

## **Motion – Water Quality**

This council is concerned about the water quality in Shrewsbury's waterways which has deteriorated in recent years for a variety of reasons including the frequent discharges of raw sewage when it rains, road run off and pollution from agricultural land. Combined sewage outfalls (CSOs) have contributed to the deterioration of water quality and biodiversity. In February '23 Shrewsbury Town Council held a public meeting which was well attended and drew national speakers and national media attention. Residents at the meeting discussed their alarm at the polluted state of the river. It is clear that Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency and Government are failing to deal with the issue of river pollution at the speed at which Shrewsbury residents would like.

Shrewsbury Town Council resolves to:

- 1 Establish a river quality working group with the overall aim of improving river quality in Shrewsbury's waterways and will include of local residents and groups interested in the health of the river including swimming groups, environmental campaigning groups, anglers and other interested parties.
- 2 Hold regular meetings of the working group to:
  - Collate local intelligence regarding water quality and sources of pollution
  - Be aware of issues regarding extension to the built environment which may add to the river pollution problems in Shrewsbury
  - Consider and support the actions required for applying for bathing water status on a section/s of the Severn in Shrewsbury
  - Make representations, lobby and bring pressure to bear on Shropshire Council, the Environment Agency, Government departments, water companies, and other agencies so as to draw attention to the problems of poor water quality, the crucial need for significant improvement and press for remedial actions.
  - Liaise with similar groups throughout the county to identify best practice and methods of campaigning
- 3 Set aside a budget in order to meet the group's aims
- 4 Help coordinate campaigning activities, including providing secretariate support