 December. That meeting sets the policy direction for the budget and a draft budget was then prepared for

consideration on the 12 January which then recommends the final budget to the Full Council meeting on the 26 January ahead of our 31 January 2026 deadline.

In considering any budgetary item, they had to be mindful of their general powers to deliver and that it aligned with the Town Council Corporate Plan and the six pillars of;

- Building Resilient Communities
- Supporting Shrewsbury residents to live active and healthy lives through the provision of quality services
- Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage
- Creating a greener and better-connected Shrewsbury
- Advancing a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation
- Taking Positive action to tackle climate change

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had emailed all requesting any budgetary requirements and asked if there was anything members wished to raise at this meeting.

Councillor Wilson commented on tackling Climate Change and asked when did the Town Council last assess where they were with reaching net zero. He added that the RFO was in contact with a company regarding this and asked where they could or should be spending money and that more information was needed as the timescale was short.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Weeping Cross depot was a power drain with the large greenhouse and oil boiler. W M Energy contractors had been around to look at the viability for solar panels and the possible removal of the oil boiler and could get feasibility as soon as possible.

Councillor Mosley said that it would be useful if they could be sent copies of the existing visioning programme, but this had not been done as yet. The Town Clerk agreed to send this out to all.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk send copies of the existing visioning programme to all Councillors

40/25 LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that at the previous meeting in August, she had informed the Committee that the LNRS consultation had been launched and would close on 15 October. The link was sent out to all Councillors on 7 August asking to have any comments by the end of September so a response could be collated but no responses had been received. Officer feedback had been given but nothing from members.

Councillor Bentick commented that he had asked for a list of green spaces in each ward from Mike Pugh (Contracts & Arbs Officer – STC) but had not received a response from him. Councillor Bentick had also attended a conference on the strategy and would forward literature to members and raised the possibility of communities forming their own land trusts. The Town Clerk replied that a lot of research was needed on land trusts and that there was only one in place in the county.

Councillor Micklewright commented on hedgerows and how STC manage them as the flail was not the best way and was there a more biodiverse way to do them. The Town Clerk confirmed that any other way of cutting hedgerows was not financially viable given the extensive length of hedgerows the Town Council was responsible for.

The Town Clerk stated she needed formal commentary for the consultation and elected member input.

Councillor Bentick suggested the Town Clerk circulated what she already had in draft and then members could contribute to that.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk circulate the draft response to Councillors for further comment.

41/25 LAND ADOPTION STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported that this item was raised at Full Council on 29 September and it was agreed that it should come to this Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Dartnall has had a long aspiration that the greenspace at the new Cornovii development site off London Road be adopted by the Town Council. Officers spent an extensive amount of time reviewing plans, guiding the development company on the best use of open space and the level of specification needed to develop open space, to find that the land would now be managed through a Management Company, siting the Town Council's costs in demanding a 15-year maintenance contribution in lieu of management in perpetuity. Councillor Dartnall felt this was grossly unfair to expect residents to pay both Council Tax and a Management Fee. This however happened elsewhere as the developer must determine the management arrangements for any public open space. They could site a number of developments which operated in this way – Shillingstone Drive, Weir Hill, Yew Tree Close off Whitchurch Road and Falcons Way opposite the hospital. Council was asked to consider whether there needed to be any changes to their approach to land adoption. A copy of the Town Council Land Adoption Policy had been circulated to all members. From an operational point of view what they required on site was still relevant. The sticking point seemed to be the request for 15 years' maintenance

contributions, after which time they had to absorb the maintenance costs. Do they reduce the number of years contribution requirements or not even request a sum. The other aspect to consider was that the requirement for a Management Company may still continue as there were often a number of private roads with the Highways Authority only adopting principle routes under their s38 requirements. The other aspect to consider was that there were a number of developers who had agreed to pay the maintenance contribution but had not yet transferred the sites for adoption. Do they continue as agreed or does any change in policy apply? The Town Clerk was seeking clarity on what members wanted the Town Council to do on site and what was the right open space for the public.

Councillor Wilson reminded members that they were all in an open session discussing contractual matters.

Councillor Mosley asked if this was an item that should be discussed at Policy & Resources Committee, but Councillor Wilson was happy to deal with it on this committee.

Councillor Mickelwright asked if there was an incentive in the policy and if it was possible to waive some fees.

Councillor Wilson commented if the Town Council reduced any aspect would it change their minds and how low did the Town Council have to go? He suggested that the Town Clerk writes to Cornovii, the Chief Executive and Portfolio Holder to express the disappointment in the approach a wholly owned company of Shropshire Council was taking. The Town Clerk suggested talking to Shropshire Council regarding the Local Plan.

Councillor Wilson commented that members should consider this document and come up with options on where it could go. Outside of the meeting contact could be made with Edward West at Shropshire Council and the relevant portfolio holder and possibly bring back an update to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk writes to Cornovii and the Chief Executive**
- (iii) That an update is provided at a future Communities & Environment Committee**

42/25 MEOLE ESTATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Town Clerk informed Committee that this item was raised at Full Council on 29 September but as Councillor Bentick was not present at the meeting it was agreed that it should be brought to this Committee.

The Town Clerk had drafted a report on the Meole Estate Community Association to which the ward member for Meole had continued to be a member. They were keen to provide additional services and community facilities on the estate and had looked to expanding the existing facilities at Meet Place. They had long-since had an agreement to support expansion, but it was on the condition of having a more formalised management structure which MECA had done. Their aspiration was to re-develop community facilities at Mary Webb Road and asked that the £50,000 ringfenced for the Meet Place expansion be re-distributed to allow the commissioning of specialists to develop a feasibility and plans for a new facility. MECA also sought an in-principle agreement for the land which previously housed a community facility to be leased to them for use as a new facility.

Before leaving the meeting for this agenda item, Councillor Bentick commented that the community wanted to build on Mary Webb Road and he felt the money ringfenced for future improvements at Meet Place would be best placed elsewhere in developing facilities at Mary Webb Road. He confirmed that legal status had now been obtained, and a new facility would likely attract possible outside funding.

Councillor Bentick left the meeting whilst discussions took place.

The Members agreed to support the proposal in principle, but it was agreed that new quotes were required for costings and who would pay for the running costs of the building. The Town Clerk confirmed this would be part of a feasibility study.

Councillor Mosley commented that the build needed to be attractive to external bodies who may then wish to rent the facility.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council

- (i) Approves in principle the use of Town Council-owned land on Mary Webb Road for the purpose of constructing a new community centre.**
- (ii) Agrees to reallocate up to £50,000 towards the commissioning of an architect to prepare a business case and RIBA stage design plans. (subject to MECA & Stakeholder engagements)**

43/25 YOUTH

The Town Clerk provided in update in the absence of the Youth Manager.

Young Shrewsbury's Youth activities had returned week commencing 1 September after the summer break. All youth clubs held at The Grange, Ditherington, Hive & Lodge Monkmoor were back up and running as normal.

All the summer HAF clubs at the Grange were well attended. Sadly, they had to change some of the off-site activities due to transport availability.

Members were informed that they had received confirmation that the Government had agreed that HAF funding would continue for the next two years. This enabled both Shropshire Council's team and providers to better plan going forward and to provide stability for this crucial holiday provision.

The Alternative Curriculum (AC) delivery continued, with all attendees from Shrewsbury Academy.

The next Youth Council meeting was due to be held on Thursday 2 October, but due to many youth council members being unavailable it did not go ahead. This had now been re-scheduled. During the Summer break, several members had been involved with the High Sheriff of Shropshire's Youth awareness day and had agreed to be Youth Ambassadors.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Councillors Fejfer & Gratton left the meeting

44/25 TEAM SHREWSBURY

44.1 Update on the work of Team Shrewsbury

The Office Manager provided an update on Team Shrewsbury activities. The Town Centre Safe Neighbourhood Team had moved to a new hub in the Town Centre, located on Drayton Passage. This was not a public facing office, however they were able to respond quicker to incidents, which was beneficial for the Town Centre. Inspector Ben Tanfield had moved roles within the Police, and the new Safer Neighbourhood Team Inspector was Ingrid Tozer.

Shropshire Council and the ARK would be starting SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol) for the street community, when the weather falls below freezing.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted

44.2 Policing Priorities

The Office Manager provided an update on Policing Priorities. The policing priorities presented this evening were for ratifying the October submission. The next submission would be January 2026. Requests for Councillor priorities would therefore be made early December. The January submission would be ratified at the February meeting. It was previously raised for the Inspector and Shropshire Council

Parking to attend the meeting to discuss Traffic Management responsibility in relation to parking issues and the Office Manager confirmed that both the Inspector and Shropshire Council Parking would be attending the next meeting on the 3 December.

Councillor Wilson reminded all members that they must review and go through each of their policing priorities even if there were no changes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted**
- (ii) That the Policing Priorities for October be approved**

44.3 The amalgamation of the Town Ranger Project

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the requirement to amalgamate the Town Ranger functions under a single management structure.

The Town Ranger Project originated at the time of COVID when issues around anti-social behaviour had increased in the park. An opportunity to seek Home Office Safer Streets Funding allowed the project to be expanded to include Quarry Security, Town Centre Rangers and Taxi Marshals. Funding for the whole project was secured for an 18-month period and subsequently the service was funded through contributions from the Town Council, Shropshire Council and the Business Improvement District.

The Town Clerk had prepared a report about the Town Ranger Project detailing the various aspects of their work, the rationale for setting up the service in the first place and the valuable work that they undertook in addressing ASB, undertaking welfare checks of some of the most vulnerable individuals, being the meeter and greeter for visitors and generally supporting a nicer place. The fact that police support was not what it used to be together with public protection not being around to address some of those licensing issues meant the Ranger role was ever important. The Town Ranger data also helped to inform policing priorities, provided the data to support the continuation of the Public Space Protection Order and provided vital information on the welfare of their street community.

The report looked to amalgamate the Town Ranger, Quarry Security & Taxi Marshal functions into one management. The Town Council & BID had confirmed their funding, and the PCC was supportive of financing part of the project as a partnership but there was no funding available from Shropshire Council. The Town Council needed to be the holding organisation for the Rangers whilst the Council understood its role in wider public realm management which would inevitably be Streetscene

works and potentially an even greater role in the management and monitoring of CCTV. There was great sense in the Town Council being that overarching body to manage these services.

The Town Clerk anticipated there would be a £30,000 shortfall which they could pick some up from their CCTV budget as she was not sure they would have spent the budget allocation as well as general reserves.

This amalgamation would need to start from the beginning of October.

It was envisaged that the commitment from partners would be:

- West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner £60,000
- Shrewsbury Town Council £120,000
- Shrewsbury Business Improvement District £60,000

The Town Council's existing contribution was £80,000 and whilst there was an additional requirement, it was hoped that the review of localised services under the collective management of the Town Council would create other efficiencies. The BID & PCC were keen to formalise the relationship to ensure continuation of the project. Both saw this project high on their priority list for the town.

Councillor Wilson commented that the Rangers had become an essential part of the town, and the service must continue.

Councillor Mosley commented that interim funding was fine but if they were now at the stage of taking over the entire project, they need to start afresh and look over the contract. He would like to know more following interim payments and how long was the initial contract for.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Report be noted**
- (ii) That the Town Council meet the interim funding gap whilst wider Streetscene initiatives are worked through**
- (iii) That the Town Council works with Shrewsbury BID towards amalgamating the Town Ranger, Quarry Security, Taxi Marshal projects into one project managed by the Town Council**
- (iv) That the BID & PCC be requested to enter into agreements on funding**
- (v) That Policy & Resources Committee review the whole aspect of public safety as part of its budget setting for 2026/27**

45/25 QUARRY EVENTS CALENDAR

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Quarry Events Calendar. Other than Oktoberfest this coming weekend and a couple of

athletic events during the winter months, they had now completed the calendar for 2025, and it was pleasing to report it had been another successful year.

The weather had certainly been in complete contrast to the incessant rain of 2024, with regular warm sunny days helping to reduce the impact on ground conditions and therefore any associated remedial work. Once the Oktoberfest site had been cleared, they would take the opportunity to review the condition of both the main arena and fairground sites and develop an appropriate maintenance plan for the off season period.

There had been a lot of emphasis placed on reducing the build and break periods for larger events this year, which had certainly improved the overall situation. This approach, together with the sudden cancellation of the Flower Show, had allowed the Quarry to feel less restricted over spring and summer.

Once again, the event calendar had provided a wide variety of activities and attractions for people to enjoy, with attendances holding up very well in challenging economic times and positive comment received from organisers and audiences alike. The 'Summer of Music 2025, live in the bandstand' season had proved extremely popular with a considerable amount of positive feedback received for these free community events. Plans were well under way for the 2026 program with an emphasis on increasing the number of performances and diversifying the music on offer.

Another pleasing aspect had been that the event season had passed off with very few incidents being reported or complaints received. This was testament to the level of planning, preparation and professional implementation which was involved and the high standards which were expected from organisers. They had always tried to address any issues as they arose and worked closely with licensing and environmental protection representatives within Shropshire Council.

As had been highlighted in the previous update there was a very evident reduction in the event budget for Let's Rock this year. This had a detrimental impact on the quality of the experience for the audience and without careful management on the day could have compromised the security arrangements. All these concerns would therefore play an integral role in the consideration of any future bookings received from the same promoter.

Staff were continuing to receive and progress potentially exciting applications from a variety of event organisers who would like to bring something new to the Quarry in 2026 and beyond. There are well publicised concerns about the future of a number of the Quarry's long running shows and festivals at present and it was therefore pertinent to carefully consider any fresh proposals which came in. Having said that a number of their other regular bookings had confirmed for next year and remained confident that they would be able to provide another full calendar of events.

Councillor Bentick asked if there was any news on the Flower Show returning for 2026 and the Town Clerk confirmed that the current view was, they would not be holding the event in 2026, and they were looking at options going forward.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

46/25 GRANTS

The Town Clerk presented the Grants Sub Committee notes in which the Committee's recommendations were contained for this Committee's ratification.

	Organisation	Amount Awarded
1.	4 All Foundation	£1500
	TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED	£1000 with £500 offered by Councillor Mosley from his Local Councillor Grant Fund.

Councillor Mickelwright commented on the unevenness of applications as there was only one this round but 15 the previous round. It was believed that the first round was due to the elections, and the number of applications should even out over the course of the year.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the notes of the Grants Sub Committee meeting held on 24 September be received and adopted**
- (ii) That the funding awards as detailed in those notes be approved**

47/25 MARKETS

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Indoor Market. As they moved into autumn it was a good opportunity to reflect on the performance of the indoor market over the summer period, together with the activities and events which had taken place. General footfall had remained high throughout the season with the 'award winning reputation' definitely helping to attract both regular local customers, as well as a healthy proportion of curious tourists.

The Town Council's canopied section continued to operate with 100% occupancy of regular traders and no rental arrears, although there had also been some welcome changes in recent weeks. An existing stallholder had taken the opportunity to expand into a double unit, following the retirement of the incumbent trader. They

had quickly settled into their larger trading space and reported positive sales alongside an increase in footfall. The single stall they vacated had also been let to their youngest trader, who had been looking for a permanent space after holding the occasional pop-up event, to build on his existing online business. The social media promotion to showcase the story of this impressive 18-year-old entrepreneur had received a huge amount of traction, resulting in local media interest and a radio interview. It had undoubtedly been a positive news story for the market itself, and he should prove to be a major asset for years to come.

The positive impact of these changes, together with those within the Shropshire Council managed areas, fully vindicated the collaborative approach to the vacant unit process where the key driver was protecting or enhancing the overall market mix. This partnership approach was also allowing a number of joint initiatives to continue to drive positive change within the building. The most recent examples of which include

- Installation of new festoon lighting in the undercroft
- Installation of a new gobo projector in the undercroft
- New floral tubs in the bellstone entrance
- New 60th anniversary signage
- Re opening of the viewing deck
- Installation of new projector screen

A successful launch event was held on the 16 September for a new exhibition developed throughout the market to celebrate the current market building turning 60 years of age. Various storyboards had been created for all of the longest running traders and were sited on the market floor itself, alongside a 'wall of memories' in the undercroft entrance stairwell. The viewing deck had been transformed into an exhibition space with smaller storyboards for all the other traders, together with the other exhibition elements, including historic storyboards, archive films and drone footage. The exhibition was initially scheduled to run for a month.

An update was also provided on the Sunday Market. As reported in the last update in August, officers agreed to the request from the operator of the Sunday Market, 'Places for Community Spaces Ltd', to bring back the car boot sale element. They had consistently reported difficulties in attracting and retaining stallholders and as a result footfall remained relatively low. This change was agreed for an initial 3-month trial period and with two months already passed they had provided a summary report of the impact to date. There had been a general increase in both footfall and trader numbers over the last eight weeks, which was a positive start. There were some trends and mitigating factors to be aware of, the least surprising of which was the extremely negative impact of inclement weather on an outdoor market.

Conversely their figures demonstrated a significant upturn in numbers over the 17th, 24th and 31st of August when the weather was extremely good. This wasn't the only factor they had reported as it had quickly become apparent that the car boot operating from the West Mid Showground was the main competition within the local

area and there was a clear reduction in footfall at Harlescott when it returned on September 7th following their summer break.

One specific advantage that the Harlescott site had over the West Mid Showground was that it was all on hard standing and this should help to sustain attendances over the more problematic autumn and winter months, particularly in comparison to the river adjacent Showground site. They were also hoping to take advantage of the interruptions to the showground schedule when the car boot was suspended for other events to take place.

There had also been a welcome increase in the trader numbers within the market with the largest total of 25 being reported on the 24 August. On a more specific note, they had managed to attract back 5 traders on a regular basis, who had previously stopped coming to the market because of the consistently low levels of footfall. They had been working hard to offer a very competitive pricing strategy for traders and believe that locally it was certainly working with the numbers who were starting to return on a consistent basis.

As with any market the trader mix was extremely important in helping to attract customers and they had been deliberately targeting specific trader types who they believed would enhance the market offer. This strategy was definitely starting to bear fruit with more than 20 different categories of trader operating over the trial period. They had a number of other initiatives planned over the next few weeks to try and maintain this positive start and more detailed analysis of the footfall figures to help to better understand the impact of these measures.

Councillor Bentick asked whether Shrewsbury Town Council would be taking over the whole market, but the Town Clerk replied that neither the Town Council nor Shropshire Council wished to give up the market as an income stream and that they collaboratively worked well together. There were other issues to sort over and above this one, but it would be kept under review.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

Councillors Mosley & Dartnall left the meeting.

48/25 FISHERIES

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on the work of Shrewsbury Town Council Fisheries.

As the winter season approached, the team were still very busy on the fisheries with new full season members and day ticket holders. The river was fishing well with lots of fish being caught.

At the County Ground & Quarry Park they had completed strimming around all the fishing platforms and trimmed minor tree branches as permitted. In addition, they had inspected and made good any repairs on the fishing platforms.

In the last three weeks they had replaced a fishing platform on each of the fisheries in Sydney Avenue, Monkmoor and Emstrey. They had also carried out all maintenance to the platforms that were in need after inspection.

They had recently had two away Angling Club competitions on the County Ground that went well. The Shrewsbury Open competitions were hoping to begin on 11 October. Practice reports on fish catches had shown to be good and it was hoped a recovery of the competitions was underway with anglers from all over the UK.

The new footpath areas had now been completed by the contractor at Radbrook Pool. The path areas would improve access where it got very wet and muddy in the winter months for anglers and the general public.

With the very hot and long dry weather in the summer, the pools had low water and oxygen levels, particularly at Oxon Pool where they had lower readings and fluctuations when they were tested each day. In order for them to be more resilient, and as a preventative measure, they had installed three solar aeration systems on Oxon Pool. The systems were on a timer and go on at night when the oxygen levels were likely to drop. The systems were very quiet, principally like running water and self-powered with no running costs. They would possibly look at one system to be installed at Mousecroft and Radbrook Pools next year.

They had completed this year's Junior Coaching programme with great success. All the children taking part had thoroughly enjoyed the sessions along with their parents. Plans would be underway in the coming weeks in preparation for next year. A big thank you to the head coach Ian James and his team.

Councillor Micklewright commented that Radbrook Pool was well used, and she had received good feedback regarding the junior coaching programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Fisheries report be noted

49/25 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this Town Council meeting and thanked the staff involved in this meeting. All papers related to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk.