

## **CABINET**

**11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

### **RESPONSE TO PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **Mandy Garrott – to be read by Jean Childs**

Shropshire Amateur Swimming Association would like to ask you all to support the future of swimming in Shropshire as a whole by saying yes to the proposed project. The new pool would give Shropshire swimmers the opportunity to excel in the sport they love by providing a venue fit for purpose, suitable for training both in and out of the pool and competitions fit to represent the county with prestige. Who knows we may be able to produce another Olympian. Any competition would bring a boost of income into the town with people frequenting local shops, hotels and eateries. It's currently embarrassing that we are unable to host our County Championships in Shropshire Not only will this facility be used and supported by Shropshire ASA swimmers across the whole of the county, it would bring a fantastic venue for Shrewsbury, the County Town. What are the plans of the Council to provide swimming lessons for Shrewsbury residents when The Quarry is shut, which at some point it will be for either refurbishment, repair, rebuild or at worst knocked down? You will have a generation of children unable to access swimming lessons unless they come from an affluent family who can afford private lessons. Shropshire ASA would urge the council to plan for the future generations of this Town and County and not let this opportunity go by yet again, we have been disappointed so many times before. Many Thanks Shropshire ASA.

#### **Response:**

Thank you for your question. It is good to hear that Shropshire Amateur Swimming Association support the scheme being proposed. A lot of work has been done to develop the brief in consultation with local groups, whose input has been invaluable, so I am confident that the new facility will be able to comfortably accommodate the requirements of the county championships.

The development being proposed for Shrewsbury Sports Village is not directly linked to the future of the Quarry Swimming Centre. Any changes at the Quarry would be subject to a separate consultation. We have not yet developed a scheme for the Quarry but given the nature of that site it is reasonable to assume that any redevelopment may require a lengthy closure of the pools.

I confirm that one of the benefits of having swimming provision available at Sundorne would be that, should the pools at the Quarry be closed for refurbishment or any other reason, we would still be able to provide swimming lesson in the town.