

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
5 NOVEMBER 2025**

Officer: Danny Powell – Operations Manager

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Purpose

To report on Town Council grounds maintenance operations.

Introduction

Instead of my normal weather update, I thought that this time I would start my introduction with a short round up of the last 12 months.

- Britain in Bloom - The town won 2 gold awards, one for the Heart of England and the other for the National RHS awards, also the Mike Garwood award for the Dingle and a Horticultural Excellence award for the Dingle.
- The Stepping Up Team was set up to tidy areas across the town.
- We took on several exterior contracts to supply bedding plants to other Parish Councils in Shropshire and carried out maintenance work at Primary and Secondary schools.
- The Recreation Team has undertaken the renovation work at a number of bowling greens in Shrewsbury alongside the renovation of our own fine turf areas.
- Release of the Beavers into the Old Riverbed area.
- Ash Die Back Survey.
- Bus Shelter replacement programme continued.

These major areas of achievement took place alongside the daily maintenance of Shrewsbury.

As a final note the weather is still having an impact on our work programmes as the warm wet weather means grass is still growing in November and I cannot see it stopping before Christmas.

Amenity Team

Spring Bedding work is now completed. Shrub bed maintenance has started, and general tiding of the Quarry and other formal areas is underway.

In the nursery plants are being moved into one zone so the others can be cleaned and closed down for the winter period. All the stock plants have been re potted, and staff have started to collate plant numbers ready for next summer. We have taken cuttings off a number of different plants this autumn to reduce the number of plugs we require next year.

We have been asked to quote for the supply of plants to other parish councils; these are being prepared.

Recreation and Formal Space Team

The autumn renovation of the Town Council fine turf areas has been completed.

Large area grass mowing is still on going.

Aeration of all sports surfaces has started; this will add drainage and improve the grass sward. Grass verge mowing is still on going as grass is still growing strongly. We are monitoring the ground conditions as this will stop us from continuing to mow.

The Old Cemetery has been cut; this was completed about 6 weeks earlier than normal. The school contract has now been completed but with the grass still growing requests will be for extra grass cuts.

Countryside Team.

Regular maintenance of the Beaver compound continues.

Tree work has started, and Autumn countryside general maintenance has started.

Rural mowing is being undertaken when required and Ash Die Back work is underway.

Logistics Team.

All Floral infrastructures have now been brought in.

Hedge cutting has restarted.

Playground maintenance is ongoing.

The mechanics are starting the winter maintenance programme on our machinery.

The Stepping Up Team are working through work as it is reported to the Town Council.

Conclusion.

Another busy period of work has been completed as we move into the winter period. The staff's ability to work at a high standard has been shown by the awards that the Town Council has recently received during a difficult summer of weather.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the update be noted