



WEM TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2016/2017

2016-17

Mayor Cllr Rosemary Dodd
Deputy Mayor Cllr Edward Towers

2017-18

Mayor Cllr Edward Towers
Deputy Mayor Cllr Philip Glover

Mayor's Report

**The Past Mayor of Wem, Cllr. Rosemary Dodd gives an overview
of the past year of her term of office.**

What an honour it has been to serve as Mayor of Wem over the past twelve months. I have been well supported at the many events I have attended by my two "Edwards" – my husband and Deputy Mayor Edward Towers.

I have met many interesting and amazing people throughout the year and made new friendships. It has also been an opportunity to observe and learn how other groups and Councils operate. We have certainly made a few mental notes of new ideas and have said "we could do something like that in Wem" – it is so important to have a vision and move the agenda forwards.

Everywhere I have been people have been most gracious and welcoming and I have tried to attend all the local events I have been invited to, including concerts, markets, school events, business and church functions.

When people have asked me if I have enjoyed my year in office I have explained that it is a huge privilege and that it is a position made up of three parts: Chairman, Ambassador, and Fundraiser. I hope I have been an adequate Chairperson and that I have grown into the position, and that I have been a worthy Ambassador for Wem. As for fundraising I am pleased to say that the sum raised is £2,511, to be divided between the Severn Hospice and Hope House Hospice. A very big "thank you" to everyone who has helped raise this wonderful sum for these two worthy causes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank former Cllrs Boddy and Bailey for all their hard work over the last 4 years and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

The coming years will inevitably see change and I hope, we as a town, will embrace this, take it in our stride and continue to be the caring, safe place where people want to live and share in the community.

Rosemary Dodd

Wem Town Council meets on the last Thursday of every month except in 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

THE COUNCIL'S YEAR

The Full Council has met 13 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.

Lighting

During 2016/17 a considerable amount of expenditure was committed to upgrading some of the oldest street lights in the town to LED lighting. This programme of improvement work will continue during 2017/18 where it is anticipated that by the end of the financial year the entire stock of Town Council owned lights will be converted to LED lighting. These planned works will reduce energy costs and in order to make further savings the majority of the new lights in non priority areas will be now be dimmed by 50% between midnight and 5am.

Play Areas

The Groundsman regularly cuts 6 play areas in the town and undertakes daily litter picks of the recreation ground to ensure that the town's open spaces are always looking their best. We are grateful for the support of St Peters Primary School pupils who helped design the dog fouling banners that can be seen in various locations across town.

Public Toilets

A charge of 20p is now being made on the public toilets. The toilets which were taken over by the Town Council from Shropshire Council cost in excess of £10,000 to maintain each year. Therefore a small charge for usage has been introduced to try and offset the costs of managing the toilets and to enable them to remain open.

Floral Display

The floral displays in the town were expanded in 2016 to include new planters on the Jubilee Square.

The entire floral display provided a welcoming splash of colour to residents and visitors alike throughout the summer. The Town Council also planted the Jubilee Square planters with winter bedding plants and bulbs to provide some late autumn and early spring colour.

CCTV

During 2016 The Town Council submitted a bid to the Police and Crime Commissioner to upgrade some of the existing CCTV cameras in the town and add additional cameras. The outcome of this bid will be known in the autumn.

Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre (WSLC)

The Town Council continues to support the swimming pool financially. In 2016 a formal lease agreement was signed between the Town Council and Trustees of WSLC who are responsible for its day to day management.

Communication

The Town Council has worked hard over the past year to improve the way it communicates with all residents. A new noticeboard has been erected at Love Lane Cemetery and in addition to promoting our work on noticeboards the Town Council website has also been updated. On the website information can be found on meetings along with meeting papers and details of the services we offer. In addition to this the Town Council now has a facebook page which it uses to promote events happening in the town along with details of other issues residents may be interested in.

Traffic and Road Safety

A study was undertaken in July 2016 by Shropshire Council into the number of HGV's using the High Street as a through route and the impact that these vehicles are having on the local infrastructure. A well-attended public meeting was held in January to hear the results of the survey and the Town Council along with Wem Economic Forum has put forward a number of suggestions aimed at reducing the congestion in the High Street and surrounding areas to Shropshire Council. Road Safety and traffic has been a continued topic of debate throughout the year and whilst the Town Council has no overall responsibility for traffic management in the town it will endeavour to continue to campaign on this issue on behalf of local residents.

Town Council Income and Expenditure 2016-2017

31.3.16	INCOME	
263,493	Precept	274,737
727	Bank Interest	669
9,300	Cemetery Fees	9,945
1,001	Allotment Rents	1,096
0	Story of Wem	240
	Toilet income	1,845
10,539	Grants / Refunds	
	Misc.	657
285,059	TOTAL INCOME	289,189
	EXPENDITURE	
38,918	Street Lights	43,016
3,958	Allotments and Burial Grounds	3,982
18,150	Recreation Ground (WSSA)	18,000
4,374	Recreation Grounds other	3,989
74,887	Salaries and Wages	78,883
18,923	Administration	19,383
0	Election Expenses	0
441	Hospitality Allowance	500
1,500	Mayor's allowance	1,500
9,530	Grants and Town Promotion	10,422
1,970	Planters	3,210
739	Loan	0
20,000	Wem Town Hall	22,000
73,999	Wem Swimming pool	63,402
11,517	Public Toilets	15,450
11,921	CCTV	1,842
1,153	Miscellaneous	1,836
311,173	Total Expenditure	287,300
Balance		
31.3.16	321,099	
31.3.17	322,988	

Main Grants Awarded during 2016-17

Organisation	Award Made
Wem Branch Shropshire Army Cadet Force League	£300
Wem Carnival Committee	£500
Eckford Sweet Pea Society	£900
Wem Scout and Guide HQ	£350
1 st Wem Scouts	£300
Wem Millennium Green	£1700
NS Wheelers (community transport group)	£500
Wem Town AED	£500
Wem Christmas Lights Festival	£3000
Wem Baptist Holiday Bible Club	£180
Wem Youth Club	£2000

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

Contact details for Councillors and staff can be found below.

Cllr P Broomhall	Sunnyside, 3 Swain Close, Wem, SY4 5NZ peterbroomhall2@icloud.com	232573
Cllr Mrs P A Dee	17 Chapel Street, Wem, SY4 5ER pauline.dee@shropshire.gov.uk	233037
Cllr Mrs R E Dodd	Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN rosemary.dodd@mypostoffice.co.uk	233083
Cllr P Glover (Deputy Mayor)	6 Trentham Close, Wem, SY4 5AS philipeglover@gmail.com	234037
Cllr Mrs C Granger	1 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT constancegranger123@btinternet.com	236460
Cllr P Johnson	The Thimbles, 55 Eckford Park, Wem, SY4 5HL annpajess_johnson@yahoo.co.uk	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 252929
Cllr P Moyse MBE JP	7 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN philipmoyse7@gmail.com	233533
Cllr J H Murray	6 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN jhmurray@hotmail.co.uk	232007
Cllr G Nash	Brook Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HE George.h.nash@hotmail.com	07947 558402
Cllr C H Shingler	Lower Lacon Caravan Park, Wem, SY4 5RP clive@llcp.co.uk	232376
Cllr E W Towers (Mayor)	Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD edwardtowers@btinternet.com	235283
Cllr P White	40 Shrubbery Gardens, Wem, SY4 5BZ peter.white88@protonmail.com	07975569718

Town Council Staff

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 232733 Email assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk
Groundsman John Ralphs		07970969037 Email groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk
Litterpicker Chris Martin		01939 232733