

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
5 March 2025**

Officer: Danny Powell – Acting Operations Manager

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Purpose

To update on Grounds Maintenance operations

Grounds Maintenance Update

The weather since the start of the new year has been colder than normal, with cold winds, frost and a small fall of snow. There have been numerous dull days with no sun and high winds. This weather has slowed grass growth and spring bulbs are just coming into flower. The positives of the weather are that we have been able to use staff to tidy up locations across the Town and currently verge mowing is still a few weeks away unless the ground conditions improve.

Recreation Team

Adult football matches are coming to the end of their season, and some clubs have now finished. The meetings last year with the Sunday League were a positive to this happening. When ground conditions have allowed, we have carried on with our aeration programme. Junior and Ladies football is some way behind, and we have met with Shropshire FA to discuss this.

Spring cricket and bowls preparation began when the weather allowed, cricket fixtures will start at the beginning of May and finish in September.

The Shrewsbury Ladies Rounders League return again this year to the County Ground on Tuesday evenings with 100 plus ladies taking part.

With the cold weather staff have tidied car parks at our Recreation Grounds and have cut street hedges and swept cycle paths.

Maintenance of the Golf Course continues to the end of March and we have started to remove machinery and materials from the golf course depot.

We have carried out aeration work on a number of bowling greens in the Shrewsbury area, which we invoiced for. Several clubs have asked for our advice on how to maintain their greens.

Amenity Team

Lifting and removal of trees in the Dingle has taken place. These were all inspected by the Tree Officer before work started. Shrub bed maintenance has continued across the Town.

Path edging and the tidying of the St Julians entrance to the Quarry has been undertaken.

The production of this year's summer bedding plants has started in the Nursery. Heliotrope cuttings, Fuchsia cuttings and seed sowing have taken place.

Several of the wooden square planters in the Mardol Head area have been tidied and extra plants put in place.

Logistics Team

Playground maintenance (bin emptying and Inspections) have been carried out across the town. The Tractor Flail has carried out work for Shropshire Council, cutting back vegetation along a number of major roads. Our staff were working under the guidance of Shropshire Council to carry this work out. Our mechanics have been carrying out winter servicing of our machines. They have also carried out fabrication work on a number of in-house projects to reduce the costs.

Two members of staff have undertaken the small stepping up jobs across the town. We have collected in numerous jobs from Councillors, the public and staff. These have been placed on a spreadsheet and a list is issued to them each week. We will undertake the larger jobs once staff members have been recruited.

Countryside and Green Space Team

The beavers have moved into their new home and staff were involved in this and the ongoing work to look after them.

The Tree team have undertaken the removal of Ash Die Back Trees across the town. They removed 40 along Mansell Williams Way. They have also been undertaking pruning, lifting and the removal of trees which had been identified as requiring work across the town.

A number of staff have been in the General Cemetery cutting hedges and carrying out general maintenance.

General Information

Cemetery staff were instrumental in stopping an accident on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth railway line. A large tree split in the high winds and a section was in danger of falling across the line. They rang Network rail to request the line closure and notified managers of the danger.

Quarry staff were informed of a dead swan on the river which was reported to DEFRA. DEFRA then came and removed the swan to check for Avian Flu.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted