

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND LEISURE  
Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Officer:** Helen Ball – Town Clerk

**TRAVELLERS**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- (i) To update the committee on unauthorised encampments in the town;
- (ii) To update the committee on the provisions of the Police Crime, Sentencing & Courts Act 2022 in relation to managing encampments.

**TRAVELLERS**

Town Council staff have been addressing a traveller encampment at Shillingston Drive Recreation Ground (Battlefield Ward). Staff have continued to liaise with both Councillor Wall (STC) and Councillor Carroll (SC).

The necessary welfare checks were undertaken and Notices to vacate the site. During the time the site was also visited by the Gypsy Liaison Officers at Shropshire Council and also a large Police presence but there was no attempt to exercise the powers of s61 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 and remove the travellers.

The travellers did vacate the site within the timescales that had been discussed with Town Council Staff and a programme of cleansing and repair work has been carried out. There however remains much detritus in the brook which is the responsibility of the Environment Agency who have been notified.

The travellers have subsequently relocated to various sites within Shrewsbury, on private land and Shropshire Council land.

**NEW LEGISLATION**

There have been additions to legislation which has been designed to provide wider reaching powers in dealing with trespass on land without consent. The operational advice note has been appended to this report for members perusal.

The powers enforce the existing s61 powers in providing an extended period of prohibited return from 3 months to 12 months

New legislation also grants powers to remove unauthorised encampments where there is a significant impact on the area; the operational advice note provides specific guidance.

The Town Clerk has discussed the implications of this legislation combined with the continued resource issues of the police locally to determine the level at which the Town Council operates and the police subsequently intervenes. The default position is that the Local Authority/Council must make all reasonable efforts to remove encampments ahead of and use of police powers.

The operational advice note provides templated examples of the necessary audit trail that is required, and Town Council processes will be amended accordingly.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report is noted