

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE  
7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Officer:** Helen Ball – Town Clerk

**TEAM SHREWSBURY – RIVER SAFETY**

**Purpose of the Report**

To receive an update on the WSP Risk Assessment and river safety actions through Team Shrewsbury.

**WSP Risk Assessment**

Shropshire Council has commissioned WSP to carry out an assessment of issues relating to the river and recent river deaths. The Assistant Director of Homes and Communities is leading on the project and the Town Clerk has been involved in the commissioning process.

WSP have conducted surveys down both sides of the river; there have been meetings with elected members as well as operational staff to discuss infrastructure issues along the site. A draft report is currently being reviewed and it is hoped that the final report will be available for the Finance & General Purpose Committee later in September.

**Update on River Safety Actions – 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

**PUBWATCH:**

**Assist with education and cascade down to premises about dangers and risks on the river.**

2 x river safety sessions taken place & on-line resources issued out.

Additional sessions will take place when required.

**Creation of an educational video with localised contact.**

Still to be developed.

**Poster campaign regarding safe walking routes.**

Posters have been devised and circulated to landlords, businesses etc. These will be refreshed periodically.

**Training for over serving & after care.**

Progressing and will be arranged.

**Work more closely with Street Pastors and Samaritans**

Safer Street 4 funding will enable the Rangers to work more collaboratively with the Pastors & Samaritans. Rangers will be working in the Town Centre area to assist with safety and reassure the public during the daytime and early evening on a Fri & Saturday, they will have the required radio links.

Samaritans completed training workshops with the Street Pastors, additional sessions will take place following recruitment.

## **CCTV**

### **Consider additional cameras for monitoring the river.**

Safer Streets 4 funding will enable additional CCTV cameras to be purchased. Hotspots currently being confirmed – on-site meetings are taking place with Engineers to confirm the exact locations.

## **STREET PASTORS**

### **Conduct recruitment campaign for patrols and monitoring the Donkey.**

Ongoing progress with recruitment remains a struggle, 10 x volunteers recently left. Recruitment will commence in September.

Monitoring use of Donkey has now been established.

### **Produce safe place posters for the Donkey.**

Proof agreed, awaiting print run. If anyone is vulnerable individuals should ask door staff to phone the Street Pastors.

### **Discussions with 'Make Our Rivers Safer' Facebook page**

Attempts made to meet the FB group, further discussions to take place in September.

An outlined method of recruitment has been devised for some of the volunteers to assist the Street Pastors.

### **Suicide Prevention Training**

Street Pastors liaising with Samaritans for Suicide Prevention training.

## **SAMARITANS**

### **Possibility of directional signage to the throwline boards & Water Safety Messages**

Safety Equipment sign has been agreed and will be reflective (like fire signs) - currently awaiting quotes.

Street Pastors liaising with Samaritans to review the sign locations

New Samaritans signs will also be reflective.

## **SFRS**

### **Co-ordinating the installation of additional throwline boards down river in partnership with Team Shrewsbury members – funding and landowner permissions would have to be sought.**

Ongoing, being reviewed as part of the risk assessment.

### **Advertise NFCC campaigns & national water safety campaigns.**

Campaigns continue on a regular basis.

### **Advertise Home & Dry course - available on websites.**

Course available on website:

RLSS - <https://www.rlss.org.uk/>

Home & Dry - <https://www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/campaigns/homeanddry/>

### **NTE throwline responder training.**

Partners completed training sessions (including STC, SC & Youth Teams). Further training will be arranged when required.

## **SC – Highways**

### **Undertake a risk assessment along the riverbanks.**

Draft report is currently being reviewed. WSP conducted surveys down both sides of the river. Discussions taking place with other locations including Durham, York & Amsterdam for recommendations particularly to the NTE as the proposed recommendations need to address the issues for Shrewsbury.

The Action Plan/report will be shared to all within the group and thanks to all who have contributed. The report will be continually reviewed to take into account the continually changes issues i.e. climate, population etc. Report will also take into account Coroner's recommendations.

## **RLSS**

### **Continue to provide education and resources from early years to sixth form college, including class-based water safety education.**

Ongoing with contacting LA Leads for schools to seek support again in providing water safety lesson plans and resources to schools. Currently finding a difficulty in advertising on own websites.

Partnership working with RLNI, River Trust and SFRS lessons plans have been developed and approved.

Make our Rivers Safe Facebook page visiting Schools from September as looking to establish a 'Make our Rivers Safe School', which could involve carrying out River Safety training.

RLSS looking at a bronze, silver and gold criteria for Schools.

West Mercia PCC is looking for an organisation to take ownership of the education materials.

### **River Incidents to be reviewed over the past 10 years for particular times of the year and reason – campaigns can then be generated.**

River incidents - update available for Jan 1<sup>st</sup> '22, to present.

Generally, 20 incidents in Shropshire, 10 in Shrewsbury.

89% occur between 9pm - 4.59am.

Predominantly at the weekend during the spring summer months.

Locations are mainly the same place and information has been provided to WSP.

Campaigns have been Drowning Prevention Week (June). International World Drowning Day (July). Home and Dry, Don't Drink and Drown (12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> November – 18<sup>th</sup> December).

Link: [Don't Drink and Drown | Royal Life Saving Society UK \( RLSS UK \)](#).

## **STC**

### **Work with Problem Solving Hub for Safer Streets 4 funding bid (submission early May) for recruiting Street Rangers to potentially extend into NTE and possible taxi marshals - would require 50% match funding.**

Safer Street 4 funding to address Violence Against Women & Girls has been granted for 15 months. This will allow for Quarry Security, Town Rangers, Taxi Marshalls, Street Pastors, lighting of throwlines / life buoys & additional CCTV.

Scoping exercise completed for taxi marshalling – Marshalls will be starting Fri & Sat (18 & 19/08) to engage with premises, Police, Street Pastors, Taxis & public for progressing further and determining locations required. They will be working 10pm to 4am to support local people in getting taxis, queuing, sign posting to meet a taxi, addressing any conflict with people coming out of pubs, making sure individuals have the right locations/money & be the eyes and ears for others.

Tender currently available for providing lighting on throwlines and life buoys - closing date end Aug. Funding also available for providing a 'Safe Place' within the Town Centre.

The funding will be used to look at the vulnerability for everyone on the streets & any river issues will be included.

**CityCo information.**

Liaising with Manchester as always looking for best practice.

**Canoe launch at Frankwell – individuals using water without water safety equipment.**

River safety posters added to Frankwell noticeboard.

**BID**

**Discuss the potential for investing in a Night bus, as buses currently finish between 7 – 8pm.**

Progressing - awaiting a 3rd quote.

**Educate bar staff with mental health support.**

Samaritans have been training businesses. Hospitality scheduled to be trained next.

**WMSAR**

**Continue to advertise the free online water safety course, which goes to Schools, Colleges and Clubs (22,500 have taken part in the course).**

The Home and Dry campaign has been advertised on social media over the last few months and particularly during the recent hot spells.

**Continue river patrols, working with the Street Pastors and the Donkey. Prior arrangements to be arranged with Street Pastors.**

Unfortunately, the patrol was cancelled due to a call out elsewhere (water crew were required).

Discussions to take place with the relevant parties regarding patrols over the Christmas and New Year period and possibly the World Cup.

**SC - Homes & Communities**

**Coroners recommendations to be shared with the group.**

Will be detailed within River Safety Risk Assessment

**UCS****Education around river safety**

As well as building messaging into the 'Pre Arrival Student Site' the University will be launching a student-facing social media campaign in the early part of term which focuses on safety, including specifically river/water safety and particularly linking that messaging to safety on nights out.

**LICENSING**

Shropshire Council Licensing to review the responsibilities for landlords.

**Taxis**

Go Cars now run the Taxis for Shrewsbury. If individuals concerned, comments should be made to Shropshire Council - 0345 678 9046. The Taxi Marshalls will create an environment where the taxi drivers are happy to work the late evening / early morning shifts.

**Door Security**

All licensed premises have a licence to follow, Shropshire Council & Police carryout 'Operation Checkmate' when premises are visited to ensure they are following the rules. Any concerns to be reported to Shropshire Council - 0345 678 9026.

**Merchandise**

WMP PCC currently have merchandise (pens, beer mats etc) available for premises including Universities, pubs, bars, schools etc.

**Funding**

Make Out Rivers Safe Facebook Group have funding available. Potential option a Throwline Board in Abbey Gardens.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (i) **That the Report be noted;**
- (ii) **That the Finance & General Purpose Committee considers the WSP River Assessment Report once published.**