

JUNE 2020

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL, SHROPSHIRE

Shrewsbury Town Council has created a £250,000 fund to press on with plans to reduce its carbon footprint and, at its first virtual meeting on Monday night, proposals to establish the group were agreed.

Councillor Alan Mosley, leader of the town council, said: "We have been at the forefront of local councils in declaring a climate emergency and in reviewing all our operations to reduce carbon emissions. We have a wealth of expertise and experience in Shrewsbury to advise us in moving forward. So, we are calling on key stakeholders to nominate people to join a strong advisory group to help ensure we set appropriate targets, help us to achieve them as quickly as possible and monitor our performance in doing so."

In addition to this, the council undertook tree planting sessions at Monkmoor River Ground. The council also encouraged volunteers to join in with the planting. The project aims to create a mix of open grassland, scrub, hedges, woodland and park trees on an area of land owned by the Town Council.

As part of more extensive work to improve the area, the Environment Agency has funded habitat and access improvements at land off Monkmoor Lane, including the construction of new fishing pegs along the river bank and the planting of about 2,000 trees of 40 different species. Shrewsbury Town Fisheries has carried out the peg construction for anglers while Shrewsbury Town Council's Countryside Team, along with volunteers, are carrying out the tree planting.

Both Shrewsbury Town Council and the Environment Agency have pledged to become carbon neutral by 2030, and trees play a vital role in this aim. The trees will also provide wildlife habitat, stabilise the river banks and reduce air pollution.

Several local groups helped with the tree planting throughout January and February, including Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Trinity Churches, Extinction Rebellion and the Porthill Posse. As well as providing funding for the project, the Environment Agency's 'Green Group' volunteers are coming along to help.

For more information please email: Claire.goldfinch@nalc.gov.uk

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