

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**CLEAN RIVERS WORKING GROUP
HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

11 OCTOBER 2023

PRESENT

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

Digger Barnes (Pengwern Boat Club), Simon Blackburn (Shrewsbury Masters), Dilwyn Jones (Sabrina Boat), Gareth Mead (Severn Trent) and Alice Moore (CaSTCo)

IN ATTENDANCE

Amanda Spencer (Deputy Town Clerk)

22/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) and Helen Ball (Town Clerk).

23/23 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

All twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in Shropshire Council should any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council arise.

24/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting held on 11 September 2023 were a true and accurate record with one amendment as follows:

19/23 Local Authority Permission – Alison Biddulph had received a letter from Mark Barrow (Executive Director of Place) with an in principle agreement as a result of a question raised at the Task and Finish Group.

25/23 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that all matters arising were to be dealt with as main agenda items.

26/23 BATHING WATER STATUS

The Group had agreed various actions to facilitate an application for Bathing Water Status at the previous meeting. Updates were provided as follows:

- (i) **Local Authority Permission** – As neither Alison nor Kirsty were present at the meeting, the Chair agreed to follow up on the status of Local Authority Permissions the following day. It was believed that authority for both this and the Land Owner Permission has now been received from Shropshire Council but this would be confirmed.

- (ii) **Land Owner Permissions** – As above. The Chair asked in permission had been received from Hire a Canoe to utilise the jetty in the Quarry. Amanda Spencer said that she would check this with Helen Ball (Post Meeting Note – Helen has not yet had a response and is chasing this up).
- (iii) **Consultation** – Amanda Spencer updated the group on the results from the public consultation regarding the Bathing Water Status application. She reported that the questionnaire had been completed by 338 respondents, the majority of whom were in favour of a Bathing Water Status application being made.

Committee members were pleased to see that 64% of respondents came from Shrewsbury.

They asked if it would be possible to have more specific data on people who used the data for fishing and Amanda said she would look into this. She also said that she would share the qualitative response report with committee members for further dissemination as it did not contain any personal data and would therefore not be subject to GDPR restrictions.

Amanda also asked how they would like the information to be shared more widely and it was suggested that it was made available on the Town Council website and that a press release be written in conjunction with Alison Biddulph with an update on the application.

- (iv) **Social Media & Website** – Amanda reported that the Town Council had shared information about the application and survey on both its website and social media pages.
- (v) **Water Testing** – It was reported that there was no requirement to provide water testing data for the application.

Councillor Halliday reported that Shropshire Council's Task and Finish Group had developed an app which could log both water tests and species. This had been produced in conjunction with other organisations such as the Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

It was noted that there were several other water testing methodologies available but some of these are still in development. Alice Moore said that a lot of groups were using Epicollect5 for this purpose as it was free.

Councillor Dean added that Shropshire Council would need a lot of this data for their Nature Recovery strategy.

27/23 NEXT MEETING

To be arranged by working group in January 2024.