

**Cleobury
Mortimer**
Town Council



Cleobury Mortimer Town Council Annual Report 2021-2022



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
QUALITY GOLD

Cleobury Mortimer Parish Boundary



Chair's Introduction



A welcoming community
proud of its historic past
that looks forward
to a thriving and sustainable future.



Looking back over the last 2 years, this has been an incredibly challenging time for both the Town Council and everyone in the local community partly due to the Covid pandemic and more recently due to the cost of living crisis. The day to day work of the Council continued throughout 2021 – with more streetlight improvements, completion of projects and planning of new ones. We were also able to resume face to face council meetings in 2021.

I would like thank all our volunteers, community organisations and local helpers who look after our community, such as the Food Bank volunteers, Cleobury CoCo, The Community Hub, litter pickers, the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, our Tree Wardens and our Transport Champion to name but a few. We also appreciate the input of our Council staff who keep everything running smoothly, with particular thanks to our RFO Dot McBride who has stepped up in the last few months to cover the duties of the Council Clerk.

As we look forward to the future we will be introducing the 'Love Cleobury' initiative in conjunction with St. Mary's church (more details later in this report).

We said farewell to Councillor Andy Goold and we sincerely thank him for his incredible hard work and service to the Town Council.



Vision for Cleobury 2036

We would like to remind you of our vision - developed at the Town Plan Meeting January 2018

- ❖ People of all ages live happily and enjoy a strong sense of community and the security that this brings
- ❖ There is a state of the art community hub that meets the needs of all sectors of the community
- ❖ The age profile of the community will be balanced because suitable housing will be available for people and families in all phases of their lives
- ❖ There is a well-connected public transport system that allows people of all ages and mobility to travel on foot or by bus on safe, convenient and direct routes
- ❖ Access to the beautiful countryside is available to all with good connections between rural and urban areas



Vision for Cleobury 2036 (continued)

- ❖ There is a prosperous local economy that meets the needs of the town and surrounding villages and that provides well-paid local jobs, including working from home
- ❖ The town centre is vibrant and meets the needs of local people so that they are not forced to travel long distances to access services
- ❖ Mental and physical health is good for all members of the community because there are ample opportunities to exercise, meet others, and obtain specialist support when it is required
- ❖ There is energy self-sufficiency and the opportunity to benefit from renewable sources of energy and cleaner energy including vehicle charging points
- ❖ Green spaces are improved and enhanced, and local trees of importance are protected.
- ❖ Tourists will visit and contribute to the local economy



'Love Cleobury'



Throughout 2022 and into 2023 we will be inviting you all to contribute to the 'Love Cleobury' initiative developed in conjunction with St. Mary's Church.

The 'Love Cleobury' initiative is to ask this community to support and care for ALL who live here.

Cleobury Mortimer is a welcoming Town that looks forward to a thriving and sustainable future.

We welcome all who live here, and also those who will join us in the years to come.

Please do what you can, however small, to let others know that they are welcome here and part of this community.

Let our guiding principle be: Never look down on someone unless you are helping them up.



Neighbourhood Plan 2020-36

- A Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) for Cleobury's Future is planned to go through both public consultation and a public referendum in the coming year. The referendum must achieve a simple majority public vote in order to become law and part of Shropshire's Local Plan.
- The NDP requires negotiation and agreement with landowners prepared to provide the land needed. This benefits local people as it includes important factors such as preserving Cleobury's heritage, meeting housing and business development needs, as well as providing and protecting new green space, trees, habitats and footpaths.
- The NDP will be widely consulted on and strives to balance the needs of existing residents, with the development needs of Cleobury Mortimer. The government set national housing development requirements for the country, which in turn Shropshire Council apply proportionately to different areas of the county, including Cleobury Mortimer. The NDP ensures the community needs drive the plan and we work constructively with landowners who make suitable land available for development.
- The plan is being developed by a broad based team of volunteers before it comes to the Town Council for adoption.
- Over the last 12 months we have been working with Shropshire Council planning and highways, landowners and external consultants. A proposed site on land off Ludlow Road has been allocated for further assessment. This meets community needs identified within the NDP for housing development, recreational land and additional cemetery space.
- Further land for business development is also identified for further assessment at New House Industrial Estate, Tenbury Road.



Completed

- Installation of solar lighting in the QEII Park



- Improved drainage works carried out in the QEII Park





- Working with Shropshire Council to deliver improved speed management measures at Newbridge Corner
- Continuing the rolling replacement of all streetlights to LED
- Improvements to the Christmas lights
- Removal concrete street light columns
- New steps from Playing Field to the QEII Park.



Cleobury Food Bank was established in October 2019 to relieve food poverty and financial hardship in Cleobury Mortimer and the surrounding area. It is a collaborative project managed by the Town Council, St. Mary's Church and St. Elizabeth's Church. The Food Bank is open on Friday Mornings from 9.30 to 11.30 am and operates on the ground floor of the Market Hall in Church Street.

When comparing performance from 2020 to 2021 the Food Bank distributed as below:

Year	Adult parcels	Child parcels	Total
2020	281	249	530
2021	647	397	1044

This indicates an increase of Food Bank usage almost double the previous year, with the largest increase in adults (an increase of 130% - particularly single adult households).

There were 37 new referrals in 2021.

- The local community, neighbouring parishes, organisations and Churches have continued to be incredibly generous with donations of both food and cash throughout 2021. The Food Bank has their own dedicated Facebook page and provides regular posts giving information about which items are in short supply.
- **Financial Pressures of 2021**

Several factors contributed to the financial pressures placed on households in 2021. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Covid-19 pandemic**
- **Benefit reductions**
- **Soaring energy costs**
- **Rising food costs**



Using Social Media



The Town Council Facebook page has over 1100 followers and is a valuable tool to promote events, quickly alert the community to local issues and concerns such as road closures and develop a stronger community link.

Projects we would like to support in 22/23



- ❖ Working with Shropshire Council to install bollards to improve pedestrian safety and discourage unsafe parking on pavements.
- ❖ Refurbish bus shelters.
- ❖ Install Vehicle Activated Speed Signs at both ends of the town.
- ❖ Continue with improvements to the Wells.
- ❖ Painting Market Hall and Cemetery railings.
- ❖ Refurbish High Street benches and bins.
- ❖ Refurbish Youth Shelter in QEII Park.



Financial Summary 2021/22

Financial Summary 2021/22								
	18/19 Actual	19/20 Budget	19/20 Actual	20/21 Budget	20/21 Actual	21/22 Budget	21/22 Actual*	Notes
Income								
Precept	112,200	115,000	115,000	116,749	116,749	116,749	116,749	1
Other Income	42,923	70,600	31,446	20,600	91,282	30,700	48,743	2
Total Income	155,123	185,600	146,446	137,349	208,031	147,449	165,492	
Expenditure								
Salaries + Travel/Training	57,520	64,400	63,120	61,800	66,340	71,800	70,621	
Office costs - rent, rates, supplies	5,740	7,550	6,939	7,300	9,453	8,500	11,154	
Capital Projects	0	60,000	81,205	1,000	3,070	1,000	25,539	3
Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard	10,152	13,550	18,600	13,800	10,491	13,930	11,464	4
Asset Maintenance, Lighting, CCTV & Community Projects	63,394	32,750	31,655	33,000	25,594	28,600	38,478	5
Fees & Subs, VAT	15,834	16,100	28,270	16,200	11,102	16,450	17,830	
Donations to Community Groups	3,036	5,000	4,190	6,000	3,246	6,500	1,780	
Total Expenditure	155,676	199,350	233,979	139,100	129,296	146,780	176,866	
Net Total	-553	-13,750	-87,533	-1,751	78,735	669	-11,374	
Reserves	152,974	106,250	65,441	123,249	144,175	130,863	152,798	6
Notes:								
* Draft Accounts - to be audited								
1. Precept is a charge per household, through Council Tax								
2. Community Infrastructure Levy, Grants, Cemetery Income, Donations								
3. Projects including QEII Solar Lighting, Drainage and steps to Playing Field; removal of old concrete street lighting columns								
4. Love Lane Play Area, Playing Field, QEII Park, Cemetery, Churchyard and Memorial Garden								
5. Wells, Toilets, Bus Shelters, Street Lighting, CCTV, Festival, Christmas								
6. Closing balance held for earmarked projects, working capital and contingencies								

Your Town Council Staff Team

Matt Sheehan
Town Clerk



Dorothy McBride
Finance Officer



Theresa Ray
Cemetery Administrator



Roger Potter
Maintenance

Derek Pead
Maintenance



Your Town Councillors – March 2022



Debbie
Brown
Chair



Geoff
Hainsworth



Alexander
Smith



Patrick
Buck



Paul
French



John
Greaves

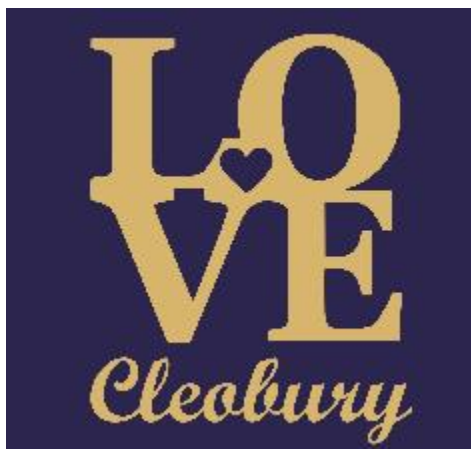


Guy James

Neil
Tysall (Vice
Chair)



For more information go to: www.cleobury.org.uk



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