

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
6 SEPTEMBER 2023**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

SAFE STREETS 4 FUNDING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update the Committee on the delivery of the 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

UPDATE SINCE THE LAST MEETING

Quarry Security have worked 8 hour shifts between Sunday to Thursday expanding to a 10 hour shift on Fridays & Saturdays with those teams being replaced by Taxi Marshals from 22.00 – 4.00 Friday & Saturday nights. Additionally the Town Rangers, facilitated by Shrewsbury BID operate 6 hours a day with enhanced shifts on Friday & Saturday to cater for increased demands on service. The Teams, whilst paid for and reported on separately do complement each other and often call on each other for assistance, especially when there is no police cover or delays in responding.

Home Office funding concludes at the end of September with various match funding taking the service to the end of the financial year. Discussions are ongoing with the BID and Shropshire Council around how the service might continue in a more collaborative form that at present.

It is evident from surveys of both businesses and residents and visitors that the Rangers project has been well received and provides huge reassurance to the town centre and the park. This reassurance work has been crucial given recent high profile crimes that have caused upset to the community.

It had been hoped that the renewal of the PSPO would provide added powers to the Rangers to stop a number of anti-social and behavioural issues in the town. It would appear that senior officers within the Public Protection Team are reluctant to grant any powers beyond the current users of the tool for fear of them being over-burdened by paperwork. Despite best efforts to

reassure officers that the Town Rangers would only issue PSPOs as a last resort, Public Protection officers remain reluctant to exercise those additional powers within the newly revised PSPO.

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 showing trends of people, locations and activity and this is helping to prioritise patrols and work flows.

Officers continue to work with the Police Problem Solving Hub who have the responsibility to report activity and success of the project to the Home Office. We have previously reported on successful visits by Home Office Staff as well as the Chief Constable and Police & Crime Commissioner to witness the project first hand.

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.

Taxi Marshals have helped continue to strengthen relations between the Hackney Carriage Drivers and the Private Hire Drivers. They continue to review live bookings with Taxi Drivers and report any breaches to the Licensing Team.

Town Rangers continue to be busy addressing issues associated with Rough Sleepers; this includes, drug taking and dealing, drinking alcohol on the streets, begging and shoplifting. Whilst it is acknowledged that all issues are not perpetrated by the rough sleepers, they are by individuals who congregate together with them.

Upon the direction of the Director of Public Health, an ASB Task Group has been established under the Team Shrewsbury umbrella. It is made up of senior officers from Shropshire Council, Town Council, BID and Police who have delegated responsibility to commit their organisation's resources in an attempt to work more collaboratively and constructively to address ongoing issues. This will be supplemented by a Practitioner Group that will drill down into individual cases, subject to appropriate Memorandum of Understanding and Data Sharing Agreements with the development of a communications strategy to inform wider stakeholders, public, businesses etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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