



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

April 2019 Newsletter



Congestion Free Chepstow

Thursday, 11th April 2019, 7.30pm

Arts Hall, Chepstow School, Welsh Street

A [Public Meeting](#) is being organised to address Congestion and Air pollution.

Many of you will have noticed the worsening traffic congestion and the associated air pollution since the lifting of the bridge toll. Many are calling for a restriction in housing or a by-pass. However people need homes and a by-pass will take 20 years to agree, fund, purchase land and build.

At the meeting on Thursday, 11th April, we will be submitting proposals that can reduce congestion and air pollution more readily and at a reduced cost, and those attending may also have their own suggestions.



MP David Davies has accepted his invitation to attend (subject to his dutiful Brexit vote), and so have our Assembly Members - Nick Ramsey has accepted, and Transport minister Ken Skates is sending a representative. From Monmouthshire County Council the leader of MCC Councillor Peter Fox, leader of the opposition Councillor Dimitri Batrouni, and Chair of Monmouthshire Strategic Transport Group, Councillor David Dovey have accepted, together with other representatives and relevant agencies.

BBC and ITV are invited with the local press - indeed the traffic congestion issue has rarely been out of the headlines.

The purpose of the meeting is to both raise the public profile of the issues and also to exert influence on those whose responsibility it is to implement the required urgent improvements.

The greater active public interest the better, so please like and share our page on [Facebook](#) and attend the meeting at 7:30 on 11th April at the Arts Hall, Chepstow School, Welsh Street. You can also get in touch at transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk. We need your support and ideas!

Give it Away Take it Away!

Save the date for this community favourite event on **Sunday, 2nd June 2019** at [Monmouthshire Upcycle](#), opposite the station.



Project opportunity!

Do you enjoy growing your own fruit and veg? Are you keen to help others get growing?

Our community plot at [Hanley Landshare](#) (next to Hanley Farm Shop on the A48) is seeking a new project coordinator. The plot is well established on the Landshare site which already has a great community feel.

This voluntary role involves advertising the community plot and helping new growers get started, in return for free fruit and veg grown at the site! If you'd like to learn more about the role please contact Marcus via: landshare@transitioncheptow.org.uk.



TransitionChepstow.org.uk



Plastic Free Chepstow

Following the Litter Summit in January, [Plastic Free Chepstow](#) has been working closely with the Litter Group - now [Keep Chepstow Tidy](#) - to reduce the amount of plastic and other litter in our town and to raise awareness of the need to reduce the amount of single use plastic we all use every day.

The second monthly litter pick of the year on February 16th tackled some of Thornwell's worst litter "grot spots". In collaboration with the organisers of the weekly Park Run we cleared the approach to Chepstow along the Wales Coast path through the pedestrian tunnel under the M48 near Homebase and the surrounding areas.



In March, along with other Transition groups we participated in a networking meeting organised by Monmouthshire County Council's Community and Partnership Development Team. This was an important opportunity to make contact with other groups working in the same areas as us. We also had a public meeting to mark one year since we launched our campaign.

We reviewed the progress we had made in the last 12 months and discussed plans and priorities for the remainder of 2019. These include:

- Developing more Terracycle collection points for items that are difficult to recycle;
- Working with local businesses including supermarkets to try to reduce litter and the amount of single-use plastic they use;
- Expanding the use of the Refill app in Chepstow and providing water fountains;
- Reforming and re-energising the Steering Group.

Spring Clean Chepstow

Plastic Free Chepstow and Keep Chepstow Tidy launched a campaign inviting everyone who cares about our environment to organise or take part in a litter pick and local clean up. These can cover the premises of local businesses and their immediate surroundings, a single street, a park or open space, or a wider area. They can last anywhere from just a few minutes to a couple of hours. Keep Chepstow Tidy can help with advice, training and with the loan of equipment such as litter pickers.

Our launch event for the campaign was on Saturday 23rd March. More than 30 people - including a number of children - helped to clean up two of the most visible approaches to Chepstow: from the A48 underpass and along Station Road to the Railway Station; and the area around St Mary's Church, down to the Drill Hall and then the wooded slope near the A48 Bridge.

In total we collected 45 bags of waste - 19 of general waste, 9 bags of glass and 17 bags of recyclable plastic and cans. We also interacted with many Chepstow residents and there has been substantially increased interest in helping with other events over the next few weeks.



Chepstow Orchard and Wildlife Trail Walk

Saturday, 27th April 2019, 2pm

Tourist Information Centre, Chepstow

Transition Chepstow members can join this walk for free in this year's Chepstow Walking Festival. Visit walksinchestow.co.uk for details and booking.

Mass Unwrap

On Saturday 9th March we carried out our first mass unwrap in Chepstow, as part of a week of activities promoted by [Surfers Against Sewage](#).

Shoppers at Tesco were invited to remove unnecessary plastic packaging from their shopping and leave it with the store for recycling. We collected several hundred pieces of packaging - things like trays and bags from pre-packed fruit and vegetables, from multipacks of snacks, wrap from kitchen rolls and packaging from hardware items.

The aim of the Unwrap was to draw attention to just how much plastic is involved in the average shopping trip.

We also talked to over a hundred shoppers, many of whom were surprised by the sheer volume of plastic in their trolleys. We had a fantastic response and many people felt really strongly about the issue, and took the opportunity to make suggestions to Tesco about reducing plastic packaging. We are grateful to Tesco for giving us this opportunity. We have shared customers' concerns with them and we are looking forward to continuing the dialogue with them about reducing single use plastic.



Plant Sale in the Library Garden

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th May 2019

Chepstow Library Garden

Friends of Chepstow Library Reading Garden and [Friends of Chepstow Library](#) are holding a joint plant sale to help raise funds and raise awareness for the two Friends groups. Refreshments will be available. Do come along and help support this very worthwhile project.



Electric Vehicle Open Day

Saturday 20th April 2019

Bridges Centre, Monmouth

See some of the latest electric vehicles on the market - and maybe get a free ride in one! Find information about solar panels, energy storage and local community projects near you. Free entry, sponsored by Gwent Energy CIC. Book your free cup of tea or coffee at Evopenday.com.

Community Charger Network

[Gwent Energy](#) is working with a few other community energy groups including Carmarthen energy on building a Welsh country wide network of electric car chargers. They have developed a method of card payment for a new range of chargers for this scheme. The Welsh government has expressed a lot of support.

Interested in sustainable energy? Join us for an [Energy Group](#) meeting on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at the Beaufort Hotel in Chepstow. Upcoming dates: 7nd May, 4th June and 2nd July 2019.

Contact: energy@transitionchestow.org.uk

