



**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Wednesday 4th February 2026**

Officer: Ian Thorpe. Commercial, Markets and Events Manager

EVENTS IN THE QUARRY

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee with the events held and scheduled to be held within the Quarry.

Provisional List of Events for 2026

Event	Provisional Date/s
March	
FUN FAIR - STOKES	Wednesday 25 th to April 11 th – Operating dates tbc
April	
RUN THE DISTANCE – SEVERN HOSPICE EASTER DASH	Saturday 4 th
WREKIN ORIENTEERING	Sunday 5 th
HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY	Monday 6 th
May	
LOOPFEST 2026	Friday 1 st to Sunday 3 rd
RUN THE DISTANCE - 10K POINT TO POINT	Sunday 3 rd
MECHANICAL ORGAN FESTIVAL	Saturday 2 nd to Sunday 3 rd
SHREWSBURY REGATTA	Saturday 9 th to Sunday 10 th
WELLINGTON BRASS BAND	Sunday 10 th
CLEOBURY MORTIMER CONCERT BRASS	Saturday 16 th
RUN THE DISTANCE - 50K	Saturday 16 th
SHREWSBURY MALE VOICE CHOIR	Sunday 17 th
WARWICK COMMUNITY BAND	Saturday 23 rd
BRASS BUTTONS	Sunday 24 th
WEM JUBILEE BAND	Sunday 31 st

RACE FOR LIFE 2026 – CANCER RESEARCH UK	Sunday 31 st
June	
ZIPPOS CIRCUS	Saturday 6 th to Monday 15 th – Operating dates 11 th to 15 th
SHREWSBURY CONCERT BAND	Sunday 7 th
BELLE VUE ARTS FESTIVAL	TBC
PORTHYWAEN SILVER BAND	Saturday 13 th
SALOPIAN BRASS	Sunday 14 th
SHROPSHIRE YOUTH STAY SAFE DAY	Wednesday 24 th
SHREWSBURY FOOD FESTIVAL	Saturday 27 th to Sunday 28 th
July	
SHROPSHIRE MUSIC SERVICE	Saturday 4 th
SHREWSBURY BRASS BAND	Sunday 5 th
SHREWSBURY 10K – ULTIMATE FITNESS	Sunday 5 th
IDENTITY SCHOL OF DANCE & CATCHLIGHTS	Saturday 11 th
SHROPSHIRE BRASS ENSEMBLE	Sunday 12 th
SHREWSBURY MALE VOICE CHOIR	Saturday 18 th
SEVERN HOSPICE DRAGON BOAT RACING	Saturday 18 th to Sunday 19 th
TELFORD CONCERT BAND	Sunday 19 th
RUM & REGGAE FESTIVAL	Saturday 25 th
CHESTER BLUE COAT	Sunday 26 th
August	
LUDLOW CONCERT BAND	Sunday 9 th
WHITCHURCH BRASS BAND	Sunday 23 rd
September	
SEVERN BRIDGES 10K	Sunday 6 th
MACMILLAN CORACLE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	Friday 11 th
MAYORS CHARITY EVENT	Friday 18 th
RUN THE DISTANCE - 50K	Saturday 19 th
FUN FAIR - JENNINGS	Monday 14 th to Monday 21 st – Operating dates tbc
HILLS FORD STAGES RALLY	Saturday 19 th to Sunday 20 th
SHREWSBURY HALF MARATHON	Sunday 27 th

October	
OKTOBERFEST	Friday 2 nd to Saturday 3 rd

As the table above show the schedule for 2026 is now starting to fill up with interest being received on a weekly basis for potential events to be held in The Quarry. It is encouraging to note that the vast majority are from local organisations who are looking to expand their existing portfolio and recognise the potential that The Quarry offers in a unique setting.

It is looking increasingly unlikely that the Flower Show or Let's Rock will be returning in the foreseeable future and therefore the Town Council's events strategy has been adjusted to reflect this. Negotiations are continuing with several local and national promoters regarding potential large scale events they would like to bring to Shrewsbury.

These negotiations are being undertaken against a backdrop of an increasingly competitive market, expanding legislative requirements and rapidly rising costs. There is a noticeable trend towards smaller scale events, as organisers look to lower costs and reduce associated risk, or for larger events to remain in a fixed location for a much longer period of time, therefore needing only one build and break period.

As ever, any final decisions will always aim to achieve the right balance between holding a enjoyable, safe and appropriate event against the impact on both the park itself and the wider town centre.

Severn Trent Water and their contractors have begun the first phase of their large scale sewerage infrastructure project and have been working in the area from St Julians to Kingsland Bridge. The next phase will see them re-lining the main sewer which runs across the main arena and we have therefore suspended any of our own remedial work until this phase has been completed. We will continue to pay close attention to this project and assess the likely impact.

Planning for the "Summer of Music" 2026 programme is now in full swing as we look to build on the success of last year. The aim is to continue to grow the total number of events which are held in the bandstand, but also to widen the variety of music and performance on offer.

As the calendar shows, we already have the vast majority of bands and performers from 2025 provisionally signed up for this year, alongside a number of fresh, new additions. We will aim to get the full programme agreed as quickly as possible, to enable us to take the same focussed approach to promotion and publicity.

This provided audiences with a consistent message that there will be free musical performances to enjoy on the majority of weekends across the summer and this certainly helped with audience numbers and generated very positive feedback. The excellent weather also played its part!

We will continue to encourage visitors to bring chairs, picnics etc to enhance their experience and look to champion local artists and organisations whenever possible. One exciting addition already confirmed is the Performing Arts and Musical Theatre groups, whose children performed at our last Christmas Light switch on event. They are currently planning performances which will take place on and around the bandstand on Saturday 11th July.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted.