

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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

24 JANUARY 2024

PRESENT

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

Alison Biddulph, Simon Blackburn (Shrewsbury Masters) and Gareth Mead (Severn Trent)

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

28/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Digger Barnes (Pengwern Boat Club), Dilwyn Jones (Sabrina Boat) & Andy Jones (Shrewsbury Town Fisheries)

29/23 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.

30/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

31/23 MATTERS ARISING

Re min 26/23 – Councillor Halliday referred to the minutes referencing Shropshire Council developing an APP to manage clean rivers; this was not the case.

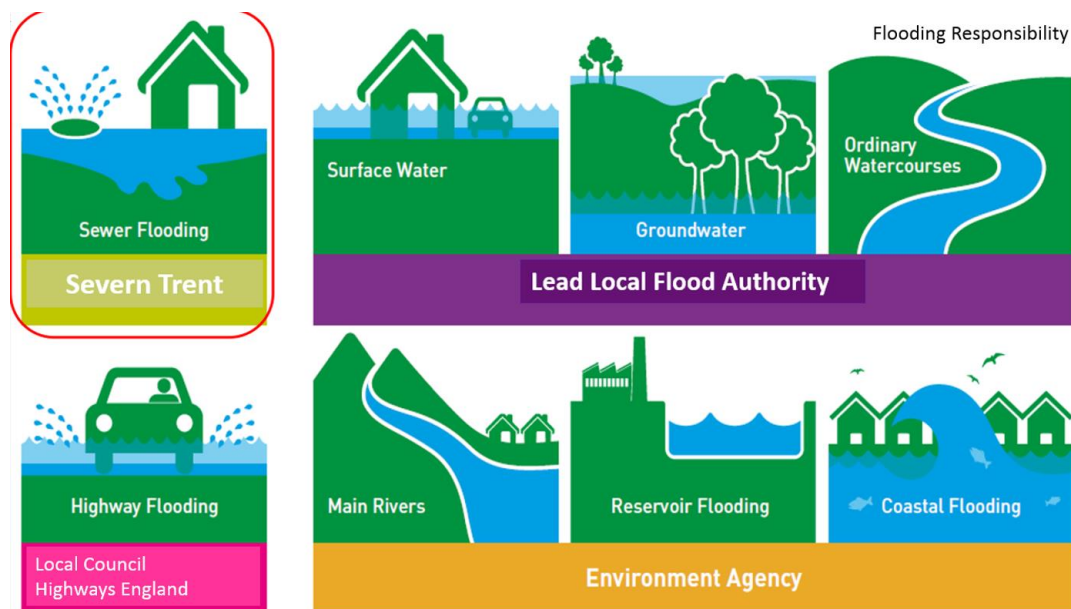
32/23 BATHING WATER STATUS

Alison Biddulph reported on the applications that had been submitted to DEFRA in relation to Bathing Water Status in Shrewsbury, Ludlow & Ironbridge. They had contacted her seeking clarification on a number of issues and it was hoped that movement to a wider open consultation would be confirmed March/April.

33/23 SEVERN TRENT WATER UPDATE

To update the on Severn Trent activity including (Gareth Mead):

- (i) **Update on the 5-year Capital Plan currently with OFWAT** – Severn Trent have submitted the draft 5-year Investment plan covering 2025-2030 in October and it was hoped that it would be signed off in December 2024, with the plan published in early 2025. AMP6 had focused on Security of the Water Supply, AMP 7 on Keeping Bills Low; AMP 7 was to focus on Sewage, Rovers & CSOs. Whilst nothing further could be mentioned on the plan content, the Group was assured that Shrewsbury was high on the priority list.
- (ii) **Update on live CSO Improvement Projects in Shrewsbury** – Work was beginning on segregating the surface water drainage from out of the sewer network. Work was ongoing with Shropshire Council Highways & Flooding Teams to model water flows. Road gulleys were being cleaned and cameras were being fed into drains to monitor water flow
- (iii) **Role of the River Rangers** – Details of the work of the River Rangers was detailed; this included engagement with residents and community groups including anglers and walking the river banks to address any localised issues. There was a number of engagement sessions planned to focus public attention on sewer misuse. Once the dates were known these would be circulated
- (iv) **Responsibility of the various partners in the event of river flooding** – Details of flood responsibilities were discussed using the infographic supplies. Whilst Severn Trent was responsible for sewer/hydraulic flooding the majority of the rest of flooding was the responsibility of the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council



34/23 WATER TESTING UPDATES

The Group considered the detailed report from the Angling Trust regarding water testing of the River Severn both in Shrewsbury and elsewhere within the catchment. Currently there was only the Shrewsbury Town Fisheries Bailiffs who were undertaking river testing. It was agreed to invite either

the Angling Trust, Shropshire Wildlife Trust or CastCo to the next meeting to discuss the matter in more detail.

35/23 NEXT MEETING

The Group agreed that the meetings should be Quarterly with a specific theme; the next being Water Quality.