

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL**CITY OF SANCTUARY WORKING GROUP****25TH JANUARY 2022****PRESENT**

Councillor Julian Dean, Phil Gillam, Kate Halliday & Kevin Parady; Helen Ball (Town Clerk) & Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk) – Shrewsbury Town Council

Amanda Jones & Robert Douglas – Shropshire Supports Refugees

Maggie Fillipova-Rivers (UK City of Sanctuary)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Those twin-hatted Councillors declared an interest as Shropshire Council in the event matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with the unitary council were discussed.

NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Notes of the last meeting were submitted as circulated and read

It was **AGREED** that the notes of the City of Sanctuary Working Group Meeting held on 14th September 2021 were a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Training – Maggie reported that there was training available on connecting to the humanity of refugees. There could be a special session for the Town Council. The group discussed whether there might be a session that might include both Town & Unitary Councillors given that both have resolved to seek Sanctuary status. Helen & Amanda will look at possible meeting dates so that Robert might be able to make arrangements.

ACTION PLAN & WORK DONE LOCALLY

The group looked at ideas that could be incorporated into an action plan and portfolio of evidence:

- School of Sanctuary Status – work was ongoing with Mary Webb Secondary and Wilfred Own School; both had signed the Sanctuary pledge.
- Initial talks had taken place with the Empower Academy Trust hopefully involving all the schools within the trust
- Work continued on supporting Afghan Refugees. Morris Property and Veolia had provided financial support and the Mayor was thanked for visiting the unit

- Work was ongoing in developing a Charity Shop hopefully in the Darwin Centre – a unit would be provided on a short-term let. This would also include a Coffee Shop using work experience
- Refugee Week was in June with the theme of “Healing, Health & Wellbeing” - they were looking at whether this might be promoted in the park.
- Hasting were looking to develop a Sanctuary Festival – this was being explored for Shrewsbury
- Maggie reported that she was hoping to develop a Resource Pack for the National Association of Local Councils. Any support that the Town Council could give would be greatly appreciated

Helen stressed the need for the Town Council’s submission for Town of Sanctuary Status to be direct and relevant to the work of the Town Council. Some powers and duties that support refugees do not fit with the Town Council’s powers. The Group looked at relevant areas:

- Use of Parks for Events
- Use of Allotments to support integration of refugees into Shrewsbury community life
- Possible planting of a Queens Green Canopy Tree to mark Town of Sanctuary commitment
- Sports Pitch Hire for use by refugees
- Walks especially for refugees to acclimatise to the town

FUTURE MEETING DATES

Regular meeting will be added to the Town Council’s Committee Meeting list