



# TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

*Acting today for tomorrow*



## April 2020 Newsletter

### Transition Chepstow in a time of pandemic

With the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, all face to face meetings and events have been postponed, including the Transition Chepstow Annual General Meeting. In the current climate of lockdown Transition Chepstow will be running with a much reduced programme of activities and events until further notice.

The Steering Group held a Skype call where we learnt about the terrific work led by Tim Melville that Transition Chepstow has done to support the emerging [Chepstow Covid 19 Helping Group](#), including facilitating connections with supermarkets, organising funding from the town council for dedicated local telephone numbers and high-visibility vests for volunteers. The new group supports those in isolation with errands such as shopping and medical supplies, and is also there for social contact.

The Steering Group explored other Transition responses in our call, and one of the ideas that had good support was to look at how we respond to the potential food security threat posed by the pandemic. As a result, we are exploring possible actions or projects we could work on to address this. You can join in with the next upcoming remote meeting about improving **food resilience** locally on **Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at 8pm** (provisional date). If you would like to take part please contact [orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

If you would like to suggest other ideas to be explored otherwise, please get in touch at [info@transitioncheptow.org.uk](mailto:info@transitioncheptow.org.uk).

The spread of this pandemic reminds us how interconnected we all are. Like the ecological crisis, it exposes how unjust and unsustainable our global system is, while also highlighting our collective strengths and resilience. Communities all over the world are offering and receiving practical and emotional support. We encourage all locals to follow the national guidelines to stay healthy and protect the health and well-being of others in our community at this time.

### Covid-19 information for Chepstow

We are sharing below some links for information on the Covid-19 outbreak:

- [Government advice](#) (regularly updated. You can subscribe to gov.uk alerts [here](#))
- [Public Health Wales \(NHS\)](#) (updated daily)
- [Monmouthshire CC](#) (regularly updated information on council services)
- [Chepstow Covid 19 Helping Group](#) – a community led volunteer initiative to provide support for people and families not able to get out across Chepstow and surroundings. For details on how to get help go to the [announcements page](#).

Beware of unofficial sources of information and check the time and date of the most recent post as the situation is rapidly evolving.



[TransitionChestow.org.uk](http://TransitionChestow.org.uk)



### Health & Consciousness Group

Subsequent to the [Congestion Free Chepstow](#) public meeting recently held 16<sup>th</sup> February hosted by the *Transition Chepstow Traffic Forum Planning Group*, the planned arrangements for the proposed follow-up expert panel public meeting initiated by the [Health and Consciousness Group](#) coordinator Peter Evans, namely **Reduction and Mitigation of Air Pollution Health Hazards**, has regrettably been postponed indefinitely due to the ongoing Corona virus pandemic crisis.

However, the peculiar consequence of the pandemic and imposed self-isolation is the sudden major reduction in road vehicles and traffic congestion, together with the associated beneficial effect of the fall in hazardous air pollution levels.

As the M4 digital overhead signs state - **Air pollution kills**. A warning with added urgent importance, as epidemiological research by the Harvard University School of Public Health has linked the exacerbated increase in corona virus deaths with elevated concentrations of microparticulate air pollution.



### Plastic Free Chepstow

You can read through a report for the past year below:

[Plastic Free Chepstow Report for 2019-2020](#)

### Zero Carbon Britain course

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

The [Centre for Alternative Technology \(CAT\)](#) have just announced a new online course that will offer an in-depth look at CAT's Zero Carbon Britain research exploring the radical changes needed to rise to the climate challenge.

The course will run over two days and feature live lectures on topics from renewable energy and energy efficiency to diets and land-use. Online workshops will enable interaction between participants and lecturers, offering a rich online learning experience.

Some of the topics covered include:

- How we can provide a reliable energy supply for the UK with 100% renewable energy sources and flexible carbon neutral back up - without fossil fuels, nuclear power, or gambling on the promise of future technology.
- How we can grow the vast majority of the food we need for a healthy, low carbon diet, and manage our land to capture carbon, nurture biodiversity and increase the health and resilience of our ecosystems.
- How we can deliver a modern lifestyle, create employment, improve our wellbeing, and ensure that the future we leave for our children and generations to come is safe and sustainable.
- Understanding key barriers to change, and how we can overcome them - offering a range of other benefits in the process.
- How research can be used to support councils in developing climate emergency action plans.

To find out more about the course and the Zero Carbon Britain project visit - [www.cat.org.uk/events/zero-carbon-britain-live-online/](http://www.cat.org.uk/events/zero-carbon-britain-live-online/)

