

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
17th January 2024**

Officer: Danny Powell – Acting Operations Manager

RELOCATION OF ROYAL SHREWSBURY HOSPITAL HELIPAD

Purpose

To inform the Recreation and Leisure Committee of the proposal to relocate the Helipad from Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to Boiler House Football Pitch.

Background

In 2014 the Helipad for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital was relocated to Boiler House pitch for a period of 8 weeks. This was during a refurbishment of the existing Helipad.

The Hospital has again approached the Town Council with a request to move the Helipad to the Boiler House pitch whilst major building work is being undertaken. The request has been approved by the Town Clerk on the basis that it is the nearest large enough open space to accommodate a helicopter whilst giving quickest access to the hospital.

Involved Stakeholders

- Help Appeal
- Shrewsbury Town Council
- SaTh Internal Stakeholders
- West Mercia Police
- EMED
- WMAS
- Welsh Ambulance Service Trust

Proposal

Originally the Hospital wanted use of the field from May 2024 for 18 months. On the 22nd December 2023, they amended this to an earlier date in 2024 (yet to be decided) for a period of 3 years (mid to late 2027), this for the landing of Emergency Helicopters (Approximately 2 to 4 a month).

The field would remain open to the public. It would only be closed 30 minutes before a helicopter landing and stay closed whilst the helicopter is on the field.

The field would be cleared by hospital security staff and porters. It would be walked before landing checking for any debris, which could cause damage to people, houses and the helicopter.

The field area would require weekly mowing, lying grass cannot happen as it will blow everywhere and be sucked into the helicopter engines.

The field also requires secondary drainage to be installed, to remove standing water from the soil surface to the land drains quicker.

Work already in progress

- Licence to occupy being worked on by the Head of Resources with Hospital contact.
- Royal Shrewsbury Hospital carrying out HLS plate survey, safe to land.
- Hospital have agreed to pay for extra mowing and for the sand to carry out secondary drainage.
- Price for 18 months occupation was worked out and sent, hospital have been informed that the price will increase because of the extra time.
- Talks with SAHA Football Club with a view to relocating football fixtures elsewhere.
- Hospital to carry out letter drops to local houses.

Conclusions

Talks about relocating the Football Club to other locations need to be finalised. They could still use the pitch, but should a helicopter need to land the game would be stopped for a considerable amount of time.

The area will still be useable by the General Public. Extra maintenance will be paid for by the Hospital.

There is no other location in the area, which a helicopter could land on.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the contents of the report are noted.**