

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE
Wednesday 27th January 2021**

Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose of Report

To update the Council on the current situation within the Fisheries managed within the Town.

Update

Since the 5th January 2021, the fisheries have been able to operate in accordance with guidelines produced by the Angling Trust and Government.

Anglers must not travel from outside their area to fish, they must not car share and they must not take part in any competitions.

Locally we have introduced additional rules such as Oxon Pool is now closed at Dusk where no overnight fishing allowed at the moment.

The bailiffs are enforcing the guidelines.

We have had a number of issues where the public have wrongly complained that Anglers should not be participating in the sport during the COVID Lockdown, but the bailiffs have been instructed on how to calmly deal with the public who have complained.

During the first Lockdown we did have Anglers travelling large distances to fish the waters of Shrewsbury, when the guidelines state you have to stay local. Anglers from as far away as Liverpool were being turned away. During this lock down, the Anglers appear to be abiding by the lock down rules.

The only recent issues we have had, is with poaching. Details have been obtained about the individuals and the vehicles used and the matter has been passed on to the Police and Environment Agency.

Development

The areas around the fisheries are being used more by visitors, keen to exercise or walk the dog.

More paths have been installed to accommodate visitors, and at the same time keep them separate from the Anglers. A recent concern is at Mousecroft Pool. This is now receiving many visitors per day and it is having an adverse impact on the walk way down from the car park to the pool, with one or two visitors slipping in the mud. The Anglers would like to install a path from the car park down to the pool to connect to the path created last year. The Anglers are also applying for Grants from the Angling Trust to install 3 new purpose built fishing pegs for disabled anglers, along with the new path, it will ensure the facility is more accessible to disabled anglers.

Grants are also being applied for, so that we can install two more fishing pegs on the Monkmoor fishery and also for more trees in the Frankwell area, to compliment what the Countryside team have already done, this will also contribute to the stabilization of the river bank.

A more detailed plan of improvements will be produced for a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the report be noted.**