

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE****3 SEPTEMBER 2025****Officer:** Stuart Farmer – Operations Manager**STEPPING UP TEAM UPDATE****Purpose**

To update the Council the work and implementation of the Stepping Up Team.

Update

The stepping up team have been making an impact in all areas of the town, the team was also key in the preparations for the Towns entry in to both the Heart of England and Britain in Bloom campaigns this year by clearing footpaths and generally tidying along the routes, The foreman of the team also met with the Britain in Bloom judges to explain the teams role within the Town.

Training

Since the previous meeting the team have been on a number of training courses to upskill, these have included

- Chapter 8 roadworks signage
- Manual handling
- Sharps Awareness

Ward Visits

The planned ward visits have begun with the first two taking place over recent weeks in the Abbey and Bagley wards, with works in Abbey ward taking place this week and planned works for the Bagley ward commencing on 22nd September.

The dates of the ward visits have diarised with the ward members and other organisations who have been encouraged to attend, planned visits between this meeting and the next are as follow:

- Battlefield 17th September – Works planned 13th October
- Belle Vue 8th October – Works planned 3rd November
- Bicton Heath 29th October – Works planned 24th November

Programme of Works

The Operations manager maintains the master spreadsheet of works with these being added to from public enquiries, councillor requests and latterly from the ward visits.

Criteria of Works

The team has a spreadsheet with all tasks that have been identified either by the staff themselves, by Councillors, by the public and of late forwarded by Shropshire Council because their team haven't the resources to do them. Each task is reviewed to determine whether.

- (i) it is the responsibility of others and if it is, they are informed
- (ii) we have the capacity and resources to undertake the work
- (iii) whether there are any timeframes that need to be considered for the work to be done (for example, working out of nesting periods, knowing when other traffic management functions are being undertaken at the same time, any embargos and whether there are clusters of work in one area). Upon that staff allocate jobs to the Stepping up Team.

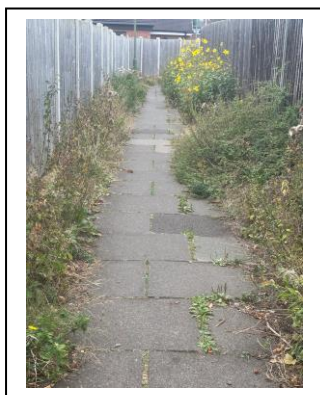
Work Completed to Date

A small example of the works that have been completed to date are below, some areas are a struggle to get effective before and after photographs of due to the scale of some of the works required.

- **Battlefield Island Splitters**



- **Footpath Between Springfield Way and Pool Rise**



- **Underpass on Old Potts Way**



- **Wenlock Road Alleyway**



Some of the bigger projects that have been carried out of late include

- Walkways through the Reabrook Estate
- Walkways along Featherbed Lane

The team have completed several weekends of litter picking with in the Town Centre generating a considerable amount of waste, an agreement with Shropshire Council has been reached regarding access to the recycling centre to dispose of the waste from the Town Centre.

Re-Visiting of Sites

Re-visits to some of the sites have also been required to maintain the areas these have included areas such as the Sutton Bridge this is mostly due to leaf litter and weed growth, this will continue to be an issue and is something that the manager of the service is very conscious of. Time has been allocated for some re-visits to prevent the build-up occurring again wherever possible.

Machinery Purchasing

The team have demonstrations on several machines over recent weeks, and the Operations manager is currently gathering prices and options for the machines and purchasing. These have included path scraping machines and Town centre vacuum and cleaning machines.

These machines will be sourced from local suppliers where possible; this gives the Town Council the best back up service possible for repairs, servicing and spare parts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the contents of the report are noted.