



WEM TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2021/2022

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

Mayor of Wem 2022-2023 – Cllr Geoff Soul
Deputy Mayor of Wem 2022-2023 – Cllr Rosemary Dodd



Mayor's Report

The Past Mayor of Wem, Cllr Peter Broomhall gives an overview of his term of office

It was a great honour to be elected the Mayor of Wem for 2021-2022. The year started very calmly due to COVID! Meetings meant we needed to stay 2 metres apart and needing to wear masks. I attended numerous social events throughout the year. Unfortunately - no Wem Carnival - for me to lead the parade.

June gave us the 'Armed Forces Day' celebrated on the Church Green at the Parish Church. My Civic Service was themed with Harvest Festival, all townspeople were invited to attend and many came back to Wem Town Hall for tea and cake.

Remembrance Day was celebrated at the memorial, Wem Parish Church and although we were unable to hold a service inside the church, a large crowd gathered and joined in with the outdoor service.

I held my Mayor's Ball in Wem Town Hall (thanks go to all staff and volunteers for their help to make it such a successful evening and those who generously gave towards my Charity fund).

Thank you to Wem Methodist Church for donating proceeds from a coffee morning.

Also thanks go to Kerry Edge at Maypole Court Bistro for organising and contributing towards a Cheese, Pate and Wine evening a pleasant time was had by all that attended.

All these events contributed to me raising the sum of £3,400 for Alzheimer's Society.

Thank you so much to all the Wem Town Councillors for their help and support throughout my year. And a big thank you to Penny O'Hagan, Sue Thornhill, Mandy Robert's and John (our groundsman) for all their hard work in Wem (Where Everyone Matters). Finally I would like to wish Geoff Soul, our new Mayor, every success in the forthcoming year.

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 another year where the council had to work through the challenges of Covid 19 and the complex rules around the lifting of restrictions.

Covid support

Town Council staff and Councillors once again worked in partnership with Wem Store Cupboard to provide food parcels for those in need.

The group has worked closely with the schools to specifically support families during holiday periods and has developed a regular monthly free lunch for anyone wishing to reconnect with old friends or meet new people. These free lunches are held in St Peters Church Hall on a Saturday and the date is advertised on noticeboards and on Social Media.

Community Car Project

In 2021 the Town Council was asked to consider taking on the co-ordination of the community car scheme as the existing co-ordinator decided it was time to retire and there was no one who felt able to take over the role. Community Cars provides an essential service for those in the community who need to attend medical appointments or require transport for visits to the shops etc. After a 3 month trial period the Town Council agreed to take on the role permanently and over the last months staff have worked with customers to match them with a volunteer car driver. We are always on the look out for new drivers so if you are interested please contact the Town Council – mileage is paid to cover driver expenses.

Events

Like 2020 the majority of events in the town were cancelled. However, the Town Council with the help of the Royal British Legion Wem Branch managed to hold the traditional Act of Remembrance in November. The Christmas lights festival was well supported by the community and it was wonderful to see it return.

Welcome Back Fund

The Town Council was lucky to receive a small grant from the Government to support town centres. This grant funding was used for the following enhancement works

- Purchase of gazebos to be used at events and the weekly market
- Purchase of a new events noticeboard on the Jubilee square
- Repainting of bins, bollards and benches
- Commissioning enhanced cleaning of High Street and Drawwell Walk
- Purchase of Christmas lights for the trees on Leek Street

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 Council is awaiting the outcome of the review which will be decided in the Autumn / Winter of 2022/3.

2021 Elections

In May 2021 a new electoral term started. No elections were held in either Wem ward as insufficient candidates stood for election. Pauline Dee and Chris Mellings, two stalwarts of the Town Council decided not to stand for re-election and to recognise their significant contribution to the town over several decades the Town Council were delighted to award them Honorary Townsman status.

Staff Changes

The Town Council were delighted to appoint Mandy Roberts as our new Project and Finance Assistant. Mandy spent a large part of the year working with the committee who were planning the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She also oversaw a project to donate 70 free trees to residents to mark the Jubilee.

The Future

The Town Council will continue to support the community regardless of what 2022-23 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 2021-2022

2020/21	Income Summary	2021/22
334,049	Precept	333,999
12,377	Neighbourhood fund	11,626
17993	Rural Community Energy Grant	
373	Administration	
10,000	Swimming Pool	
10,931	Public Toilets	1,816
14,080	Cemetery	15,180
970	Street lighting	
1,698	Allotments	1,756
3,500	Grants	17,745
1,000	Miscellaneous	
406,911	Total Income	382,315
	Expenditure	
103,123	Staffing	108,878
40,198	Administration	23,223
200	CLLr Expenses inc. training	332
12,737	Grants/Town Promotion	31,319
57,773	Recreation	66,344
105,869	Swimming Pool	56,830
11,658	Public Toilets	11,405
980	Bus Shelters	1,025
25,232	Street lighting	84,143
9,810	Cemetery	5,823
52	Allotments	1,052
31,525	Miscellaneous*	33,852
399,159	Total Expenditure	364,223

*Includes floral planters, CCTV and Town Hall Contribution

2021/22 Grant Awards

Organisation	Gross
Wem ADOS	500
Wem Cricket Club	500
Wem Army Cadet Force League	200
Blossoming Wem Group (Wem Garden Club)	500
NS Wheelers	500
Wem Bowling Club	500
1 st Wem Scouts	300
Wem Scout/ Guide Headquarters	500
Wem Jubilee Band	500
Hope House Hospice	250
Wem Christmas Lights & Festival	3000
Friends of Whitchurch Road Cemetery	2500
Wem Millennium Green	1700
Wem Youth Club	2000
Wem Town Hall	22,000
Wem Sports and Social Association	19,000
Wem Swimming and Lifestyle centre	55,000

**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 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 G Soul (Mayor)	Oakleigh, Aston Road, Wem SY4 5JD geoffsoul49@gmail.com	232544
Cllr Mrs R E Dodd (Deputy Mayor)	Craiglea, 18 Marlcroft, Wem, SY4 5AN rosemary.dodd46@gmail.com	233083
Cllr P Broomhall	Tilleycroft, 77 Roden Grove, Wem, SY4 5HJ peterbroomhall2@icloud.com	231565
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	cldr.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 E W Towers	Bramfields, 8 Fismes Way, Wem, SY4 5YD edwardtowers@btinternet.com	235283

The Town Council is served by a Town Clerk and 4 other full and part-time staff.

Town Council Staff

Town Clerk Penny O'Hagan	Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street, SY4 5DB	01939 232733 Email info@wem.gov.uk
PA to the Mayor and Clerk Sue Thornhill	Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street, SY4 5DB	01939 232733 Email assistant.clerk@wem.gov.uk
Finance and Project Assistant Amanda Roberts	Town Council Office, Edinburgh House, New Street, SY4 5DB	01939232733 Email projectassistant@wem.gov.uk
Groundsman John Ralphs		07970969037 Email groundskeeper@wem.gov.uk
Litterpicker Chris Martin		01939 232733