

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/2018

Town Council Office

Sandy Lane

Caldicot, NP26 4NA

towncouncil@caldicottc.org.uk

www.caldicottc.org.uk

Facebook – Caldicot Town Council

WELCOME TO CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Background

Caldicot Town Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the Caldicot community that it serves and works with groups within the community to develop and provide improved services to the electors.

Caldicot Town Council is made up of 17 unpaid individuals, who were publicly elected or co-opted to serve a term of office.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by Caldicot Town Council at the Annual Meeting held in May each year. All members sign a declaration of office on appointment and agree to observe the Council's Code of Conduct.

Details of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and elected members are available on Caldicot Town Council website www.caldicottc.org.uk

Responsibilities of Elected Representatives on Caldicot Town Council

Town Councillors:

Councillors are individuals, who are elected on to Caldicot Town Council through the democratic process. Caldicot Town Councillors are volunteers and not paid for work undertaken, however, Councillors can claim expenses for Council business.

Every Councillor is required to sign a declaration of acceptance of office, which has to be done in the presence of the Proper Officer and this includes an undertaking to observe the Council's Code of Conduct.

The role of an elected member is to effectively represent the interests of their Ward. Councillors cannot make decisions/promises individually, this has to be done by the Council as a corporate body. Councillors actively and constructively contribute to good governance and encourage community participation and citizen involvement in the work of the council.

Your local Councillor is a channel of communication, ensuring that constituents are informed of services available and dealing with enquiries fairly, without prejudice.

The role of the Mayor:

The Mayor is elected every year at the annual meeting, held in May. The Mayor works with the Clerk to ensure that the Council is properly informed and making legal decisions. The Mayor acts as Chair at Council meetings and facilitates effective debate, in accordance with Standing Orders.

The Mayor encourages participation amongst members and ensures that views are expressed freely, whilst maintaining focus which is fair and balanced. The Mayor signs the minutes of meetings, which are a legal record of decisions made by Caldicot Town Council.

The Mayor undertakes civic duties and represents the Council at events and can appoint a charity for the year of service. Cllr Philip Stevens was elected as Mayor for civic year 2017/18 and his chosen charity was Barnardo's.

Message from your Town Mayor
Cllr. Philip Stevens – My year May 2017 - April 2018

This has been a very busy year since my election as the Mayor of Caldicot Town Council in May 2017. I have been ably assisted by the Deputy Mayor Cllr. Oliver Edwards the Mayor Cadet Bryn Silcox and my wife and consort Cllr Maria Stevens. My chosen charity for the year is Barnardo's. This charity also represents my main aim which is young people. I have raised £1750 in my year in office. I have also done a lot to promote young people in Caldicot meeting and talking to a range of groups and organisations. My civic diary has been very full and I have attended many interesting and informative occasions. This has allowed me to Promote Caldicot and makes new friends some of whom are influential. These new alliances can only help to build Caldicot and make it a better place to live.



During my year in office and as Deputy Mayor I have with the help of the council managed to achieve:

- 1 Acquired the money from a grant to purchase five defibrillators to be sited in Caldicot and to be maintained by CARIAD for seven years.
- 2 Had all fees for the Bowls club sited on KGV field cancelled so they now pay nothing to the council.
- 3 Put a plan in place and agreed by council to have a **BANDSTAND** located on the KGV playing field,
- 4 Set up a public engagement With Fred Weston MCC to seek public interest in developing the compound on the KGF Playing Field.
- 5 Introduce the Mayors cup: to **Caldicot Bowls Club, Caldicot football club, Caldicot Castle football club & Caldicot Rugby club**. The cups will be presented by the Mayor each year to a person who does a lot for the club without payment.
- 6 Introduction of Mayors cup for community engagement to the **SCOUTS, GIRL GUIDES, ARMY CADET FORCE & AIR TRAINING CORPS** all based in Caldicot. This award will consist of the Cup and £10. The awards will be made to a person who has contributed most to the community nominated by each of the organisations. The recipients will hold the cup for one year.
- 7 Persuaded the Town council to upgrade its webpage, Start Facebook page and Town council to produce an Annual report from information brought back from 'One Voice Wales'. Both of which were commended at 'One voice Wales innovation awards ceremony'
- 8 Set up committee to establish Caldicot as a Fairtrade Town. This is ongoing as we do not have enough Retailers and outlets yet to get this status.
- 9 Put in motion to set up green flag status for KGV playing fields & Cemetery. This is in progress and delegated to the new Admin officer after visiting Barry Town Council for support.
- 10 Introduction of a Mayor Cadet. A young person who attends meetings and events with the Mayor.
- 11 I have been involved with the regeneration of Caldicot Town centre and have negotiated that the street furniture when removed would be sited on the KGF Playing fields.
- 12 Have had accepted by Caldicot Town Council to set up a working party to work with Caldicot Town Team, History society, Local clubs and organisations to celebrate the evolution of Caldicot as part of Celebrating Wales in the summer of 2019.

[Further information regarding Cllr Stevens year - Appendix A]

MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

	<p>Cllr O Edwards Mayor 2018/2019</p> <p>CASTLE WARD Welsh Labour OliverEdwards@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr Jeff Williams Deputy Mayor 2018/19</p> <p>WEST END WARD Welsh Labour JeffWilliams@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr D Ashwin</p> <p>GREEN LANE WARD Plaid Cymru DavidAshwin@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr W Conniff</p> <p>GREEN LANE WARD Welsh Labour WyndhamConniff@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr A Easson</p> <p>DEWSTOW WARD Welsh Labour AnthonyEasson@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr D Evans</p> <p>WEST END WARD Welsh Labour DavidEvans@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr R Garrick CASTLE WARD Welsh Labour and Cooperative RachelGarrick@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr J Harris</p> <p>SEVERN WARD Caldicot First JamesHarris@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr K Harris</p> <p>WEST END WARD Independent KayHarris@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr R J Higginson</p> <p>SEVERN WARD Welsh Labour JimHigginson@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr A Lloyd</p> <p>SEVERN WARD Welsh Labour AlunLloyd@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr M Mitchell</p> <p>DEWSTOW WARD Welsh Labour MaxineMitchell@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr F Rowberry DEWSTOW WARD Welsh Labour FrankRowberry@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr M Stevens</p> <p>GREEN LANE WARD Welsh Labour MariaStevens@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr S Tovey</p> <p>CASTLE WARD Plaid Cymru SharonTovey@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		<p>Cllr Philip Stevens</p> <p>DEWSTOW WARD Welsh Labour PhilipStevens@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>
	<p>Cllr Joel Williams [Co-opted 31.5.17]</p> <p>GREEN LANE WARD Welsh Labour JoelWilliams@Caldicottc.org.uk</p>		

Elected members are required to attend meetings of the Town Council and its committees, as follows:

Committee	Scope
Health & Safety Committee [6 members/Quorum 3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCC Health & Safety officer undertaking role of Health and Safety consultant • To carry out an assessment of risks facing the council and recommend appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required on an annual basis • To meet on an ad hoc basis as required • To take on the role of Allotments Committee • To make recommendations to Council
Twinning Committee [5 members/Quorum 3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet to consider twinning exchanges with Town Council's twin towns of Waghäusel & Morières-les-Avignon • To make recommendations to Council
Planning & Resources Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full – Decision making [17 members/Quorum 6] • To meet on second Tuesday of month • To make recommendations to Mon CC in respect of planning applications • To consider urgent items at discretion of Mayor
Cemetery, Finance, Estimates	Full Town Council [17 members/Quorum 6]
Personnel Committee [7 members/Quorum 3]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish and keep under review the staffing structure of the Town Council and to make recommendations for any changes to the Town Council. • To draft, implement and review, monitor and revise policies for staff. • To establish and review salary paycales and to be responsible for their administration and review. • To oversee the recruitment and appointment of staff. • To arrange the execution of new employment contracts and changes to contracts. • <i>Town Council establish an Appeals Panel, as and when required, to deal with grievance and disciplinary matters - in accordance with Town Council policies.</i> <p>To make recommendations to Council</p>
Extremely Urgent Committee [Plenary] 3 Cllrs	<p>To be called when an urgent decision is required that has either financial, health and safety or operational implications for Town Council and/or a decision that is deemed by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor and/or Clerk/Deputy Clerk that needs to be made before the minimum notice for a full council meeting to be called. This committee's powers are to make agreed decisions on behalf of the Council under the prevailing circumstances.</p> <p>To be ratified by Full Council</p>
Planning Applications of Urgent Nature [including a holiday period] Mayor/Deputy Mayor + 2 Cllrs	To make recommendations to Mon CC on behalf of Town Council in respect of planning applications where a decision is required within a statutory time period. To be ratified by Full Council
Grants Committee Mayor/Deputy Mayor + 5 Cllrs	<p>To review the grant application process, as necessary</p> <p>To consider grant application requests for assistance to local bodies</p> <p>To review every grant application submitted to Caldicot Town Council and ensure it meets requirements, as stated within the policy</p> <p>To make recommendations for awarding financial grants to local organisations, within an overall budget approved by the Town Council</p> <p>To make recommendations to Full Council</p>
King George V Playing Fields Charity Trustee	Full Town Council

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL – ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS 2017/18

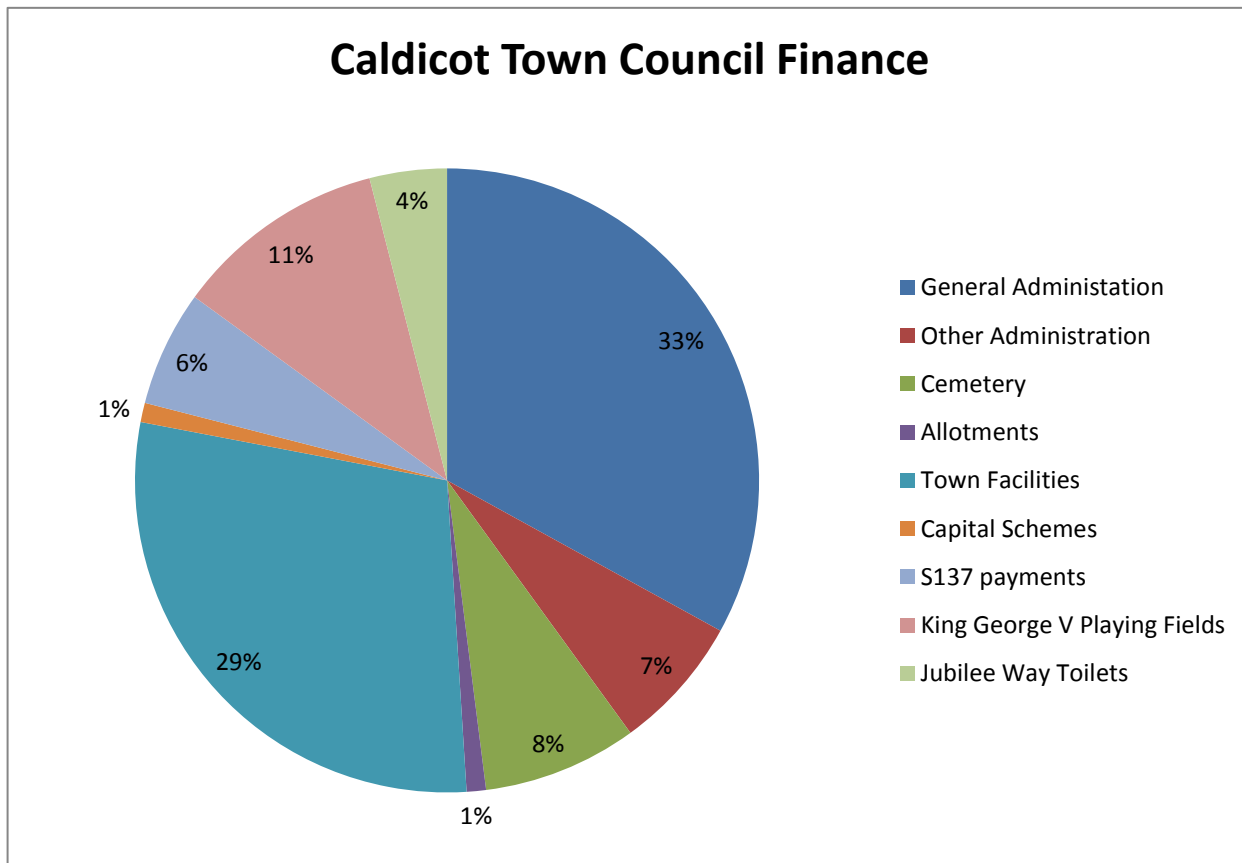
Councillor	Planning Meetings Attended	Planning Meetings Expected to Attend	Full Council Meetings Attended	Full Council Meetings Expected to Attend	TOTAL ATTENDED	TOTAL EXPECTED
David Ashwin	2	10	11	12	13	22
Wyndham Conniff	9	10	7	12	16	22
Anthony Easson	10	10	12	12	22	22
Oliver Edwards	10	10	11	12	21	22
David Evans	8	10	12	12	20	22
Rachel Garrick	5	10	12	12	17	22
Kay Harris	8	10	10	12	18	22
James Harris	8	10	8	12	16	22
Jim Higginson	5	10	12	12	17	22
Alun Lloyd	4	10	8	12	12	22
Maxine Mitchell	10	10	11	12	21	22
Frank Rowberry	10	10	10	12	20	22
Maria Stevens	6	10	11	12	17	22
Philip Stevens	9	10	12	12	21	22
Sharon Tovey	0	10	9	12	9	22
Jeff Williams	4	10	7	12	11	22
Joel Williams (co-opted FTC 31.5.18)	9	10	10	10	19	20

RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldicot Cemetery • King George V Playing Fields • Allotments – Sandy Lane, Oakley Way, King George V Playing Fields • Town Council Building, Sandy Lane • Provides Christmas Lighting and Trees in town centre, West End, Oakley Way • Provides Summer Floral Displays • Annual Garden Competition/ Citizens' Awards • Provides Play Equipment and Adult Exercise Equipment at KGVPF • Maintains Caldicot Bowling Green • Contributed to town signs • Refurbished Sandy Lane allotments • Supported Fireworks Event • Supported Festival Event • Providing Bus Shelters • Jubilee Way Public Conveniences • Provided Caldicot skatepark | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twinned with Waghausel, Germany and Morieres-les-Avignon, France • Works in Partnership with Monmouthshire County Council • Represented on Outside Bodies • Provides funding to CCTV • Maintains King George V Playing Fields • Hires Town Council Building • Provides major funding to the Citizen's Advice Bureau • Provides funding to Summer Playscheme • Provides funding to the community youth – The Zone • Provides funding to the Thursday Community Meal at St Mary's Church Hall • Provides funding to Caldicot Events Committee • Provides grants to local organisations • Provides dog waste receptacles |
|---|---|

Caldicot Town Council Finance 2017/ 18

Caldicot Town Council had a precept of £331,134, where did the money go?



TOWN COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Caldicot Town Council works to serve residents of the town of Caldicot. In order to do this, there is a need for good working relationships to be established.



The elected members are the decision makers as the body of the Town Council, they are not accountable individually and are not permitted to decide individually. However, as a body need to be fully engaged and satisfied in order to make decisions.

Caldicot Town Council is required to have at least one third of the total of members present, in order to make decisions which are lawful. The Council is required to appoint officers, as necessary, for the proper discharge of functions and the Council must approve the budget and set the precept.

The Council plays a vital part in representing the interest of the community that it serves, Caldicot, and the aim is to improve the quality of life of local people and the local environment.

Caldicot Town Council undertakes many duties and has powers to provide facilities. The duties that must legally be undertaken are employing a clerk, budget setting, presenting financial accounts, holding annual meeting, electing a chair, publishing agendas within legal notice timeframes. Legislation provides that the council has powers and discretion to provide some services, which include allotments, cemetery, bus shelters, Christmas Lights, playing fields.

Caldicot Town Council plays a vital part in representing the interests of the Caldicot community that it serves and works with groups within the community to develop and provide improved services to the electors.

Neither an individual member nor an officer can make decisions. The decisions have to be made by the Council as a whole body. The Clerk will ensure that Council acts appropriately and legally, officers will then implement decisions.

The clerk is employed by the Council and answers to the Council as a whole. All other staff, although employed by the Council, answer directly to the Clerk who is their manager and responsible for their performance. The Town Council employs:

- Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
- Deputy Clerk & Deputy Responsible Financial Officer
- Communications Assistant/Office Administrator
- Cleaner

The administration of the Town Council is managed by the Town Clerk appointed by the Council. As the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer the Clerk must carry out all of the functions required by law. The Town Council Clerk implements the decisions of the Council and provides independent, objective and professional advice, information and administrative support to the Council.

WHAT DOES CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL DO FOR YOU?

As a public body, Caldicot Town Council is responsible for spending public money. It is essential that this is done openly and transparently, there is a duty to residents to ensure that the money is spent effectively.

Finances are regularly audited, subject to scrutiny and all expenditure approved by Full Council. Openness and transparency are imperative factors for a local authority to uphold and decisions are taken in the public domain. The use of public money needs to be made accountable and the business of Caldicot Town Council is conducted in meetings, which are open to the public.



Well-being of residents of Caldicot

The facts and figures have been presented, explaining where the budget is allocated and which elected members represent the residents of Caldicot. However, Caldicot Town Council is integral in providing tangible outcomes and benefits for the people of Caldicot. The Council is committed to the well-being of residents of the town, contributing to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects in the long term.

In 2015 the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act required public bodies to think more about the long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. To work towards a common vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals. The seven well-being goals ('the goals') provide a shared vision for public bodies within Wales, these are: A prosperous Wales, A resilient Wales, A healthier Wales, A more equal Wales, A Wales of cohesive communities, A Wales of vibrant culture and A globally responsible Wales.

Caldicot Town Council considered the seven goals when undertaking business and in 2016/17 identified how the goals were being met. This has continued into 2017/18:

- Supporting community cohesion and addressing isolation, in allowing free use of the Town Council building for support groups and financial support for community lunches
- Promoting well-being for an active older generation, through use of Town Council facilities
- Working with partners to support the physical activity, mental health, emotional wellbeing of children and young people, financial contributions to playscheme, youth group, summer reading challenge, Air Cadets, Brownies/Girl Guides, Scouts, management of playing fields and play areas
- Developing networks and recognising contributions of citizens, through the Best Kept Garden/Citizen Awards, Mayors Cup presentations, 60th Wedding Anniversary presentations, Mayors Civic Service
- Encouraging and supporting entertainment and the arts, financial support to community events, the events committee, Eisteddfod, Fireworks, Jazz band, celebrating Caldicot School, Christmas lighting
- Recognising the importance of volunteers and charities at a local level, through financial contributions to SARA, Children's Wales Air Ambulance, Bobath, Kidney Wales, Citizens Advice Bureau, St Johns Ambulance - First Aid Training
- Supporting the legacy and commitment of the armed forces, through arrangement of the Remembrance Day service and contribution to Royal British Legion
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment, provision of green spaces, 'no smoking', dogs on leads on playing fields/play areas, provision of 40 dog waste bins, additional recycling bins, CCTV (x8)
- Enabling and assisting fair prices to producers, through supporting Caldicot to become a Fairtrade Town
- Enabling active travel and sustainable transport, through provision of 10 bus shelters

Caldicot Town Council can be contacted via telephone, email, website, Facebook, visiting the office, attend a meeting or contact your local member. Office opening hours Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm. Meetings: Full Council meetings are held last Wednesday of each month (except August & December), Planning & Resources Committee meetings, second Tuesday of each month.

PROSPEROUS

Caldicot Town Council is committed to working actively with partners to encourage and promote the town.

Caldicot Town Council has developed the website and set up a Facebook page, the website provides key contact information and responsibilities of the Council and promotes activities of local voluntary groups and organisations. Both website and social media are used to inform and communicate with residents, publicising meeting information, events and signposting to other service providers.

The Town Council financially supports a number of events and activities within Caldicot, through the grants process and as part of the agreed budget, these include Christmas Lighting, Fireworks, Carnival, Caldicot Castle, Youth Group, Church Lunches, Playscheme, Civic Ceremony, Royal British Legion parade, Best Kept Garden/Citizens Awards, Competition, Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Town Council is committed to development of young people in the area and supported the new school development, library reading initiatives and competitions, as well as contributions to the Youth Group.

Town Council grants are available for local groups and organisations.

RESILIENT

Caldicot Town Council is committed to ensuring that the town remains a pleasant clean and safe environment. The Town Council is not responsible for any highways or street cleaning, however, has developed excellent working relationships with the responsible authority, Monmouthshire County Council.

Caldicot Town Council provides public toilets, bus shelters, dog waste bins, whilst contributing to street cleaning, grass cutting and CCTV.

Street Cleaning, litter collection, refuse and recycling are the responsibility of Monmouthshire County Council. However, in supporting these services and engaging with colleagues at the County Council, Caldicot Town Council can assist in addressing areas of concern.

The Town Council acts as consultee on Planning matters and observations will be made, to the Local Planning Authority, on any issues which are perceived to be a detriment to the town.

HEALTHIER

Providing outdoor space as Trustees of King George V Playing Fields, the Council is committed to the health of residents in Caldicot. Ensuring the playing fields are regularly maintained and safe, for use by the public. The playing fields encompass a children's play area, adult outdoor exercise equipment and sports associations (Caldicot Bowls Club, Caldicot Town AFC)

The Town Council provides 3 allotment sites for use by Caldicot residents, the sites encourage and allow people to cultivate their own gardens, growing produce for their own consumption.

The Town Council actively supports wellbeing through use of town council building for groups and organisations within the community, such as Foodbank, AA, MIND, Community Connections (patients with dementia).

EQUAL

The Town Council office is based centrally within the town, within a ground floor building, services are accessible.

Town Council provide use of the building to groups and organisations, which enable a wide range of people to enhance their skills and fulfil their potential through taking part in activities.

Development of the KGVPF Compound building will encourage health and wellbeing, through availability of increased facilities on the playing fields.

Providing financial support for the operation of summer play schemes, ensuring that a facility is available for children to develop and enhance skills.

COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Caldicot Town Council is responsible for the delivery of a number of services and amenities.

Town Council manage Dewstow Cemetery and work with local funeral directors to provide a considerate and respectable service to residents.

Through devolution of services, the Town Council now manage the public toilets, taken on from Monmouthshire County Council. In addition, the Town Council provide bus shelters and dog waste bins.

The Town Council support services, operated by Monmouthshire County Council, these include provision of CCTV, street cleaning, Caldicot Castle events.

Caldicot Town Council is committed to working with partners to create an attractive, viable, safe and well-connected community.

VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

The Town Council support a number of events throughout the town, which ensure vibrant surroundings.

Caldicot Town Council annually supply Christmas lights for the town centre, as well as financially supporting the event.

Heritage within the town is paramount and the Town Council have contributed and supported events at Caldicot Castle, this includes the Eisteddfod proclamation ceremony.

Caldicot Town Council operates in accordance with the Welsh language policy and adheres to legislative requirements

GLOBALLY RESPONSIVE

Caldicot Town Council has responded to a number of surveys, primarily from Welsh Government, which demonstrates a commitment to global well-being and the capacity to adapt to change.

Caldicot Town Council are concerned with energy consumption at all premises and ensure that the best value for money is obtained when renewing utility contracts and undertaking procedures to ensure that energy is not unnecessarily used.

The Future

One of the responsibilities of the Well-being of Future Generations Act is for the Public Service Board to prepare and publish a wellbeing plan and wellbeing objectives for the county.

Monmouthshire Public Service board is made up of public bodies such as Gwent Police, Monmouthshire County Council, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. More information about the Public Services Board is [here](#).

Every Public Service Board in Wales has had to produce a Well-being Plan. The Well-being Plan, which was signed off by the Public Service Board in April 2018, looks at the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the county - [Monmouthshire PSB Wellbeing Plan](#).

The Wellbeing Plan sets out what public services will work together on to address the things that matter to local communities. Often these are complex challenges that are too big for a single organisation to address by itself. The Wellbeing Plan has been informed by data, research and what the people of Monmouthshire advised as part of the Wellbeing Assessment.

For 2018/19 and onwards Caldicot Town Council are required to develop a wellbeing plan, the plan will be devised to improve work with people and communities, taking a more joined-up approach. The plan will be linked with the aims and objectives of the Monmouthshire Wellbeing plan, these were identified as:



Well-being Objective - Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life



Well-being Objective - Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change



Well-being Objective - Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change



Well-being Objective - Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

DEVELOPING DEWSTOW CEMETERY, CALDICOT

Management of facilities is a major part of the work undertaken by Caldicot Town Council.

Caldicot Town Council manages and maintains Dewstow Cemetery in Caldicot. The Cemetery is a lawn cemetery located on the outskirts of the town, near to Dewstow House. It covers approximately 1.8 acres of land. The Cemetery contains a Cremated Remains Section, a children's section and an area for standard grave burials.



Dewstow Cemetery was opened by the district council in March 1962. The first interment took place on 21st March 1962. We currently have approximately 1010 grave spaces and 280 Cremated Remains Spaces. Many of the spaces contain two or even three sets of remains, with many more intended for more than one set of remains.



Dewstow Cemetery is managed from the Town Council Office on Sandy Lane, Caldicot. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk are responsible for the cemetery. The council employs a contract groundsman to undertake the grounds keeping. In 2016, the cemetery was nominated for the UK's Best Kept Cemetery and the Town Council was a finalist in the competition.

Dewstow Cemetery is unique as it is the only municipal burial ground, in Monmouthshire, which is managed by a Town or Community Council. Other municipal burial grounds across the County are managed by Monmouthshire County Council.

Caldicot Town Council prioritise the appearance of the cemetery to ensure that visitors are welcomed to a respectful yet visually appealing area. In order to maximise this, the Council has installed a new notice board, fence and updated the appearance of the cemetery shelter.

Headstone testing was undertaken at the cemetery in 2017/18, this was undertaken by an experienced contractor who operated sensitively and compassionately, as a result the process was completed without any issues.

Cemetery Opening Hours

The Cemetery is open to members of the public 365 days of the year, in all weather conditions, including weekends and bank holidays.

March – October 8am – 7pm

October- March 8am – 5pm

Cemetery Extension

Due to increased demand for the cemetery, space for new burials is rapidly decreasing. The Town Council recognise that additional space is required and has investigated options for the adjacent field to be used as an extension. Planning Permission for the extension has been obtained.



The Town Council are committed to working with the biodiversity and ecology officer from the unitary authority, to ensure that conditions within the planning permission are satisfied.



In addition to the extension to Dewstow Cemetery, the Town Council will be applying for Green Flag Award status, the scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

WELSH GOVERNMENT REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2018-21

On 5th September 2018 Monmouthshire County Council considered the final draft of the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Regeneration Plan (2018-2021).

Mon CC Cabinet approved the submission of the final draft of the CCR Regeneration Plan (2018-2021), specifically the regeneration proposals for South East Severnside circa £10M, following submission to Welsh Government, in order to facilitate delivery of the Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme 2018-21.

The programme will unlock economic opportunities in the south east Severnside area, Caldicot specifically. It has been recognised that there is a need to invest in infrastructure, commercial property, in-town living and visitor economy led activity. The proposed strategic schemes are:

- a) **Cross Destination Space** – to enhance mobility and accessibility for residents, visitors and employees through investment in shared space, active travel networks and maximisation of visitor assets as the Castle and Country Park, in addition an enhanced link along Church Road.
- b) **Refurbishment of the existing Retail Parade** – reconfigured units with opportunities for employment generation through enhanced frontages and improved signage/branding.
- c) **Caldicot's Community Hub** – the creation of local enterprise and co-working space to support existing and new businesses in the town and area.
- d) **Improvement of housing offer** – key gateway into the town centre with the provision of 27no. residential units, urban courtyard and car park.

A six month programme of engagement activity took place in Caldicot between September 2017 and March 2018 which involved three Stakeholder workshops, members of Caldicot Town Council, Caldicot Town Team, Monmouthshire County Councillors and responsible officers. The purpose of the engagement was to remind stakeholders of the Vision and Development Plan/Proposals developed in February 2016.

The South East Severnside regeneration proposals detailed within the CCR Regeneration Plan have therefore been developed as a direct result of the Stakeholder Activity Programme. All of the individual projects which make up the overall South East Severnside Regeneration Scheme will require individual project application submissions to Welsh Government and subject to approval, further public consultation and where applicable, planning applications.





In 1936, after the king's death, the Lord Mayor of London formed a committee to determine a memorial that was not solely based on the idea of a statue. They arrived the same year at the concept of funding and erecting a single statue in London and setting up the King George's Fields Foundation to carry the late king's name forward through future generations with the aim:

To promote and to assist in the establishment throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of playing fields for the use and enjoyment of the people.

Each of the playing fields would:

Be styled 'King George's Field' and to be distinguished by heraldic panels or other appropriate tablet medallion or inscription commemorative of His Late Majesty and of a design approved by the Administrative Council.



Money was raised locally to buy the land, with a grant made by the foundation. After purchase the land was passed to the **Fields in Trust**, to "preserve and safeguard the land for the public benefit". Land was still being acquired for the purpose during the 1950s and early 1960s.

When the King George's Fields Foundation was dissolved in 1965, there were 471 **King George Playing Fields**, all over the country. They are now owned by Fields in Trust Association and managed on their behalf by either the council or a board of local trustees.

There are strict **covenants** and conditions that all go to ensure that the public will continue to benefit from these open play areas.





King George V Playing Fields are an asset to Caldicot and contribute to the principles of wellbeing, through the ethos of the Charity being outdoor recreation. The playing fields are open to the public and used throughout the year, various sports clubs are located on the playing fields, including the Bowls Club and Caldicot Town AFC.

The playing field has an excellent childrens play park, which is maintained by the Town Council and is secure and safe.

There is a selection of adult exercise equipment, which is well used, by residents and groups within the town.



In promoting the well-being for the people of Caldicot, the Town Council are committed to ensuring that everybody has access to quality green and other open sapces, the Council ensure that the spaces are appropriatiely managed and meet the needs of the community.

To support this comitment, Caldicot Town Council will be devising a management plan, in order to apply for Green Flag Status for King George V Playing Fields.

Compound Development Project

In 2014 Town Council commenced a project on the Compound Building at the Playing Fields. The compound was a disused building, historically used for equipment storage.

Town Council elected members felt that the residents of Caldicot would benefit from a facility within the playing fields which would complement outdoor recreation. The Town Council established a Compound Working group and through making recommendations to Council, plans have been drawn up and planning permission has been obtained.

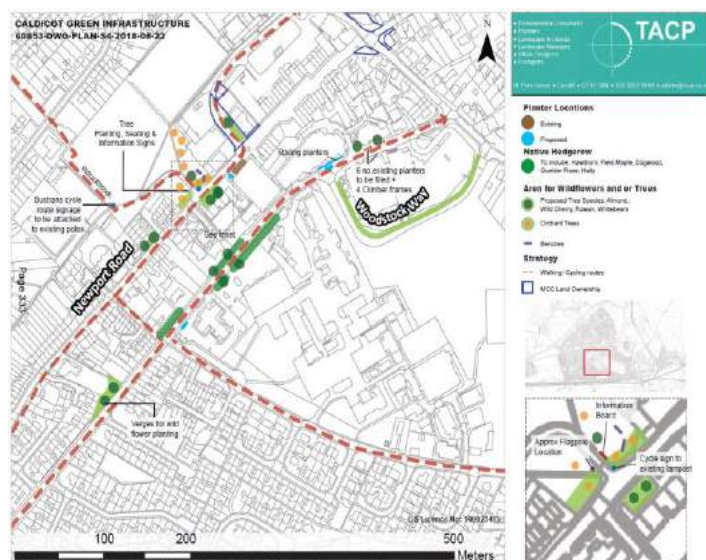
The Compound Development project is ongoing, with investigations being undertaken to ensure that appropriate infrastructure is in place. Public consultation was held in November 2017and further public consultation to be held.



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSALS FOR CALDICOT, KGVPF

On 5th September 2018 Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet approved that a capital budget of £57,000 be created in 2018/19 to fund the Caldicot Green Infrastructure Corridors Project and this is funded in part by a contribution of £27,000 from the Section 106 balances held by the County Council in respect of the Asda supermarket development in Caldicot and a further contribution of £30,000 from the Welsh Government's Green Infrastructure Capital Fund. The funding has been received and the date for the use of the balances is 25th July 2019.

The green corridor improvements will be carried out along entrances/exists to Caldicot as part of a wider scheme of town centre improvements. It is intended that the green infrastructure improvements will lead to:



- an enhanced perception of Caldicot town centre as a place to live, work and visit
- investment from the private sector in the town centre fabric and offer as a result of the environmental improvements
- a shift from local residents visiting the town centre by car to more access by walking and cycling
- a greater sense of belonging and well-being through social interaction on streets and in public spaces
- an improved sense of connection and flow between the town centre and the area's wider local environmental assets

Specific proposals for King George V Playing Fields are:

1. Incorporation of seating alongside the trees at the entrance within the right hand-side parcel of land (looking from Newport Road).
2. Wildflower planting as a swale along the front of the green space alongside the wall within this right parcel of land.
3. Incorporation of a notice board within top section to include a map indicating key walking/cycling routes throughout the town, highlighting key facilities and how to get to them. This could be combined with a lockable notice board beneath allowing advertisement of events, activities. The intention of this would be to promote the active travel agenda.
4. Incorporation of fruit trees set further back on this right parcel of land. In terms of management, the local gardening club have indicated they would be interested in taking on the management of these wildflower areas and Sustrans Volunteer Rangers have confirmed they would be happy to take on the updating of information for the notice board with shared access with the Town Council. It is understood there is a desire to see a bandstand within the same parcel of land where the seating, wildflower planting, notice board and fruit trees are proposed. These would be complimentary and indeed add value to a bandstand should this go ahead in the future. The notice board could be also used to advertise performances, so multi-functional in its use.

Note : the plan shows the possible incorporation of a cycle stand within the entrance on the left parcel of land. Following further discussion with Sustrans rangers it was agreed that as existing cycle stands are located at the entrance to Waitrose additional furniture here is unnecessary and the notice board would be a better contribution to the active travel promotion for Caldicot at this point.



I received my chain of office at the TOWN COUNCILS AGM on the 17th May taking over from Cllr David Evans. In the months following my election as your Mayor I have attended many events and had some important meetings with people and organisations. This is a diary of these events.

The speech I made at my investiture as Mayor of Caldicot Town Council

- Ladies & gentlemen, distinguished guests, family and friends may I take this opportunity to thank you for taking the time to join us here today.
- It is a great honour to be elected Mayor of Caldicot Town Council and I would like to thank residents of the Dewstow ward for voting me back onto the council for my second term of office and my fellow councillors for electing me to this prestigious position.
- Caldicot is the youngest of the five Monmouthshire towns but we are the second largest in population and growing. There has been a lot done over the years to improve the facilities within the Town but I think you will agree there is a lot more to be done.
- I was born in Caldicot 65 years ago when Caldicot was a small village with a population of less than 1500 people. Caldicot was a wonderful place to grow up every one new everyone including Sergeant Parsons who kept us all on the straight and narrow. We had lots of fields and orchards to play in. We made rafts on the Neddern during the rainy season and spent hours train spotting at Caldicot Halt.
- I remember an incident when I and some friends got up early one morning to pick mushrooms from a local farmers field. It took a long time to collect a bagful. As we finished someone called out our names to stop where we were. It was SGT Parsons he confiscated the mushrooms and then gave us all a clip around the ear and sent us on our way.
- I'm sure he had been watching and waiting until we had collected enough mushrooms for his breakfast.
- This was certainly a case when it's not always best to be known by everyone.
- Some of you might remember some of the old iconic places in Caldicot like the Gunpowder house built by Isembard Kingdom Brunel in 1872 to store gunpowder when building the severn tunnel. I don't know if he realised what a wonderful den he had constructed for the children of Caldicot to play in during the 50's and 60's.
- Dally's sweet shop The horses stable turned into a shop with the original half swinging doors, Mr & Mrs Dally kept our favourite sweets but their cat was always laid out on top of them.
- We didn't mine the sweats tasted great with or without the hairs.
- And of course Ray's wooden cinema known as the 'sit and scratch' absolutely packed with children every Saturday morning and the old wooden YMCA building next to the Cinema built during WW2 as a British restaurant and used by the cubs and scouts until the late sixties.
- I don't think any of those building would be declared safe today and health and safety well I ask you.
- Great memories!
- I with my brother and sister attended this church and joined the church choir. We were not particular religious but Mum and Dad thought it a good idea to send us off on a Sunday morning to church. They gave us money for the collection but they never knew we spent the money on sweets. I don't think if they knew know what we did they would mined as it gave them a few hours peace and we did gain another sister.
- I attended the 'village college' as it was known then and then finished my education in Newport at a pre apprenticeship school on Corporation Road.
- I had a varied career which includes being in the Merchant Navy and teaching Technology at Chepstow School. I loved working with children and it gives me great pleasure when I meet ex students and they tell me how well they have got on in life. They also tell me that I had a nickname and I shouted a lot.
- But I cannot remember doing that.
- I believe it is important that we all give something back to our community and I do this by being a volunteer driver for 'Grass Routes'. In the two years I have been doing this many people have got to know me and I am often asked when driving the bus to stop and run into the surgery to post their repeat prescriptions.
- I have also given help to the friends of Caldicot Castle working waste deep cleaning out the pond within the Castle grounds.
- It is important we protect the great Town in which we live and I would like to pay tribute to the many volunteers who give their time freely for the benefit of others. The Churches, clubs and society who give our youngsters a firm start in life and the emergency services who have shown across the country the courageous way they have acted to save life in some of the most dangerous situations imaginable.
- I intend to use my year in office by pushing the Health & Well being for all initiative.
- Part of which is to inspire young people. Barriers still exist for young people through physical or psychological issues. Young people often do not have the confidence in showing their own abilities.
- I shall be making lots of visits to the many local clubs and societies to promote and support new ideas and with the help and support from my fellow councillors I hope to push forward the KGV playing fields community project.
- Where youngsters and families could receive help and advice on domestic and social issues also to further advance outdoor activities which will benefit everyone within our community.
- Finally but not least my chosen charity for the year is Barnardos and I ask your support throughout the year to support me in raising funds for this well established charity.

31st May Full Town Council meeting

My first official duty on June 2nd was to have the flags put at half mast and to attend a vigil in the Town centre to mark the tragic bombing in Manchester and the attacks in London. I spoke to the people of Caldicot together with Jessica Morden MP. & John Griffiths MEP.

3rd June represented the council at the Rugby Clubs presentation evening. The speaker was Philip Bennett the Welsh Rugby Union player.



On the 6th June I presented flowers to Mr. & Mrs Moss Caldicot residents who were celebrating their 60th wedding Anniversary. Photographs were taken and I subsequently had

An enlargement made and framed and went back a few days later to give the picture to them.

12th June I attended the AGM installation of the Town Mayor of Abergavenny Cllr David Simcock and the Mayoress Cllr Penny

Simcock.

13th June Planning & Resources meeting



16th June at Cherry Trees nursing home I was invited to a special open day for the residence. This was a special day for me meeting the staff and residence one old lady who was celebrating her 103 birthday was very glad to see me there. A lovely buffet was laid on and an excellent singer had the residents, other guests which included Mr Blatchly the undertaker his wife and me clapping in time with the music. I went around speaking to the residents and had my photograph taken with them at their request.

17th June 9am -5pm this was a full day hot day at the YOUNG FARMERS annual rally. I went around in amazement of these young farmers there was so much going on. Examples of which were Cookery competitions, Sheep Shearing, hat designs for Ascot and so much more.



17th June 6.30pm till late this was a real enjoyable but punishing day as I attended the Abergavenny Eisteddfod in the evening. I had a couple of drinks pre theatre. The show that was put on was remarkable. I once again was fascinated by the number of acts that was put on. This is a show that the Caldicot has always supported with a donation made each year. In my view money well spent.

Sunday 18th June I attended the Civic investiture of the Mayor of Usk Cllr Glen Roderick and his wife Mrs Pam Roderick. This was a wonderful service with a reception at the Sessions house Usk. The court rooms have been fully restored and well worth a visit.



Amongst the guests was the high sheriff of Gwent JKL Thomas Esq JP.

22ND June I attended a concert at Newport Cathedral.

25th June I attended the CIVI investiture of chairman Monmouthshire county council Moreen Powel once again a very fine service conducted at Abergavenny St. Marys Church followed by the reception at the Priory Centre.

Picture of Mayor of Monmouth, Chairman of MCC and Mayor of Caldicot



26th June met with the Caldicot Musical Society at their rehearsals in Portskewett Village Hall. I met them at 8pm and they let me listen to their rehearsal they also told me about their new venue the electronics company MITEL are going to lease them the old restaurant converted into a theatre. They also said they would like to sing a variety of songs at my CIVIC which I quickly agreed to.



28th June Severn side area committee meeting I am the Town Council representative followed by Full Town Council meeting. At this meeting we donated £5000 to the Caldicot Youth Service and £200 for the Libraries summer challenge.



29th Attended Health & Safety meeting followed by compound meeting

2nd of July My CIVIC this is my first time as Mayor so I was not expecting to have such a lovely day. The church was full with lots of guests including Jessica Morden MP. My family and some of my friends had travelled all the way from Grindelthorp in the Peak District as a surprise. The reception was held in the Caldicot Choir hall. On arrival in the Hall the Caldicot Musical Society sang five superb songs which inspired the guests who tucked into an excellent buffet supplied by the Huntsman of Shirenewton all was washed down with wine and soft drinks.

This photograph shows the dignitaries at my civic. Mayor Usk & consort, Chairman MCC, Mayor Caldicot & Consort, Mayor Chepstow & consort, Deputy Mayor Caldicot & Mayor Abergavenny & consort



5th July I went to the one voice Wales Larger council's conference in Builth Wells where I brought back important information for the Town Council.

6th July in met with Mr Edward watts chairman of GAVO. We discussed many issues and I told him I would try and attend some of the events which are planned. He was also interested in the compound project we are undertaking in Caldicot.

7th July I had a meeting with David Flint organiser of the Foodbank in Caldicot and County Councillor Sara Jones who is the Community Development officer and MCC cabinet member. We discussed important issues relating to people in the area requiring help.



Sunday 9th July I attended the CIVIC service for the Mayor of Monmouth Cllr Felicity Cotton at the Priory Church Monmouth and later for the reception at the Priory church.

11th July I attended a meeting with the compound committee the architect Mr Mark Harry, Fred and representative from GAVO. They all had some interesting views on the project and ways of obtaining grants. Some small adjustments were recommended to our existing plans.

13th July I attended the One Voice Wales area committee meeting for Newport and Monmouthshire Town and community councils. Once again I gained some valuable information for the Town council which will be given in my report.



Sunday 15th July this was an important day as the Royal regiment of Wales marched through the town of Abergavenny They have the freedom to march through any Monmouthshire Town with Flags flying drums beating and bayonets fixed.

I met some very important people that day including the Lord Lieutenant of Gwent.

After the Parade a civic reception was held
After the parade a civic reception was held in the Town council rooms.

The presentation of the Freedom of Monmouthshire



Sunday 16th July I attended the EID Dinner in the Park Inn hotel Llanedeyrn near Cardiff. This was an important day I sat on the top table with the Mayor of Newport. We both made speeches to the large number of people present. We were then both presented with a cheque for £500 for our chosen charities.



The Speech I made at the Eid Dinner in Cardiff - Blessed Eid al Adha

- I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Admadiyya Muslim community for inviting me here today to celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan and the starting of the Eid festival.
- I am not a particularly religious person but I strongly believe in the good underlying principles of all religions, which are set out for us to follow to make us good citizens. I and my family try our best to follow those principles.
- As I was asked to speak for 3 to 4 mins I thought I would tell you some of my experiences with religion.
- For the past 25 years before I retired I was a teacher of technology and I was asked if I would teach 1 hour/week religion education. We were told that children had to be made aware of all religions and each year group would study a different religion. I was given a year 8 group of children. 12 year olds and the school decided year 8 pupils would be taught JUDISM. It took me many hours learning enough about JUDISM to be able to give a reasonable lesson. If I had been given a year 9 group then the topic was the MUSLIM faith.
- I'm sure you as friends would have given me help to gain the knowledge to disseminate the teaching of the Koran so that children are made aware and tolerant of the differences of all religion.
- Before becoming a teacher I was a chief Engineer in the Merchant Navy many of the ships I sailed on had foreign crews.
- I remember one ship in particular we had an Indian crew. The crew were split up into faiths, Muslims worked in the engine room department, Hindu worked on Deck and the GOANISE Christians work as stewards.
- Each of the faiths had their own cooks and the meats were killed in their traditional way according to their religion.
- But as the senior Engineer on board together with the captain we were invited to each of the different messes to dine. I must admit each meal was different but to me they all tasted delicious.
- But one night we had a fire on board and every man regardless of faith worked together to put the fire out. I realised then that we are all basically human beings and when the chips are down we help each other.
- Before I agreed to attend this meeting after all the terrible incidents which have occurred by radical extremists of one religious faith or another. I remembered the hospitable way you greeted me and my wife on our last visit two years ago.
- I have been following you on your official website and Twitter.
- The good work you do for all faiths and creeds is truly remarkable. From giving blood to helping people in the community who are homeless and in need of basic food and clothing.
- It is appreciated that you lend your voice for peace and integration. This is vital in uniting our cultures and stopping extremism. Especially those who try to hijack and put a different interpretation on their faith.
- Your slogan of 'Love for all Hatred for none' should in my mind be adopted by all in the UK and certainly throughout the world. It symbolises an ideal way of life for all.
- Inviting people who are not from the MUSLIM COMMUNITY to dine with you significantly improves relationships and understanding between us.
- I would like to end by thanking you for this most generous gift which will be used for my charity Barnados. This is a charity whose prime concern is children's welfare regardless of faith or creed I wish you all a happy and peaceful. EID MU BARAK

Sunday 23rd July Chepstow Town Council had decided not to have a civic ceremony in church but instead decided to have a reception in the Bulwark community centre. The Mayor Cllr Dale Rook and his consort entertained the guests with good food and an excellent jazz band.

26th July full council meeting at this meeting we donated £10000 to the Citizen Advice bureau. We also donated £1000 to the AIR TRAINING CORPS and the Mayor introduced our new Mayor Cadet. Bryn Silcox. He will accompany the Mayor for the remaining year of office.



Sunday 30th July I attended the investiture of the Mayor of Abergavenny Cllr David Simcock and his wife Cllr Penny Simcock at the Baptist Church. The inside of the church was stunning with highly decorated ceilings. We marched through the streets of Abergavenny with flags flying and drums beating from the Town Hall. A wonderful choir of which the Mayor is part of gave us a recital in the church. A civic reception was then held in the church reception centre.

4th August Judging Gardens with Deputy Mayor

5th August I started the Caldicot 5k Park run. This event is run every Saturday morning during the school holidays. Park runs take place all over the country but the first time in Monmouthshire.



8th August this was a busy day a compound meeting followed by planning and Resources meeting. In the evening I met Flt Lt. Louis Mckey officer commanding the Air Training Corps (ATC) Caldicot I was shown around and watched the cadets at work. Good links were formed.

10th Meeting with Chris Jones

12th August this was a full day representing the council at the Chepstow Show. I met Isabel Hart the president and many other distinguished guests. There were events on throughout the day. We sat down to an excellent lunch and I departed at 4.30pm

18th August had meeting with the Mayor of Chepstow and the Clerk. Was given a good rundown on how they operate and what they are responsible for in comparison with Caldicot Town Council.

Saturday 26th August I was invited by Martyn Morgan to the Black Rock Lathe Fisherman's open day. There were more than a hundred people at this event. There were demonstrations on how they catch Salmon in their Lathe nets. I met Peter Fox leader of MCC and together we talked too many of the visitors.

I did not catch the fish shown in the picture it was a very real replica.

These pictures were published in the South Wales Argus & Free Press



30th August In the evening I attended the opening of Baa Brewery in Chepstow. Three Caldicot men started a new Brewery bringing work to the area.

The Directors of the Brewery are Charles Heaven, James Langworthy & Julian Powell.

The photograph shows The Mayor of Chepstow, The Chepstow Dragon, The Mayor of Caldicot, The Brewery Master & The Production Manager.

4th September meeting with Peter Strong (INEED) representative to arrange emptying and cleaning the compound.
 5th September Compound working meeting.
 6th September meeting with Jade Atkins of the Youth Council
 7th September Health and safety meeting @10am meeting with Fred Western and Julia Parsons to set up Caldicot as a Fairtrade Town.
 9th September attended a Gala concert at the choir hall. This was the first time Caldicot and Chepstow choirs had sung together since there break up over 40years ago.
 12th September Planning and resources meeting
 14th September Personnel meeting. I resigned due to conflict of interests.
 26th September had photographs taken at the undertakers regarding them winning the best business award from the Council.
 27th Severnside area committee meeting 10am at Magor

27th September Full Council meeting. At this representatives of INEED presented the Council with a picture for us allowing them to use our compound building.
 30th September represented the council AGM and full conference at Builth wells brought back some interesting information to the Town council.
 5th October I was asked to represent the council at the St Davids Hospice Newport. A presentation was given and we were shown around the facility.



8th October I was invited by the Severnside area committee to stand outside the council office and greet the riders of the Hogging the bridge event. More than 7000 riders went through the Town.



9th October 9.30 to 3.30 I was asked to represent the Town council at a conference at the Cwt Bleding Hotel set up by MCC to brainstorm ways of contributing to the 'Wellbeing and Future generations act which will be law in 2019.

9th October 6pm I was invited to attend the Brownies world culture badge evening. The brownies sung songs and played games from other countries. They wanted an explanation of my chain of office and some of them tried it on.



10th Council Planning and resources meeting

12th October Invited for an evening with the Scouts. I was shown around and watched the Scouts at work obtaining their cookery badge. The food tasted good.

13th Attended an event put on by GAVO at the Palmer Centre in Chepstow. There were a host of speakers showing us how and where we could get grants from for projects.

15th October Attended the Caldicot food festival at Caldicot Castle.

17th October 10am meeting with Chris Jones who was acting as an arbitrator between the Town Team, MCC , The Town Council, The events committee and County Councillors. To unite us in our commitment to Caldicot and get rid of the bad feeling.

17th October 7pm Invitation to the Scouts AGM. I made a small speech and with the help of the Deputy Mayor made the presentations to all.



18th October attended the 'ONE VOICE WALES Larger councils meeting at the Media Resource centre. Llandrindod Wells. This was a full day conference.

19th October 10am Twinning meeting. It was resolved for me to meet with the head teacher at Caldicot School.

19th October 1.30pm I was invited to attend the U3A open day. I was introduced to all the groups and made aware what they did and where they operated from.



20th October Invited as guest of honour to the RNA association dinner.

25 October Full Council meeting

31st October I attended the GWENT YOUTH ORCHESTRA at St Mary's Chepstow. An excellent evening of music.

12th November I attended the Remembrance Day parade marching to the Church and laid wreaths on behalf of the Town.



Followed by the afternoon service at the cenotaph Caldicot Cross.

The evening service was held at the Newport mission to seafarers. In attendance was the Bishop of Monmouthshire, The Lord lieutenant of Gwent. High Sheriff of Gwent, the Mayor of Newport and Consort, the Mayor of Caldicot and Consort and Mr E.Watts chairman of GAVO.



14 November Planning and resources meeting. The Mayor introduced the Mayor cadet Bryn SILCOX. The ATC was presented with £1000 towards a flight simulator and Cllr Ashwin presented a picture to the Mayor showing a reunion of people after returning from WW2.



16TH November Health and safety meeting

25th November invited as guest of honour to the AIR TRAINING CORPS annual dinner held at The David Brooms Event Centre.

27th November Community engagement day at the compound 3pm to 6pm

28th November Continuation of the community engagement. Interested groups were invited to view the plans and light refreshments were provided. This opportunity for the general public to express their views regarding upgrading the compound and providing a bandstand.

29th November Full Council meeting

3rd December 9.30am A meeting with Mrs G.Roberts Headteacher Caldicot School to discuss. Council visit to the school, the possibility of taking Head Boy and Girl to our twin Town in Germany and ladies sanitary provision.

3rd December 2pm -4pm at Henllys Village Hall this was a One Voice Wales workshop to brainstorm reorganisation of Town and community councils.

7th December 10.30am meeting with Bernard John to be filmed and interviewed about life in Caldicot.

7th December 2.30pm invited to attend Dewstow school for their annual



10th December I attended the Carol service at the Usk Baptist church at the request of the Mayor of Usk.

11th December I attended the SOUTH MONMOUTHSHIRE Gwent Music Christmas concert at Chepsow Leisure Centre. There were musicians of all ages playing in different bands.

12th December This was a busy day 9.30am A meeting with Officers from County Hall. 5.30pm Grants committee meeting. 6.30pm Planning and resources meeting and 7.30pm I attended a concert put on by SENATA a ladies choir to raise money for my charity. They raised £450.

14th December at 7pm I attended an evening of Music at Caldicot School.

15th December I attended Durand school nursery concert.

20th December I attended the annual awards ceremony at Caldicot School

8th January I was invited to attend a walkabout looking at the possibilities of areas to be regenerated in the Town. Chris Jones plus architects and other interested groups.

9th January 5.30 meeting with Ian Saunders MCC prior to Planning and resources meeting at 6.30.

16th January meeting regarding the Caldicot Cemetary development.

18th January 7pm' One Voice Wales' conference at USK.



20th January Attended a fund raising event at Caldicot Rugby Club.

24th January full day at 'ONE VOICE WALES' conference lots of important information to report back to Council.

27th January Invitation to Sunday lunch with the Muslim community at the Mission to seafarers Newport.

30th January 7.30 at the Church Hall I attended the Food bank AGM with Cllr Mitchell.

31st January Full Town council meeting.



1st February Celebration of Valerie and Harold Peters 60th Wedding Anniversary.

2nd February 7pm attended the first night of Gwent Farmers Pantomime competition at the Dolman Theatre Newport. Mayor cadet Silcox accompanied me. Three groups performed Bedwas YFC, who performed 'the Gruffalo'. Wentwood YFC, who performed 'Treasure Island' and Abergavenny/Cruorney YFC, who performed 'Sinbad'



3rd February 7pm attended the second night of the Gwent Farmers Pantomime competition. I was accompanied by Cllr M.Stevens and the Mayor of USK Cllr G.Rudick. The performers were Usk YFC who performed ' Alice in Wonderland' and Ragland YFC who performed 'We will rock you'

The winners were WENTWOOD YFC.



6th February Presentation of the Mayors cup to ACF. This was an evening at the AFC headquarters Mill Lane Caldicot. The cup was presented to L/CPL **Joshua Prout**. The citation can be read on the Town council website.

7th February 2pm Health & Safety meeting

8th February 9.30 Compound meeting

11th February 12am. A tea party was held at Dewstow school this was to commemorate the 100 years since women got the vote. There were almost 200 people in attendance. I presented the Guides Mayors cup to **Harriet Till** her citation can be read on the Town council website. I also gave a speech on why women should vote and the long hard struggle women had to go through to get the vote. In attendance was Jessica Morden MP, C.Councillor A.Easson, Cllr M.Mitchell, Cllr M.Stevens. Many senior guide leaders including the county commissioner.



Mayors Speech to Girl Guides

I have been invited here today to present someone with the Mayors cup.

It has been recognised by Caldicot Town Council that there are many young people in Caldicot who do a lot for the community and go unnoticed.

It also gives us greater links and understanding between your association and the council.

So we as a council have decided to promote you by awarding a trophy to the 4 main associations in Caldicot.

One to the Guides, one to the Scouts, One to the ACF and one to the ATC. Very often we get requests for grants and it is important for us to realise and celebrate what you do.

The guide leaders have been asked to nominate a suitable candidate from amongst the Caldicot guides this includes rainbows and brownies.

As you can all imagine it has been a very difficult task for your leaders as there are so many of you who work very hard and inspire others within your groups.

As an example I was impressed so many of you turned out for the Remembrance Day parade in November. Many people commented to me on your appearance and commitment. Many people have also commented on the way you raise money for charity.

However only one can be selected and that person is

Harriet Till.

The citation reads:

Harriet is 17 years of age and a young leader with Caldicot Brownies

Harriet's main interest is sport in which she excels. She is at present training to become a leader in the Girl guiding Gwent Sports Educators.

This will mean that she will travel around the country sharing her enthusiasm in sport with other girls. Encouraging them to try different sports and by doing so show girls how to live a healthier lifestyle.

Outside of Guiding Harriet coaches youngsters in Cricket, Squash and Hockey giving up much of her free time for the benefit of others in the community.

Harriet must be commended for her hard work and commitment to others.

She is a popular member of Caldicot Guides groups and follows the good principles laid out by the Guide association. This alone makes her a good citizen of this town and someone we can all look up to.

Harriet I am delighted and honoured to present you with the Mayors cup and a cheque for £10.

The cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to guides and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

Congratulations and Well done!

February 13th Planning and Resources meeting

February 17th I attended the Caldicot & Chepstow Lions Annual celebration Dinner held at the Royal George Hotel Tintern. Made a speech to the Lions.



20th February 10am Health & Safety meeting

24th February 5.30pm I attended Caldicot Castle AFC to present the Mayors cup to James Lopategui a copy of his citation can be read on the Town council website.

THE MAYOR'S CUP.

Awarded for contributions to the community.

CALDICOT CASTLE A.F.C

James Lopategui

The citation reads:

James has been a member of this club for more than 10years in that time he helps with the day to day running of the club.

He maintains the football field giving his time freely cutting and marking the pitches and gets them to a high standard to enable the club to play football matches to a high standard.

He also helps to run the second team. His enthusiasm for the game of football inspires the players to do well.

James must be commended for his hard work and commitment to others.

He is a popular member of Caldicot Castle AFC and without him the club would struggle to exist.

James the cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to the club and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

Congratulations and Well done!



1st March I presented Mr & Mrs Patterson a bouquet of flowers in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary.

5th March I visited the ATC to meet the Cadets and was shown the new Flight simulator which was purchased with help from the Town Council.



7th March 9.30am Grants committee

7th March 1pm Health & Safety meeting

8th March 10am to 2pm A visit to Barry Town Council with the Deputy Clerk and Admin Officer to get information on gaining Green Flag status.

8th March 7pm. I attended the Scouts award ceremony and presented the Mayors cup and a £10 to Mark Lane for services to the Scouting organisation.



Mark Lane

The citation reads:

Mark has been a member of 2nd Caldicot Scouts for more than ten years.

He is married with two children and has a very busy job but somehow he finds the time to help with the many activities of the Scouts.

Nothing is too much trouble for Mark he has made things like fire pits, washing up stands for use on camping expeditions and has provided many items for the scouts including an oven.

Mark will turn his hand to anything and was responsible for building the Christmas grotto which all enjoyed at this year's switching on the Christmas lights in the Town centre.

He goes on scout camps during the weekend providing the transport by arranging Lorries at discount prices and then drives them to cut down the costs.

He has many skills one of which being his culinary skills and he often cooks for the group on camp. I'm told he makes good pasta dishes and a mean curry.

Mark has been active on the committee and two years ago he became the chairman.

He is a popular person and wants the best for our young people and has truly made a huge difference to this organisation.

Recently during the snow and very bad conditions he volunteered himself and his 4*4 to take medical staff and patients to and from the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Mark must be commended for his hard work and commitment to others.

I think you would all agree Caldicot Scouts and the people of Caldicot would be a poorer place without him.

9th March 10am to 4pm. I was invited to attend the Forest and Wye Valley tourism conference. The finishing of the Severn Bridge tolls will have a big influence on tourism in Monmouthshire and the Forest of Dean.

12th March 10am I attended with representative from Magor with Undy Community council for the raising of the Flag for Commonwealth Day. The service was held at St. Mary's church Magor with the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Gwent



12th March 6.30pm I was invited to the Caldicot boxing club which was started last year they now have more than 50 members. Mike Lewis was awarded the Town Council citizen award in 2017



15th March 10am. I attended with the Deputy Clerk to the **'Town and Community review panel'**. This was held in St Mellons village hall. This was organised by the Welsh government to get feedback to four important questions.

18th March 4pm I was invited to the Caldicot Musical Society's performance of 'BRING ON TOMORROW'. The Musical society now uses a local company to put on their stage productions.

26th March 10am to 12.30 Severn side Area Committee meeting.

28th March 6.30pm Full Town Council Meeting

29th March 10am to 5pm Attended the 'One Voice Wales' Innovative Practice. The Councils Annual Report and Website were commended.



29th March 7.30pm Attended the Trefoil guides AGM they were celebrating 75years and one lady her 40th year as a member.



31st March I was invited to judge the art competition for the Town Teams annual Easter egg challenge.



5th April Presentation to Mike Hobbs at Caldicot Rugby Club. More than 100 people attended the presentation to Mike and his wife Jean.

MIKE HOBBS

The citation reads:

MIKE has been a member of this club since the early 80's and his contribution to mini rugby has been outstanding. He catered for various age groups from under 8's to 11's and eventually 12's

His son started playing and Mike quickly became wrapped up in the game, initially as a coach undertaking all manner of tasks in order to keep the squad together.

Whilst undertaking these duties he became a committee member and eventually becoming chairman of the mini section of Caldicot rugby club.

In addition to that Mike became involved in the parent group, Gwent mini Rugby association and in tandem with his club commitments he became chairman of that organisation too.

Such was Mike's popularity he retained that position for many years. Within that organisation he had to organise tournaments spaced around many parts of Gwent. The club also had association with London Saracens to which he organised annual trips. It was nothing to have three busses of players and supporters making the pilgrimage.

Mike had a good rapport with WRU representative's particularly John Price. John was a regular visitor to Caldicot and Mike would refer to him as 'THE PRINCE OF WALES' Mike could always squeeze a couple of balls out of him for the club.

There are so many things Mike has done for the club his interest in Mini Rugby has never waned and he has been seen over the club in recent years helping with the mini rugby even though his health has deteriorated.

Mini Rugby's popularity has survived and for Caldicot it is now in its 38th year. Mike Hobbs name will forever be respected; many of the young players who started with Mike have progressed and played for Caldicot first XV.

Mike gave up a lot of his free time and must be commended for his hard work and commitment to others. He has certainly helped to raise the profile of this club and helped to raise membership and lots of good memories and of course the carnival floats he decorated over the years for the Caldicot Carnival.

MIKE for over 30 years has been a popular member of Caldicot RFC and I am sure you will agree with me that without people like him the club would struggle to exist.

MIKE the cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to the club and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

May I be the first to Congratulate you and Well done!

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7th April I Attended with MP. J.Morden, and the Chair of MCC M.Powell the Annual concert of the Caldicot Male Voice Choir.

9th April Presentation of Mayors cup to Julian Williams of Caldicot AFC



Julian Williams

The citation reads:

Julian has been a member of this club for more than 10 years in that time he helps with the day to day running of the club. He is now part of the committee.

He is the chairman of the junior section and in fact brought back junior football to the club. A few years ago there was virtually no junior football at the club membership was falling.

He also runs the youth team and finds time to help with the coaching of the first Team who are in the Welsh league. His enthusiasm for the game of football helps to inspire players to do well.

He is responsible for making sure all the teams kit are cleaned and when each team enters the field of play he can be proud that the long heritage started by Mrs McBride in the 50's when Caldicot football team was known as the Lilly whites because of their sparkling appearance.

Julian is also a keen first aider and is responsible for First Aid in the club. He was responsible for pushing the club to get a Defibrillator. This action has saved a life when a member of the club recently collapsed in the club house and was revived with this equipment.

Julian gives up a lot of his free time and must be commended for his hard work and commitment to others. He has certainly helped to raise the profile of this club and helped to raise membership.

He is a popular member of Caldicot AFC and without people like him the club would struggle to exist.

Julian the cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to the club and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

May I be the first to Congratulate you and Well done!

10th April 6.30pm planning and Resources meeting.

10th April 7.30pm I attended a Meeting with Caldicot Branch of the British Legion at the Severn View Social Club to discuss their intended pilgrimage to the Battlefields of France to commemorate the ending of the First World War.



15TH April 12.30 – 5.30 I was invited to open Caldicot Bowls club after their refurbishment and the start of the season. I was the first to bow I on the newly cut green. I also presented the Mayors cup to Mike Bruce.



Ladies and Gentlemen it is a great honour and privilege to have been invited here today to open the BOWLS CLUB for the start of the season.

I was Bourne in Caldicot and I have seen this club grow from a very young age. My Grandmother brought me over when I was younger and I can remember Roy Nanskevil, playing tunes on his Piano.

Caldicot Bowls Club is seen by the council as the Pearl of the KGV playing fields. The Council have put a lot of money into maintaining the hedges and playing surface but it must also be said that the members themselves play an active part in keeping the place to a high standard.

The recent upgrading of the Bowls club is magnificent and I understand more than £16000 has been spent by the club to carry out this work. But even though this money was spent it is a fraction of what it would have cost if the members Labour had been accounted for.

I would like to congratulate you all on behalf of Caldicot Town Council for the pride you have in your facilities. I'm sure from talking to others it must be one of the best Bowls clubs in Wales.

We as a council are keen to support you in fact all fees you once paid to the council have been dropped since I became Mayor and I hope these savings will help to continue to improve your club in the future.

Finally I would like to wish you all the best for the season and you will bring lots of trophies back to the club. Please keep us informed of your progress as we would be delighted to include your progress on our website.



MIKE BRUCE

The citation reads:

MIKE has been a member of this club for more than 30 years in that time he helps with the day to day running of the club. For the last 20 years He has been both vice chairman and now the chairman. That in itself deserves recognition.

He with others have spent a lot of time upgrading the facilities of this club.

He is a good bowl's Player and has a good temperament win or lose he always treats the opposition with respect.

He is a keen allotment holder and gives his time freely to help others. One person in particular MIKE has helped is George who is more than 90 years old and finds difficulty digging his patch. I have been told that there are many people in Caldicot who are extremely grateful for the produce he gives them. I hope I can get my name on his list.

He was also instrumental in setting up a walking group called the TWATS an older group who walk around Caldicot on Tuesdays. You might have seen them or perhaps heard the creaking of their bones and joints as they saunter along. The group is growing which shows the community spirit Mike embraces.

MIKE is a married man with children and I think you would agree that he gives up a lot of his free time and must be commended for his hard work and commitment to others. He has certainly helped to raise the profile of this club. Recently he helped me prepare an advert for the club which is on the Town Council Website and hopefully will help to improve membership.

He is a popular member of Caldicot BOWL'S CLUB and without people like him I am sure the club would struggle to exist.

MIKE the cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to the club and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

May I be the first to Congratulate you and Well done!

18th April 10am to 4.30pm I attended the 'ONE VOICE WALES' Larger councils meeting at Llandrindod Wells. A full days conference were lots of important information was received.

19th April 7pm I attended the 'ONE VOICE WALES' Newport and Monmouthshire conference.
 25th April 5.30 to 6.30pm attended a meeting with regard new planning laws.
 25th April 6.30 to 7pm I opened up the Full Town Council meeting but had to leave early to attend the ATC AGM. I made two presentations on behalf of the Town Council to the events committee for £8000 and to the British Legion for £500.



25th April 7.15pm I attended the ATC AGM at Caldicot choir hall to present the Mayors Cup to SGT. ROSIE HUFF. I also received a certificate on behalf of Caldicot T.C from the ATC in appreciation for the help we have given them throughout the year.



Cadet Sergeant ROSIE HUFF

The citation reads:

ROSIE is 15 years of age and has reached the rank of sergeant.

She works hard and has achieved her Bronze DofE Award and is this year striving for her Silver Award.

Rosie leads by example she inspires and encourages others to do well. She is a popular member of the Sqn and highly respected by others within the Sqn and the wider community.

Outside of Guiding **ROSIE** coaches youngsters at her local dance school. Leading a junior class to achieve high standards this means giving up much of her free time for the benefit of others in the community.

ROSIE is a volunteer with the Brownies. Training the girls in many useful skills which she has acquired from doing the DofE scheme and of course as a leader in the ATC.

ROSIE must be commended for her hard work and commitment to others. Nothing is too much trouble for ROSIE she can be trusted to carry out all commands given to her. She is truly the type of person we need in our community.

ROSIE I am delighted and honoured to present you with the Mayors cup and a cheque for £10.

The cup you will hold for one year and hopefully inspire others to contribute to Sqn and the community with the same determination and enthusiasm as you have shown.

Congratulations and Well done!

28th April 12am attended Sudbrook cricket club to start the match between Caldicot and Chepstow however the match was called off due to bad weather.

8th May 4.45pm I attended the Election of the Chairman and vice chairman of Monmouthshire County Council held in the Council chamber at county Hall, Usk

14th May 9.30am I attended the Armed forces day at County Hall, Usk to commemorate the Centenary celebrations of the RAF.

16TH May 6pm Caldicot Town Council AGM.