** WEM TOWN COUNCIL**

**Annual Report 2018/2019**

**Mayor of Wem 2018- 2019 – Cllr Connie Granger
Deputy Mayor of Wem 2018-2019 – Cllr Philip Glover**

**Mayor of Wem 2019-2020 – Cllr Philip Glover
Deputy Mayor of Wem 2019-2020 – Cllr Peter Broomhall**

**Mayor’s Report**

**The Past Mayor of Wem, Cllr Connie Granger gives an overview of her term of office**

It has been a privilege to be Wem Town Mayor for the last twelve months, the support that I have received from my Deputy Phil and husband Dave has been much appreciated.

Throughout the year I have met many interesting and diverse people from all walks of life, I have personally learnt a lot and will always remember this year as being very special.

It has been a difficult and complex year for the Town with bank closures and increased parking charges making life taxing for our local traders and residents.

We were sorry to hear the sad news of the death of John Cobbold one of our former Councillors who was Mayor in 1993 and who continued to take an active interest in town affairs.

I have had a very busy year raising funds for my 2 chosen charities ( Mental Health and Parkinsons Disease) and have managed to raise the sum of £2000.00 , my thanks go to all who contributed to this total.

I look forward to the next year with our new Mayor and wish him every success, my thanks also to our Town Clerk Penny and Assistant Clerk Sue for all their hard work on my behalf and my fellow Councillors for their support.

Wem Town Council meets on the last Thursday of every month except August and December at Edinburgh House, New Street, Wem, at 7pm.

The Council always welcomes electors’ comments and suggestions and allows time at the start of each monthly meeting for questions from residents of the town wishing to attend.

A copy of the agenda for meetings is displayed on the Town Council’s official notice board at the front of the Town Hall, High Street and on the Council’s official website: [www.wem.gov.uk](http://www.wem.gov.uk)

**Town Council Contact Details Tel 01939 232733,** **info@wem.gov.uk****,** [**www.wem.gov.uk**](http://www.wem.gov.uk)

**THE COUNCIL’S YEAR**

The Full Council has met 12 times over the past year and the various committees have also met on a regular basis throughout the year. Outlined below is a brief snapshot of some of the issues considered by the Town Council over the past year.

**Planning**

The Town Council comments on all planning applications within the town area prior to their consideration by Shropshire Council who make the final decision on approval or otherwise. The Town Council works hard to listen to the views of residents prior to submitting comments on any application. In 2018 Shropshire Council continued its review of The Local Plan, this time focusing on specific sites for development. Following a consultation event the Town Council listened to the view of local residents in relation to the sites put forward for development and as a result have objected to all sites. The reason for the objection is because the Council considers that there should be no more development in the town until the improvements in the existing infrastructure (sewage, highways, school and medical capacity) raised as part of the first stage of the review are addressed. It should be noted that despite these objections the final decision on the location of future development in Wem will be made in late 2019 by Shropshire Council.

**Events**

Throughout the year the Town Council has continued to recognise its close links to the Armed Forces and especially RAF Shawbury. Armed Forces Day held in June saw the Town show its support for the men and women who make up the Armed Forces community. This was followed in September with RAF Shawbury exercising its right to march through the Town (an honour given to RAF Shawbury in 2007) to mark the 100 year anniversary of the RAF. The Remembrance Service in November was especially poignant as it commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the end of World War One. The turn out on the 11th November was incredible for the Act of Remembrance and at the Beacon Lighting.

**CCTV**

The Town Council has invested in the CCTV system over the past year by upgrading existing cameras and adding new locations where we have been made aware of the need for a camera.

**Car Parking**

Shropshire Council’s proposals to increase the cost of car parking in all three of the town car parks along with increases in residents’ car parking permits was strongly objected to by the Town Council. Concerns were raised about the impact that this would have on local businesses. The Council continues to object to the increases and is currently campaigning along with other market towns in North Shropshire to have the charges removed.

**Wem Station**

Over the past year the Town Council has raised concerns about safety at Wem Station and the need for amongst other things an additional footbridge and a ticket machine on both platforms. A rail safety awareness day was held in February. The Town Council was dismayed to see the removal of the remaining ticket machine earlier this year by Transport for Wales (the new rail operator for this region) and has requested it is reinstalled as soon as possible.

**Compassionate Communities**

The annual Town Meeting held in May 2018 was well attended with presentations from organisations providing care services in the town. Presentations were received from Wem Macular Society, Wem Food Bank, Wishing Well Care, Wem Good Neighbours and Wem Carers Group. Following this meeting a regular meeting of care organisations was established to enable them to network. As a result of this network a Compassionate Communities project is about to be launched in partnership with Wem, Prees and Clive Medical Practices which will work with local people and their surgery to develop a network of volunteers who will visit and befriend a frail and vulnerable person in their community, helping them reconnect with those around them. If you would like to be involved with this project please contact the Town Clerk.

**Wem Economic Forum**

The forum, which is a joint initiative between Local Government, businesses and local community groups has met several times over the past year progressing projects relating to traffic, emergency planning and markets. The forum is open to all and meetings are advertised on

<https://wemeconomicforum.org.uk/>

**Town Council Income and Expenditure 2018-2019**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **2017/18** | **Income Summary** | **2018/19** |
| 289,549 | Precept  | 302,767 |
| 849 | Administration  | 3,891 |
|  | Training | 1,045 |
| 2,263 | Recreation  | 405 |
| 0 | Swimming Pool  | 300 |
| 2,328 | Public Toilets  | 6,615 |
| 9,925 | Cemetery  | 14,270 |
| 1,084 | Allotments  | 1,140 |
|  | Grants | 626 |
| 2,959 | Miscellaneous  | 1,628 |
| **308,957** | Total Income  | **£332,687** |
|  | **Expenditure** |  |
| 76,993 | Staffing  | 81,146 |
| 20,243 | Administration  | 22,076 |
| 606 | Cllr Expenses inc. training | 850 |
| 10,508 | Grants/ Town Promotion  | 9,927 |
| 42,395 | Recreation  | 32,415 |
| 83,913 | Swimming Pool  | 61,406 |
| 17,489 | Public Toilets  | 14,329 |
| 600 | Bus Shelters  | 1,224 |
| 63,548 | Street lighting  | 25,048 |
| 3,299 | Cemetery  | 3,566 |
| 222 | Allotments  | 497 |
| 30,317 | Miscellaneous\* | 35,876 |
| **350,133** | **Total Expenditure**  | **288,359** |

\*Includes floral planters, CCTV and Town Hall Contribution

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| **Organisation** | **Contribution towards running costs and maintenance**  |
| Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery | £1,700 |
| Wem Millennium Green | £1,700 |
| Wem Town Hall | £22,000 |
| Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre | £58,000\* |
| Wem Youth Club | £2000 |
| Christmas Lights Festival | £1000 |
| **Organisation** | **Grant Award** |
| Wem Branch Shropshire Army Cadet Force  | £300 |
| Wem Carnival Committee | £500 |
| Eckford Sweet Pea Society | £750 |
| Wem Scout and Guide HQ | £250 |
| 1st Wem Scout Group | £500 |
| NS Wheelers  | £1,000 |
| Wem Jubilee Band | £300 |
| Wem Baptist Holiday Bible Club | £200 |
| Welcome to Wem Community Group  | £100 |

*\*Wem Town Council owns Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre but it is leased to Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Ltd a charity and Industrial Provident Society who run it on behalf of the Town Council.*

**Councillor Contact Details**

The Council comprises of 14 Councillors representing 2 Town Wards, East and West. The Councillors are elected every 4 years with the last Election being held in May 2017. The Town Council is served by a Town Clerk and 3 other full and part-time staff. The Council is chaired by the Town Mayor who, with the Deputy

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| **Cllr P Broomhall**(Deputy Mayor**)** | Sunnyside, 3 Swain Close, Wem, SY4 5NZ peterbroomhall2@icloud.com | 232573 |
| **Cllr Mrs P A Dee** | 17 Chapel Street, Wem, SY4 5ERpauline.dee@shropshire.gov.uk | 233037 |
| **Cllr Mrs R E Dodd** | Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5ANdoddrosemary875@gmail.com | 233083 |
| **Cllr R Drummond** | Arvrio, Soulton road, Wem SY4 5HRjandrdrummond@yahoo.co.uk  | 232363 |
| **Cllr P Glover**(Mayor) | 6 Trentham Close, Wem, SY4 5AS philipeglover@gmail.com | 234037 |
| **Cllr Mrs C Granger** | 1 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT conniegranger84@gmail.com | 236460 |
| **Cllr P Johnson** | The Thimbles, 55 Eckford Park, Wem, SY4 5HL paul.johnson27@yahoo.com | 232035 |
| **Cllr Mrs M J Meakin** | 5 Station Road, Wem, SY4 5BQ mandymeakin@gmail.com  | 234834 |
| **Cllr C J Mellings** | Dwyfor, 37 Kynaston Drive, Wem, SY4 5DE Chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk | 01743 252924 |
| **Cllr J H Murray** | 6 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5ANjhmurray@hotmail.co.uk | 232007 |
| **Cllr G Nash** | Brook Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HEGeorge.h.nash@hotmail.com | 07947 558402 |
| **Cllr G Soul** | Oakleigh, Aston Road, Wem SY4 5JDgeoffsoul49@gmail.com | 232544 |
| **Cllr E W Towers** | Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD edwardtowers@btinternet.com | 235283 |
| **Vacancy** |  |  |

Mayor, is elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

**Town Council Staff**

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| **Town Clerk**Penny O’Hagan | Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street SY4 5DB  | 01939 232733 Email info@wem.gov.uk |
| **Assistant Clerk**Sue Thornhill | Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street SY4 5DB | 01939 232733Email assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk |
| **Groundsman**John Ralphs |  | 07970969037Email groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk |
| **Litterpicker**Chris Martin |  | 01939 232733 |