

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE****4 March 2026****Officer:** Stuart Farmer – Operations Manager**STEPPING UP TEAM UPDATE****Purpose**

To update the Council the work and implementation of the Stepping Up Team.

Ward Visits

The planned ward visits have continued over recent months with the visit to Copthorne being completed in January.

The dates of the ward visits have been diarised with the ward members and other organisations who have been encouraged to attend. Planned visits between this meeting and the next are as follow:

- Harlescott 18th February – Works planned 16th March 2026
- Meole 11th March – Works planned 6th April 2026
- Monkmoor 1st April - Works planned 27th April 2026

Programme of Works

The Operations Manager maintains the master spreadsheet of works with these being added to from public enquiries, councillor requests as well as officer reports.

Criteria of Works

The team has a spreadsheet with all tasks that have been identified either by the staff themselves, by Councillors, by the public and of late forwarded by Shropshire Council because their team haven't the resources to do them. Each task is reviewed to determine whether.

- (i) it is the responsibility of others and if it is, they are informed
- (ii) we have the capacity and resources to undertake the work
- (iii) whether there are any timeframes that need to be considered for the work to be done (for example, working out of nesting periods, knowing when other traffic management functions are being undertaken at the same time, any embargos and whether there are clusters of work in one area). Upon that staff allocate jobs to the Stepping up Team.

Work Completed to Date

During the Autumn season the team have focused on leaf clearing at all locations across Shrewsbury, this has continued through recent weeks

Bench installations have taken place in areas following Councillor requests, this has been completed alongside the Shrewsbury Menshed who have been refurbishing them. Benches are currently being refurbished from Coleham Head One of these is in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation and will be red on its return with a plaque produced by the BHF

Leaf Clearance Oakfield Estate

As part of the ward visit to Copthorne, the leaf litter on the open spaces was highlighted as a concern, Councillor Rob Wilson has organised a community event with residents to clear these leaves, The stepping up will provide the vehicles to transport the leaf mater away.

Arden Close Footpath

One of the bigger jobs that has been carried out recently is the footpath at Arden Close in Underdale, this work was carried out alongside the Tree team to widen the footpath back to the original width and remove the self-setting growth.



Recruitment

Following a successful recruitment process the vacant positions within the Stepping Up have now been filled, we are currently awaiting start dates for the new recruits. All new personnel will have an induction arranged as part of their on boarding.

Litter Picking

Litter Picking has continued in all areas of the Town and Town Centre on a regular basis, this is focused on areas that have been highlighted as being hot spots.

The team assisted with the bags and equipment and removal of waste following a community litter pick in the Belle Vue and Column Wards organised by Cllrs Halliday and Dartnall.

if Councillors are arranging litter picks the team will be able to assist with the delivery of equipment and collection of the bags. This can be arranged by contacting the Operations Managers, giving advance notice.

Re-Visiting of Sites

Re-visits to some of the sites have also been required to maintain the areas. These have included areas such as the Sutton Bridge. This is mostly due to leaf litter and weed growth. This will continue to be an issue and is something that the manager of the service is very conscious of. Time has been allocated for some re-visits to prevent the build-up occurring again wherever possible.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.