



# TRANSITION CHEPSTOW

Acting today for tomorrow

## June 2021 Newsletter



### Extraordinary General Meeting

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, 8:30-9:30pm

You are invited to Transition Chepstow's Extraordinary General Meeting to consider the election of:

- Rebecca Brown as Treasurer until 31/3/22
- Veronika Norman as Youth & Schools coordinator

To attend please join with Google Meet:

[meet.google.com/rxp-xphc-vi4](https://meet.google.com/rxp-xphc-vi4)



### Spring Clean Cymru

Our enthusiastic teams of volunteers have been meeting regularly for community litter picks together with other organisations in the local area. We opened Spring Clean Cymru fortnight (28 May to 13 June) in the town centre and riverbank area, then supported the Woolpitch Wood Community Orchard team on their first ever litter pick and joined with Garden City Community Group for an evening clean-up. Volunteers from Keep Chepstow Tidy and Chepstow and Caldicot Lions participated in a litter pick organised by Keep Wales Tidy in Warren Slade woods and along the Coast Path. Finally on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June a record 27 adults and children turned out for the Sedbury Community Litter Pick, organised as part of the Tidenham Parish ECO-project with help from Sedbury Space, 1st Sedbury & Tidenham Scout Group, Wyedean School and Wye Valley Greenway Volunteers.



Many thanks to the organisations and individuals who helped to make this year's Spring Clean such a success. On a couple of occasions, we have noticed a reduction in the amount of litter usually found. We hope this may indicate that fewer people are dropping litter - though we suspect that it also has a lot to do with the local heroes who pick up regularly. Well done!

Check out the [Keep Chepstow Tidy](#) page for dates and locations of all the litter picks in Chepstow. More volunteers always welcome! All equipment supplied but please bring your mask and hand sanitiser, and a pair of stout gloves if you can.

If you can't make it, why not take a bag when you go out and pick up some litter on your street or on your walk? It all makes a difference.



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





### Transition Chepstow and Climate Warming: 'Wye tackle climate change!'

Climate change is affecting all of us and everyone has a role to play in making sure that we can reach net zero carbon as soon as possible and ensuring a sustainable future. In the run-up to the [COP26](#) conference in Glasgow in November, Transition Chepstow is planning to launch new activities to raise awareness of the issues around a rapidly warming climate and to help people understand what they can do as individuals and in their communities. These include:

- Tree planting in and around Chepstow
- Providing Information for and raising awareness among local communities to help everyone to reduce their carbon footprints
- A competition for schools and youth groups to develop campaign materials about climate change

#### Wye Tackle Climate Change! Competition

The objective of the competition will be to prepare materials for a campaign to make everyone, but especially those under 20, aware of the need for action now and to help identify what people can do in their own lives to reduce their carbon footprints. Where possible, selected entries will be provided with appropriate professional advice and help to work up their contributions into campaigns that can be run in Chepstow and the surrounding communities both before and after COP26.

We expect groups of young people, working through local schools and youth groups, to prepare suitable material using appropriate media, including written material, photographic or visual art, performance art or music, and audio or video and to prepare an outline of a campaign for how this can be used to appeal to different audiences. We will offer prizes to the best entrants in three age categories: junior schools, that is, 11 years & under; 12-15 years old; and those aged 16 and over. We hope to launch the competition in July, for entries to be in by the end of September and with judging to be completed by the end of October.

If you would like to be involved in any of these activities in the run-up to COP26 and beyond, please do get in touch through our [Facebook Page](#), or by email to [info@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:info@transitionchepstow.org.uk).

### Monmouthshire's Active Travel Consultation

Monmouthshire County Council would be very grateful for your time to contribute to a consultation on Active Travel. This consultation is a legal requirement for all local authorities and will help in determining priorities for investment in the physical infrastructure of roads/paths suitable for cycling and walking and associated facilities.

Please comment by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 on:

<https://mccactivetravelconsultation.commonplace.is/>

If you mention Transition Chepstow's Sustainable Transport Plan that would be a bonus!





### Water supply disruption exacerbates ongoing High Beech traffic congestion and air pollution woes

The recent episode of major traffic disruption related to the week-long roadworks undertaken by Dwr Cymru Welsh Water supply repairs located at the Community Hospital A466 traffic junction has caused severe congestion, inordinate delays and health hazardous air pollution, together with adverse economic costs, driver stress and personal frustration. A dire situation further exacerbated by the temporary traffic control being restricted to a confined 4-part single lane sequence. As a consequence, the resultant traffic logjams frequently extended from the racecourse all the way to the notorious High Beech A466/A48 roundabout, a bottleneck junction already regrettably plagued by inadequate and evidently intractable traffic flow mis-management problems.

A thorough reassessment of the legal rules, regulatory policy procedures, and actual practices concerning the implementation of the various water, gas and cable infrastructure utility companies liaising in conjunction with the responsible MCC and related highway authorities, is clearly essential and long overdue. Hopefully the resultant traffic chaos will be carefully minimised in similar scenarios in future. The expectation is that the newly elected local and Senedd politicians will now ensure that the issues are effectively tackled as a matter of urgent priority.

### First sustainable transport plan for a town in Wales

A group of concerned Chepstow residents brought together by Transition Chepstow have worked together in light of the challenges facing the community to identify a range of actions that could be taken to make dramatic progress towards creating a sustainable place to live. The challenges are large in this fast-changing world; from climate change and pollution to societal, economic and technological changes. As a group our initial focus was on congestion in Chepstow but as we campaigned for traffic improvements it became clear through the public meetings that so much more could be done. By doing an inventory of transport related issues our focus changed to considering transport as a whole. This, we felt, was an area that wasn't getting enough focus and that in which we could make a significant difference. The group has created a vision and picture of future travel to guide us in our action planning.

You can view a [Summary](#) or the full [Transport Plan](#) on the Transition Chepstow web site.

If you are able to help in any way, we would welcome you to the group - please contact us at [transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk](mailto:transport@transitionchepstow.org.uk). We are especially looking for people with an interest in driving the greater adoption of Active Travel. We look forward to working with the community and making Chepstow a better place to live.





### Repair Cafe Wales

Monday 28th June 2021, 7-8pm

[Repair Cafe Wales](#) is a community interest company which fixes household items for free at monthly events all over Wales. These events aim to achieve a vision of a society empowered to work together to reduce waste, share skills and strengthen our communities. The organisation is made up of incredible volunteers who get together at the Repair Cafe venue and fix items that the public bring in at zero cost, so they even save people money in the process!

Anyone in Monmouthshire looking to start a repair cafe in their local community or anyone who would like to learn more about how repair cafes work is welcome to an upcoming virtual information evening. Please see and share the event on [Facebook](#).

