

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Recreation & Leisure Committee
Held in Committee Room, Livesey House, 7 St John's Hill
At 6.00pm on Wednesday 4 September 2024**

PRESENT

Councillors E Addams (Acting Chair), C Lemon, A Mosley (substitute for Councillor Pardy), A Phillips & A Wagner.

IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Stuart Farmer (Acting Operations Manager), Danny Powell (Acting Operations Manager) Ian Thorpe (Commercial, Markets & Events Manager) and Michelle Farmer (Committee Officer).

16/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED:

That apologies be received and accepted from Councillors Gillam & Pardy.

17/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (PECUNIARY & NON-PECUNIARY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Shropshire Councillors	Those twin-hatted members declared a personal interest in any matters relating to the Town Council's relationship with Shropshire Council.
Councillor Phillips	Declared in an interest in the Greenfields item on the agenda as he is the ward member

18/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 10 July 2024 were submitted as circulated and read.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation & Leisure Committee meeting held on 10 July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

19/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no Matters Arising from the previous meeting.

20/24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk had no further updates on the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Programme report be noted.

Councillor Mosley joined the meeting.

21/24 BATHING WATER STATUS

The Town Clerk had previously reported that bathing water status had been achieved for the area around the canoe launch at the County Ground and following discussions with the Environment Agency the stretch of river covered by the status had been extended from Welsh Bridge where the tests would be carried out upstream towards where the Coton Hill CSO discharged into the river. The Environment Agency was duty bound to notify them of any pollution incidents from there to 5kms upstream. This also meant that Severn Trent were required to undertake works to address any pollution incidents for which they could access special funding. The Town Clerk had meetings with the Environment Agency every month at which they go through the testing results on the Swimfo website. The sign for the site had now been produced and would be installed shortly and the Council had claimed the necessary allowance payable by DEFRA for Designated Sites. DEFRA was currently updating Bathing Water Guidance so there was unlikely to be any opportunities to designate other sites until 2026.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

22/24 FOOTFALL

Stuart Farmer, Acting Operations Manager, updated the committee on footfall. Visitors to the Quarry through July and August had remained fairly stable, although down on previous years, this appeared to be following the national trends. Flower Show weekend was the busiest over the previous two months.

The counters that were located in the Market Hall had now been confirmed as operating correctly, with the counter showing steady figures of 6583 visits for July (approx 212 visits per day), and August saw 7,232 (approx 233 daily visits). Due to the non-trading days, it was difficult to show this on a graph similar to the Quarry counters due to spikes in the week. Fridays and Saturdays were the busiest days in the market.

The Square continued to be the busiest counter of all with July's total count of 57,916 and an average 1868 visits per day and August total was 58,419 with a daily average of 1,884.

Councillor Wagner asked that with regards to the Market Hall, could communications with traders be better due to the recent discussions with traders on full day opening on a Thursday.

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager responded saying they were looking to increase footfall throughout the week at the Market Hall and there was a long-term plan and all traders had been spoken to for feedback.

Councillor Phillips enquired as to whether the counters were operational in 2019 and were they above where they were in 2019 (pre Covid). The Acting Operations Manager agreed to bring figures to the next meeting.

Councillor Mosley asked why the figures were 21% down as this was a large figure. The Acting Operations Manager commented that the systems were operational at all times, and they did follow a national trend. Councillor Mosley asked if the national figures could be shown at the next Recreation & Leisure Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Footfall Report be noted;**
- (ii) That the Acting Operations Manager shows national figures and 2019 figures at the next Recreation & Leisure Meeting in November.**

23/24 FISHERIES

23.1 Shrewsbury Town Fisheries

The Town Clerk reported that Shrewsbury Town Fisheries had completed a lot of planned work. At Radbrook Pool a fishing platform contractor would return to install a further four new replacement fishing platforms at the pool. The last platform in the rear corner was going to be totally removed and left to re wild. The reason for this was that the platform area was easy for poachers, and various youngsters also used the platform to cause problems as it was hidden. They would look at ways to rewild this area to help stop issues. Further improvements were planned in the autumn with some minimal tree work around the pool to improve the surface water area which would allow better water movement to improve oxygen levels. The improvement on some of the additional path areas would be moved in next year's plans.

Signage was installed earlier this year by Shrewsbury Town Council to stop the feeding of ducks and fish with bread and to also help control the rat population which was problematic with local residents. Despite large signage, which was prominent at the pool in areas where this was happening, members of the public were ignoring the signs and were continuing to feed the wildlife with large volumes of bread. Some had been advised not to do so, whilst others plainly told staff to "go away". To help stop the feeding habit, particularly on the beach area, they were going to transplant one of the ornamental Lillie's from another area of the pool to the beach area to hopefully take the feeding area away. Also at the pool, three domestic ducks had been dumped. This in addition encouraged the feeding activity and they believed this had been done on purpose. Contact was being made with Cuan Wildlife Rescue to see if they would help them rehome the three ducks.

At Mousecroft Pool the contractors had been making further improvements to some fishing platform areas and path areas due to increased water levels of which some areas were now flooding in the winter. At some point, before the ground gets too wet, they wished to clean out the immediate fronts of all the platforms that had weed build up on them, with a small machine. This was necessary to prevent overgrowth before winter and spring.

At the Quarry & County Ground, work would take place on tackling tree growth around fishing platforms to combat reduced access for anglers on the banks and rowers and boat people on the river. A report would be sent to the Contracts and Arbs Officer at Shrewsbury Town Council. In the Quarry and County Ground over the last 12 months, the fisheries staff had removed seven motorcycles from either in or on the river. Recently they recovered one in the County Ground after it had been stolen from the Cophorne area and set on fire, before being dumped in the edge of the river. They managed to find the owner, who was a young man, and he collected it. There was also another red motorcycle that they were going to get out at platform 95 in the Quarry. All these thefts could be preventable if owners secured their property. These machines polluted the rivers when they were dumped.

At Monkmoor there were reports of a swan on the river with fishing line hanging out of its beak. It was eventually rescued by Cuan Wildlife Rescue and Shropshire Fire & Rescue, the line removed and returned to the wild at Monkmoor.

This year the coaching sessions had grown in popularity and continued to grow in demand. The Junior and Shropshire Recovery events would end for this year in September. They planned to grow with the demand next year with help of the Angling Trust and their own team of trained coaches. They were also adding help with the Canals and River Trust next year to help provide more opportunities for youngsters and adults with extra resources of trained personnel.

The "Fish Talk Release" events for adults with various difficulties in their lives, was proving a success and this would continue with the aim to reduce potential possible river deaths. This had been positively supported by some local businesses and individuals.

Recently they had experienced an angler's car being badly damaged at Monkmoor by young juveniles in their anglers parking area, under one of the bridges. This was reported to the police by the angler. The fisheries were busy each year attracting anglers from all over the country to come to Shrewsbury of which benefitted the local economy. It was not good when they returned to their car and found it badly damaged. They had the same issue in July last year when another angler's car had over £8000 worth of damage in the same parking area. There were also problems on the Reabrook reserve in the same areas with damage to infrastructure and fires. The fisheries staff do try to stop these situations but it's difficult with a number of the younger generations of today.

Councillor Lemon wished to thank the Fisheries team for the work they had completed at Radbrook and appreciated all the effort that had been made.

RESOLVED:

That the Fisheries report be noted

23.2 Rowley & Fenemere Angling Association

The Town Clerk reported that she had met with local members on site to discuss the long-term future aspirations, whilst appreciating that they did still hold the fishing rights. A letter had been sent to meet with them to discuss how they would manage the site and swims. They had asked for meeting dates with the club by the end of September.

Councillor Mosley was pleased with the letter that had been sent to Rowley & Fenemere and he had hoped they would return with a reasonable response and understand the objections himself and residents had.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

24/24 TEAM SHREWSBURY

The Office Manager provided an update on Team Shrewsbury activities.

Over the past 3 months a number of issues had increased, however on reviewing the yearly comparisons, issues had reduced quite significantly. The reduction in incidents represented the great work and support that the security teams undertook on a daily basis, alongside the enforcement from West Mercia Police. Security regularly received compliments, a recent compliment was from a female with her child thanking them for the wonderful job they did in keeping the town safe.

Shropshire Council's Welfare Support Team had extended the Household Support Fund until 30 September 2024 for helping people with essentials such as food, energy and water charges.

The Police & Crime Commissioner John Campion would be holding a public meeting on 26 September at 6pm at the Theatre Severn, providing an opportunity for residents to ask questions and raise any concerns regarding the Policing in Shrewsbury.

For the Policing Charter, Councillors had been asked for the next set of priorities which would start from the 1 October. These would be submitted to the Police prior to the 1 October and then ratified at the next Recreation & Leisure Committee on 6 November 2024.

Councillor Addams commented that there was continued anti-social behaviour within her Harlescott Ward with the usage of motorcycles and quad bikes. She had considered the possibility of kissing gates being erected to try and deter this behaviour and she would discuss this further with the relevant officers.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted

25/24 CCTV

25.1 CCTV and Out of Hours Consultation

The Town Clerk reported that Shropshire Council were inviting the public and stakeholders to have their say on the proposed changes to the way it delivered CCTV monitoring for Shrewsbury. This consultation aimed to explore options for the new model of service and gather feedback to inform future decision making. The consultation opened on 18 July and closed on 4 September 2024.

The Town Clerk confirmed that she was having regular meetings with Shropshire Council regarding CCTV.

RESOLVED:

That no further comments were raised by Committee members.

25.2 Town Council agreement to take on the maintenance contract of CCTV cameras

The Town Clerk had a number of meetings with the Director of Public Health and the Cabinet Member. Shrewsbury Town Council had already committed to up to £40,000 of funding to maintain the cameras, but if there was anything further this Committee would like to share with Shropshire Council they needed to make the Town Clerk aware.

The Town Council Finance & General Purposes Committee had agreed to set aside a sum of money so maintenance could continue.

Councillor Wagner congratulated the Town Council on this and that it needed to be known that the Town Council were stepping in to assist. Publicity was required.

Councillor Mosley confirmed that publicity would eventually happen, and that this topic was also tied into the work of the Service Level Agreement Working Group. Shropshire Council had commissioned APSE to draft a report which was imminent. The Town Clerk & Operations Managers had a meeting with Shropshire Council later in the week and they could hopefully then look at the SLA & CCTV precept.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

26/24 QUARRY

The Commercial, Markets & Events Manager updated the Committee on the Quarry Events for 2024.

It had proven to be another busy and ultimately successful year of Quarry events in 2024. By the time December comes around there would have been 54 individual events held within the park itself, with a further 17 taking place in the Victorian bandstand. As the list demonstrated the type of events being held remained very broad, ranging from the large two-day festivals down to small charity fundraisers.

The event calendar continued to play an important role in the cultural and economic health of the town and although it undoubtedly presented some logistical and environmental challenges, the number of associated issues which had been received this year were extremely small especially in comparison to the visitor numbers which were generated.

The weather in the last 12 months had also created some unprecedented ground condition issues, most notably after the Let's rock concerts, but thankfully the remedial work carried out by the Town Council's experienced in-house grounds maintenance team, together with some careful re planning and site adjustments, minimised the impact on subsequent events.

A number of the key calendar events were already provisionally booked for 2025 and they were also regularly receiving enquiries from the organisers of potential new proposals they were developing. It had undoubtedly been a challenging year for the events industry with several high-profile casualties at a national level and tickets levels down on previous years, so it was pleasing to see their events calendar hold up so well against this backdrop.

Councillor Wagner said that it was wonderful to see the Quarry busy and said a big thank you to the Operational Team for getting the ground conditions back in time for the Flower Show. He did enquire if the Town Council were getting disproportionate financial benefit from the large events that were held in the Quarry.

The Town Clerk replied stating the events were a significant benefit to the town with hotels and B&B's being full during events like Lets Rock. The organisers paid well for the use of the park and for any repairs. There had been a petition recently from local residents regarding the noise, but Public Protection was monitored under the Premises Licence and all noise levels were ok. The Town Council operated the most robust Premises Licence in Shropshire along with a robust Outdoor Events Policy. All residents who had signed the petition were written to by the Town Clerk.

Councillor Mosley commented that the Quarry had the correct amount of large events and they should not increase the amount of times that the park was restricted.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

27/24 DRAFT AIR QUALITY ACTION PLANS CONSULTATION

The Town Clerk reported to Committee that Shropshire Council had consulted the Town Council as a statutory consultee, on their Draft Air Quality Action Plans (AQAP) which had been produced to fulfil their statutory obligations to meet air quality objective limits under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995 and to meet the requirements of the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) statutory process.

The AQAPs outlined the action they would take to improve air quality in Shropshire Council between 2024 and 2029.

Air quality monitoring within Shropshire had demonstrated that air quality objectives for NO₂ were exceeded in two areas, one in Shrewsbury opposite the Railway Station and the other in Bridgnorth along Pound Street. A revised draft AQAP had been produced for each area. The Committee was asked to provide commentary so that they could go back to Shropshire Council.

Councillor Wagner questioned the rationale of the Castle Foregate Scheme, North West Relief Road, increased parking charges and the Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure as being the projects that would address the air quality in the town centre.

Councillor Mosley felt that the current works on Castle foregate would reduce pollution as it would be reduced to one lane. There was also a trend for more electric vehicles in use and vehicles with stop/start buttons.

Councillor Phillips commented that there were no fast-charging points in the town centre and he suggested that Shropshire Council attend a Town Council meeting to discuss this further.

Councillor Addams suggested that all new builds should introduce EV points just like the new build of Bowbrook School and Keystone Academy.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the consultation be noted;**
- 2. That representations be made to detail the Town Council's concern about the ability of planned works being able to reduce air quality levels;**
- 3. That relevant officers be invited to a future meeting of Council to discuss the rollout of Electric Vehicle Charging Point**

28/24 RECREATION GROUND MATTERS

28.1 Greenfields Recreation Ground Update

The Town Clerk updated Committee on the recent engagement with the Greenfields Community Group and activity on site following acquisition of the land adjacent to the existing Recreation Ground. The Town Clerk sought delegated authority to instruct officers to proceed with project specification and tendering.

The Deputy Town Clerk and Head of Resources had led on the various streams of acquiring the parcel of land which had been subject to the Supreme Court Hearing. That process had been dealt with primarily through the Finance & General Purposes Committee and Full Council.

On 28 August 2024 the Leader, Ward Member and various officers met with Fay Easton (Chairman) and Colin Harper (Treasurer) of the Greenfields Community Group (GCG) to discuss long held aspirations of improving the recreation ground. The Group had raised a total of £40,000 (grant funding and internal fundraising) to undertake improvements with an extensive wishlist. This had been prioritised as follows:

1. Clearance of the site and naturalised landscaping to create a countryside feel to the site; entrances to be interspersed through the established hedgerow which would remain predominantly unchanged other than usual annual cutting;
2. Installation of an Outdoor Gym for which they had received £20,000 Awards For All Funding and a defibrillator on site. The Group had received costings from a single provider;
3. Installation of Solar Lighting along the pathway on the allotments side of the Recreation Ground. The Group had received costings from a single provider recommended by Shropshire Council
4. Sundry street infrastructure including bins and benches

The meeting allowed officers to set out the process by which any infrastructure installed on Town Council land had to be undertaken; this included the necessary permissions, procurement arrangements as well as ongoing future repair & maintenance. Councillor Phillips asked if an officer could give a suggestion of an outline timetable of works.

The need to clear the acquired land for public use was discussed. Legislation precluded the ability to work on site before the nesting season was over, but officers would make reasonable efforts to clear the site by the end of September to enable the future use of the site to be considered.

The meeting also allowed officers to understand the provenance of the funding available. The Head of Resources had recently had an extensive email exchange with Dr Peter Day regarding funds that were acquired as a result of their successful outcome in the Supreme Court and whether there was any obligation for repayment that might reduce their levels of spend. The Group were able to assure the Town Council that the Group had rights to use the funds how they saw fit.

The Town Clerk did at the meeting raise concerns that the level of funding would not be enough to realise their whole aspirations and that it would be hugely beneficial if they could prioritise their wishlist. This would allow for any projects not realised to be added to the Shrewsbury Place Plan; this provided that there had been the adequate level of public consultation.

The Town Clerk also wished to manage the Group's expectations in what could be achieved and when. Current lead times with contractors was discussed. It was highly unlikely that streetlights and green gym equipment would be on site until the New Year.

It was also noted at the meeting that a request had been made to layout a junior football pitch on-site. The demand for junior football pitches in the town cannot currently be met by supply. The Operations Manager's report made reference to the need to consider Greenfields Recreation Ground for this purpose.

The outcome of the meeting was that the Town Clerk would arrange a meeting on site for relevant officers to determine the realistic programme and specification of works to allow for tendering and consideration of spending, taking into account the Group's £40,000 budget. The meeting was set for Thursday 5th September.

The Town Clerk stated that this report was seeking the Committee's in principle support for looking into the community group requests and the Town Council setting out how it may be operationally dealt with.

Councillor Philips felt that the meeting with the Group had been constructive. He also reported on wider community feedback on social media regarding to the hedgerow; they would like to reduce it but not remove it. For the re-wilding they would like access to it but keep the area for nature. They would like to ensure there was access for residents with disabilities and to also consider accessibility with the proposed green gym. The Community Group were trying to raise further funding to spend the money on the wishlist and to move forward and work with the Town Council.

Danny Powell, Acting Operations Manager, reported that staff had now visited the site. No machinery the Town Council owned would clear the site as it was thick with brambles so a

robotic machine would need to be hired to clear the area. They had now sourced a machine that could do this work and it would be with them by W/C 23rd September, on hire for one week only. After this date the area would be cleared, and officers could see what the area looked like and if there were any issues.

Councillor Phillips asked if officers could give a suggestion of an outline timetable of works.

Councillor Mosley asked if the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk could produce the minutes of the meeting with the group. He wished to reiterate that enthusiasm of community groups generally come and go but the Town Council was legally and financially responsible for the land. It was therefore necessary to manage the Group's expectations.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That there be an in principle agreement of allowing infrastructure on the Greenfields Recreation Ground, subject to the necessary permissions and agreement on repair & maintenance and finance;**
- (ii) That the Town Clerk allocate officer time to work on developing proposals and tender arrangements;**
- (iii) That the matter to be discussed further by both this Committee and the Finance & General Purpose Committee once projects had been developed;**
- (iv) That the minutes of the meeting with the Greenfields Community group be produced.**

28.2 Grounds Maintenance Update

Danny Powell, Acting Operations Manager, updated Committee on the Town Council's Grounds Maintenance.

The Amenity Team would start to remove the summer bedding displays from the middle of September and replace with spring bedding and bulbs. They were taking cuttings from a variety of plants, to reduce the number of plug plants they required for next summer's displays. This year they grew over 10,000 plants from cuttings. Staff had started to work on the number of plants required for next year.

A review of this year's baskets, tubs and planters was being carried out, to discuss which grew well and which did not. They had found that some plants did not like growing in a peat free compost so because of this they had carried out trials with different compost mixes to find a better mix. This dried out slower and held nutrients better and longer.

During the summer staff had looked at other Towns and Cities whilst on their holidays to observe what they were planting in their bedding schemes, and this had given them some ideas for next year.

The Spring bedding had been delivered and had been potted up and was growing ready to be planted out from late September.

The new floral structure in the Quarry had been well received and numerous photos of it had appeared on social media. They were looking to place a second one in the Quarry next summer.

The staff that were employed for the Town Centre watering had now left to start their college courses and they were thanked for their work looking after the floral displays this summer. Before leaving they discussed whether they would like to return next summer, which at the moment they did.

The Britain in Bloom judging day went well, and they looked forward to results day. Planning for next year had already started.

For the first time in several years the Town Council had a display at the Flower Show, this included some of their machinery, the Turf Tank Marker and a Floral Display of Hanging Baskets which they had as spares at the Nursery. The Floral display was the main picture on the front of the Shropshire Star. Staff on the stand fielded a number of questions from the public and gave out literature about the Town Council and the functions they carried out.

This year the Town Council would be supplying Whitchurch Town Council, Pontesbury and Minsterley Parish Councils with their Spring bedding and bulbs.

The Recreation and Formal Space Team were entering the last month of the summer sports season, with cricket and bowls finishing on the 27/28 September. Once they were finished, they would start their end of season renovation programme.

They had been approached by other organisations and clubs to carry out their end of season renovation work. They had taken on two local ones but had turned the others down as they did not have the capacity to do them.

The Sunday League Football season started on the 1 September and would end on the 25 April 2025. They had four teams playing on their facilities this season.

The Junior football league season starts on the 8 September and ends again on their facilities on the 25 April 2025. This gave clubs a 32/33-week season and reduced the cross over between winter and summer sports.

The number of junior teams that now used their facilities was larger than ever and they were nearly at capacity. The only locations that were not being used at the present time for football were Kynaston Road, Waincote and Greenfields Recreation Ground. One junior club that used their facilities this year had over 54 teams.

The team had cut the hedges at the schools they maintained and were in the process of putting up Football and Rugby posts and marking out the pitches ready for the start of the new school year.

The new Turf Tank marking system had already saved many hours of work and litres of paint e.g. Springfield recreation pitches were marked out in under one hour by one person, instead of two staff taking a whole morning.

The team along with other staff, repaired the Quarry after the Lets Rock weekend. The damaged areas were all levelled and sown with grass seed and this area was grassed over and ready in time for the Flower show.

With the changes to the climate, they kept the tractor and roller mower out cutting their facilities until the ground conditions stopped them.

Town Council Officers met with Shropshire Council Officers at Meole Brace Golf Course for a walk around. Shropshire Council were happy with the quality of maintenance being carried out and the golf course had been busy with players this summer. There were discussions about the bunker maintenance and whether they could be improved, and this was being investigated.

The Logistics Team regularly visit the playgrounds across the Town as they had been well used this summer, with regular checks being carried out and bins being emptied. Mop up rounds had been cut regularly.

Hedge cutting started at the beginning of August and would continue now until late November.

The Town Council mechanics had a busy summer with machinery break downs and regular machinery servicing. As the mowing season finished, they would commence their winter maintenance programme. The mechanics helped put right the damage from Lets Rock and their knowledge of machinery helped them hire the correct equipment.

Wardens had dealt with numerous issues of rubbish tipping and litter across the town. Wardens had also been out strimming one day a week around street furniture and trees, this had been across the Town. Wardens tidied around lamp posts, traffic lights etc at the English Bridge gyratory, they also spent a week cleaning weeds off path edges, traffic island splitters and other areas in the Town Centre.

On the Countryside & Greenspace Team, hay making had taken place across their sites. The Ash die back survey continued and general maintenance had taken place across the Countryside sites. Volunteer litter picks had also taken place along with the Rea Brook tidy up.

Verge mowing had continued, but with drier weather grass growth had slowed. Mowing would continue into October as long as weather conditions allowed. Staff had also been out strimming around street furniture, in Harlescott, Sweet Lake and Bowbrook.

The Rural team had been out mowing and carrying out tree work and there had also been several complex burials at the Cemetery.

As they came to the end of another summer, the amount of work carried out by the Town Council staff and the standard they had carried it out to must be congratulated. There was always room for improvement, and they would take that on board, but at this time they would just like to thank them for their efforts.

Members wished to formally record their thanks to the staff for the hard work this summer.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

The Town Clerk explained to Committee that an invitation had been sent to the Mayor of Shrewsbury to accept a nomination for the Great Town award. The Town was last nominated in 2013. Several towns were nominated and then a panel chose the finalists of which Shrewsbury was one of them, alongside Bath & Lewes. This was a great accolade to already be shortlisted as a finalist.

The Academy of Urbanism judges had visited Shrewsbury today and were taken on lengthy tours showing the whole urban grain of the town. Partners of the Town Council i.e Shropshire Council and Shrewsbury BID, alongside Managing Directors of local companies, were asked to be involved in the day to showcase what Shrewsbury do.

The Town Clerk had received some positive feedback from the judges who thanked them for showing an inspiring route and town.

Again, staff were thanked for their efforts from the planning of the day, the production of the portfolio and ensuring the day went smoothly. The results would be announced in November.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted

30/24 SHREWSBURY IN BLOOM

30.1 Shrewsbury in Bloom Group meetings

The notes of the Shrewsbury in Bloom Group meeting held on 4 July 2024 were submitted as circulated and read.

The planned meeting on the 18th July had been cancelled due to lack of attendance. Instead, they had met with the Chairman of the Bloom Committee and provided him with an update on the bloom judging day.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted

30.2 Shrewsbury in Bloom Group preparations 2024

The Town Clerk, along with the Acting Operations Managers reported that the bloom judging day which took place on 23 July had gone well. The judges were impressed with the infrastructure and the set up of the Town Council. The work the staff did and what they had produced was fantastic. The Town Council showed themselves in good light and thanks were again sent to all the staff for helping the day be successful. The awards would be announced on 20 September.

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

31/24 COMMUTED SUMS

The Town Clerk gave an update on negotiations with developers and transfer arrangements. They had not reached any trigger points for any further Town Council involvement and would continue to liaise with planners on development progress:

- (i) **Copthorne Barracks Play and Open Space** – offsite contributions to play (£30,498 - £20498 for Shorncliffe Drive & £10000 for Silks Meadow – to be paid on 75% occupancy) and open space (£115,000 for sports pitches & associated facilities at County Ground – paid on 50% occupancy) - **funds in relation to landscaping at the County Ground have been drawn down.**
- (ii) **Barratt Homes/Bovis Homes – Mytton Oak Road** – Phase 1 adopted; Snagging Phase 2/3 commenced. No identified date for transfer. **Developer has request early transfer, but certain works need to be completed ahead of transfer. Staff have walked the site recently.**
- (iii) **Shrewsbury South Urban**
 - 1. Sutton Grange site – ongoing – likely transfer in 2023/24 – **recent meeting with Taylor Wimpey to discuss logistics for transfer.**
 - 2. Bellway Homes site – discussion on land adoption and adoption of acoustic fencing
 - 3. Galliers site – early discussions on land adoption
 - 4. Community Centre – location on the site
- (iv) **Harlescott Infants/Juniors site** – Offsite contributions to sport. Approvals for use of the funds at Kynaston Road Recreation Ground for drainage works – **contribution for the drainage has been received so this item will now be discharged from the list.**
- (v) **Radbrook College site** – Open space adoption – officers met with Floreat Homes on site – likely adoption once all phases are complete.
- (vi) **Weir Hill** – Agreements to adopt the land at a future time have been signed - **meeting with Taylor Wimpey looking at the possibility of the countryside land to be transferred ahead of the POS on the development site.**

RESOLVED:

That the update be noted.

32/24 CLOSING REMARKS

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Councillors for attending and taking part in this Town Council meeting and thanked the staff involved in this meeting. All papers related to the meeting could be found on the website www.shrewsburytowncouncil.gov.uk.