



TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow



April 2021 Newsletter

Could you help support schools and young adults with the Transition towards a more sustainable future?

Environmental awareness amongst schoolchildren and young adults has grown significantly in recent years. The action of individuals like Greta Thunberg has increased the awareness and interest of our young people who stand to inherit a planet impacted by recent and current damaging actions. In this exciting new role, you'd help build bridges between the activity of Transition Chepstow and local young people which will involve reaching out to local schools and youth groups. You will be working with other members of the Transition Chepstow Steering Group to help develop ideas to take forward. The role is a voluntary one and whilst previous experience in this area would be ideal it is not essential. If you would like to discuss the role further, please contact Marcus via:

orchards@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

Could you be Transition Chepstow's next Treasurer?

Do you have experience of being a treasurer or handling finances? Would you like to apply your experience in a meaningful volunteer role?

We are looking for a treasurer to help look after our organisation's finances. This would include keeping a record of income and expenditure, and sharing an update at the bimonthly Steering Group meeting. The treasurer's workload is usually light and is done on a casual basis from home - although there may sometimes be spikes in activity. This role would suit someone with a methodical approach, and training and support is available from the other members of the Steering Group.

The treasurer role is vital to the running of the organisation and as our current treasurer will be stepping down in a couple of months, we need someone to take care of our finances so that our volunteers can continue their activities - and many thanks to Andrew McDermid for his work during his term.

To join our local community group and fill this vital role, please get in touch at info@transitionchepstow.org.uk by 28th May.



[TransitionChepstow.org.uk](https://www.transitionchepstow.org.uk)



Transition Monmouth Hustings for the Senedd Elections

Tuesday 26th April 2021, 7.30pm

Transition Monmouth are organising a hustings for the forthcoming elections for the Senedd, which will take place on Thursday 6 May. The Hustings will be held online and it will likely be the only opportunity we will have to meet the candidates, ask them questions, and hear what they have to say. Candidates expected to take part (in alphabetical order):

Ian Chandler - Green Party

Peter Fox - Conservative

Hugh Kocan - Plaid Cymru

Catrin Maby - Labour

Nicholas Ramsay - Independent

Jo Watkins - Lib Dem

The Hustings will be facilitated by Haydn Cullen-Jones, and if you want to ask a question he is asking that you send this by email to him at haydncj@hotmail.com by noon on Tuesday 27 April.

For the link for Google Meet or Zoom or for more information, visit the Transition Monmouth website:

<https://transitionmonmouth.org/category/news/>

Help us Run a Climate Challenge for Chepstow

As Chepstow begins to emerge from the Coronavirus, it will be tempting to hope that everything will go back to normal and we can carry on just as we did before. We know, however, that is unlikely to be the case. The impact of the climate emergency is becoming ever more pressing and everyone will have to play a role if we really are to limit warming to just 1.5 degrees and if we are to achieve real zero carbon by 2050. It will not be sufficient to leave everything up to national and local governments. Every member of our community will have to play a part, taking action to reduce our own carbon footprint and sustaining this into the future. We will have to reduce our dependence on internal combustion engines,

limit the number of flights we take each year, modify our diets and really look at the carbon footprint of all aspects of our lives. Action at the community level will be essential to achieve the targets we have to reach.

In November, just over six months away, the United Kingdom is hosting the 26th UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26). This conference is extremely important and it will need to agree and then start implementing the agenda for effective action to tackle climate warming for many years to come. Between now and November 2021, therefore, there is likely to be ever increasing attention focusing on these and other issues.

Transition Chepstow believes that this is an ideal opportunity to raise awareness about climate warming in Chepstow and to help people identify what we all will need to do in the next few years. We would like to have a series of events over the next six months in our communities to raise awareness, discuss what needs to be done and to challenge everyone to make their own contribution. Dealing with the climate emergency is not something we can leave to other people, we will all be affected. At present we only have outline ideas including both virtual and face-to face meetings and discussions, displays throughout the town and the neighbouring areas and a possible climate warming challenge. We would like to put together a small team to help organise these series of activities and are looking for volunteers with many different skills and expertise to take part. If you are interested and would like to help please do get in touch. Everyone is welcome and everyone will have something to offer.

If you would like to be part of the team or if you would just like to find out more, please contact us at info@transitionchepstow.org.uk.



UK's first sustainable transport plan for a town

Taking forward the interest shown in the bottleneck traffic jams at High Beech Roundabout at the public meetings in 2019 and 2020, the Transport Group have been looking at the various modes of transport across Chepstow and the surrounding areas. We are now ready to share with Members our vision of Chepstow transport in the future, supported by a list of specific actions that will help to realise it. It can be found [here](#) - comments welcome. Subsequently, we plan to share this with local and regional government, and like-minded organisations and get support, both mind-share and financial, to make a difference to residents of Chepstow. As far as we know, Chepstow will be the first town in the UK to have such a [Transport Vision and Action Plan](#). We are not a group of Transport experts. Rather we are a group of concerned individuals who want to make Chepstow a better place to live now and in the future. If you are interested then please review the document, and if you are willing and able to help then please get in touch via transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk.

Chepstow Community Fridge

Community Fridges are an important weapon in combatting food waste. The concept is simple: in-date, good quality food which would otherwise be wasted is collected from retailers or other sources, and made available for free to anyone who wants it.

Locally, community fridges are already established in Monmouth and Caldicot. Now Chepstow is to get its own Community Fridge. A small group of volunteers, with support from the Town and County Councils and other organisations, is currently looking at possible locations and working on the details. If you know of a suitable venue - accessible to the public with good parking - or would like to get involved in the project, please contact Jenni Brews on jenni@affinityevents.co.uk.



Air pollution issues remain a transport priority

Over one year after the pandemic general lockdown that resulted in a sharp decline in road vehicle numbers and attendant traffic congestion, the recent relaxation of travel restrictions has now reverted traffic to near pre-covid-19 high levels. The withdrawal of many public bus and train services, together with the understandable personal concerns by car drivers for the risks of coronavirus viral transmission during car sharing, has further exacerbated this issue. Regrettably, the associated recurrent major issues of worsening exhaust air pollution and the allied hazards to personal health and the climate emergency, have reappeared. The introduction of the [Clean Air Bill](#) by the Wales Senedd is indicative of the importance of the topic to the health of the public. Evidence indicates that elevated levels of air pollution are also an adverse risk factor in the prevalence of covid-19 infections. With the pending Senedd election on 6th May, people are encouraged to ensure that their views on these issues are directly presented to the various political candidates.

- Peter Evans, Health & Consciousness Group Coordinator

