



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow



February 2020 Newsletter

Congestion Free Chepstow Update - Public Meeting

Following up on the previous Transition Chepstow hosted event on the topic last April, the open Public Meeting featured the political and official planner's response to various traffic proposals to lessen the continuing issue of Chepstow's worsening traffic congestion and air pollution - Chepstow is the only place in Wales where air pollution is worsening. In addition to the pressing matter of the A48 & A466 High Beech roundabout bottleneck traffic jams, and other associated highway and road junction pinch-points, necessary improvements to public rail and bus transport facilities also figured prominently on the agenda.



The room was packed to capacity with over 300 attendees with standing room only. Exciting developments in the pipeline to reduce congestion include:

- White lines to Highbeech - March 2020
- Major redevelopment Highbeech summer commences 2021 subject to funding
- New commuter Bus service Chepstow to Bristol if 250 sign up April 2020
<https://zeelo.typeform.com/to/JsnclD>
- Improved bus shelters 2020 and times of all buses to be available
- Increased regularity of trains 2020 with proposed 4 trains an hour 2025

- All Chepstow Schools joining in Walk to School Campaign 2020
- Making it easier to walk to Chepstow from areas such as Pwllmeyric
- Looking at improving M48 access, Tesco and Bulwark turn off
- Looking at park and share north of Chepstow See the [Highways Presentation](#) shared at the event as well as reports in the news on [ITV News](#) and [South Wales Argus](#).

Transport and Energy Group meetings

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: 11th February and 3rd March 2020.

Contact: energy@transitionchepstow.org.uk



The BBC are looking to speak to people who have been impacted by the congestion in Chepstow. We'd like to hear from people who have had to make changes as a result, e.g. moving house due to pollution concerns, change jobs or schools, or find alternative ways to travel. Please email Gemma.Dunstan@bbc.co.uk.



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Keep Chepstow Tidy

A big thank you to the 24 people, including 5 very enthusiastic children, who came along to the first litter pick of 2020. Together we collected 14 bags of plastic and cans for recycling and 14 bags of general waste, as well as 5 bags of glass. We cleared the slopes below the coast path - always an exciting task - as well as the streets around Garden City.

Previously our Litter Pick in November revisited the Wales Coast Path between Garden City and Bulwark, as well as the car park behind the Severn Bridge Club. We were a small group but still managed to pick up 9 bags of litter.

Our Community Litter Pick in October attracted 25 volunteers to deep-clean Piggies Hill and Bulwark Road. We were delighted to be joined by an enthusiastic group of Young Leaders from Wye Gymnastics and Galaxy Cheerleading.



Please come and join us at the next litter pick on **8th February** in [Beachley](#). You don't need to be especially fit or energetic, just willing to spend a couple of hours making your community a better place to live.



Also coming up in 2020 is Spring Clean Cymru - a month of concentrated cleaning in streets and open spaces, from Friday 20 March to Monday 13 April. In 2019 we worked with a number of organisations to Spring Clean Chepstow, and next year we hope to involve even more. If your school, youth group, business, sports club or other organisation would like to get involved, please contact litter@transitionchepstow.org.uk.



Plastic Free Chepstow

On 20th November 2019 Chepstow Mayor Tom Kirton presented the winners the prizes for Plastic Free Chepstow's Summer Challenge for 11-18 year olds to create an anti-litter message. The evening at the Methodist Church was attended by the prize-winners, parents and grandparents, partner organisations Monmouthshire County Council, Keep Wales Tidy and Chepstow Action for Youth, as well as representatives of Chepstow School and the Boys Brigade.



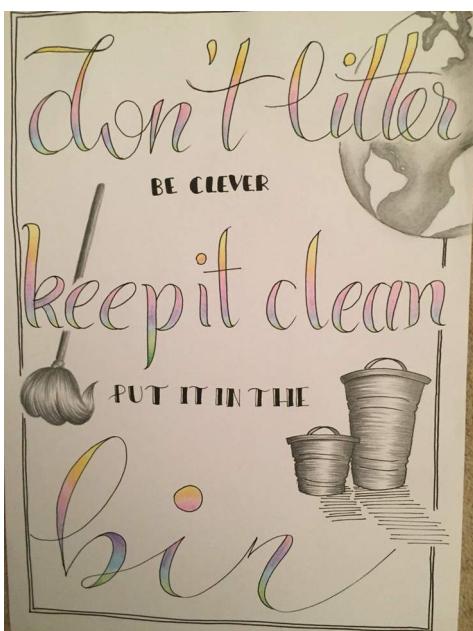
Full list of prizewinners:

11-14 years

Maddie Skidmore for her video Student
Tom Morgan for his video Reduce. Reuse.
Recycle.

15-18 years

Corentine Dumond for her poster 'Don't
Litter'



Team entries

Logan Fennel, Jonty Beales and Sonny Hart
for their video 'No to Litter'

Isabelle Briggs, Elsie Webster, Abigail Power
and Evie Bayliss for their video 'No to Litter'

Refill Chepstow now has 16 locations signed up to provide free refills for water bottles. To view these, download the Refill app - see refill.org.uk for details. If you have any suggestions for other locations please contact us at plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

Recycling - we completed a reference [guide to locations for recycling](#) hard-to-recycle items. We would love to take this further, increasing the range of items which can be recycled locally (eg through Terracycle).

Please contact us if you'd like to get involved.

Any questions? Find us on [Facebook](#) or email plasticfree@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

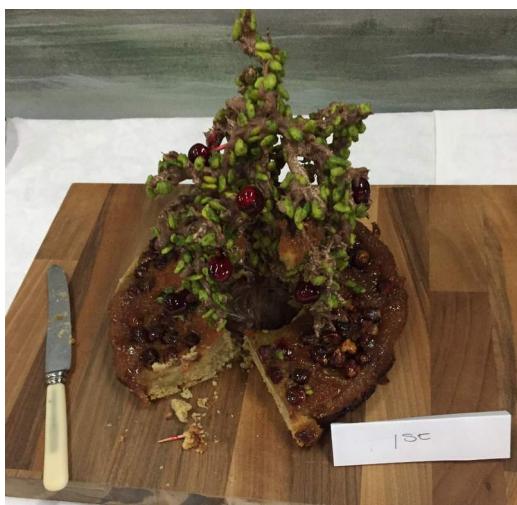
Eco Schools

Chepstow schools met in January to discuss their Eco Plans. Tim Melville, Transition Chepstow coordinator commented: "We look forward to fruitful cooperation and support in litter picking, plastic free initiatives, tree planting, walk to school and energy saving to name but a few areas of interest. Youngsters leading the way."

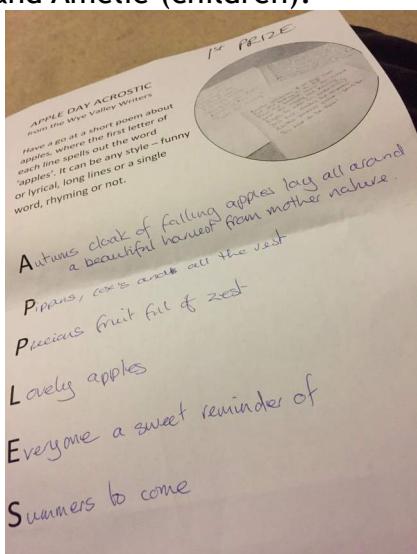


Chepstow Apple Day 2019

Another successful and well attended Apple Day was held in the Drill Hall last November, with the usual activities such as apple identification, longest apple peel and guess the number of apples. There were many visitors to the Transition Chepstow stand, especially to talk about traffic issues and proposals. The Transition raffle raised funds for Bee Friendly Monmouthshire - many thanks to local businesses Fabulous Fish, Toytastik, Tiffin, Paint On Me, Trims Towngate Butchery, Beaufort Hotel, Waitrose and Ned Heywood for generous donations.



There were 27 entries in the Cookery Competition, with the well deserved first prize going to Scott for his exquisite sculptural apple cake (above). The Apple Poetry prizes went to Bob (adults - see below) and Amelie (children).



Keep an eye on Transition Chepstow's [events page](#) for updates on all events.