

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

Officer: Stuart Farmer – Acting Operations Manager

Beaver Project – Construction Progress

Purpose

To report on how the Beaver Compound Construction is progressing and to update members on any issues that the contractor has made officers aware of since starting construction.

Introduction

The Old Riverbed is situated along side Hubert Way in the Bagley Ward and borders Harlescott Ward. This site was identified as potential release site for Eurasian Beavers. Following a competitive tender process, a preferred contractor was identified and working in partnership with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust licences were granted for works to begin at the end of September 2023. It had been hoped to have started this work during the summer months when the weather would have been more favourable, however due to issues with getting the licences and agreements with Natural England this was not possible.

Progress to Date

Prior to the Christmas break, the contractors vacated the site following completion of some key tasks and are currently programming their return following fabrication work of a required trash screen.

Tasks completed include:

- Boardwalk From Hubert Way
- Fencing
- Installing of ground skirts (dry areas)

Works to be completed on return include:

- Installation of trash screen
- Installation of Pedestrian proof fencing
- Installation of Gates

A snagging visit was completed by the Countryside and Greenspace Manager along with the Beaver specialist from the Wildlife trust, this flagged up some issues with the ground skirt within the wet areas however, the contractor remains confident that these snags can be completed once they return.

Ward members will be kept up to date with programmed works once Shrewsbury Town Council are in receipt of it.

Boardwalk

Once the boardwalk was finished a decision was made to allow public access across it, this has proven extremely popular with residents and there have been many positive comments over social media regarding a new walking route. During the height of the floods in January the board walk underwater for a brief period at the eastern end (Heath Farm Side) but was still passable with the correct footwear.

Hubert Way Fencing

Cadent attended site for the installation of the fencing along the Hubert Way site close to the gas main, as this was only possible to be completed under supervision. This work was completed as expected and all parties involved were pleased with the outcome.

Progress Meetings

Shrewsbury Town Council convened a face-to-face meeting with all parties that are involved in the project in December 2023 to iron out any possible future issues at Livesey House, this resulted in positive outcomes from all involved and a clearer idea of future progress.

Completion date

Due to weather conditions and production times the completion has slipped and we currently can't give an accurate indication of completion until the fabrication of the trash screen has been completed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) The reported be noted.