

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Communities & Environment Committee
Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill
At 6.00pm on Wednesday 3 December 2025**

PRESENT

Councillors J Daniels (Chair), B Bentick, A Fejfer, E Micklewright, A Mosley and R Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Clare Turner (Deputy Town Clerk), Ruth Jones (Office Manager), Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets & Events Manager), Stuart Farmer and Danny Powell (Operations Managers) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer).

Also in attendance were Shaun Sutton and Grant Tunnadine from Shropshire Council and Hannah Lister, Angela Mayson, Phil Keyse and Wilfred Denga (Severn Trent Water).

50/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received from Councillors Dartnall and Gratton.

Apologies were also received from Helen Ball (Town Clerk) and Andy Hall –(Youth & Community Manager).

51/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
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52/25 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 8 October 2025 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Communities & Environment Committee meeting held on 8 October 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

53/25 MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising for consideration.

54/25 TEAM SHREWSBURY

54.1 Parking issues in Shrewsbury

Inspector Ingrid Tozer, the Town SNT Inspector and Shaun Sutton and Grant Tunnadine from Civil Enforcement at Shropshire Council were invited to the meeting to discuss parking issues. Councillors received complaints about individuals parking inappropriately on pavements blocking people from using the pavement. There was confusion around whether this was a Police matter or a Local Authority matter and over the years both parties had tried to pass the matter onto each other. Both were asked to attend the meeting so members could learn from both, where responsibilities lied.

Unfortunately, Inspector Tozer did not attend the meeting so the question could only be asked to Shropshire Council.

Shaun Sutton explained that Shropshire Council took over in 2006 and were given powers to enforce parking.

There was currently a bill in Parliament relating to Footway parking but at present it related to London only. The bill aimed to amend the law relating to parking on verges and footways in England outside of Greater London and in Wales. The bill was part of a broader effort to tackle the issue of pavement parking, which was a significant concern for pedestrians. The bill aimed to give local authorities the power to enforce penalties. The bill was part of a larger movement to improve safety and accessibility for all road users, particularly those who relied on mobility devices. It was expected to provide local authorities with the necessary tools to enforce measures and ensure pavements were safe and accessible for everyone.

If there was a car parked on the pavement, and they were unable to identify the driver the matter would remain with the Police as the Council does not have the power. The Police were able to demand identity, but Council's could not.

The Police did not have the resources to assist Shropshire Council enforcement, and the Police did not see parking as a priority issue for them.

Unless the restriction was adjacent to the pavement, Shropshire Council could enforce. They cannot enforce vehicles parked on pavements unless there was an associated parking restriction (marked by lines or signs / a Traffic Regulation Order) that covered that pavement parking. In other words: if a vehicle was simply parked

with wheels on the pavement but no TRO or signage prohibiting it, the Council says this was a police matter — not one for civil enforcement officers. Shaun Sutton added that without the Police present at the meeting this evening it was hard to say anything further without getting the views from the Police.

Councillor Mosley commented on the road that had recently been widened in Castle Foregate as there were no double yellow lines or signage. Shaun Sutton confirmed that it was a restricted parking zone and that signs were in place. Councillor Mosley said he had not noticed any signage and that maybe residents needed a reminder of this.

Councillor Mosley also commented on EV charging points on New Park Road that were being used as general parking spaces and not for charging vehicles. He added that there was no enforcement to stop people parking in them.

Shaun Sutton and Grant Tunnadine acknowledged this and said they were still waiting for signage from Highways and they asked if twin hatted councillors in attendance this evening could also give SC Highways a gentle nudge on this so they could be put in place.

Councillor Micklewright asked who was responsible for dangerous parking on unadopted roads. They confirmed that Shropshire Council would definitely not have any powers on unadopted roads, and he was not 100% sure if the Police would either. It may be actionable by the Police if it created a hazard, but it may be worth investigating private land legislation to see if there was any guidance.

Shaun Sutton added that the bill currently going through Parliament would cover every single footpath but there was no indication of when it was likely to happen.

Shaun Sutton and Grant Tunnadine requested input from the Police and to obtain their point of view as they were unable to attend the meeting this evening.

RESOLVED:

That the Police are contacted for their input on pavement parking

Shaun Sutton & Grant Tunnadine left the meeting.

54.2 Update on the work of Team Shrewsbury

The Office Manager provided an update on Team Shrewsbury activities. Shropshire Council had run SWEP over the past few weeks when the weather had fallen below freezing. SWEP would continue to be activated as and when the weather fell below freezing over the winter period.

The next submission for Policing Priorities was due January 2026. Councillor priorities had been requested for submission prior to the Christmas leave, if Councillors had not forwarded their priorities in, it would be appreciated if they could. These would then be submitted in readiness for January 2026.

Councillor Mosley commented that the Rough Sleepers figures were high and seeing as there were now provisions put in place for rough sleepers i.e. The Tannery and Coton Hill House, he would've that this figure would have declined.

The Office Manager agreed that there should possibly be another category on the ASB list shown as 'Street Community' to differentiate between rough sleepers and people who loiter and cause ASB issues like drinking on Pride Hill.

Councillor Mosley added that they needed to record the success of the projects in place and get an exact figure of rough sleepers within Shrewsbury.

Councillor Bentick asked if the Town Council could liaise with the Police to inform them if residents of the Tannery etc were causing ASB and that the accommodation they were in should follow their rules if occupants were not behaving.

The Office Manager agreed to investigate this, but the Police may not be able to inform the Town Council of who was residing at which accommodation.

Councillor Mickelwright asked if the new accommodation properties that had been put in place had eliminated the need for hotels. The Office Manager confirmed that this was the purpose of them, but she did not have figures to answer this, and she would investigate further.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted

Councillor Wilson joined the meeting.

55/25 BATHING WATER/RIVER QUALITY

55.1 Severn Trent Water update

Representatives from Severn Trent attended the meeting to provide Committee with a full update on River Health, Water Quality and Waste Network Improvements.

Severn Trent started their presentation stating they served 8 million people with 4.6 million homes and businesses with 2 billion litres of water put into supply daily and 3.2 billion litres of wastewater, drained and treated daily. Their operational area included over 778 waterbodies.

The Environment Agency had developed a measure for river health known as Ecological Status. When these were less than good status, they assigned Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status (RNAGS) to different sectors. The assessment considered a number of river health factors (Biology, water quality, chemistry & physical modification). They reduced their contribution to RNAGS (Reasons for Not Achieving Good Status) in their region's rivers to 16% in 2023, a significant improvement. Through their work installing complex schemes over the last 12 months, their RNAGS contribution had reduced further to 10.8% and they were on track to meet their goal of less than 2% by 2030.

Severn Trent were delivering the industry's fastest and most ambitious spills reduction programme, as they aimed to halve spills by 2030 and strive towards global best practice. They were proud that this huge engineering programme had put them on track to reduce the average number of spills from storm overflows by over 25% from our 2024 levels, reducing spills to an average of 18 per year by December 2025.

The region's rivers were crucial for maintaining ecosystems and were a place for customers and communities to enjoy. That's why they were keen to play a leading part to protect them and drive further improvements to the region's rivers, whilst also supporting others to do the same. Back in 2021, they developed five ambitious pledges to help them focus their efforts on river health:

- Ensure storm overflows and sewage treatment works do not harm rivers
- Create more opportunities for everyone to enjoy the regions rivers
- Support others to improve and care for rivers
- Enhance the rivers and create new habitats so wildlife can thrive
- Be open and transparent about their performance and plans

There were two River Management Catchments that flow into Shrewsbury:

- The Severn Uplands Management Catchment
- Severn Middle Shropshire Management Catchment

There were 46 RNAGs in the Severn Uplands Management Catchment, 6 of them were attributable to Severn Trent (13%). There were 114 RNAGs in the Severn Uplands Management Catchment, 11 of them were attributable to Severn Trent (10%)

During heavy rain, the Storm Overflows (CSOs) would release water into rivers in what they called a 'spill'. This wastewater goes back into the waterway to help

prevent flooding in homes and businesses. These spills only occurred when there had been heavy rainfall and the sewage treatment works, that would normally clean the rain and sewage, cannot cope with the input. CSOs were an outdated design and not made to cope with increased population. Considering this, along with all the adverse weather, if they were building the sewage system again today, they would not use them.

They explained how Government Targets had been set for River Health which included;

- Improving High Priority Sites
- Minimising Health risks
- Limiting overflows during extreme rainfall.

By 2035 over 75% of sites must have improved to reduce overflows and less than one spill per season or a significant reduction in faecal bacteria in bathing waters.

By 2045 all high priority sites would be improved to reduce overflows and by 2050 no storm overflows would be permitted to operate outside of unusually heavy rainfall, or to cause any adverse ecological harm.

To date they had already achieved:

- over 2700 interventions at overflows to reduce the number of spills into rivers
- spills in 2025 estimated to be halved compared to 2024
- the regions rivers were now the cleanest they had been since the 1980's.

Between 2025 – 2030, £2.4 billion was to be invested in cleaning up rivers by continuing to reduce the use of storm overflows, to improve sewage treatment standards to further reduce impact on the environment and to fit 1000 river water quality monitors at high priority sites.

Severn Trent Water has a £470 Million investment in Shropshire for:

Cleaner Rivers

- £140 million to reduce spills from storm overflows across Shropshire
- 116 storm overflow solutions already delivered this year.
- Target: By 2030, reduce Severn Trent's responsibility for rivers not achieving good ecological status to less than 2%.

Boosting Water Supply

- £80 million expansion of Shelton Water Treatment Works in Shrewsbury to secure water supplies for the county. Modern Infrastructure
- £46 million investment to install 119 miles of new waterpipes in Shropshire
- Part of a wider £420 million programme to cut leaks by 16% by 2030 and 50% by 2045.
- Smart water meters for customers in upgraded areas

Jobs and Skills

- 49 new local jobs in Shropshire
- Around 7,000 new jobs region-wide over the next five years.
- New apprenticeships and skills programmes to tackle water poverty.

Affordable Bills

- Severn Trent bills remained the second lowest in England.
- £575 million affordability package to support 1 in 6 households (around 700,000 customers).
- Schemes include Big Difference, WaterSure, and Customer Assistance.

Community Support

- £410,000 already awarded to 50+ Shropshire organisations since 2020
- Share of a new £10 million community fund for local charities.

Combined Sewer Overflows in Shrewsbury

There were 20 Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) in the Shrewsbury area. Through a thorough desktop assessment and site review process, they had identified multiple solutions on each CSO as part of their wider commitment on river health.

Just over 65% of the overflows in the Shrewsbury area spilled >20 times in 2024. As part of their commitment, they had targeted these sites as a priority for solution delivery.

On their sites in the Shrewsbury area, they had delivered 39 solution interventions and currently assessing feasibility for 16 interventions.

The National Storm Overflow Map

The National Storm Overflow map was launched in Nov 2024.

- 100% of our Storm Overflows have Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) fitted
- EDMs tracked how often and for how long these overflows discharged. This data helped them to take action and make rivers healthier.
- Monitors record water levels every 2–15 minutes when an overflow occurs.
- Data is shared annually with the Environment Agency
- EDM informs the Storm Overflow Assessment Framework, which identified where improvements were needed.
- Challenges included debris, flooding, wildlife, and poor mobile signal—but they were tackling them head-on
- Monitors measured water level only (not water quality or volume), but they give them the insight they need to act.

They had invested £3.2 million to upgrade their monitoring sites (including all in Shrewsbury) with advanced radar sensors, giving them more accurate data and faster response when issues arise.

Shrewsbury Bathing Designation – Shrewsbury Update

Activity (in consultation with EA):

- Investigating river impact: flow, flooding etc.
- Ground conditions: ecology, geology, services, etc
- Understanding constraints: other projects and activity by other within area that can impact solutions.
- Determining cost of solutions

Solutions being investigated include:

- Tunnelling options (small & large) to reduce CSO spills.
- Online and Off-line Storage in the network
- Network Upsizing
- Surface water separation: SUDS, separation of systems.

- Standalone local CSO solutions (some locations in progress!)

The Environment Agency collect water quality samples and from these and assign a classification from the results. Shrewsbury at present was Poor. There was a process of investigation at present to improve the bathing water site and bring the improvement up to sufficient, but they needed to understand what was impacting this result, so they were checking their assets and CSO's and understanding contributions from other areas.

Shrewsbury Networks Enhancements

Outfall Flap Valves

They were ensuring that all outfalls in the Shrewsbury Catchment which were affected by the River Severn were fitted with a Flap Valve to prevent the river from entering the sewer and overwhelming the system. If the site already had a Flap Valve, they were ensuring these were fully operational. This may include in-line non-return valves.

Catchment Water Butts

They had been out in parts of the Shrewsbury Catchment offering some customers the opportunity to have a Water Butt installed on their roof drainage pipe. This meant less water getting into their foul system and saved water for use in the garden without using the hose.

Sewer Infiltration Lining

They had been surveying their network and locating areas of ground water ingress. This could be getting in via a joint in the pipework or a slight crack – if found they had been lining the inside of the pipe to seal off and stop the infiltration from happening.

“Shut Out” Manhole Sealing

In areas where the river overtops its banks and floods in Shrewsbury, they had been trialling a method called “Shut Out” which sealed manhole covers using a gel like substance to stop the water from the river seeping through the manhole covers.

Data Assurance/Monitor Maintenance

They had been checking their EDM monitors, ensuring they were measuring at the right height and were in good condition to give them the correct data.

The Flash, Shrewsbury

There was currently a surface water separation scheme on the catchment area upstream of Flash Gardens. The aim was to reduce surcharging manhole flooding events, notably at the Flash CSO.

Phase 1 was the Installation of 2 bioswales designed for removing surface water from the network through ground infiltration. This work had now been completed.

Phase 2 was the Interception of highway and roof drainage into a new surface water system along Berwick Avenue and discharging to the watercourse. Includes works on the existing sewer in Pig Trough and Flash CSO chamber. Works start in 2026.

Stakeholder Engagement

Severn Trent Water had ongoing engagements with Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council, collaborating on survey work and ensuring local input. They were grateful for their engagement and valuable local knowledge and insights they had provided which had helped shape their approach.

Severn Trent were also hoping to engage with the following groups:

- Shropshire Bathing Rivers Group
- River Communities and recreational river users
- Shropshire Archaeology
- Local residents
- Up Sewage Creek
- River/local businesses
- Environmental groups

Severn Trent Water also had a river ranger team. Since January 2022, the team of 10 river rangers had worked with customers, citizen scientists, community groups and environment organisations to protect and enhance local rivers. Since forming the team, they had carried out over 14,500 region-wide watercourse inspections including 430 in Shropshire this year.

Members of the Committee thanked the representatives from Severn Trent for providing a detailed update. It was agreed by members that any questions they may have for Severn Trent to send them to the Committee Clerk who would forward them to Hannah Lister for a direct response.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

Hannah Lister, Angela Mayson, Phil Keyse and Wilfred Denga left the meeting.

55.2 The continuation of specialist testing of water quality

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee that the continuation of specialist testing of water quality above the statutory testing required under Bathing Water Regulations was vital. She asked members if they would be happy to support the continuation of specialist testing above the statutory testing required under Bathing Water Regulations.

Tom Coekin of the Environment Agency had provided a costings breakdown at the last meeting of this Committee which were:

Approx. monthly costs (based on 2025):

- Bacterial Reagents = £1151
- Bacti sensor rental = £4300
- WQ freshwater sensor rental = £1800
- Personnel cost = £1800

- Personnel hours =
- 1 or 2 staff
- 1 visit / week
- Approx. 15-30min / visit
- Training available

Councillors agreed that the total cost required to fund the testing was too high for the Town Council to take on as a whole figure. They requested further information from Tom Coekin at the Environment Agency to see if there were any other partnerships who were willing to contribute towards the continuation of the testing. The Town Council may be able to assist with the manpower side and support this for a couple of months, but this was dependant on what other partnerships the Environment Agency got. Councillor Wilson suggested that the Town Clerk was to engage with Tom Coekin to discuss further but not committing to a figure and bring it back to the next meeting to discuss but this could be made a partnership project.

Councillor Mosley was against further exploration and voted against the resolution.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the update be noted**
- (ii) That further exploration was required with the Environment Agency looking for other partners and to report back to the next meeting in February**
- (iii) That Bathing Water contacts be advised that funding from the Town Council was not available at present**

56/25 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

The Deputy Town Clerk informed the Committee on this year's budget process and the Committees input into that process.

The Responsible Financial Officer took a report to the last Policy & Resources Committee about engaging with the standing committees regarding setting the budget for 2026/27.

This was the last meeting ahead of the Policy & Resources Committee starting budget setting on the 8 December. That meeting sets the policy direction for the budget, and a draft budget is then prepared for consideration on the 12 January which then recommends the final budget to the Full Council meeting on the 26 January ahead of our 31 January 2026 deadline.

They needed to start to look at any funding requirements that the RFO needed to consider, if there was anything at this stage that they required them to look it would be noted now.

In considering any budgetary item, they would have to be mindful of their general powers to deliver and that it aligned with the Town Council Corporate Plan and the six pillars of;

- Building Resilient Communities
- Supporting Shrewsbury residents to live active and healthy lives through the provision of quality services
- Preserving Shrewsbury's Heritage
- Creating a greener and better-connected Shrewsbury
- Advancing a sustainable, resilient and efficient organisation
- Taking Positive action to tackle climate change

Councillor Mosley commented that all Councillors had been asked to put in their bids and put recommendations forward but that most members had not really responded. He commented on the Community Hall located in Castlefields that had

received no reserves money and that this was also listed on the visioning programme. He would like this considered in the budget. Councillor Wilson confirmed that he was happy to support all Community centres. He also commented on Climate Change and asked if the annual audit had been noted, if not, it needed to be on the list.

Councillor Bentick asked if in principle the LNRS (Local Nature Recovery Strategy) could be considered as there were numerous threats to green corridors. Councillor Mosley responded to say that this had already been done and were awaiting a response.

RESOLVED:

That Community Centres and Climate Change audit be added to the budgetary list for Policy & Resources Committee.

57/25 SPORTS HALL PROJECT

The Deputy Town Clerk Informed Committee that they had received correspondence from Hayley Alldridge at the Marches Academy Trust following previous meetings with the Town Clerk.

She would like to update members on the progress of the sports hall project at Shrewsbury Academy. They had now completed the pre-application stage and were preparing to submit for full planning permission.

The contract had been awarded to SJ Roberts, with completion scheduled for Q1 2027. This was an exciting development for the children and young people at Shrewsbury Academy, as well as the wider community.

They had secured £1.9m of the £2.23m total project cost, leaving a shortfall that they were working hard to bridge. They wondered if Shrewsbury Town Council might be in a position to support this initiative.

The facility was designed to be a true community asset. They were in discussions with Power League to offer wheelchair football, Shropshire FA had expressed interest in running Futsal, and they had engaged local netball and other sports clubs to ensure broad community use. Town Council support would make a significant difference in bringing this vision to life.

Hayley had provided a further update this week and had also provided the business case which was circulated to all prior to this meeting. A November update was provided which included the updates figures and revised plan. The current financial situation was:

Financial Overview (Updated)

- Total Cost (Revised): £2,293,611.41
- Spent to date on ground investigation works etc: £11,630
- Funding Sources:
 - Marches Academy Trust (SCA allocation to date): £900,000
 - Shropshire Council: £900,000
 - Remaining shortfall: £493,611.41

The Town Clerk had briefly discussed this with the Leader of the Town Council, Councillor Wilson, who in principle agreed but questioned whether there may be any clauses they may wish to include in any funding award, e.g. for use by the Youth Team and Alternative Curriculum.

The Deputy Town Clerk asked if Committee were mindful to support this project, and to refer it to Policy & Resources Committee for further discussion.

Councillor Wilson confirmed that the Marches Trust were not asking for the entire £493,611.41. He commented that the Academy had struggled in the past but was now improving quickly. He was open to explore this further and to see if there was a mutual benefit that could be reached and was happy to discuss this further at Policy & Resources Committee.

Councillor Mosley commented that at this current time, with devolution happening and taking over services and The Hive, the Town Council were in danger of overextending themselves. There was already a large sports hall not far away that was already open for community use. Supporting educational sites was not something the Town Council had ever done prior to this proposal. He was not in agreement with funding this project as it was not part of their remit or competences.

Councillor Bentick also shared Councillor Mosley's concerns as there was a similar resource very close by, and the Town Council should be cautious putting money into this. He also questioned why there were no discussions with Shropshire Council on shared facilities.

Councillor Mickelwright queried if the Town Council had supported schools prior to this and if they did support this project they may be setting a precedent.

Councillor Mosley pushed for no further action to be taken on this and voted against the resolution.

It was agreed that it would be referred to Policy & Resources Committee for further discussion.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal be explored further at the next Policy & Resources meeting on 8 December.

58/25 YOUTH

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update in the absence of the Youth Manager. Young Shrewsbury's youth programs resumed week commencing Monday 3 November following the half-term break. All youth clubs at The Grange, Ditherington, The Hive and Lodge Monkmoor were operating as usual.

The Youth Council convened on Thursday 13 November 2025 at The Grange Youth Centre. Two new members were welcomed to the group, and it had been proposed that the Youth Council met at various locations to gain insight into the broader remit of Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council. Venues such as Weeping Cross and Guildhall would be approached as part of this initiative. Young Shrewsbury's Stay Safe Day was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday June 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the upper part of the Quarry.

Councillor Mosley confirmed he would no longer be able to attend future Youth Council meetings and that the Youth & Community Manager said he would write to all new Shrewsbury Town Council members asking if they wished to be involved. He wanted to know if this had been done. The Deputy Town Clerk commented that she would speak to the Youth & Community Manager to confirm that this had been done.

Councillor Bentick commented on the Youth Engagement meeting that had taken place for the proposed BMX/Pump Track at Mary Webb Road Recreation Ground. He commented that he wanted to be in attendance at that meeting and he was only given a weeks' notice of when it was taking place.

The Deputy Town Clerk was unable to comment further on this, but she would liaise with the Youth & Community Manager.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

Councillor Mosley left the meeting.

59/25 QUARRY EVENTS CALENDAR

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Quarry Events Calendar. With the calendar for 2025 now more or less complete, attention had already turned to planning for next year with provisional dates submitted for a number of the larger events.

At this point in time there was no official return planned for the Flower Show in 2026, although the Town Council remained in dialogue with Shropshire Horticultural Society with regard to the show itself and continued to offer any help and support it could in relation to the future direction of the society.

It was also increasingly unlikely that Let's Rock would be held in 2026 given concerns over the quality of the offer last year and lack of any meaningful communication from the organisers at this point. However, there were already several new additions to the calendar for 2026, primarily from local organisations, with negotiations continuing with several national promoters about potential events they would like to bring to Shrewsbury.

One of the key objectives for this year was to increase the frequency of events being held in the stunning grade two listed bandstand in The Quarry for park visitors to enjoy. With that in mind they launched their inaugural "Summer of Music" programme to provide a focussed approach and a consistent thread to help with promotion. Happily, the programme proved to be extremely successful with a significant volume of positive publicity being generated throughout the year and plenty of encouraging feedback from audiences.

There was now a clear intention to build on this success in 2026 by widening the musical variation on offer and increasing the number of performances which were held. They were completely open minded as to when the bandstand could be used, however it would seem that the weekend would continue to be the most popular and appropriate time for this type of event. Therefore, their focus would initially fall on looking to grow their Sunday roster and complement that with more events being held on a Saturday when public transport was more prevalent.

There had already been some remedial work undertaken across both the main arena and fairground sites primarily to address the grass coverage, with further work planned at appropriate times to help improve the surface water drainage process in the same key areas.

There were two significant projects being considered by external organisations which could have considerable consequences on the park itself and obviously any events which took place. The first was maintenance work being planned by Shropshire Council on Greyfriars bridge which would have obvious implications for pedestrian flow into the town centre from that popular route. The second was initial

investigative work being carried out by Severn Trent Water in relation to improving long term sewerage infrastructure and thereby reducing sewage overflow into the river. They would continue to pay close attention to both of these projects and assess the likely impact.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

60/25 GRANTS

The Deputy Town Clerk presented the Grants Sub Committee notes in which the Committee's recommendations were contained for this Committee's ratification.

	Organisation	Amount Awarded
1.	4 All Foundation	£1,500 (plus £500 local Councillor Grant)
2.	Battlefield Brightstar Boxing	£750
3.	Bicton Heath Community Centre	£450
4.	Community Resource	£1,025
5.	Old Shrewsbury Bowling Club	£1,350
6.	Omega	£504
7.	Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Chads with St Mary	£500
8.	Share Shrewsbury	£2,500
9.	Shrewsbury Morris Dancers	£1,200

Councillor Micklewright confirmed that some money was given to all the Organisations who had submitted a grant application, but it did appear that larger organisations were asking for large amounts of funding.

RESOLVED:

- (i) **That the notes of the Grants Sub Committee meeting held on 20 November be received and adopted**
- (ii) **That the funding awards as detailed in those notes be approved**

61/25 MARKETS

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager provided an update on the Indoor Market.

INDOOR MARKET UPDATE - As Christmas approached it was pleasing to report that the indoor market had remained extremely busy over the autumn period, with stallholders declaring positive trading figures. It was clear that there was a lot of love and affection for the market at a local level , but it was now gaining a much wider

appeal both from its 'award winning reputation' and continued national publicity, such as the recent Daily Telegraph article which identified the indoor market as the top reason for Shrewsbury being named a perfect market town.

The Town Council's canopied section continued to operate with 100% occupancy of regular traders and no rental arrears, whilst they continued to receive regular enquiries from prospective new traders. They continued to work closely with the Shropshire Council management team on all aspects of the market operation. This included any tenancy changes to ensure a continued focus was maintained on the crucial trader mix throughout. Three Shropshire Council units had recently been let to new tenants and Shrewsbury Town Council had been fully engaged in the decision-making process. The new traders should make exciting new additions to the market and were due to open at the start of December ready for the busy Christmas period.

The positive impact of the tenancy changes across the whole market during the year was a vindication of the collaborative approach they were continuing to adopt in relation to all aspects of the market operation.

This partnership approach also allowed a number of joint initiatives to continue to drive positive changes within the building and help to mitigate the impact of the current financial constraints of Shropshire Council in the short term. The most recent examples of this joint initiative included;

- Installation of replacement LED lighting in the main hall
- Installation of 4ft Christmas trees on exterior of building
- Inclusion in new 2026 Town guide & map
- Artwork changes for new guide and map
- Additional storyboard prints for 60th anniversary
- Delivery of new portable retro style stall
- Development of new Christmas pop up in undercroft

SUNDAY MARKET UPDATE - During the initial 3-month trial period when the operator of the Sunday Market, Places for Community Spaces Ltd, was to bring back the car boot sale element they reported a general upward trend in both footfall and trader numbers. As a result, it was decided to persevere with this new arrangement over the more challenging autumn and winter period before taking stock of the situation in early spring.

As with any outdoor event the weather had the greatest impact of any outside influence and therefore it was advisable to look to derive any statistical analysis or 'trend' assumptions from the days which benefit from decent conditions (i.e. no rain and minimal wind).

That was not to say there were no other external influences which could affect attendance numbers. The operators were acutely aware of the impact of other events, and it was clear that the car boot operating from the West Mid Showground

was the main competition within the local area. There was a clear reduction in footfall at the Harlescott site when it returned following their summer break. It would be interesting to monitor attendances over the coming weeks and months when both sites were operating on a consistent basis, as the Harlescott site does have the perceived advantage of being completely hardstanding in comparison to the West Mid Showground's position adjacent to the river.

In terms of the factors that the operator could control they had been trying to maintain a very competitive pricing strategy in the hope that it would allow them to attract and retain traders on a consistent basis. The early signs were encouraging and the claim that they were offering the most competitive rates in the West Midlands was certainly eye catching.

They were continuing to keep a close watch on the trader mix offered on a Sunday as it was extremely important in helping to attract and grow the customer base week on week. This strategy was starting to bear fruit with an increased variety in the different categories of trader operating over recent weeks. However, again it would be more difficult to sustain this upward trajectory over the autumn and winter.

It had also been established that the core trading period in terms of footfall was between 10am and 1pm rather than the early morning period as was traditionally the case. The main contributing factor in this regard was likely to be the corresponding opening time for the nearby Tesco supermarket (10am).

The operators were now in a position to determine the breakdown of trader's groups including type and regularity of attendance. With an increase in traders who were seemingly committed to the future of the market, i.e. attending at least 3 times in a month, it had allowed the operator to become more creative with promotion and marketing, as well as being able to start to group traders by category, e.g. food or clothing, in specific locations.

They had also started to gather some interesting feedback from traders including the first and last Sundays in a month which tended to be the most profitable. The idea was to continue to capture more of this data to potentially use it to target promotions and discounts. There had been no issues reported regarding the car boot sales, but the operator had vowed to remain vigilant in this respect. One interesting development which should help further in this regard was that West Mercia Police would hold trial surgeries on several Sunday mornings in the lead up to Christmas.

Councillor Wilson enquired as to whether a music licence had been explored for the Market Hall before and the Commercial, Markets & Events Manager confirmed that it had but it was not welcome with all the traders.

Councillor Bentick asked if traders were happy and it was confirmed they were, with some having the best trade this year, so all was positive.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

62/25 FISHERIES

The Deputy Town Clerk updated the Committee on the work of Shrewsbury Town Council Fisheries.

The Shrewsbury Town Fisheries continued to operate a proactive programme of improvement, not just for the fishing assets but also improving the skillset of fishing with youth activities. Coaching events had been successful again this year and more was planned for next year.

In October they had run three Saturday open angling matches in the Quarry River section. The catches had been encouraging and it was hoped that river levels dependant, the momentum of more competitions would grow and increase in participation to get to where they historically should be.

Concerns were raised at Oxon Pool with the planned development of houses close to the perimeter of the pool. Since the existing new housing development, they had issues with a lack of water coming into the pool in the summer months and excessive water in the winter months due to run off. With a new further development of further houses, the green land was a vital source of water feed for the pool. The water feed inlet was at the corner of the new planned development site. The boundary fence must be secured as the pool itself was very silty and dangerous to children if they got in it. Oxon Pool was a vibrant wildlife habitat and a super fishery.

In 2024 the fisheries repaired the Monkmoor lane at a significant cost as it had been broken up by the farmer and his machinery. Recently over a two-week period they had 30 articulated lorries' being driven down the lane and also large tractors and they had broken the lane up again. They had contacted the farmer, and he had assured them that he would repair the lane. The request to have this noted was as it was access to anglers in cars and walking members of the public.

Councillor Bentick asked why there was no update provided for Reabrook but he was informed there was no update as there was nothing to report in this location.

RESOLVED:

That the Fisheries report be noted

63/25 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this Town Council meeting and thanked the staff involved in this meeting. All papers

related to the meeting could be found on the website
www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk.