

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL  
RECREATION AND LEISURE  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Officer:** Mike Cox – Outdoor Recreation and Asset Manager

**FISHERIES**

**Purpose of Report**

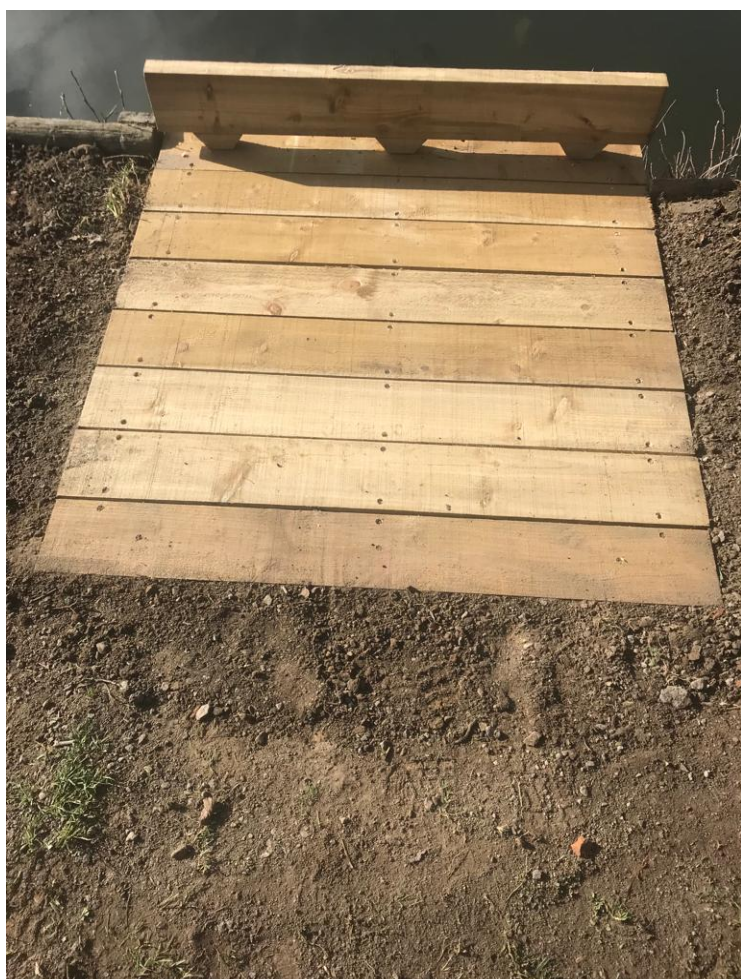
To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

**UPDATE**

**Mousecroft Pool.**

The last of the three new fishing platforms have been installed, which was completed with funding from a successful grant application from the Environment Agency.

The platform will enable easy and safe access to the pool for anglers, in particular, our juniors to enjoy. In addition Andy Jones the fisheries manager confirms that he stocked the pool with a small number of crucian carp and bream that were part of last year's stocking plan, but they were not available last year. Mousecroft originally had a number of crucian Carp but they had dwindled over the years, these introduced fish will complement the existing stock and further enhance the aquatics of the pool.



**Monkmoor / Belvidere Fishery.**

The new boundary signs are to be installed within the next three weeks, this work was delayed due to emergency repairs being carried out in the Quarry and County Ground which was a priority for safety reasons.

**Oxon Pool.**

The bark around the pool has been replenished, along the footpaths and other areas to make the facility look tidy. A grant is available in March for protective fencing along one of the boundaries, this will be a significant benefit to the site to ensure the site is tidy and to keep it secure, this funding if successful will be via the Angling trust.

**Reabrook Fishery.**

There had been reports of tree damage and spray paint vandalism made to the countryside team, so the fisheries have stepped up enforcement with the bailiffs in the area to assist with a crackdown on anti-social behavior and to report back to Jim Goldsmith.

**Radbrook Pool.**

The disabled platform was becoming over grown. Work has been completed on the shrubs to ensure access is now available to all. The work had been completed with the assistance of Mike Pugh and the countryside team. The team has also removed more of the debris from the pool which should protect the aquatic wildlife.

**County Ground and Quarry**

The fisheries team have recently completed repairs and general maintenance of the fishing platforms. There are still two that cannot be repaired due to the rotten wash boards. All of the tree work has now been completed with the help of Mike Pugh and the tree team.

**Water Keepers / Bailiffs Team**

The bailiff team have been attending on line enforcement workshops with the Environment Agency for additional training to assist them with their duties. On March 11<sup>th</sup> another seven bailiffs will have completed throw line training with the fire service in Shrewsbury.

**Water Testing.**

We have increased from three to six volunteers testing the River Severn in Shrewsbury. Testing is being carried out in eight different locations for Phosphates, Nitrates and recently includes Ammonia. This is part of the Severn Catchment Project with the Angling Trust and is currently rolling out nationally in the UK on all of our rivers. Results are sent from the fisheries Manager to Kris Kent at the Angling Trust to collate the data and Mike Cox at the Town Council for information

**Plans for 2023**

An application has been applied for to match fund ten fishing plat forms on the river. Three at Monkmoor, two at Sydney Avenue which need replacing after being damaged by the recent floods, and five to replace former platforms on the Emstrey Fishery.

Work is being done on the junior coaching sessions at Mousecroft Pool for the summer





The Fisheries team will be organising a Junior fishing competition on the last coaching session with prizes and trophies. The Fisheries Manager is working alongside Ian James our head coach with respect to these events and the dates will be announced in April.

Another part of the plan for this year is to help finance a storage facility for the fisheries and toilet facilities for the local football club at radbrook recreation ground, this will assist in bringing an old damp building back into practical use.

Work is ongoing regarding the planned general work and preparation for the new season in June and also the pools for this year.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the report is noted
2. That the work of the fisheries manager (Andy Jones) and his team of volunteers is recognised and the Council thanks him and his team for the improvements, policing and monitoring of our fisheries.