

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE  
6 MARCH 2024**

**Officer:** Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

**IT CONNECTIVITY IN THE QUARRY**

**Purpose of Report**

To approve proposals to install IT Connectivity in the Quarry

**INTRODUCTION**

This Committee has already been appraised of the Quarry being part of a regional bid to improve IT Connectivity in town and city centres and in particularly parks where large-scale events take place and where the existing IT connectivity cannot cope with usage from large numbers being in attendance. Currently large event operators have to buy in temporary IT connectivity at a cost to ensure that traders can make point of sale payments.

Shropshire Council, working with Worcestershire County Council and Bath & NE Somerset Council submitted a collective bid to the DSIT – Open Networks Ecosystem Fund for funding to support town centres and events. The Bid was successful and officers have been working on developing the project.

**QUARRY**

There have been a number of meetings on-site in the Quarry to look at locations for the necessary infrastructure. The locations and mockups are appended to this report. The locations have been chosen for the best connectivity as well as the least intrusion to the park both operationally and from a planning conservation perspective.

This project will allow for better connectivity for not just the public at large but also event traders who find existing bandwidth not strong enough.

There is now a need to work at pace to access the Government funding and discussions are taking place with Planners to determine the level of Permitted Development Rights that can be utilised. It is hoped that the infrastructure will be in place by June to allow the larger events to test capacity.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) That the Report and appendix be noted
- (ii) That the Council supports the installation of infrastructure as presented to increase connectivity.