

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION AND LEISURE
Wednesday 6th July 2022**

Officer: Helen Ball – Town Clerk

RIVER SAFETY

Purpose of Report

To update members on measures to address River Safety

BACKGROUND

Recently there have been a number of tragic incidents involving young men falling into the river, with two sadly losing their lives. Their families and friends naturally have been raising the issue of river safety with various partners and elected members and the matter has been raised at the Team Shrewsbury Partnership which has held a number of discussions with partners.

ACTIONS

There have been a number of actions from various partners including:

- Running the national Don't Drink & Drown Campaign
- Throwline Training of Security Door Staff, Street Pastors and Public Sector Workers including Town Council Staff
- Local Awareness campaigns
- Installation of Throwline Boards
- Better Lighting
- Installation of additional Lifebuoys
- Installation of berries and fencing in key locations

The Assistant Director of Homes & Communities at Shropshire Council has been tasked by Shropshire Council to undertake a risk assessment of the river. More long-standing members of the Council may recall a similar review that was commissioned jointly by Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury Town Council. The current proposal has been circulated to the Town Council and the Group Leaders have been made aware of the proposal but have been unable to commit to part funding the work. Unable to wait Shropshire Council has commissioned the work through WSP and a Working Group has been established to meet fortnightly for this short piece of work with the Town Clerk being on that Working Group (also included are Highways & Environmental Maintenance, Shropshire Fire & Rescue and the Royal Life Saving Society).

Work programme includes:

- Researching fatalities to determine any correlation
- Undertaking a Best Practice Research from similar towns with rivers
- Reviewing the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan and future aspirations for the river
- Review Guidance
- Undertaking an inventory of safety equipment
- Undertaking Site Visits both during the day and in the evening
- Undertaking a Councillor Session to understand their knowledge, concerns and aspirations

It has been ascertained that one individual solution is not going to address this complex issue and a suite of packages across the “Hierarchy of Controls” will be needed across a number of stakeholders

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report is noted
2. That Shrewsbury Town Council supports the development of a Risk Assessment and undertakes to pay half the fee alongside Shropshire Council
3. That the findings of the report and subsequent recommendations are brought to a future meeting of this Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee ahead for further consideration