

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**CLEAN RIVERS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE, ST JOHNS HILL, SHREWSBURY & VIA TEAMS**

11 SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESENT

Councillors Rosemary Dartnall (Chair), Bernie Bentick, Julian Dean & Kate Halliday.

Dilwyn Jones (Sabrina Boat), Gareth Mead (Severn Trent)

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

15/23 APOLOGIES

Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Andy Jones (Shrewsbury Town Fisheries), Amanda Coffey (Severn Trent), Kat McNally (Shrewsbury Masters), Alice Moore (CaSTco), Kirsty Davies (Surfers Against Sewage), Digger Barnes (Pengwern Boat Club).

16/23 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

All Councillors declared an interest as a Shropshire Councillor

17/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 20 July 2023 were a true and accurate record.

18/23 MATTERS ARISING

All matters were to be dealt with under the existing agenda.

19/23 BATHING WATER STATUS

The Group had agreed various actions to facilitate an application for Bathing Water Status. A progress update was provided:

- (i) **Local Authority Permission** – the Town Clerk had spoken to Mark Barrow (Executive Director of Place) who had agreed to provide and in principle agreement in writing to Alison. It was not known whether that had been received.
- (ii) **Land Owner Permissions** – the Town Clerk had sent the details of locations to the Head of Estates. She had not received any approvals for those sites. All Town

Council locations were acceptable. In the case of the Canoe Ramp in the Quarry, she had contacted Shrewsbury Canoe Hire to check that occasional use by swimmers did not impact on his Concession in the Quarry.

- (iii) **Consultation** – A questionnaire had been prepared and had gone live with links put on the Council’s social media and on the website. 241 responses had been received from a variety of users. Closing date was the 24th of September.
- (iv) **Stakeholder consultation** – The group discussed wider stakeholders to consult with; these included:
 - Colleges & schools
 - Shrewsbury School as a user of the river
 - Shropshire Wildlife Trust
 - Parkrun
 - Shropshire Shufflers
 - Shrewsbury Town Fisheries
 - Shrewsbury Civic Society
 - Canoe Clubs
 - Belle Vue & Coleham Community Action
 - Shrewsbury Women’s Institute
 - Shrewsbury BID
 - Shrewsbury Business Chamber
 - Shrewsbury Big Town Plan
 - Various Rotary Clubs & Inner Wheel
 - BMA
 - SATH, ICS & Shropshire Community Trust
 - Up Sewage Creek
- (v) **Social Media & Website** – Staff had set up a page on the Town Council’s website and had buffered a number of posts on the Council’s social media accounts.
- (vi) **Water Testing** – It was understood that the Shrewsbury Town Fisheries was undertaking testing but it was not known whether it was in the chosen locations for the Bathing Water Status application. Gareth advised that it wasn’t necessary to undertake water testing as a criteria for applying for Bathing Water Status.
- (vii) **Application Process** – It was not known how the application form completion was progressing as Alison was doing this supported by Kirsty.

20/23 SEVEN TRENT UPDATE

Gareth updated the group on work of Severn Trent. A press release had recently gone out advising of an £11m investment project at 6 sewage treatment works including Monkmoor. This would make sure that it could meet the increased requirements around phosphate level permits. A discussion ensued around pharmaceuticals and forever chemicals which were difficult to remove from sewage.

21/23 NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 11th October – 5.00pm