



# WEM TOWN COUNCIL

## Annual Report 2018/2019

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

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## 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.

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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](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup> 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

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
<b>308,957</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£332,687</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
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
<b>350,133</b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>288,359</b>

\*Includes floral planters, CCTV and Town Hall Contribution

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
1 <sup>st</sup> 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 Mayor, is elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May.

<b>Cllr P Broomhall</b> (Deputy Mayor)	Sunnyside, 3 Swain Close, Wem, SY4 5NZ <a href="mailto:peterbroomhall2@icloud.com">peterbroomhall2@icloud.com</a>	232573
<b>Cllr Mrs P A Dee</b>	17 Chapel Street, Wem, SY4 5ER <a href="mailto:pauline.dee@shropshire.gov.uk">pauline.dee@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	233037
<b>Cllr Mrs R E Dodd</b>	Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN <a href="mailto:doddrosemary875@gmail.com">doddrosemary875@gmail.com</a>	233083
<b>Cllr R Drummond</b>	Arvrio, Soulton road, Wem SY4 5HR <a href="mailto:jandrdrummond@yahoo.co.uk">jandrdrummond@yahoo.co.uk</a>	232363
<b>Cllr P Glover</b> (Mayor)	6 Trentham Close, Wem, SY4 5AS <a href="mailto:philipeglover@gmail.com">philipeglover@gmail.com</a>	234037
<b>Cllr Mrs C Granger</b>	1 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT <a href="mailto:conniegranger84@gmail.com">conniegranger84@gmail.com</a>	236460
<b>Cllr P Johnson</b>	The Thimbles, 55 Eckford Park, Wem, SY4 5HL <a href="mailto:paul.johnson27@yahoo.com">paul.johnson27@yahoo.com</a>	232035
<b>Cllr Mrs M J Meakin</b>	5 Station Road, Wem, SY4 5BQ <a href="mailto:mandymeakin@gmail.com">mandymeakin@gmail.com</a>	234834
<b>Cllr C J Mellings</b>	Dwyfor, 37 Kynaston Drive, Wem, SY4 5DE <a href="mailto:Chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk">Chris.mellings@shropshire.gov.uk</a>	01743 252924
<b>Cllr J H Murray</b>	6 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN <a href="mailto:jhmurray@hotmail.co.uk">jhmurray@hotmail.co.uk</a>	232007
<b>Cllr G Nash</b>	Brook Cottage, Tilley, Wem, SY4 5HE <a href="mailto:George.h.nash@hotmail.com">George.h.nash@hotmail.com</a>	07947 558402
<b>Cllr G Soul</b>	Oakleigh, Aston Road, Wem SY4 5JD <a href="mailto:geoffsoul49@gmail.com">geoffsoul49@gmail.com</a>	232544
<b>Cllr E W Towers</b>	Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD <a href="mailto:edwardtowers@btinternet.com">edwardtowers@btinternet.com</a>	235283
<b>Vacancy</b>		

### Town Council Staff

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<b>Assistant Clerk</b> Sue Thornhill	Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street SY4 5DB	01939 232733 Email <a href="mailto:assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk">assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk</a>
<b>Groundsman</b> John Ralphs		07970969037 Email <a href="mailto:groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk">groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk</a>
<b>Litterpicker</b> Chris Martin		01939 232733