

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
10 MAY 2023**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

SAFER STREETS

Purpose of Report

To update the Committee on the Safer Streets Programme

INTRODUCTION

Members are aware that Officers worked with the Problem-Solving Team at West Mercia Police to submit a bid to the Home Office for Safer Streets 4 Funding. The fund, designed to address Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) allowed for bids to be prepared in defined areas which could show underlying concerns about VAWG supplemented by concerns locally. In excess of £500k was awarded as a suite of initiatives that were designed to create safe places for women and girls to access the town both during the day and night. Different agencies have been involved in promoting different strands of the funding award; these have been detailed in previous reports

CONTINUED WORK

The Safer Streets project continues in earnest with the predominance of the funding supporting Town Rangers (promoted by the BID), Quarry Security & Taxi Marshals (promoted by the Town Council). Funding continues until the end of September after which match funding takes the project to the end of March 2024.

Discussions have commenced with both the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Executive of Shropshire Council to potentially secure the OPCC Safer Community Fund to sustain this project further. The PCC has also been made aware that the Home Office intends to release a Safer Streets 5 fund, details of which are not yet known.

RESULTS

Town Rangers, Quarry Security & Taxi Marshals continue to be exceptionally busy addressing ASB matters. They work closely with the Police and are able to triage matters that begin to unfold to maximise Police resources in the town.

Intelligence from the Rangers is invaluable and has resulted in apprehension and prosecution. Much of the intelligence has also helped to inform the work around the continuation and extension of the Public Space Protection Order.

We are now heading into the summer months. The Quarry Security are reverting to extended summer hours with personnel being onsite until 20.00hrs daily with Fridays & Saturdays until 22.00hrs. Activity is also increasing, and officers will continue to monitor.

It cannot be underestimated how much of a sense of confidence Rangers have to public using the town centre and the park both during the daytime and at night. The town centre and the park have the largest collection of licensed premises and the biggest event calendar of any town in the West Mercia Police Area attracting many people from outside of the town as well as Shrewsbury residents. The need for the public's continued safety is a necessity.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) That the Report be noted