

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
5 MARCH 2025**

Officer: Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

Coaching Events

This year we have spent more time planning a number of coaching events for Juniors and Adults.

Four junior academy events are now listed on our website for dates in May, July, August and September. Each event will go live for booking 3 weeks before the event itself. Mousecroft Pool will be the location and our head coach Ian James and his team will be running them. A dedicated contact email address has been set up for coaching enquiries on the website which is coaching@shrewsburytownfisheries.co.uk

In addition, we shall be running some more junior events with the assistance of the Canals and Rivers Trust for schools in Shrewsbury. The Trust, myself and our head coach organise the events with the schools. Mereside and Severndale schools are so far planned for dates in June. We are hoping to engage with more schools soon.

For adults, we have set up five dates for the Shropshire Recovery Forum and Shrewsbury Ark. These events are currently being finalised.

Fish Talk Release was extremely popular last year, and it is growing in demand again this year. The scheme is to provide fishing coaching to help individuals who are experiencing health and well-being issues or hardship times in their lives. The main aim is to prevent river deaths. Sean Cooke and Dave Morgan have done a fantastic job and we have had tremendous support from local businesses. Fishing Tackle and Bait companies have helped with the events and also sponsorship. It is pleasing to see participants, who have never been fishing before, actually excel in the sport and become fisheries members. It really has made a difference in their lives.

Fisheries Works

We are still waiting for dryer weather conditions in order implement planned works as previously detailed in reports.

Mousecroft Pool - a new gate with kissing gate to the side, repairs to the lane, cleaning out the fronts of the platforms around the pool and also level out the bank where the water floods over a pathway. Also clearing debris out of the pool by fisheries staff.

Radbrook Pool - clearing out the debris thrown in the pool, replace damaged signs with new strong signage and some new path walkways to be implemented when conditions are dry.

River fisheries - Emstrey, Sydney Avenue, Monkmoor, Quarry Park and County Ground have all platforms and signs safety and maintenance checked. Repairs carried out as required.

Pollution and Water Testing

We continue to water test seven locations on the River Severn in Shrewsbury and also the Reabrook. We are still experiencing Ammonia spikes on the Severn possibly from agriculture run off.

I have been contacted by Severn Trent water as they wish to set up a meeting with all Angling Clubs officials on the River Severn from Mid Wales to Worcester. The meeting is planned for a date in March in Shrewsbury. I have contacted the angling clubs and Severn Trent are confirming the date and venue. The meeting is for STW to reach out to angling concerns about pollution and speak about the STW plans.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the contents of the report are noted.**