

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

Officer: Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

Fisheries Flooding Inspections and impacts:

Our fisheries team are currently inspecting all fisheries for flood damage with respect to fishing platforms, signs, tree damage and riverbanks etc as the river levels drop. A maintenance list of requirements will be drafted and implemented as required with appropriate personnel.

With river levels being very high since the beginning of October, this has had an impact on anglers being able to fish our river stretches and thus we have had reduced day permit sales. Our season permits remain strong for the year. We have had only one competition in the Quarry so far and the fish catch rate was very poor with only two anglers catching out of 14. Pollution was still seen during this competition and continues to be a problem.

Radbrook Pool

I am currently formulating improvements for Radbrook Pool of which will include new quality fishing platforms to replace the old worn-out platforms. These will be constructed in the same way to match the Mousecroft platforms to compliment the environment, blend in with the surroundings and respect the local residents. One platform will be relocated, and the obsolete area be rewilded. Also included will be an additional disabled platform to improve disabled access. Some new stone pathways will be added where the areas get very wet, with hidden french drainage to drain into the pool, as we implemented with success at Mousecroft Pool. The pathway won't be included in the wooded area as this will be wood chip covered. This once again will improve access for anglers and the general public. Some trimming back of trees, of which have overgrown over the pool by in some cases 12 feet, will help improve water surface area and provide a wind tunnel to help water surface movement.

The reason for this is to improve water quality and oxygen levels as these have suffered badly on Radbrook Pool, especially during hot weather periods during the summer. We shall remove any old obsolete signage and add some additional new replacement signage. An initial site visit and discussion has taken place with Jim Goldsmith Countryside Team and Mike Cox. A further meeting will be planned to discuss an agreed phased implementation during appropriate periods to action the works. I have applied for an Angling Trust Environment Agency Angling Improvement Grant of which is match funded to help us fund this project.

Monkmoor Fisheries

We are awaiting the delivery and installation of the new anti-climb gate of which should happen very soon. We also wish to improve and strengthen the lane this year. When the weather is very wet the lane gets badly broken up by the farmers machinery causing problems with access. The farmer does periodically help us with restoring the lane. I have managed to have contact with a manager in Shropshire Highways who has

been very helpful with advice for a plan to improve and hopefully strengthen the lane. We will work jointly together, including the farmer, to hopefully improve the lane that will provide better access for anglers and the general public. As it is now, it's a wet mess and needs to be addressed.

I have worked quite hard with the Police to solve the racing motorcycles that have been causing problems on Monkmoor fishery. We have developed a much speedier contact response with the local police team and have managed to locate where the bike riders live. The police have located and spoken to the individuals, and it is hoped this issue may be resolved.

Water Testing and STW Outfall Safaris Training

Attached is Angling Trusts Water Testing Report for Shrewsbury for information. We continue with our team of volunteers with consistent testing. In addition, we are going to increase testing on the Reabrook, with a further volunteer, on a more regular basis and added locations.

I have asked Severn Trent Water that I may take part in Outfall Safaris Training on a location in Shrewsbury. Severn Trent have agreed, and this shall begin in February. This is a project to look at outfall locations and identify any issues. The location has been agreed as the Reabrook although I did want the Quarry area. I will report back on this project in future fisheries reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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