

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
RECREATION & LEISURE COMMITTEE
10 July 2024**

Officer: Andy Jones – Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

FISHERIES UPDATE

Purpose

To update the Council the work of Shrewsbury Town Fisheries.

Opening River Fishing Season

The river season opened on 16th of June, and we are very busy on the River Severn in Shrewsbury. Our permit sales for June are up on last year for full season and day permits by 10%. The good news is that it seems to be fishing well with good numbers of fish being caught.

The Quarry, Sydney Avenue, County Ground, Monkmoor and Emstrey Works:

I am pleased to report that we have now completed six replacement platforms on our river stretches in the Quarry and Sydney Avenue to a high standard, of which was partially funded by the Angling Trust Environment Agency AIF grant. We have also had to complete some significant repairs on platforms in all areas on our river fisheries due to last winters prolonged periods of high river levels. These are all now complete and we have had a number of positive responses from passing members of the public whilst completing them.



Monkmoor Lane

As Monkmoor lane was in very bad condition with massive potholes, we have now made some major repairs on the bottom area to strengthen the lane and level the surface to improve access. This work was completed by one of our contractors and helped by Mr Davies the farmer. We may need to add some more attention to keep the lane in good condition.

Mousecroft Pool

Mousecroft pool has been fishing very well and remains very popular. We are going to need to thin out some more water Lilies as they are spreading in the pool again and need to be kept under control.

Radbrook Pool

Later this summer we will be looking at replacing the last five fishing platforms and adding some additional footpath area. In the autumn some tree works around the pool will be completed as per meeting with Jim Goldsmith from Shrewsbury Town Council Countryside Team. This will improve the Radbrook Pool area to achieve the same result as at Mousecroft Pool.

Water Testing

We were all saddened to hear the passing of Kristian Kent, Head of the Angling Trust Water Quality Monitoring Group. He sadly took his own life which was a big shock to me. He was the heart of the group and a good friend with a wealth of knowledge. There may be a delay in our test reports whilst his replacement is being sought in which I am sure will be difficult to replace. We continue as normal with our testing in all locations that we test in Shrewsbury.

Angling Coaching Events

Coaching events with the Shropshire Recovery Forum have been taking place every fortnight on Mousecroft Pool and we have now combined with these events, persons and staff from the Shrewsbury Ark. These events are proving to be successful and met with positivity by all who take part. The next Junior Event is on Saturday 27th July at Mousecroft Pool and is almost fully booked.



Think Fish Release with Sean and Dave

Think Fish Release is a new low-profile project that we recently launched to help people who are suffering with mental health and wellbeing, generally men. The scheme is run by two of our team who themselves in the past have had problems. Groups of four are taken fishing for the first time and can as a small group enjoy the fishing experience, the calming surroundings and more importantly, talk. The response by the individuals has been great and they have expressed how much it has helped them. Sean and Dave run the project and report back to myself. Some local businesses had sent us small donations to help fund the project and fully support it. Our aim in this is to help prevent possible suicidal river deaths.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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