

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**CLEAN RIVERS WORKING GROUP
HELD AT LIVESEY HOUSE, ST JOHNS HILL, SHREWSBURY & VIA TEAMS**

20 JULY 2023

PRESENT

Councillors Rosemary Dartnall (Chair), Bernie Bentick & Kate Halliday

Andy Jones (Shrewsbury Town Fisheries), Gareth Mead & Rebecca Sweeney (Severn Trent), Alison Biddulph (Swimmer), Digger Barnes (Pengwern Boat Club), Kirsty Davies (Surfers Against Sewage).

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

08/03 APOLOGIES

Councillor Julian Dean

Pete Lambert (Shropshire Wildlife Trust), Amanda Coffey (Severn Trent), Dilwyn Jones (Sabrina Boat), Chloe Walker-Panse & Alice Moore

09/03 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

All Councillors declared an interest as a Shropshire Councillor

10/03 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 June 2023.

11/03 MATTERS ARISING

Re 06/03 – Bathing Water Status - Alison Biddulph wanted to clarify that the final date for submission of applications was 31st October 2023

Re 05/03(ii) – Town Fisheries – Councillor Bentick asked whether there was specific data for the Reabrook and whether there was a list of the Combine Sewer Outflows. He was advised that the Bailiffs did undertake some testing which was included in the report and the best list of CSOs was on the Rivers Trust Website

Re 05/03 – Town Fisheries – Andy Jones reported that he had sent out the report from the Angling Trust regarding water quality. He advised that whilst the testing equipment was not overly specialist it was able to plot trends regarding the health of the river

Re 05/03(iv)(b) – Rowing – Digger Barnes asked for the contact of the Severn Trent Ranger – his contact email is steve.caldwell@severntrent.co.uk

12/03 SEVERN TRENT WATER OUTFLOW ENGINEER

Rebecca Sweeney, detailed her role as an Engineer working for Severn Trent regarding the improvement to Outflows. She reported that DEFRA requested all River Authorities to create a Sewer Outfall Activation Plan which gave a roadmap of achieving outflows with no more than 10 spills a year by 2050. Those present question how achievable that was. It was reported that there were already a large number of outflows with spills less than 10 a year and work was underway looking at those with the highest spills and the greatest impact on the environment. The real aim was to remove rainwater out of the system. One traditional house with combines rainwater & Sewage water into the system had the equivalent of 40 new dwellings where the rainwater is separate. Work was also required on building capacity of the network through bigger pipes and underground storage tanks as well as building treatment works capacity. There was much work being carried out on modelling the sewer network making sure that the River Severn did not back up into the sewers; all flap valves were being checked.

Rebecca was happy to return to the Working Group to discuss progress.

13/03 BATHING WATER STATUS

The Group discussed the new Guidance which had been issued and how that might impact on an application.

To progress the following actions were agreed

ACTION

- 1. Agreement of locations – HB to provide a map**
- 2. Team Shrewsbury Partners – HB to provide a list of partners and ensure Bathing Water Status is on the next agenda**
- 3. Establish a Webpage on the Shrewsbury Town Website – HB to discuss with webmaster**
- 4. Content for Webpage – AB to provide details**
- 5. Consultation Form – HB to circulate example for Group comment**
- 6. Local Authority Permission – HB to chase with Mark Barrow**

14/03 NEXT MEETINGS

- Wednesday 16th August – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 13th September – 5.00pm
- Wednesday 11th October – 5.00pm