



Shrewsbury

Town Council

MARCH 2021



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UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR GWEN BURGESS, THE MAYOR OF SHREWSBURY



I can hardly believe it was three months ago since I became Mayor, and like every Mayor previously, I was chewing at the bit to get started.

But lockdowns (in the plural) have put paid to that.

I was though, able to do a few engagements between the second and third lockdowns, visiting local businesses, popping in to the Charity Card Shop and switching on the Christmas Lights in the Square all by myself.

There has been one overwhelming theme that has run through all of my engagements and that has been local resilience and the feeling that we are all in this together and we just need to carry on.

This was also evident when many parts of the town were recently overwhelmed by rising flood water and I was heartened to see how communities



helped each other out.

I live in hope for that light is beginning to shine brighter at the end of the tunnel. We have seen the vaccination

centres opening up and more and more people receiving their first dose (including my mum and dad).

I have even volunteered to help with the programme; my bit in helping to



quicken the progress of us all being vaccinated, feeling safer and being confident in getting back to some normality.

But I would like to stress the need for everyone to still be vigilant. Just because you have had the vaccine and you are less susceptible to the effects of the virus, doesn't mean that you can't still pass the virus on, so the government messages of HANDS—SPACE—FACE still need to be followed.

I would also implore everyone to be kind to the people they meet.

Having a shop in town, you become aware of how many people have had to keep on working during lockdowns just to keep things going, from people working in the shops and offices and restaurants, to security staff who are

looking after places like the shopping centre; operatives who are sweeping the streets and emptying the bins; to bus drivers and deliverers.

I was recently saddened to hear from some of our Town Council staff, who detailed some of the poor behaviour they have received as they went about their work maintaining our parks and



open spaces.

I appreciate that much of this was down to people being COVID-out and irritated by the restrictions we all find ourselves in. But we are all in the same boat, none of it has been fair, but we need to get through it and be supportive of one another.

So please spare a thought for those who are just doing their jobs, working under difficult circumstances, enforcing national guidelines, keeping us all safe.

With the shoots of spring showing, I, for one, can't wait for lighter days, warmer weather, the ability to meet people in the flesh and to return to some semblance of normality enjoying our town for what it is – a fantastic place to live, work and visit.

Best wishes to you all.

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to help our community.



UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR ALAN MOSLEY, LEADER OF SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL



As the current Council membership comes to an end a review of a few of our major achievements seems appropriate and there is much to be proud of. All projections of what lies in store for the new Council, which will come in to play following local elections in May, are also very positive.

During the last 4 years we have:

- Been one of the first councils to declare a Climate Emergency, working with a local Advisory Group to establish an extensive plan for carbon neutrality with a ring fenced £250,000 budget.
- Continued to extend the scope of our Young Shrewsbury provision.
- Concentrated on using our well managed capital resources to benefit residents throughout the town with significant improvements to our green spaces, recreational areas,



Grangefields play area

skateboard & play parks, Countryside Unit and allotments.

- Significantly developed and improved our footpath and cycleway networks.
- Converted all our footpaths lights to LEDs and provided solar powered lights in the Quarry.
- Invested in the development

of the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan while working in partnership with Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury BID.

[LINK TO BIG TOWN PLAN](#)

- Taken the lead in important Covid-related initiatives including providing supplies and advice to local resident-based support teams.
- Continued to manage our successful markets, maintained our public toilets, bus shelters and significantly improved our angling facilities.
- Maintained a sound budget with strong reserves so as to be able to levy a zero increase in our Council Tax precept for 2 of the 4 years while growing our services.



Butcher Row toilets

Looking forward, one of the final decisions of the current Council will be to give final approval to the details of the budget for 2021/22. Already we have decided that this will be one aimed at continued progress in introducing new and improving existing services. All designed to make Shrewsbury an even better place to live, visit, work and do business.

These forward plans include:

- Major works on play parks, BMX tracks, ramps and courts throughout the town.
- Plans to buy the former Wakeman playing fields, adjacent to Castle Walk, for an open public space with woodland.
- Further works on open spaces, sports and recreation grounds.
- More and improved footpaths and cycle tracks.
- Extending Britain in Bloom initiatives out to community hubs, precincts and main roads into town.
- Revamping the top of the Quarry to create a new contemporary garden with interpretation boards.
- A soon to be launched interactive website.
- Designating an extra £75K for climate emergency initiatives including support for a hydro-electric scheme at the weir and transfer to electric vehicles.
- Extension of the solar lighting scheme in the Quarry to Porthill Bridge.
- Improved provision of bus shelters, park benches, litter bins and our street scene.
- Commitment to the Big Town Plan and the Town's recovery.



Sutton Lane Allotments



The town continued to be bright and colourful last year despite the pandemic

None of these advances would be possible, of course, without the hard work of many excellent staff, the support of stakeholders, the significant partnerships we have in all sectors and the positive engagement of residents. I am highly confident that the challenging ambitions throughout Shrewsbury Town Council will be fully realised in the years to come.

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to help our community.



HELEN BALL, TOWN CLERK OF SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL



For the majority of the time, the work of Parish & Town Councils goes un-noticed. The councils range from very small hamlets covering a few hundred people with very few functions to large towns like Shrewsbury with a large population and a much greater delivery of services.

But over the last few weeks the local council sector suddenly came under the spotlight in the national news thanks to Handforth Parish Council and the actions of Jackie Weaver who had been parachuted in to service a meeting in December last year.

I have lost count of the number of people who forwarded me the link to the meeting showing quite atrocious behaviour from councillors with the question "Is this what your Council meetings are like?" Thankfully not. And whilst many have been entertained by the goings on, there is a serious message that this type of behaviour does happen and hopefully can be stamped out by the development of better standards in public life.

But how easy is it to run Council meetings virtually? Since the summer of 2020, when it became evident that Coronavirus was staying around longer than we hoped, we developed a way that Councillors could return to their



Jackie Weaver and Handforth Parish Council attracted national headlines this year

regular decision-making activities and establish a virtual Committee cycle.

It required both Councillors and Officers to take on a completely different approach to how we go about Council business and it has meant that we have been able to continue. I was so proud of myself when I mastered the art of split screens so that I could see the Teams Meeting and the Agenda papers at the same time.

Holding virtual meetings has seen attendance increase as Councillors are able to juggle multiple commitments, but also public attendance has increased listening into our Teams Live Meetings from the comfort of their own homes.

We now only have one full cycle of Committee meetings left before the regulations that have allowed virtual meetings expires and we must work on a COVID-safe way of holding physical meetings.

Things like Mayor Making and the Annual Town Meetings lend themselves much better to physical meetings as you lose that special feel that these types of meetings hold, but there has been much merit in holding virtual meetings if only for the continuation of "You're on Mute" "Can you see me?" "We lost you for a Minute" "Oops she's frozen"

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to help our community.



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

A local council is a universal term for community, neighbourhood, parish and town council. They are the first tier of local government and are statutory bodies which serve electorates. Independently elected, they can raise their own precept.

Local councils work towards improving community well-being and providing better services. Their activities fall into three main categories:

- Representing the local community
- Delivering services to meet local needs
- Striving to improve quality of life and community well-being

Through an extensive range of discretionary powers, local councils like Shrewsbury Town Council, provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services, including allotments, bus shelters, Christmas lights, open spaces, events, footpaths, leisure and sporting facilities, Mayoralty and Civic events, public toilets and youth services.

- Are you passionate about your community?
- Do you want to help make a long-lasting change?
- Do you have innovative ideas for the council?
- Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it?
- Do you want to give residents a voice on the decisions the council makes?

Helen Ball, Town Clerk, said: "If you feel passionately about any of these questions, why not consider standing as a candidate in the local elections in May 2021?"

A new national campaign has been launched to encourage residents in England to stand in the 2021 local elections. People from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community are being asked to put themselves forward for election and sit on the town council and help it to become more representative of their communities.

The Make A Change campaign aims to highlight the benefits of becoming a local councillor and making a real difference to your community.

Helen added: "An integral part of being a councillor is to engage with local people, groups and businesses to find out their needs; making decisions on the services and projects the council should take forward; and getting involved to ensure services meet the needs of the community.

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL NEEDS YOU!

"People often think that the role of a councillor is time consuming, but a councillor will only sit on a couple of committees and therefore time spent at meetings will be limited. Councillors will also be expected to engage with residents and speak on behalf of the council to other bodies."

What residents need to know about becoming a local councillor

Who can stand?

There are only a few rules to stand for election. Residents must be:

- A British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth, or the European Union
- 18 years of age or older
- Live, work or own/lease a property in an area that is served by a local council

For more information on the role of a Councillor, click on the link below:

[More Information here](#)

TREE PLANTING AT MONKMOOR RIVER GROUND

Shrewsbury Town Council's Countryside and Greenspace Team have planted 2,780 trees on the Monkmoor River Ground this winter.

Matt Wilcoxon, countryside and greenspace manager for the Town Council, said: "Our team has done an amazing job by planting so many trees this winter, and we'll be planting another 300 this week, bringing the total to over 3,000 trees.

"When we started the planting last year, we had a great turnout from volunteers and local schools, but due to the current Coronavirus restrictions we haven't been able to work with the local community as we would like."

The tree-planting project has been funded by Shrewsbury Town Council, the Environment Agency and the European Regional Development Fund and uses a mix of hedges, park trees and woodland groups to create a diverse riverside habitat.

Matt Wilcoxon added that after a year since the original hedgerow



Countryside team who have planted the trees at Monkmoor river ground

[CLICK TO LEARN ABOUT OUR COUNTRYSIDE UNIT](#)

was planted, Town Council staff have noticed signs of new wildlife. He said: "We have seen fascinating oak galls made by a species of non-stinging small wasps as well as a stonechat that has been regularly spotted around the new trees. As the trees become more established, we expect to see a more diverse

range of wildlife inhabiting the trees and woodland.

"It's a fabulous effort by everyone involved and once Covid restrictions have been lifted, we will have more tree planting projects that people can get involved with next winter."



TOWN COUNCIL HELPS TO FUND NEW IT FOR SHREWSBURY ACADEMY

Two Shrewsbury Town Councillors have provided funds to enable a local school ensure that their students have access to online learning.

Councillors Kevin Pardy and Mrs Becky Wall have utilised their Councillor Grants to provide support to Shrewsbury Academy in Sundorne, enabling the school to provide assistance for the local community and ensuring that children can continue with their education during the current lockdown.

Shrewsbury Town Council has also helped with finance towards the project with a £500 grant from its Coronavirus Fund.

Councillor Kevin Pardy, Chairman of the Recreation and Leisure Committee and Councillor for Sundorne Ward, said: "I am pleased to be able to use my Councillor Grant to help our local children access the resources which will enable them to continue their education in these difficult times.

"We need to support those vulnerable families in our local community both in terms of the education of our young people as well as supporting families when access to online lessons is limited."

With schools and support services moving online, there are no 'in person' meetings to help local families, and without devices, they are unable to access the assistance they need.

Mrs Becky Wall, Councillor for Battlefield Ward, said: "Whilst there has been some provision of devices for children at Shrewsbury Academy, there is a need to provide more families with similar access to online sessions. I know my Councillor Grant will help to provide visual contact between teacher and child, which is essential when schools are closed.

"The children will also be able to contact one another and this will help to reduce any isolation that they may be feeling during lockdown."

Julie Johnson, Head of School at Shrewsbury Academy, said: "We are delighted that both our local Councillors and the Town Council have been able to provide assistance so that our children can have access to a device which will enable them to access online learning to ensure that they can continue their education.

"The devices will also enable our children to access the relevant apps that develop and support mental health and wellbeing.

"It is vital that we support our families during this time, and this will have such a positive impact on their daily lives, especially in relation to crucial online support sessions."

Once lockdown is over, the devices will be returned to the school, quarantined, wiped clear and will then be made available for Special Educational Needs students who need to use them in lessons, helping to completely transform how students learn once they have returned to receiving their education at the Academy.



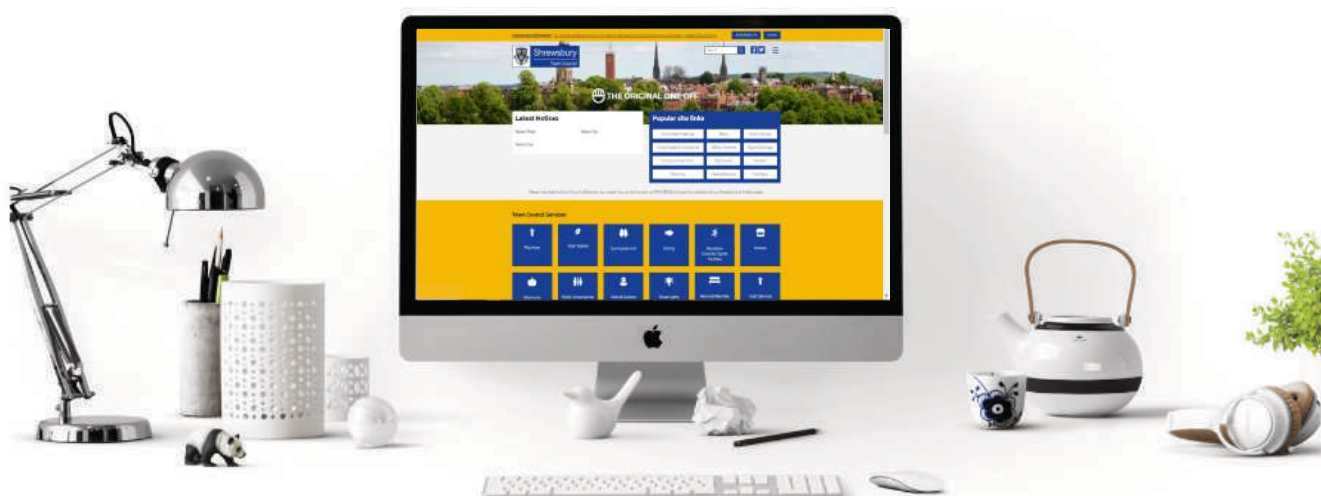
Shrewsbury

Town Council



Shrewsbury
Academy 
Part of the **Marches Academy Trust**

LAUNCH OF TOWN COUNCIL'S NEW WEBSITE



Shrewsbury Town Council will be quicker and easier to get in touch with following the launch of their new website from the beginning of March.

Shrewsbury-based The Web Orchard was appointed to re-design the existing site following a robust selection process last year.

The brief was to make the existing website more responsive and simpler to use, ensuring that visitors will be able to find what they are looking for within a few clicks.

The new site has been built using responsive technology to recognise which type of device people are using and adjust accordingly.

The design of the previous website, which was over six years old, was found to be outdated and difficult to navigate, particularly on mobile and tablet devices, which saw around 70% of traffic to the site.

Work on the prototype was presented to Councillors last month.

Leader of the Town Council, Councillor Alan Mosley, said: "Whilst our existing website has served us well, technology has moved on considerably over the course of the last six years, and we felt it was time for a revamp to make the most of these advances.

"Having seen our new website, it is more attractive and user-friendly and is easily accessible for all types of devices. It also provides a fresh, more visually appealing look. The new site includes new functionality to pay securely online and to book facilities, as well as signing up to the Town Council's regular newsletters.

"It is looking really good and it's thanks to the officers at the Town Council, working closely with The Web Orchard, that we have a great new and fresh outlook for our website within the stated timetable for this project.

"We have also been impressed by The Web Orchard's ethical approach to the climate emergency and their climate change and

carbon neutral policies really stood out in the selection process."

Pete White, director at The Web Orchard, added: "We were delighted to be selected to re-design the Shrewsbury Town Council website and have been busy working on the project over the course of the last few months.

"We have been able to undertake all the work remotely, which has reduced our carbon footprint significantly for this project, even from that stated in our tender documents.

"We have also introduced a wide range of functions to make the browsing experience better for people under the new accessibility legislation. It has been great working with the Town Council and we look forward to continuing the partnership we have enjoyed over the course of the last six years."

[Click to learn about The Web Orchard](#)

Thank you to everyone who is stepping up to help our community.





Rea Brook Valley



Hillside Drive

WORK TO IMPROVE TOWN COUNCIL FOOTPATHS

Shrewsbury Town Council's Countryside and Greenspace team has been busy repairing footpaths on its land.

Over the course of the winter, the team has continued to improve the Town Council's footpath network on its sites across Shrewsbury.

Recent work has been undertaken at Mousecroft Community Woodland, Hillside Drive, The Old Canal and Rea Brook Valley.

Matt Wilcoxon, countryside and greenspace manager, said: "Whilst we appreciate that a lot of the paths on our nature reserves are muddy at this time of year, we have tackled those paths which needed improvement work.

"We had only just completed the work on a new 'grassblock' path off our site at Whitehart in Meole Brace, when it was hit by some record flooding. However, we've checked the site and we're pleased to say that it has held up unscathed."

"We hope to continue with this work over the course of the year to improve the facilities on offer to our residents, especially at a time when more people are using our facilities as part of their daily exercise."

Full details of the Town Council's Countryside sites can be found on the link below

[Click to learn about Countryside Sites](#)



The Old Canal



Mousecroft Community Woodland

**Polling stations will
be safe places to vote
in May, but there are
other ways to vote.**



**Want to vote by post?
Apply early**

Find out more at electoralcommission.org.uk/voter

The
Electoral
Commission

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



GOING GREEN IN TOWN

Shrewsbury Town Council has taken delivery of a new electric vehicle to add to its existing fleet, taking it a step closer to becoming carbon neutral.

The Town Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and made a commitment to ensure its activities and operations were carbon neutral by 2030.

Helen Ball, Town Clerk, said: "We have looked at our activities within the Town Council and identified areas where we can make an immediate impact on our carbon footprint.

"As part of that process, we have undertaken a review of our vehicles and feel that we are able to gradually replace our fleet of diesel vehicles with new, environmentally-friendly electric ones."

The new vehicle will be used by the Town Council's horticultural staff for use in the Quarry.

Leader of the Town Council, Councillor Alan Mosley, said: "As a

Town Council, we are actively looking at ways to achieve our target of becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and introducing more electric vehicles can help us reduce our emissions whilst undertaking our work around the town.

"By gradually replacing our vehicles on a sustainable basis with new vehicles using renewable energy, we can ensure that our greenhouse gas emissions are reduced to help combat rising temperatures around the world.

"This course of action will also ensure that we are providing good value for our residents as the new electric vehicles deliver an economic saving to the Town Council, whilst also fulfilling our promise to reduce our carbon emissions."

One charging point has been installed at the Quarry, whilst two electric charging points will be installed at the Town Council's Weeping Cross Centre to help power its fleet of vehicles.



NEW INTERPRETATION BOARDS FOR REA BROOK VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

Shrewsbury Town Council has installed new interpretation boards at five locations across its Rea Brook Valley Local Nature Reserve to help guide visitors around the site.

The Town Council looks after over twenty sites around the town, ranging from large Local Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest to small Community Woodlands.

The Town Council's largest site is the Rea Brook Valley Nature Reserve which runs east and south from the centre of town and can be accessed from many places along its route, including Sutton Farm, Meole Brace, the Shirehall and Shrewsbury Abbey.



Matt Wilcoxon, countryside and greenspace manager for the Town Council, said: "We have a fantastic open space at the Rea Brook Valley which has a wealth of history. We thought it would be a good idea to put the site into context with the various uses the Rea Brook Valley has seen over the centuries and these five boards will help to achieve that.

"The boards will help to guide visitors around the site, as well as highlighting the many interesting facets of history associated with the area and the wildlife to look out for.

"There are leaflets and a map available for the area from the Shropshire Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre at Abbey Foregate which will be available to collect once they're open again. Visitors can start their walk from the fields to the rear of Cineworld."

Details of all of the Town Council's Countryside Unit open spaces can be found here:

[Click to learn about Countryside Sites](#)

GET SNAPPING FOR OUR SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM PHOTO COMPETITION

Residents of Shrewsbury are urged to submit their photographs in a bid to be featured on the front or back cover of the annual Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio of Evidence.

The Shrewsbury in Bloom Committee is offering local residents the opportunity to have their photo of the town on the front or back cover of the annual portfolio, which is presented to the Royal Horticultural Society's judges as they assess the town against exacting criteria.

The portfolio contains details of life in Shrewsbury under the 'Bloom Ethos' over the course of a twelve-month period.

This summer sees a change in the format, when the judges will not be visiting as usual and the town will be judged solely on the contents of the Portfolio.

Due to Coronavirus restrictions last year, all Bloom competitions were cancelled and the 2020 Portfolio wasn't produced.

When we think of Shrewsbury in Bloom, we automatically assume that we're talking about the plants and flowers we see around town.

As part of the town's entry into the Bloom competitions, the town is judged on a number of criteria, including Horticultural Excellence, Environmental Responsibility and Community Participation.

Councillor Keith Roberts, Chairman of Shrewsbury in Bloom, said: "We are looking for iconic images of Shrewsbury. Whilst this is our Shrewsbury in Bloom Portfolio, the photos don't necessarily have to be of flowers, but can be of buildings or places of local interest that show the beautiful town we live in.



"It's regrettable we weren't able to use the entries we received for last year's competition and we thank everyone who entered. There were some great photos and so we're looking forward to seeing the same standard again this year."

Entries should be emailed to:

hilary.humphries@shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk at any time until the beginning of July 2021.

If you feel you have a story that falls under the Bloom categories and should be included in the Portfolio, please get in touch with Hilary at the above e-mail address.

TWO NEW COMPANIES ON BOARD FOR BLOOM SPONSORSHIP

Two local businesses have been unveiled as sponsors of traffic islands, helping to support Shrewsbury in Bloom.

Radfield Home Care Limited is the new sponsor of the roundabout at Heathgates Island, whilst DecoStitch have taken out sponsorship of the island at the junction of Belle Vue Road and Longden Coleham.

Radfield Home Care is a family-run company, providing high quality home care services in Shrewsbury and surrounding areas. The company, with over thirty-five years of experience, specialises in care for the elderly and provides medication and dementia services for their clients.

DecoStitch, based on Battlefield Enterprise Park, offer a large range of garments that can be personalised for any size of order.

Councillor Keith Roberts, chairman of Shrewsbury in Bloom, added: "I am delighted to welcome both Radfield Home Care and DecoStitch to our Shrewsbury in Bloom sponsorship scheme. It is with the help of our sponsors that we are able to maintain our wonderful floral displays



each year whilst also helping to promote a local business in a prime location.

"Despite dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic at the moment, it's still 'business as usual' at the Town Council and we will be looking forward to seeing the floral displays once again this spring and summer."

The census is here

Sunday 21 March



By taking part, you will help inform decisions about the things that matter to you and your community.

If you need help to fill in your census form, we've got it covered.

Visit www.census.gov.uk to find out more.

it's about us
census 2021



UPDATE

CANNABIS EDIBLES

With more young people using cannabis edibles, it is important to be aware of the risks of using this form of substance.

Cannabis is usually smoked in joints, but more recently, there has been an increase in more young people using cannabis edibles in sweet form. With their appealing packaging, some young people may think that they are legal, harmless and safe.

But as with all substances, they carry risks.

The sweets contain THC which can make a person feel 'high' (chilled, giggly and relaxed). But THC can also make you feel faint, paranoid and anxious, as well as being sick or triggering a psychotic episode.

Eating cannabis can affect a person very differently to smoking it due to the way the body processes it and the higher level of THC, which can leave a person feeling unwell.

The only way to eliminate all of the risks is to not use edibles at all.

THE RISKS

It is against the law to be in possession of cannabis – even in sweet form

EATING CANNABIS IS MORE RISKY THAN SMOKING IT BECAUSE OF HOW THE BODY PROCESSES IT - YOU HAVE LESS CONTROL COMPARED TO SMOKING IT

Because it takes longer for the effects to kick in you might take more than you need to & become unwell or have a bad experience

YOU CAN'T TELL BY LOOKING AT A SWEET HOW MUCH THC IT CONTAINS - OFTEN SWEETS CONTAIN HIGH LEVELS - SIMILAR TO THAT CONTAINED IN HIGH STRENGTH SKUNK RATHER THAN REGULAR WEED

Because the effects last longer you might be stuck in a bad experience for a long time



THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT ALL OF THE RISKS OF USING EDIBLES IS NOT TO CONSUME THEM AT ALL

we are withyou
SHROPSHIRE

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Whilst the country is still in lockdown, people need to know that they are not alone. There is support available:



Urgent Care 24/7 Phone Line: 0808 196 4501
For Emergency Help

[CLICK HERE](#)

For COVID-19 Services

[CLICK HERE](#)

IAPTS, BEAT, KOOTH: therapies provided online or by phone.
BEEU for children and adolescents – phone, online and face to face as needed.



TOGETHERALL:

Web-based support (communities, therapies etc)

[CLICK HERE](#)

SHROPSHIRE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE:

Free access to 4 local charities offering support/counselling, up to 5 x sessions free.

Phone 0345 678 9028

MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

[CLICK HERE](#)



[CLICK HERE](#)

SANCTUARY: Hosted by Shropshire MIND remains open.



You don't need to be suicidal to call Samaritans. Whatever you're going through; a Samaritan Listening Volunteer will face it with you. Available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Call 116123 (free to call even with no credit and doesn't show on bill)

[Email Here](#)



UPDATE

Young Shrewsbury is the provider of youth services from Shrewsbury Town Council and plays an important role in the lives of young people in the town.

Run by Adam Purnell, the Town Council's youth and community manager, the service is unique to the county in that it is localised and funded within the town.

Whilst the service was proving popular, with increases in attendance for the various sessions, Lockdowns over the course of the last year have produced a set of challenges that youth services has adapted to, ensuring that the young people in Shrewsbury still have access to the team.

One well-received activity from Young Shrewsbury is the weekly 'cook-along' hosted by Adam (aka Shropshire Lad). Funding had been secured, enabling deliveries of ingredients to the thirty families taking part. Adam has also uploaded his videos to the Young Shrewsbury YouTube channel.

A list of ingredients is always posted online so that other families can join in and cook from home and provide much-needed experience of producing healthy, home-cooked meals.

There are plans to get local businesses involved once restrictions are lifted, so that the young people of Shrewsbury get used to working in a business environment. This will also help with boosting confidence and provide some of the skills to take them into adulthood and the world of work.

Prior to the first Lockdown in March 2020, Young Shrewsbury had been set for a pizza 'take over' at Dough & Oil on Castle Street. Whilst the event had to be put on hold, there are plans to continue with this project and involve more local businesses in the scheme, helping to raise the profile of both the businesses and young people and what both can achieve when they work together.

There are also plans to provide video editing equipment to enable young people to provide their perspective on events in the town, which in turn, will provide them with experience to develop skills and new avenues to explore for employment opportunities.



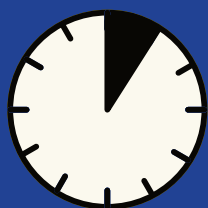
But with lockdown, all programmes have been put on hold.

Adam said: "Once things are back on track, the aim of the projects is to raise the skill set of young people by providing them with the opportunities and experience to help them stay in town and become more familiar with how businesses operate, and allowing them to gain confidence of the working environment."

Adam feels that Young Shrewsbury needs to be more widely promoted and wants to highlight the benefits for young people. He added: "The informal nature of youth work and the relationships formed around it often gives young people the confidence to speak out or make disclosures about things that might be going on in their lives which are distressing. Our youth workers and the programmes we run will help to bridge the gap between what's available and what they need to feel proud of what they can achieve."



Adam has been involved in discussions about the future of youth in the town as part of The Big Town Plan's consultation. He said: "There is still so much to achieve with our Youth Services, but it's great that we can see so many people working together for the benefit of our young people here in Shrewsbury."



5 Minutes with....

Councillor Julian Dean, Deputy Mayor of Shrewsbury



Since being elected to Shrewsbury Town Council and Shropshire Council in 2017, Julian has worked on road safety issues, particularly looking out for pedestrians. He also campaigns on environmental issues and has worked to promote young people's rights at work.

For many years Julian was a member of the Shrewsbury Jazz Orchestra. He continues to play with several of the area's best Jazz musicians whenever the opportunity allows. He has played on Shrewsbury's streets as part of The Big Busk.

What motivates you?

Making a world safe and secure for my son to grow old in, one step at a time.

What are you passionate about?

That people are basically nice, helpful, cooperative... when given the chance to be.

What has been the greatest influence on your life?

Tricky one. Apart from my Dad I'd have to say my music teacher at Madeley Court School, Telford, in the 70s. Mr Hancox opened up a world for me.

As Deputy Mayor, what areas of life in Shrewsbury would you like to highlight during your term of office?

We have so many creative talented people in the town but they don't always get the recognition they deserve. It's always easier to with what you know, so

I'd like to help the towns people get to know our local creative talent.

When the pandemic is over, and all the restrictions are lifted, what will be the first thing you will do?

Spend an evening with friends.

And Just for Fun:

What is your favourite quote?

"I try not to be an asshole" Jerry Garcia

If you could give your younger self any piece of advice, what would it be?

Listen more.

Pick a song title that best reflects the story of your life.....

What's so Funny 'Bout Peace Love and Understanding; Elvis Costello

YOUTH TAKE OVER

MONDAY
6TH APRIL
5-10PM

A TEAM OF
UNDER 18s
ARE TAKING
OVER D&O



IN
COLLABORATION
WITH

ADAM PURNELL
SHROPSHIRE
— Lad —



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