

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
14 JANUARY 2026**

Officer: Danny Powell – Operations Manager

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Purpose

To report on Town Council grounds maintenance operations.

Introduction

This being the first update of the year, this report will mainly cover the work that the staff undertook at the end of 2025.

Before I start on the work of each team, I will just mention the snow clearing and tree work that Town Council undertook on Friday 9 January. The Team Tree were busy removing fallen trees from across the Town which were on roads and paths, we worked closely with the Shropshire Council Highways team to complete this work. At the same time the rest of our Operational staff were deployed in the Town Centre to clear paths of snow and slush. We concentrated our efforts in the Bus Station, Train Station and main streets to start with and then moved to some of the back streets; I hope that this went some way to keeping the Town Centre open.

In the lead up to Christmas, staff were involved in the setting up and road closures for Christmas Lights switch on and Carols in the Square. Staff worked until 8pm on both nights.

In the week before Christmas, we removed 6 mature lime trees from the Quarry which had been identified as having a disease in the roots and lower trunk. This work was expected to take 5 days but the contractors who undertook the work only took 3 days.

At the same time, we also removed 3 mature Ash trees from Bowbrook Allotments as these trees had Ash Die Back disease.

Severn Trent Water are starting a sewer pipe relining programme from 12th January 2026. This work is to reline the sewer which runs through the Quarry. This work should take approximately 3 weeks depending on river levels. During this time Severn Trent will have a number of vehicles and staff working in the Quarry.

Amenity Team

Staff have been working on the summer bedding schemes, compiling lists of seeds and plug plants which will be required this summer. We have started to take cuttings from our stock plants and are advanced in this area compared to last year.

In October we purchased 6 White Heliotrope plants which we had not seen before and through the taking of cuttings from these, we now have fifteen more plants and hope to maybe have around forty by May.

In the Dingle, the Rockery area path has had new path edgings put in and a new gravel topcoat to the path. This work was carried out by the staff on site.

Two teams are out in the suburbs pruning the Shrub beds.

The Amenity team will be carrying on with the winter maintenance programmes until the end of February.

Countryside Team

The Tree Team has worked booked now until March. This involves the use of MEWPs in a number of locations to undertake work on very tall trees. The countryside team had nine trees which had fallen on the Beaver compound on Friday from the snow. These were removed and fence repairs were carried out. Monitoring the Beavers is ongoing.

Countryside staff are expecting to find a number of fallen trees on their sites. Once they have been identified, a programme of removal will start.

They are working through their Winter maintenance programme across the Countryside sites.

Recs and Greenspace Team

This team are working through their Winter maintenance programme (shrub pruning, path edging etc.)

When ground conditions allow, sports surface aeration continues.

Senior and Junior football fixtures are going well with an end day of late April. We have already received Rounders Fixtures for this summer and expect Cricket and bowls fixtures to be sent through in the near future. The Bowling Greens, Croquet lawns and grass tennis courts will be ready from Early April depending on the weather.

Staff have worked closely with Bereavement services at Shropshire Council to ensure Funerals have taken place over the last 2 months. This has involved road salting, snow clearing, grave digging and working closely with the Bereaved Families on refilling of the graves after the service. At this time staff are cutting the internal hedges in the Cemetery.

Logistics Team

Winter servicing of grass cutting machinery is ongoing.

Playground maintenance – Weekly checks and Emptying of Bins is ongoing.

Contractors have moved on to site to start the Refurbishment of two Playground sites and have started work on the Pump Track at Mary Webb Road.

Toilet cleaning and checks are ongoing.

We have completed the Hedge cutting Programme.

We have started to clear green waste from our Recreation Grounds ready for the summer. There will be a separate update on the work Stepping Up Team are carrying out.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the update be noted