

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE
Wednesday 18th January 2023**

Officer: Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

FISHERIES

Purpose of Report

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

UPDATE

Mousecroft Pool.

Two of the three new platforms have been installed at this site, which have been funded from a £3,000 grant from the Environment Agency. The third platform will hopefully be installed within the next two weeks to complete the project.



Monkmoor / Belvidere Fishery.

Some additional boundary signage to be installed on the boundary at Belvidere, this should be completed this month.

Oxon Pool.

Having been closed for long period due to concerns about water levels, the pool was reopened just before Christmas as the levels have fully recovered.



Regarding the boundary fence, it has been decided the Anglers will instigate the repairs this spring, to make the site more secure.

Reabrook Fishery.

We have completed the installation of the new signs. The Rivers Trust has sent a very good report with respect to a fish survey after the installation of the new fish weir pass. The report confirms that a much healthier number of mixed species are now migrating up the reabrook compared to prior the installation.

Radbrook Pool.

A plan of some tree work that is required at the pool has been forwarded to Mike Pugh, as this work cannot be completed by the fisheries team.

During the period of the pool being frozen, lots of timber debris was thrown onto the ice

by youngsters. We also had reports from residents of youngsters walking on the frozen ice and even riding bikes on it.

Temporary signs have been made warning of the dangers of walking on ice. The signs will be put up during the winter period and removed in the spring and stored until the following winter. The fisheries team cleared all the timber after the pool had thawed, and it was disposed of.

We have spoken to the Countryside manager to ask if pruned timber in the future could be shredded and used on the surrounding paths, to reduce the risk of debris on the ice again.

County Ground and Quarry

Fishing platform numbers 53 and 57 in the Quarry are in need of repair.

Unfortunately the wooden washboards are either badly decomposed or are missing from the banks due to aging. We cannot complete a suitable repair on these platforms as they have part of the washboards incorporated into their construction. River bank erosion during high water is likely to become more of an issue whilst the boards are missing or damaged.

A tree trimming plan has been submitted to Mike Pugh to consider, as some of the fishing access is affected by some of the branch growth.

Emstrey Fishery.

The New car park has been completed and is in use by members.

Water Keepers / Bailiffs Team

The Fisheries Manager has confirmed that we now have 18 individuals in the team of which 14 now carry throw lines and body cameras as part of their duties. Further throw line training is in the pipeline, we are just waiting for when it is convenient for the Fire Service to provide the extra sessions.

Further enforcement and fisheries training will be implemented throughout the year, to make a stronger trained team.

Water Testing.

The Fisheries team are now testing the river water quality on a weekly basis and collating the results for ourselves and the Angling Trust. The Nitrate and Phosphate levels are still in most cases higher than permitted levels for a clean river. In addition to these tests, the fisheries management team will shortly be adding an Ammonia level test to our water testing activities. Ammonia can test for sewerage content to add to the results, to give a better understanding of its impact. We have particular concerns with the Health of the river especially at the County Ground and Quarry from Coton Hill down to the weir. In the angling world, this section was historic for its silver fish fishing and was always sold out. We now struggle to get a handful of anglers for our general open matches due to the poor sport, and this is very disappointing as it has a direct impact on our fishing tourism, and local economy during the winter months.

Plans for 2023

Some grant money may be available to apply for during the coming months and this additional funding may contribute towards more improvements to the fisheries, Junior Academy and training.

More details on improvements and maintenance work schedules will be available for future meetings.

The fisheries manager has also been assisting other Angling Associations, as they have noticed permits are now sold on line. They felt this was an extremely quick and safe method of selling permits and so the fisheries manager is offering advice as to the advantages and disadvantages and how to move forward with regards the on line sales and issuing of permits.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report is noted