



# Chepstow Town Council

Annual Report  
2019

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**Welcome** to the 2018/19 Annual Report. When I moved with my family to Chepstow in 2002, I never expected to be one day writing this introduction as Mayor of this town. I can only thank my fellow councillors for having sufficient faith in me to elect me as mayor and to state what an honour it has been to represent Chepstow in 2018/19.

There have been many interesting engagements during my mayoral year, which coincided with the 100 year anniversary of the end of The First World War. Perhaps the most poignant moment for me occurred at the service held in St Marys Church, organised by the Chepstow Choral Society, when I read out a letter written by my Great Uncle Percy to his brother from the trenches in April 1915. He was killed at the battle of the Somme 6 months later. The following Sunday, the 11th November, I took the salute at the cenotaph, another very moving event. I was also invited to the Barracks at Beachley, where alongside the Duke of Kent, I presented medals to the troops of the 1st Battalion the Rifles earned in their deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq. I was honoured and proud to be asked to represent Chepstow.

One event to which I am entitled to attend, even though it takes place slightly after my year ends is an invite to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace. I am looking forward to it with excitement and trepidation!

On 17th December 2018 the tolls of the Severn Bridge were removed, I actually worked as a toll collector finishing in 2007! This has certainly affected the town; we have seen an increased traffic volume and house prices have risen as the town has become more accessible. We will have to wait and hope that the current traffic problems can be effectively managed.

It has been a very difficult year in the retail sector. The first noticeable closure was Natwest last June, followed in September by Herbert Lewis. Herbert Lewis had traded in Chepstow for 140 years and so, was a very integral part of the town. Mole Valley (Countrywide) closed in October and Homebase/Argos on the 11th April 2019. There have been a number of smaller shops close on the High Street but it is refreshing to note that many new shops have opened showing that there is belief in the High Street and the town of Chepstow.

I have certainly learned that Chepstow is a great location, standing as it does in an area of such natural beauty but with easy access routes to the rest of the country. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their dedication to the town and their desire to make our Town an even better place to live.

*Cllr Tony Redhead*

*Town Mayor 2018/19*

# The Council

Chepstow Town Council is the grass roots voice of Local Government and is therefore closest to the people. It comprises of 15 elected members, with three councillors representing each of the five wards of St Kingsmark, St Christopher's, St Marys, Thornwell and Larkfield. The present councillors were elected in May 2017 to serve a five year term of office.

Chepstow Town Council is a statutory body and has a powerful role to play in community governance, it has the power to precept and deliver some public services directly as well as having the ability to influence the decisions of other service providers.

An Annual meeting is held in May where the election of the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor takes place. These two roles are filled by Councillors who have been nominated and voted for by their fellow Councillors.

At the Annual Meeting, Members are also appointed to four main committees:

**Planning and Administration Committee**

**Town Amenities Committee**

**Finance, Policy and Audit Committee**

**Personnel Committee**

**Full Council** takes all policy and strategic decisions affecting the community of Chepstow; is responsible for the financial management of the Council; takes executive decisions regarding the main business of the Council; ratifies the recommendations Council Committees where no specific delegation of powers has been agreed and receives routine items of business.

*Meets monthly on the 4th Wednesday*

**Planning and Administration Committee** is responsible for making recommendations to Monmouthshire County Council in respect of planning applications; to comment on planning policy matters; to decide matters of urgent business requiring action prior to the next Full Council meeting; planning matters of a strategic or substantial nature having a significant impact on the community to be referred to Full Council. Members considered recommendation on 65 planning applications last year.

*Meets twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday*

**Town Amenities Committee** is responsible for town amenities and has authority to authorise expenditure within the Council's approved budgets for Chepstow in Bloom, Christmas Lighting, and Town Publications.

*Meet 3 times a year, May, September and November*

**Finance Policy and Audit Committee** is responsible for finance including expenditure and investments; property, policy, assets, insurance Schedules, Annual Investment Strategy, Risk Assessment, Lettings Policy and Letting Income, Community Grant Funding other funding requests received up to a limit of £5,000 per application.

*Meets on a quarterly basis*

**Personnel Committee** meets as an interview panel as required making recommendations to Council in respect of permanent Town Council positions; has delegated responsibility for staffing matters, staff welfare, training and development etc.



# The role of Councillors

The Town Council aims to provide effective and efficient services that give value for money and improve the quality of life for the residents of the town. The Town Council represents the community it services at local, county and national levels to ensure that Chepstow continues to be a desirable place to live, work, shop and visit. To achieve this, the Council will encourage and participate in partnership working with Monmouthshire County Council, community stakeholders and voluntary groups.

The Town Council strives to create a socially inclusive community and supports all voluntary groups who seek to develop the same and aims to encourage a more sustainable, safe and clean environment.

## **Elected Member Responsibilities as Individuals**

A Councillor has an active interest in their local community and plays a vital role in representing the interest of the community in which they serve by improving the quality of life and local environment.

Councillors must act within the law and must sign a declaration to say they agree to work within the Code of Conduct. They are able to suggest ideas, engage in constructive debate, represent constituents and respond to the needs and views of the local community.

Councillors are the voice of their local community and can work to influence other tiers of Local Government and help make collective decisions which form the policy of the Council.

## **Town Mayor**

The Town Mayor presides at meetings and is responsible for ensuring meetings are conducted properly with effective debate, producing clear, lawful decisions.

The Mayor encourages participation amongst members and ensures that views are expressed freely, whilst maintaining focus which is fair and balanced. The Mayor signs the minutes of meetings, which are a legal record of decisions made by Chepstow Town Council.

The Mayor undertakes civic duties and represents the Council at events and can appoint a charity for the year of service.

## **Administration Support**

Services provided by the Town Council are managed and delivered by a team of seven part-time employees, comprising of three in administration and four mobile hygiene and asset maintenance operatives. This small team, based at The Gatehouse, is led by a qualified Town Clerk who ensures that the correct procedures and policies are in place and followed in order to deliver services to a high standard.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at [www.chepstow.co.uk](http://www.chepstow.co.uk) where meeting dates, agenda's and minutes can also be viewed.

# Attendance Details 2018/19

All meetings of the Town Council are open to the public unless excluded by a resolution of the meeting for a particular item which is of a confidential nature or prejudicial to public interest.

Councillor	Council 13	Planning 17	Finance Policy & Audit 4	Town Amenities 3	Personnel 3	Totals  Actual / Possible
Cllr L Ayland	3	3	2	0		8/37
Cllr H Beach	13		3	2		18/20
Cllr J Becker*	7			1	0	8/14
Cllr M Brady	12	13				25/30
Cllr L Burrett	11	10	4	2	3	30/40
Cllr D Dovey	12					12/13
Cllr Y Havard	11	15	3	3	3	35/40
Cllr N Heywood MBE	11		4			15/17
Cllr P Hobson	4		4			8/17
Cllr T Kirton**	9	5	1	1	0	16/40
Cllr P Pavia	12			1		13/16
Cllr T Redhead***	11	14	4	2	3	34/40
Cllr D Rooke	13	16	4	3	3	39/40
Cllr J Rennie	11	15				26/30
Cllr A Watts	8					8/13

\* *Joined Committee Oct '18*

\*\* *Deputy Mayor Ex-Officio at all meetings*

\*\*\* *Town Mayor Ex-Officio at all meetings*

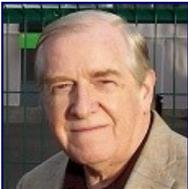
# Meet the Council

## ST KINGSMARK



Cllr David Dovey (Conservative)  
cllrdaviddovey@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 621464

Cllr Leigh Ayland (Labour)  
cllrleighayland@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07889 247361



Cllr Martin Brady (Conservative)  
cllrmartinbrady@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 621255



## ST MARYS



Cllr Ned Heywood (Independent)  
cllrnedheywood@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 624836

Cllr Lisset Burrett (Labour)  
cllrlissetburrett@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 627165



Cllr Jez Becker (Liberal Democrats)  
cllrjezbecker@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07733 253143

## THORNWELL



Cllr Tom Kirton (Labour)  
cllrtomkirton@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07811 094917

Cllr Armand Watts (Labour)  
cllrarmandwatts@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07980 962669



Cllr Dale Rooke (Labour)  
cllrdalerooke@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 408585

## ST CHRISTOPHERS

Cllr Hillary Beach (Labour)  
cllrhilarybeach@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 627125



Cllr John Rennie (Labour)  
cllrjohnrennie@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 621267



Cllr Yvonne Havard (Labour)  
cllryvonnehavard@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 01291 329772

## LARKFIELD

Cllr Phil Hobson (Liberal Democrats)  
cllrphilhobson@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07966 343978



Cllr Paul Pavia (Conservative)  
cllrpaulpavia@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07812 147048

Cllr Tony Redhead (Liberal Democrats)  
cllrtonyredhead@chepstow.co.uk  
Tel 07413 788794



## Schedule of meetings 2019/20

22nd May 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	ANNUAL MEETING
12th June 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	TOWN AMENITIES
19th June 2019	6.15pm	PERSONNEL	7.00pm	FINANCE
26th June 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
10th July 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	
24th July 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
SUMMER RECESS				
11th Sept 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	TOWN AMENITIES
25th Sept 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
9th Oct 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	PERSONNEL
16th Oct 2019	6.15pm	FINANCE		
23rd Oct 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
13th Nov 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	TOWN AMENITIES
27th Nov 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
11th Dec 2019	6.15pm	PLANNING		
CHRISTMAS RECESS				
8th Jan 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING		
22nd Jan 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
12th Feb 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	FINANCE
26th Feb 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
11th Mar 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	PERSONNEL
25th Mar 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
8th Apr 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING		
22nd Apr 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING	7.00pm	COUNCIL
6th May 2020	6.15pm	PLANNING		

# Chepstow & Statistics

The historic walled border town and ancient port of Chepstow is a mere two hours drive from London yet commands the entrance to the Lower Wye Valley in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ensuring its position as a great place to live.

The 2011 census highlighted a number of issues of significance to the town of Chepstow:

- the total population is now 12,350 up from 10821 in 2001
- the population growth in Chepstow grew at a rate of 14.1% between the census period , one of the fastest rates of growth in Monmouthshire.
- families wish to relocate to Chepstow as a place to live, shop and enjoy.
- the location provides an easy commute to nearby Urban areas.

We are expecting a significant increase in population in the next census since the removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls, making Chepstow an affordable alternative for commuters to the Bristol area.

As a historic Market Town, the Town Council is committed to ensuring that new developments within the town are sympathetic to the town and its future requirements. The Town Council is currently examining the initiative of creating a 'Place Plan', the results of which may be adopted by Monmouthshire County Councils' Local Development Plan.

The purpose of a Place Plan is to:

- Gather evidence about the area to understand what issues the community is facing;
- Talk to the wider community and stakeholders about how the area will develop, and what needs to be done for the future well-being of the community;
- Agree how we want the different aspects of your place to be in the future;
- Agree a plan to work towards this future, including, where relevant, policies for making decisions about planning and an action plan to set out how identified issues are going to be tackled;
- Have that final plan agreed by the community, key stakeholders and adopted by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for use as Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The Place Plan will be a useful tool for the Council as it should represent a collective voice from the electorate and stakeholders in ensuring that the future needs of Chepstow are fairly represented at decision making level.



# Finance

Chepstow Town Council is funded by a precept which is an additional amount added to the Council Tax for Monmouthshire County Council based on the requirements of the Town Council.

In October the Finance, Policy and Audit Committee calculates the money the Council needs to raise in order to provide for its services and fund any projects planned. It then deducts any income that it expects to receive leaving a net amount known as the precept.

The precept for 2019/20 is £561,066.00 against a budget of £633,066. This will cost the average Band D council tax payer £102.11, a £13.00 a decrease from 2018/19.

The difference of £72,000 will be taken from the Town Council's general fund\*.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require town and community councils to have adequate and effective arrangements in place for an internal audit of their accounting records and their systems of internal control. This is carried out on a half yearly basis by an independent internal auditor.

Members and officers are responsible for the spending of public money and are subject to the Councils Financial Regulations and are conscious of its responsibility towards maintaining services and ensuring best value for its precept payers. Accountability and transparency are key to members and officers for the spending of public money.

Any further information detailing this, including the annual accounts can be found at [www.chepstow.co.uk](http://www.chepstow.co.uk).



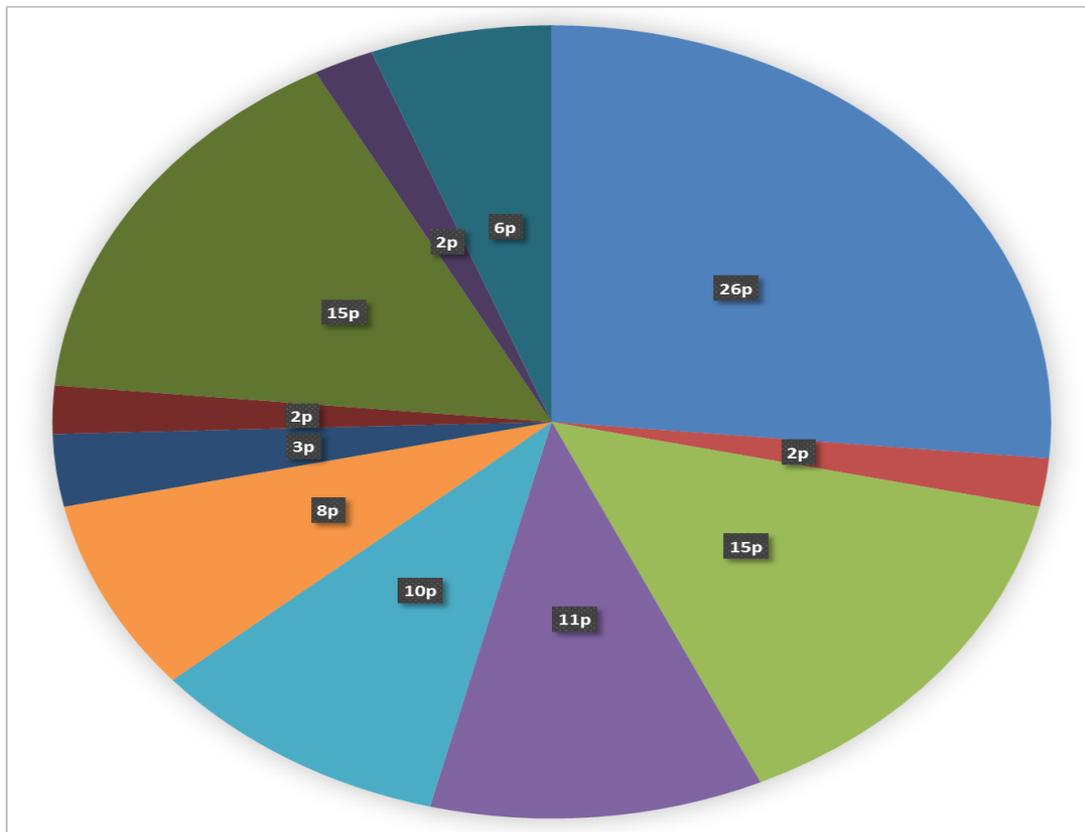
\* Reserves are set aside for specific purposes and future projects.



# For every £1 spent

Each year the council raises a "precept" on the council tax payers to cover the cost of running expenses and services.

In 2019/20 the precept will be £561,066.00 (costing the average council tax payer based on Band D £102.11 per annum).



- ◆ Will be spent answering public enquiries, managing and facilitating the Council projects and resources, responding to the consultation, servicing and administering of Council Meetings
- ◆ Will contribute to Civic Events and Mayoralty
- ◆ Will meet net premise running and maintenance costs for The Gatehouse inc heating, water & water & business rates and will meet the loan repayments for the purchase and ongoing maintenance.
- ◆ Will pay for Community Grants incl. Citizens Advice, TIC, Chepstow Museum, SARA, Chepstow Festival, Chepstow Town Band, Chepstow Walkers are Welcome, Chepstow Fairtrade.
- ◆ Will pay for War Memorial Maintenance, litter picking, dog waste disposal, roadside benches, community notice boards, servicing and maintaining the Riverbank, Bank Street and Thomas St Public Conveniences.
- ◆ Will be spent on Summer Floral Displays, Community Orchards, Apple Day and Christmas Lighting.
- ◆ Will be spent on Playschemes for local children
- ◆ Will pay for Community Publications, Chepstow What's On Guide, Website, Promoting Chepstow and Town Markets.
- ◆ Provision of Future Services
- ◆ Will be spent on the Towns CCTV.
- ◆ Will be spent on Bulwark Community Centre and The Drill Hall.

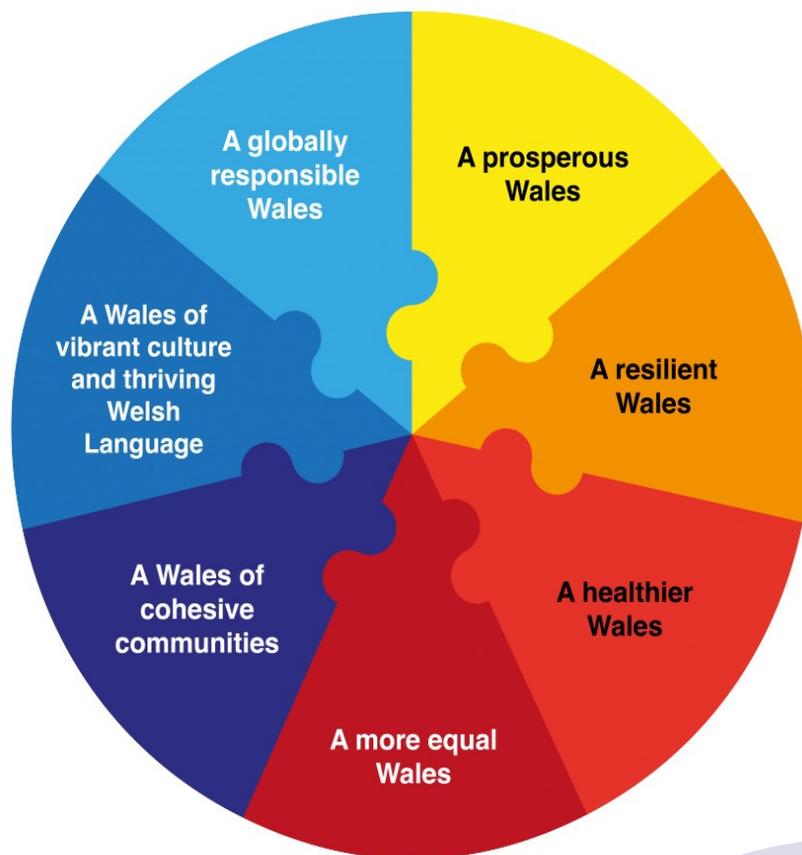
# The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act

Wales is facing a number of challenges in the future and as a means to tackle these head on the Welsh Government created the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. The aim of the Act is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

The Act established statutory Public Service Boards and placed a duty on these bodies to define and deliver wellbeing objectives.

The Town Council, as one of the larger Town and Community Councils in Wales, is required by law to prepare an annual report showing how the Council is taking “reasonable steps” to meet the objectives set out in the Monmouthshire Public Services Board Well-being Plan.

The following section of the report aims to provide information about how Chepstow Town meets the requirements set out in the legislation.



# Monmouthshire Well-being Objectives



## Well-being Objective - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

- ◆ Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages.
- ◆ Focusing on well-being and looking after each other rather than just formal care provision
- ◆ Developing networks for all ages that support people's well-being in their local communities
- ◆ Ensuring suitable and affordable housing is available to people of all ages
- ◆ Promoting active citizenship, like volunteering and time-banking.



## Well-being Objective - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life

- ◆ Tackling the causes of Adverse Childhood Experiences and the perpetuation of generational problems in families.
- ◆ Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity in order to increase the health and well-being of future generations
- ◆ Working to ensure that schools and services for children focus on well-being and a more rounded approach than purely academic results.
- ◆ Supporting the resilience of children and young people in relation to their mental health and emotional wellbeing





## Well-being Objective - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

- ◆ Improving the resilience of ecosystems by working at a larger scale (landscape) to manage biodiversity and maximise benefits such as natural flood risk management
- ◆ Ensuring design and planning policy supports strong, vibrant and healthy communities that are good for people and the environment.
- ◆ Enabling renewable energy schemes, especially community-owned schemes, and developing new solutions including storage, smart energy, heat and local supply.
- ◆ Enabling active travel and sustainable transport to improve air quality and give other health benefits.
- ◆ Working with children and young people to improve their awareness, understanding and action for sustainable development and make them responsible global citizens of the future.



## Well-being Objective - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

- ◆ Maximising opportunities for Monmouthshire as part of the City Deal
- ◆ Better understanding the future of work and ensure training and education links with business to identify the skills needed in the Monmouthshire workforce now and in the future
- ◆ Developing new technologies for improving rural transport
- ◆ Facilitate better business networking to share knowledge and access to technology and regional opportunities to enable businesses to grow
- ◆ Exploring the potential for specialist centres of excellence in Monmouthshire e.g. food/hospitality, agriculture, tourism and technology

# The Five Ways of Working

The Future Generations Act defines Sustainable Development in Wales as: “The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.”

It sets out five ways of working needed for Public Bodies to achieve the seven well-being goals. This approach provides an opportunity for innovative thinking, reflecting the way we live our lives and what we expect of our public services;



## Long-term

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs



## Integration

Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies



## II Involvement

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area the body serves



## Collaboration

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives



## Prevention

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives

The Council has identified the need to incorporate the five ways of working in order to ensure more effective decisions and delivery of services to the residents of Chepstow.



# Steps taken by the Town Council that contribute to the Public Service Boards Well-being Objectives



## Well-being Objective - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change

### Current Activities:

- Installation of community defibrillators in Garden City and the Palmer Centre;
- Financially supporting the Drill Hall and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported;
- Financial support was provided to a number of organisations supporting older people;
- Continued support to the Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau to enable residents of all ages to obtain free advice and support
- Significant financial support to the Citizens Advice Bureau so that residents of all ages can seek local free advice and support on a wide range of matters .



## Well-being Objective - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life

### Current Activities

- Supporting the Summer Playscheme providing free activities for children during the summer holiday;
- Supporting Mencap with their People and Places Big Lottery Fund Bid in acquiring the Old Board School;
- Contribution to prizes for the Chepstow Library Summer Reading Challenges;
- Contributing to prizes for the inter school gardening competition;
- Councillors taking on the role of School Governors and giving their time, skills and expertise in a voluntary capacity, to help their schools provide children with the best possible education.



## Well-being Objective - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

### Current Activities:

- The Town Council has continued supporting Transition Chepstow with the Community Orchards and Plastic Free Town initiative;
- Members have been involved in a number of litter picks around Chepstow;
- Signed up to Monmouthshire County Council's "Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" initiative;
- Continues to provide and empty over 30 dog bins;
- Supports Chepstow Fairtrade;
- Introduced self watering planters with perennial shrubs into the Town's planting schemes for a more sustainable theme



## Well-being Objective - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

### Current Activities:

- Working in partnership with Cotyledon CIC to provide a twice monthly local craft and produce market on a Sunday in the High Street;
- Financially supporting the town's festivals and events via the Community Grant Funding Scheme which draws visitors to the area to enjoy Theatre in the Castle, Bands on the Bandstand and the Community Big Bash in the Castle;
- Organises the annual Christmas Light Switch On event;
- Provision of additional Community Notice Boards;
- Offering of the Town Arch Window for advertising space for local community groups;
- Provided and managed the many floral displays throughout the town during the summer.

# A More Prosperous Chepstow

*'To continue to support and develop the Well-being of Chepstow'*

The following examples show how Chepstow Town Council continues to build links to support and develop the well-being and prosperity of the town it represents.

## Town Markets

2018 marked a significant change to the delivery of the High Street Market with partnership working with Cotyledon Markets. This long established Community Interest Company has enabled the development of this High Street event offering twice monthly Sunday markets bringing together a wide choice of locals artisan craft and food. The Town Council is responsible for the road closures on the market days and the market is growing from strength to strength. The Town Council continues to strive to work with Cotyledon to ensure the market will meet its full potential and deliver the best service for stakeholders and customers alike.



## Town Council Website

The Town Council's website is a platform for residents, visitors and businesses to access information about the town as well as key Council information, including the Town Council Agendas and Minutes of Meetings. The website seeks to reinforce the community of Chepstow providing a comprehensive guide to the Town and its Council.



## Planning



Chepstow Town Council has the right to be notified of any planning application affecting the community and town council area and to make comments that the planning authority must take into account. When responding to planning applications the Town Council continues to give consideration to business requirements and the distinct and historic character of the town.

## What's On

The Town Council continues to produce and distribute the monthly 'What's On Guide'. The Guide provides invaluable information to the event organisers ensuring full coverage and advertising as well as the residents and visitors to Chepstow.



## Facebook



It was a well overdue addition to how the Town Council Communicates that meant 2018 saw the launch of the Town Council Facebook Page. Already well received, the Town Council anticipates that as the year progresses so will this method of communicating Council and local information.

# A Resilient Chepstow

*'To build and develop the Well-being of Chepstow with sustainable development demonstrated by sustainable behaviour'*

Chepstow Town Council wishes to build and develop a town with sustainable development and demonstrate sustainable behaviours for the provision of services.

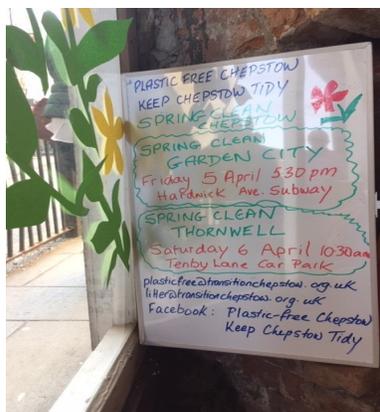
Since April 2017, the Town Council has successfully provided the manual street cleaning service at weekends for the Town Centre and is currently in negotiation with Monmouthshire County Council regarding a partnership agreement to carry out this provision across the whole of Chepstow daily, with the intention of a more responsive and focused service coordinated at a local level.

The Town Council has supported and facilitated the provision of Dog Waste Bins in and around the town and has increased the number of these by eight in the past year. The Town Council will continue to monitor the provision and respond to the requirements as necessary.

Although not directly responsible for the delivery of highways, transport and parking within the town, the Town Council strives to ensure that the relevant bodies responsible for delivery provide a good quality and affordable service. The Town Council responds to all consultations in relation to these services taking into account the needs and expectations of the residents and business of Chepstow.

The Town Council continues to support sustainable projects in and around Chepstow. Last year the Town of Chepstow was granted 'Plastic Free' status thanks to the dedication of Transition Chepstow and their volunteers. The Council will continue to support and promote its commitment to encourage the removal of single use plastic items from the Town and its businesses. The Council has led by example by removing these items from our premises and designating Council run community spaces as Plastic Free.

Following the purchase of six self watering barrels, the Town Council has continued to seek a more sustainable permanent planting of floral displays around the town. The Town Council follows advice from our floral contractor to provide sustainable arrangements during the summer.



# A Healthier Chepstow

*‘To build a participative, vibrant community that demonstrates participative capable and motivated leadership’.*

Chepstow Town Council wishes to build a participative, vibrant Community to enable positive physical and mental well being by supporting and engaging with the various community groups to help deliver this initiative.

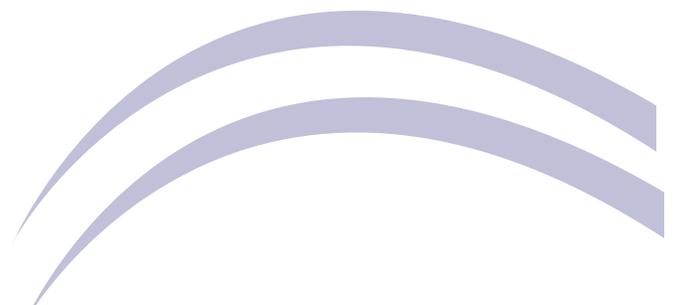
The Town Council has recently applied for council representation to the Aneurin Bevan Community Health Board to ensure the residents of Chepstow be properly represented in the future management of health and wellbeing provisions for this area.

Play is vitally important to the physical, mental, emotional and social health of our children. The Town Council provides substantial funding for the delivery of the Summer Playscheme for the children of Chepstow working in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council. Next year also sees an additional £5,000 of funding from the Town Council in support of the SHEP scheme (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) to include the provision of a healthy breakfast and lunchtime meal for the children participating.

Each year, following the success of Chepstow being awarded Walkers are Welcome status, the eponymous group host a Walking Festival in and around the town. The festival has grown from strength to strength and welcomes visitors from all over. The Town Council is delighted to help fund Chepstow Walkers are Welcome and will continue to promote Chepstow as a centre for walking activities for all abilities.

In support of promoting a healthier Chepstow the Town Council has also awarded the following grants ;

- **Musical Production in aid of Alzheimers Cymru**
- **Reloaded Outreach Programme**
- **Music Painting Sessions at The Palmer Centre**



# A More Equal Chepstow

*‘To deliver locally relevant, efficient and effective public services which include enhancing our Twinning links, developing links outside of Chepstow along with partnerships including deploying appropriate resources.’*

Chepstow Town Council aims to deliver locally relevant, efficient and effective public services developing partnerships and links with stakeholders and deploying appropriate resources.

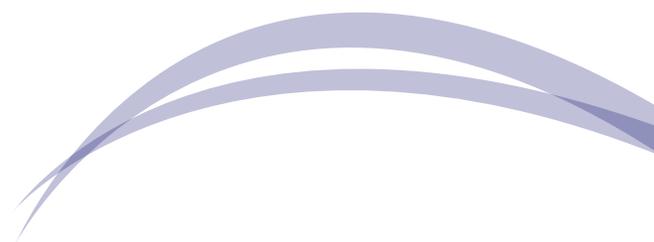
The Town Council continues in its responsibility to engage and offer practical support to Community Groups and Schools. Gazebos and tables are offered free of charge to assist with the running of local Community Events, meeting rooms are also available for hire at both The Gatehouse and Thomas Street and are regularly utilised by a variety of organisations.

The Town Council produces the monthly What’s On Guide enabling event organisers to advertise for free. This guide is distributed around Chepstow at various retail outlets as well as the Library, Museum and Tourist Information Centre. The guide can also be found electronically on the Council website.

Local facilities such as public toilets and roadside benches are maintained by Chepstow Town Council. It is the responsibility of this council for the opening, closing and cleaning of the public toilets and the maintenance and refurbishment of the benches.

Engagement with the youth has always been a priority for Chepstow Town Council, particularly the provision of Grant Funding for activities. The following funding has contributed to assisting Youth Groups.

- **1st Chepstow Boys & Girls Brigade — Unite Weekend**
- **Wye Gymnastics & Galaxy Cheerleading — The ‘Reloaded’ Outreach Programme**
- **MCC—Summer Reading Challenge**
- **Support of LGBTQ Community**



# A Chepstow of More Cohesive Communities

*'To provide attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities'.*

The Town Council has continued to provide essential funding for Bulwark Community Centre and The Drill Hall and has representation on the Management Committees of these organisations. This helps to provide leadership and direction and ensures that the facilities are made widely available for the whole of the community.

Collaborative working has been maintained by Town Council representation on the following working groups promoting sustainable behaviours, healthier lifestyles and well-being issues.

- **Air Quality Steering Group**
  - **Senior Citizens Welfare Trust**
  - **Chepstow Fairtrade Forum**
  - **County Council Cluster Group**
  - **CCTV User Group**
  - **One Voice Wales**
  - **Chepstow Twinning Association**
  - **Monmouthshire Citizens Advice**
- (observer)
- **Aneurin Bevan Community Health Board**

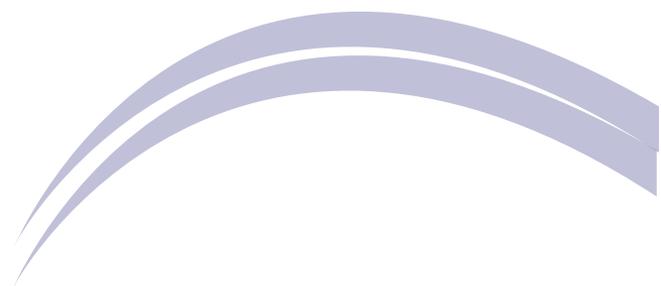
The Town Council continues its funding of the CCTV in Chepstow, an initiative dating back to 2002. This year the Town Council funded the addition of a new CCTV monitor at the Skatepark in Bulwark.

In pursuance of Councils agreed objective to provide for a community noticeboard for each ward, the council has gained permission for the installation of noticeboards in Thornwell and in the two underpasses on the A48.

The locations of the current Community Noticeboards are Town Arch, High St, Bulwark Road Shopping Area, Garden City Way, Barnetts Wood, Chepstow Castle Car Park, Welsh St Car Park, Riflemans Way, Thomas Street and Chepstow Train Station.

The noticeboard under the Town Arch is used primarily for 'statutory notices' whilst the remaining boards are used for the display of Community information and event posters. Councillor contact details, a schedule of Town Council meetings and the current years budget summary can also be found on four of the boards.

The Town Council has worked very closely with the Chepstow based Officers from Gwent Police and elected members regularly discuss the provision of safe policing by receiving regular updates at the monthly Council Meetings.



# A Chepstow of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

*'A Society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation'.*

The Town Council has responsibility as the custodians of both the War Memorial and the Memorial Gun. It was with regret that the Council was unable to secure the funding to ensure that both these monuments were cleaned and restored in time for last years WW1 centenary events, however the War Memorial has now been attended by a specialist restoration company and we are delighted with the results.

It is hoped that the War Memorial Gun will also undergo a refurbishment this year and the Town Council are currently waiting the outcome of a grant funding application to CADW.

Grant Funding has been provided to assist with the following Art and Cultural events:

- **Arts Council Wales Nights Out Scheme—Two productions at The Drill Hall targeting diversity**
  - **Back To Blighty—Commemorative Musical Production**
  - **Big Draw Event—One Day Drawing Festival**
  - **Wassail/Mari Llywd—Large Screen**
  - **The Big Community Bash—Community Event**
  - **Chepstow 370—Sealed Knot Re-enactment**
  - **Facilitating the siting of a Chepstow/Cormeilles Memorial Bench within Chepstow Castle**
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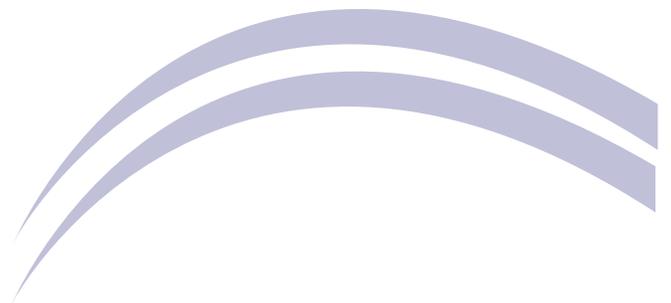
# A Globally Responsible Chepstow

*'To seek to improve the economic, social, environmental well-being of Chepstow'*

Chepstow has been a Fairtrade Town for 13 years and the Town Council continues to support this by adopting a Fairtrade products only policy at its premises. Grant funding is provided to Chepstow Fairtrade to assist with promotional material, talks, newsletters, visits to schools and other events. The Fairtrade Flag is flown above The Town Arch for Fairtrade Fortnight in March each year.

Chepstow is extremely fortunate to have the proactive group Transition Chepstow with active projects on energy, transport, food and much more. Last year saw the town gain the prestigious status of 'Plastic Free' due to the dedicated work of this group of volunteers.

The Town Council were delighted to joint host a 'Litter Summit' with Transition Chepstow in January 2019 with the aim of identifying practical solutions to the litter problem in Chepstow. More than 70 people, including Councillors and council staff, residents and representatives of various local organisations took part. Following on from the Summit Transition Chepstow, in conjunction with Keep Wales Tidy organised a Spring Clean Chepstow Campaign to get the town ready for the tourist season and the Chepstow Walking Festival as well as continuing regular months litter picks.



## Contacts

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