

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM COMMITTEE
HELD AT WEEPING CROSS DEPOT
22 FEBRUARY 2024

Present

Pam Moseley, Kath Owen, Keith Roberts & David Vasmer

In Attendance

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Danny Powell (Operations Manager), Darren Woods (Logistics Team), Amy Jones (Amenities Team) & Drew Ganley (Countryside & Greenspace Team)

Apologies

Mary Davies & Margaret Thrower

1/23 WEEPING CROSS OPEN EVENINGS

There shall be two Open Evenings: one on the 22nd May for the Business Chamber and the main Open Evening on the 23rd May for the public.

The main Evening will cater for 200 people in four 30 minutes slots starting at 6pm; these can be booked on Eventbrite. Instead of Guided Tours, there shall be a crib sheet of facts given to everyone who visits, and staff positioned in key locations to answer any questions. All Operational Teams will be involved in the event, giving an opportunity to showcase everything the Town Council does.

2/23 HEART OF ENGLAND IN BLOOM JUDGING

Date has been booked as Tuesday 23rd July with Nicola Clarke and Joe Hayden visiting. The aim is to start the tour at Weeping Cross and finish at Livesey House showing two Town Council facilities that have never been on the Judging Tour before. Refreshments will be available at both locations as well as a tea & cake stop possibly at the Castle. The route was as follows:

- Weeping Cross Depot & Greenhouse – Tree Nursery
- Emstrey Island
- Oteley Road – New Housing Development POS & SUDS
- Shrewsbury Town Football Club – Garden of Remembrance
- Meole Island
- Cemetery Island
- Cemetery – Gods Acre Volunteers
- Longdon Road
- Stanley Lane Allotments – Meole Allotments Management Committee
- Church Road Recreation Ground – Meole Village Residents Association & White-lining Machine

- Radbrook Primary School – Summer School
- Copthorne Park – Friends of Copthorne Park
- Castle – Conservation Management Plan
- Castle Street
- St Marys Church – Stain Glass Window Restoration Project
- Bear Steps
- Grope Lane
- Unitary Church on High Street – Hood Hub
- Square – Town Crier/Youth/Rangers/Rickshaws
- Quarry & Dingle

The route has been chosen as they are locations that have previously not been visited, is a manageable route given timescales and ability to travel around the town and is a route that can be maintained by Shrewsbury Town Council staff were Shropshire Council unable to help.

Other organisations have expressed an interest in being involved. If they can't be on the route they will be featured in the Portfolio and considered for future years' routes.

Vehicle will be sourced.

Further work will be done on the route, with a more definitive plan of locations and timings, where Committee members needed to be and which organisations will be introduced to the Judges.

Officers will be looking at the content of the Portfolio over the coming weeks.

3/23 SHREWSBURY FLOWER SHOW

The Horticultural Society have asked the Town Council to consider creating a display at the Flower Show. It is likely to involve all the Operational Teams and a number of staff have expressed interesting in helping man the display.

4/23 PLANTING 2024

All seed/plugs have been ordered for 2024 season. The Greenhouse was looking to grow on more cuttings and a propagation bench has been built to facilitate growing. More varieties of peat free compost are being tested and it is likely that the growing medium will be a special blend of a number of products with green waste to try and maximise growing, water retention and environmental credentials.

This year's carpet bed at the Castle will feature D-Day and the World War One Bed in the Dingle will pay homage to the Inner Wheel.

5/23 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Planters for Barnabas Church – Last year the Committee agreed to pay for wood to create planters for the grounds of the Church. The Chairman enquired whether there were any spare concrete planters that would withstand flooding better. He would go on a walkabout with Darren around the Depot to see whether any might be useful.

- 5.2 Old Market Hall Planters** – The facility was subject to significant ASB, and the site had been visited by West Mercia’s Design Out Crime Team who had suggested strategically placed planters. The Committee were not averse to Bloom planters being repositioned to reduce ASB.
- 5.3 Event in the Dingle** – The Deputy Mayor had met with the Mayor’s Secretary and the Mayor’s Officer to begin to plan his Mayoral Year. He was keen to hold an evening soiree in the Dingle. The Committee thought it was a lovely idea and would show off the planting well.
- 5.4 SYA Funding Application** – The Shropshire Youth Association had submitted a grant to the Town Council’s Community Fund to support planting outside their building once construction had been completed. The Town Council could provide much of the materials and asked whether the Committee might look to utilising Bloom funds to purchase planters. The Committee was supportive but wanted to be assured about sustainability. Officers would look at suitable options.
- 5.5 Bloom Competition & Allotment Competition** – Officers enquired whether the Committee would be supportive in running the Town of Flowers Competition. The Allotment Management Committees were also keen to resurrect the Allotment Plot Competition. This would be put on the next agenda for a wider discussion.
- 5.6 Supporting other Towns** – The Town Clerk reported that a number of Town Councils had contacted the Town Council to see whether they could provide hanging baskets and bedding. A number of nurseries that supplied local council with plants had closed. Currently staff were working through the requests.
- 5.7 Hanging Basket Trees** – Staff were looking at the feasibility of relocating the Hanging Basket Trees that once were installed outside the Guildhall and in Pride Hill into the Quarry. The Sockets could be used to house a Christmas Tree in the winter.

6/23 FUTURE DATES

- Thursday 4th April
- Thursday 2nd May
- Thursday 13th June
- Thursday 4th July
- Thursday 18th July