

MANSEL WILLIAMS WAY – CYCLEWAY AND FOOTPATH

Councillor Phil Gillam proposes the naming of a cycleway and footpath in honour of the late Mansel Williams, who was, for a quarter of a century, an extremely well-known, highly effective, and much-loved Shrewsbury councillor.

About Mansel:

Some six years on from his passing, Mansel is still fondly remembered across his beloved Belle Vue ward and beyond as having been a kind, considerate and good-humoured man, highly committed to the neighbourhoods he represented, genuinely interested in people young and old, and always generous with his time.

I believe it is also fair to say that Mansel was respected across the political spectrum as a fair and decent man.

Mansel served, between 1990 and 2015, on both Shropshire Council and the then Shrewsbury & Atcham Borough Council. He died in July 2016, aged 71.

He was instrumental in establishing the English Bridge Workshop for community use and he was a founding member of Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust, becoming a driving force in saving the Abbey Railway Station.

He was a teacher, an artist, a cyclist, and a railway enthusiast, and known for his wit and his great warmth.

At the time of his passing, Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust Trustee David Morris described Mansel as “a local hero”.

The heartfelt wish of Mansel’s family:

Having had many conversations with Mansel’s widow, Clare, and the rest of the family, Councillor Gillam is able to assure the committee that it is the heartfelt wish of Clare, as well as that of Mansel’s son and daughter, that a lasting memorial be created in Mansel’s name and that, remembering that he was well known for getting about on his trusty old bicycle, the naming of a cycleway would be perfect.

The naming of a cycleway and footpath:

The cycleway and footpath in question would be the one that runs from Reabrook (beginning at Pritchard Way) across to Oteley Road (the B438), a perfectly straight stretch that was formerly the Shrewsbury-Bridgnorth railway line. Again, this seems highly appropriate as we recall that Mansel was a railway enthusiast.

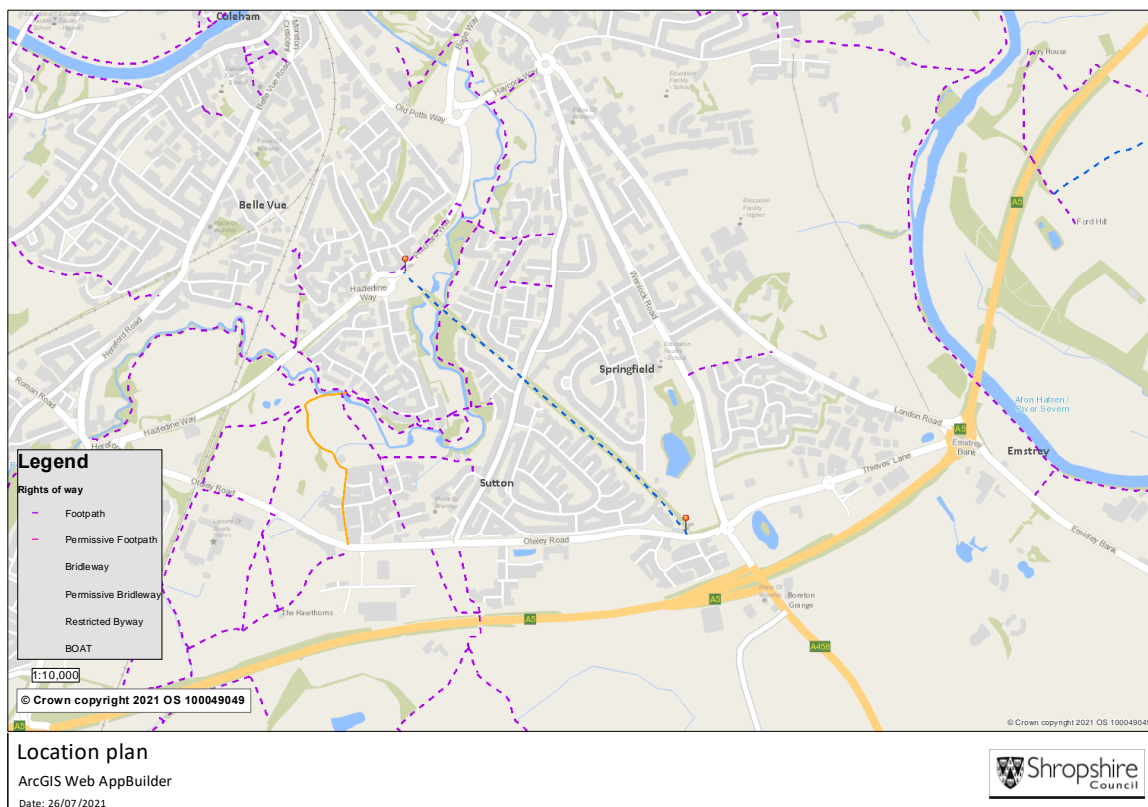
It is proposed that two signs (very similar in design to street signs across the town) be erected, one at each end of the route. They would be aluminium signs and posts.

Like our street signs, each would bear the Shrewsbury Town Council coat of arms, and the words:

MANSEL WILLIAMS WAY

Councillor Gillam has been greatly encouraged in pursuing this idea by not only several fellow councillors, but also Amanda Roberts, administrative assistant, Shropshire Council Central Highways; Gemma Lawley, Developing Highways Manager for Shropshire Council; and Carlene Cloak, street naming and numbering technician at Shropshire Council who explained, incidentally:

“In terms of officially naming the Cycle Path, it will not affect any residential addresses, so no consultation with Royal Mail is required and from a Street Naming & Numbering perspective, we simply need to update the Local Land & Property Gazetteer and/or request that the Local Street Gazetteer is updated to recognise the official name of the Cycle Path.”



The cost:

Councillor Gillam has been further advised by Graham Downes, Shropshire Council’s Highways Maintenance Manager, that to purchase and install the two street nameplates with a coat of arms, using Kier as the contractor, will cost £1,622.76.

All Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) and Health and Safety measures would be covered as would costs for permitting.

Councillor Gillam proposes that Shrewsbury Town Council agrees to meet these costs and to organise the design, construction and installation of the two signs so that this lasting and highly appropriate memorial to Mansel Williams can be created.