

SHOTTON TOWN COUNCIL CYNGOR DREF



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



INTRODUCTION:

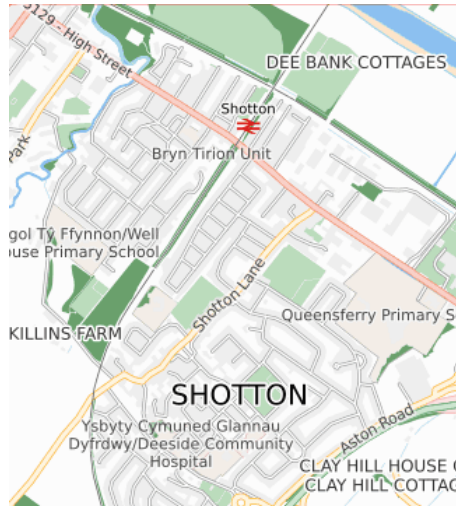
Welcome to the 2nd Shotton Town Council Annual Report 2022-2023.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ("the 2021 Act") was passed on 20 January 2021. It provides for the establishment of a reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance.

Purpose of the provisions

There is support across the sector and from the public for increasing the visibility of the work of community councils. We want communities to take an interest in what their councils do and to have easy access to information on the council's work. The requirements in relation to annual reports, training plans, multi-location meetings and public participation are designed to support this intent. There is also support to empower community councils to enable them to be more innovative and ambitious when delivering for their community.

The provisions allow that where a council meets certain criteria, specified by legislation, they can resolve themselves as 'eligible community councils', able to exercise a general power of competence. Shotton is currently not eligible but may become so in the future.



About Shotton

Shotton is a town and community in Flintshire, Wales, within the Deeside conurbation along the River Dee, joined with Connah's Quay, near the border with England. It is located 5 miles (8 km) west of Chester and can be reached by road from the A548.

Shotton has a population of around 6663 people residing in its 3 wards.

Founded by Anglo-Saxons, the town grew from the 18th century around coal mining and farming on reclaimed marshland. Shotton also became a railway junction. The John Summers & Sons steelworks was established in 1896 on a six acre site. At its peak it employed over 13,000. Following nationalisation in 1967, the works became part of the British Steel Corporation. Although known as Shotton Steelworks, the majority of the large plant owned by Tata Steel since 2006, is in neighbouring Connah's Quay.

The town lies under the Hawarden Bridge, which was completed in 1889 as a swing-opening bridge.



The Council

What is a town council? This is the lowest level of local government in Wales. They are based on geographical areas governed by rules laid down by the Boundaries Commission and Shotton Town Council seeks to serve and represent the needs of the community of Shotton.

Powers of a town council are very limited but services provided by a town council can include but are not restricted to:

Christmas street lighting and displays, match funding for play area equipment, grants to local organisations, maintenance of town council adopted street lighting and alleyways and signposting electors to correct stakeholders.

The town is further sub-divided up into smaller geographical areas called wards. Shotton has three – Higher, East and West.

Your community council is the local tier of elected and co-opted representatives for your community. There are 37 Town and Community Councils in Flintshire. Councillors provide a bridge between the community and the council.

Elections for councillors (currently fourteen) are held every 5 years, whereby the residents of the Town (each ward) are asked to elect between four (4) and six (6) (depending on ward size) to represent the interests of that ward and the general interests of the Town.

The Town Council annually appoints one of the councillors to the position of Chair of the Council, who will during their term of office, represents the Town Council at various events/functions.

The members of Shotton Town Council are volunteers who stand for election because they care about the community.

Councillors

The Chairman for 2022-23 was Councillor Gary Cooper and the Vice Chair was Councillor Christopher Risley.

There are 14 members of the Town Council consisting of:

Councillors Sean Bibby, Doreen Mackie, Dean Stenner, Elwyn Jones, Gillian Brockley, Ron Davies, Kelly Evans-Brown, Gary Cooper, David Evans, Michael Evans, Tom Oldfield, Angela Engle, Christopher Risley and Dean Ashfield.

Members can be contacted by contacting the office or by following the link on the website:

<https://www.shotton-tc.co.uk/contact-us/>

Committees:

Shotton Town Council operates 2 committees. Neither committee has delegated powers but form recommendations to take to full council for resolution.

Sub Finance Committee:

Councillors Gary Cooper, Doreen Mackie, Elwyn Jones, Kelly Evans-Brown, Ron Davies, Christopher Risley and Sean Bibby.

Joint Maintenance Committee:

Councillors Elwyn Jones, Gary Cooper, Sean Bibby, Angela Engle, Christopher Risley, Michael Evans.

Outside bodies:

Interservices Committee – Councillor Sean Bibby

School Governors:

Ysgol Ty Ffynnon – (Minor Authority) – Dean Stenner

St Ethelwolds VP School – (LEA) Councillor Gary Cooper & (Minor Authority) – Councillor Gillian Brockley

Venerable Edward Morgan RC – (LEA) Councillor Doreen Mackie & (Minor Authority) – Kelly Evans-Brown

Croes Atti – (Minor Authority) Councillor Gillian Brockley

Clerk

The Council employs a part time clerk (Proper Officer to the Council) who also acts as the Responsible Financial Officer. The clerk provides advice and administrative support and takes action to implement council decisions.

Office address:

Clerk and Financial Officer

Mrs Collette Lowry

Council Office Alexandra St.

Shotton CH5 1DL

01244 822119

Email: townclerk@shotton-tc.co.uk

Website: www.shotton-tc.co.uk

Agendas & notices including annual returns can be viewed on the website and the official Town Council noticeboard under the Shotton railway bridge.

Organisation

The Town Council:

- Raises an annual precept to fund expenditure.

- Funds community council owned street lighting in the villages and in recent years upgraded these to LED reducing costs and the carbon footprint.
- Holds a joint agreement with Hawarden Community Council to provide various services & maintenance to Town Council assets including the North Street, 33 Club and King George Street play areas, and the 33 Club and King George Street playing fields and also the maintenance of number of back alleys within the wards of Shotton.
- Holds an agreement with Shotton Cricket Club who then manage the playing fields on North Street.
- Takes responsibility for the Harry Weale Memorial Garden and the Steel Man sculpture.
- Holds a joint agreement with Connah's Quay for Remembrance Day services.
- Is responsible for the Christmas lighting along the main road in Shotton.
- Considers annually match funding the Summer Playscheme in Partnership with Flintshire County Council for local children and young people.
- Considers and responds to Flintshire County Council on planning applications within the wards of Shotton.
- Considers one off financial assistance to help support local groups and organisations.
- Contributes to match funding play equipment within Shotton.
- Contributes to community projects.
- Listens to residents issues and liaises with relevant officers such as Streetscene and local partners to improve quality of life.
- Works alongside North Wales Police to improve community safety.



(The Christmas tree light displays along the high street in Shotton.)

Relationship with Flintshire County Council :

- Shotton Town Council has 3 County Councillors who are also Town Councillors. They represent the wards at County Council level and relay issues raised at Town Council meetings. The 3 County Council members for Shotton are:
Councillor David Evans (East), Councillor Ron Davies (Higher) and Councillor Sean Bibby (West).
- Shotton Town Council fund the summer play schemes that are organised and managed by Flintshire County Council. For the 2022/23 year there were play schemes operating at the 33 Club over 5 weeks of the summer holiday period.
- The Town Council lease the land for the Harry Weale War Memorial and the 33 Club Recreational Ground from the County Council for a nominal fee.
- The Town Council also has a close working relationship with Flintshire County Council regarding the Streetscene Department.

Meetings

Excluding bank holidays, The Town Council usually hold their full council meetings on the first Monday of every month (with the exception of August which is a council recess). The dates and location of meetings can be found on the town council website.

Financial Information:

The precept agreed for 2022/2023 was £114,279.00

The planned expenditure for 2022-2023 was budgeted at £162,515

The actual expenditure for 2022-2023 was £142,819.

The precept is the council tax that the billing authority (Flintshire County Council) collects on behalf of a town or community council. The precept is calculated as part of the town council's budget; it fills the gap between the town council's planned expenditure and its estimated income.

The qualified audited accounts for the council can be found here:

<https://www.shotton-tc.co.uk/category/finance/>

Community Engagement & Events

- Shotton Town Council remain involved with the Interservices Committee and share the costs of the combines services with Connahs Quay Town Council.
- The Town Council engages with the businesses for a St. David's Day competition.
- The council also annually make a donation for the community Christmas tree erected at The Melrose Inn on Central Drive and install miniature Christmas trees & lighting along the main road of Shotton.
- Shotton Town Council will review further community development in future years but is currently closely monitoring the budget.
- The town council lease out the playing fields to local football clubs for a non-profit fee.



(Councillor Gary Cooper presenting The Clothes Place with their 1st prize award for the St. David's day competition.)

Training Plan

Section 67 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires town and community councils to make and publish a training plan about training provision for its members and staff. The training plan should reflect on and address whether the council collectively has the skills and knowledge it needs to deliver its aims and objectives in an effective manner. The training plan includes councillors and members of staff.

The training plan will be developed over the coming years and will be available on the council website.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

It will make the public bodies listed in the act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach.

This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the act puts in place 7 well-being goals.

Well-being goals

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The council supports these wellbeing goals and will consider them when making future decisions that affect people's lives within the local community.

Priorities:

- Continue liaison with North Wales Police
- Continue to encourage community groups by contributing financially
- Continue to develop links with local organisations & businesses
- Continue to support Welsh culture and promote St. David's day
- Continue to develop & encourage environmentally friendly practices.

The council, although limited in its powers, will strive to implement and follow procedures lawfully and for the benefit of the community.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Recognising the central role that biodiversity plays and therefore the need to integrate and embed its protection and enhancement across the public sector in Wales, the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced the section 6 biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty. The duty requires that public authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales, and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. To comply with the duty public authorities should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities.

The current Biodiversity Report for Shotton can be found here:

<https://www.shotton-tc.co.uk/stc-biodiversity-report-2022-23/>

2022-2023 summary

- The Town Council were very pleased to be able to offer financial assistance to Ysgol Ty Ffynnon, Shotton Walkers, St. Ethelwolds School, and Aston Senior Citizens, Manley Court Tenants Association and Deeside Community Hospital League of Friends this financial year.
- Chair, Councillor Gary Cooper also made many donations to organisations and schools from his Chair's allowance.
- The town council saw many operational changes in this financial year including:
The introduction of Facebook, update of the website and improved use of the notice board to encourage community engagement.
The re-commissioning of the town defibrillator.
Increased business interaction with the Chair having the pleasure of opening new business Bloomin Baked.

Increased clerk networking and attendance of seminars and training
Increased analysis of council finances.
Introduction of on-line facilities for council meetings.
Increased maintenance and attention to town council assets.
Improved engagement with the police via CA/ALM meetings.
Improved I.T. systems to enable efficient working methods.
Introduction of on-line banking.

- The Council also had the pleasure of being involved with the Menter Iaith St. David's Day best business window competition, and also the Chair visited the schools for assemblies.
They were also proud to offer a Royal book of condolence which was held at Rivertown Church.



(Councillor Gary Cooper presenting Ysgol Ty Ffynnon with a donation from his Chair's allowance to assist towards purchasing water bottles for the school.)

Aspirations For the Coming Year

- Continue to serve the local community and its residents.
- Continue to review the financial position of the council and research grants.
- Support local businesses and community groups in achieving their objectives.
- Develop a new compliant and community friendly website.
- The Clerk to continue CiLCA training.