



WEM TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2020/2021

Mayor of Wem 2020- 2021 – Cllr Philip Glover
Deputy Mayor of Wem 2020-2021 – Cllr Peter Broomhall

Mayor of Wem 2021-2022 – Cllr Peter Broomhall
Deputy Mayor of Wem 2021-2022 – Cllr Geoff Soul



Mayor's Report

The Past Mayor of Wem, Cllr Phil Glover gives an overview of his term of office

During my two year term of office, Wem along with the rest of the world has altered dramatically.

Who knew how damaging the pandemic and the restrictions it caused could have on a town like ours?

However, one of the pandemic's side effects was truly welcomed. It became clear that community spirit was alive in Wem like never before. Whether by checking on neighbours, delivering food parcels or any of the multitude of kind gestures delivered, the whole town showed how much it cares!

We did manage a few happier socially distanced events such as the Scarecrow trail and hopefully will be able to arrange more as restrictions start to ease.

It has certainly been a privilege to have been your Mayor over the last two years and one that will stay with me.

I would like to wish our new Mayor Peter Broomhall and our new council every success over the next year and also thank our Town Clerk Penny, Assistant Sue and Groundsman John for all their assistance to keep our town a place to be proud of.

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

Town Council Contact Details Tel 01939 232733, info@wem.gov.uk, www.wem.gov.uk

THE COUNCIL'S YEAR

This was a year like no other! During the pandemic, the Council managed to operate as normally as it could given the restrictions. The council only missed its April meeting and from May 2020 all meetings were held on the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Committees have also continued to meet during this period (again on the zoom).

Outlined below is a brief snapshot of some of the Town Council's work in the past year.

Covid support

With the onset of the pandemic the Town Council was quickly able to switch its focus away from its core function of overseeing the management of building and public open spaces to establish a network of support projects to help the community.

The provision of information was considered key to ensuring that the community of Wem had access to up to date information about support services being offered during the pandemic. Information leaflets were produced and posted to every house in Wem four times over the course of the year. The Town Council made use of grants for this purpose.

Town Council staff and Councillors also built on the work of the Wem Eating Well Project to help establish the creation of the Wem Store Cupboard Group. The Group was a collection of individuals and organisations who worked together over the pandemic to provide food support to residents of Wem and the surrounding area. Volunteers from this group developed several new projects over the year including

- Provision of local emergency food parcels
- Provision of frozen meals to vulnerable residents
- Subsidising the delivery of hot meals to those in extreme need of help
- Helping to fund the setup of the 'Wem Meals on Wheels' project
- The offer of Christmas Hampers to all families with young people attending schools in Wem area who were in receipt of free school meals
- Promotion of fortnightly food share events over the winter period

The Store Cupboard Group was overwhelmed with donations from the local community and whilst the project has now dissolved all funds received have been distributed to youth organisations to help them provide training to young people attending sessions to develop cooking, budgeting and meal planning skills. In addition to this some funds have been set aside to help establish a monthly weekend lunch to enable members of the community who may have experienced isolation during the last year to come together and meet new people.

Food shares have ceased for the time being but some local food support is still available to those in need.

Events

Unfortunately all major events had to be cancelled. However the Town Council with the help of the Royal British Legion Wem Branch found a way to mark the important anniversaries of VE and VJ day. As well as a simple service at the War Memorial, slices of celebratory cake were distributed to elderly residents linked to the RBL and those living in sheltered housing in the town.

A very scaled down but poignant Act of Remembrance took place in November and the entire event was livestreamed on youtube.

Wem Swimming and Lifestyle Centre Pool

Although the swimming pool remained closed for most of 2020, during this time the Town Council invested in the pool to provide funding to repair some of the pool's aging pipework.

Planning

Shropshire Council's Local Plan Review continued and the Town Council was consulted on its opinion on the sites in the town put forward for development. The Town Council's strongly worded response was that it could not support any future development sites in the town until improvements are made to long standing issues including improvements to the highways network.

The Future

The Town Council will continue to support the community regardless of what 2021-22 brings, if you have any questions please feel free to contact the staff who will be happy to try and help.

Town Council Income and Expenditure 2020-2021

2019/20	Income Summary	2020/21
316,462	Precept	334,049
	Neighbourhood fund	12,377
	Rural Community Energy Grant	17993
3,484	Administration	373
1,120	Training	
65,000	Recreation	
290	Swimming Pool	10,000
2,118	Public Toilets	10,931
14,385	Cemetery	14,080
	Street lighting	970
1,482	Allotments	1,698
850	Grants	3,500
2,940	Miscellaneous	1,000
408,131	Total Income	406,911
	Expenditure	
93,558	Staffing	103,123
22,595	Administration	40,198
240	Cllr Expenses inc. training	200
13,667	Grants/Town Promotion	12,737
31,119	Recreation	57,773
67,990	Swimming Pool	105,869
11,818	Public Toilets	11,658
4,342	Bus Shelters	980
16,298	Street lighting	25,232
4,546	Cemetery	9,810
634	Allotments	52
34,764	Miscellaneous*	31,525
301,570	Total Expenditure	399,159

*Includes floral planters, CCTV and Town Hall Contribution

2020/21 Grant Awards

Organisation	Contribution towards running costs and maintenance
Wem Christmas Lights & Festival	£3,000
Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery	£2,000
Wem Millennium Green	£1,700
Wem Sports and Social Association	£19,000
Wem Swimming & Lifestyle Centre*	£55,000
Wem Town Hall	£22,000
Wem Youth Club	£2,000
Organisation	Grant Awarded
Albion Bowling Club	£750
Army Cadet Force League	£200
Carnival Committee	£500
Tennis Club	£1000
Wem Scout & Guide Headquarters Committee	£300
Welcome to Wem Community Group	£100
Westlands Community Group	£500

**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 2021. 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.

Cllr P Broomhall (Mayor)	Tilleycroft, 77 Roden Grove, Wem, SY4 5HJ peterbroomhall2@icloud.com	231565
Cllr Mrs R E Dodd	Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN rosemary.dodd46@gmail.com	233083
Cllr R Drummond	Arvrio, Soulton road, Wem SY4 5HR jandrdrummond@yahoo.co.uk	232363
Cllr Mrs K Edge	10 Park Road, Wem, SY4 5DA edgekerry71@gmail.com	233126
Cllr A Everett	The Briers, 97 Station Road, Wem, SY4 5BJ andyeverett63@gmail.com	234914
Cllr P Glover	6 Trentham Close, Wem, SY4 5AS philipeglover@gmail.com	
Cllr Mrs C Granger	1 Barnfield Avenue, Wem, SY4 5HT conniegranger84@gmail.com	236460
Cllr D Hill	8 Sun Grove, Wem, SY4 5HH duncanhill@yahoo.com	07812 959117
Cllr M Hoffmann	cllr.markhoffmann@gamil.com	07713 267304
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 D Parry	Heatherstone, 30 Soulton Road, Wem, SY4 5HR david.parry5@gmail.com	07753 857785
Cllr G Soul (Deputy Mayor)	Oakleigh, Aston Road, Wem SY4 5JD geoffsoul49@gmail.com	232544
Cllr E W Towers	Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD edwardtowers@btinternet.com	235283

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