

**Cleobury
Mortimer**
Town Council



Cleobury Mortimer Town Council Annual Report 2022-23



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.



In April 2023, Cllr Deborah Brown stepped down as a Councillor and Chair of Cleobury Mortimer Town Council after many years of service to our community. Debbie will continue her work leading the Cleobury Mortimer Food Bank which has seen unprecedented demand over the past two years. I feel incredibly privileged to have the opportunity to succeed Debbie in the role of Chair after three years as serving as a Town Councillor.

We also said goodbye to our Town Clerk, Matt Sheehan, who decided to take early retirement after a long illness. Matt has been a familiar figure in the town, and we wish him well for the future. Dot McBride was appointed as Town Clerk and RFO after and started in post on 1st April 2023.

Looking back over the last year, this has been an incredibly challenging time for both the Town Council and everyone in the local community due to the ongoing cost of living crisis which has had an impact on us all. I would like to thank all of our community volunteers who have helped many of our more vulnerable residents with food, transport, support and friendship during these difficult times.

Over the past year two of our Councillors, Paul French and Alex Smith, stepped down after many years serving the community and their contribution to the Town will be missed. We welcomed Sally Burns as she joined the Town Council last year and we are hoping to fill the two remaining vacancies soon.



Vision for Cleobury 2023-2026

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

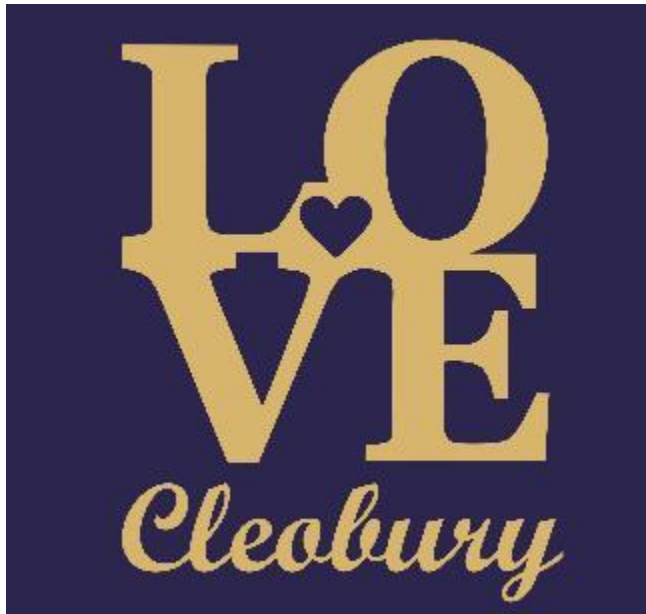


Vision for Cleobury 2023-2026 (continued)

- ❖ 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'



We continue to invite 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 2022-36

- 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 NDP requires negotiation and agreement with landowners who are prepared to provide the land needed. This benefits local people as it includes important factors such as preserving the town's heritage, meeting housing and business development needs, creating jobs as well as providing and protecting new green space, trees, habitats and footpaths.
- The plan was developed by a broad-based team of volunteers comprising of local residents and three Town Councillors. It has taken over three years to develop a deliverable plan supported by local landowners, the Town Council and Shropshire Planning team.
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) went through public consultation in the summer of 2022 and was approved by the Town Council before submission to Shropshire Council for the next consultation stage (Regulation 16) in early 2023.
- The Regulation 16 consultation was completed in early March 2023 and the next step will be the appointment of an independent examiner who will assess the plan to ensure it meets the statutory requirements. We are hoping this will commence in June 2023 with the final report submitted to Shropshire Council in September.
- Once the findings from the examiner have been addressed, the NDP will go to a public referendum organised by Shropshire Electoral Services. The referendum must achieve a simple majority public vote in order to become law and part of Shropshire's Local Plan and we are hoping this will take place towards the end of 2023.

Projects completed in 2022/23

Completed

- Installation of more dog waste bins:



- Installation of dog waste bag dispensers:



- Commissioned and installed the Jubilee Beacon:



- Installation of planters on the High Street and outside the Parish Hall:



Projects completed in 2022/23

Completed

- Installation of vehicle activated signs:
- Replacement of 2 new bus shelters on the High Street:



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 with 3 co-ordinators and a rota of local volunteers.

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.

From 2020 to 2022 the Food Bank distributed aid as below:

Year	Adult parcels	Child parcels	Total
2020	281	249	530
2021	647	397	1044
2022	988	620	1608

This indicates an increase of Food Bank usage of nearly 60% from 2021 – 2022. There were 65 new referrals 2020 – 2022.

In 2023 the Food Bank will be seeking independent charitable status.



- The local community, neighbouring parishes, organisations, individuals and both churches have continued to be incredibly generous with donations of both food and cash throughout 2022. 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 2022

- **Effects of record inflation:** The Independent Food Aid Network reported in February 2023 that 89% of food banks surveyed across the United Kingdom experienced higher demand in 2022, largely due to increases in the cost of living. Inflation hit a 41-year high of 11.1% in October.
- **Spiraling food costs:** The cost of food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by 16.9% in the 12 months to December 2022, according to the ONS. This was the biggest increase in any of the different components of consumer price inflation, according to the report.
- **Soaring energy bills:** Gas and electricity prices continued to rise rapidly in 2022 compared to the previous year. The ONS reported that almost six in 10 adults were using less fuel in their homes because of rising costs. Electricity prices in the UK rose by 66.7% and gas prices by 129.4% over the course of 2022, according to the ONS.



Using Social Media



The Town Council Facebook page has over 1200 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, alongside other local community group pages.



- Work with Shropshire Council to deliver improved speed management measures at Newbridge Corner.
- Work with Shropshire Council to deliver improvements to the pavements and public paths.
- Complete the rolling replacement of all streetlights to LED.
- Further improvements to the Christmas lights.



Projects we would like to support in 23/24



- ❖ Working with Shropshire Council to enable continued improvements to the High street.
- ❖ Supporting the installation of 12 EV charging points in our public car parks.
- ❖ Continue with improvements to the QEII Park.
- ❖ Painting Market Hall and Cemetery railings.
- ❖ Refurbish High Street benches and bins.
- ❖ Refurbish Youth Shelter in QEII Park.



**Cleobury
Mortimer**
Town Council

Financial Summary 2022/23								
		20/21 Budget	20/21 Actual	21/22 Budget	21/22 Actual	22/23 Budget	22/23 Actual*	Notes
Income								
Precept		116,749	116,749	116,749	116,749	116,749	116,749	1
Other Income		20,600	91,282	30,700	48,743	30,820	69,821	2
Total Income		137,349	208,031	147,449	165,492	147,569	186,570	
Expenditure								
Salaries + Travel/Training		61,800	66,340	71,800	70,621	74,800	64,336	
Office costs - rent, rates, supplies		7,300	9,453	8,500	11,154	8,700	12,276	
Capital Projects		1,000	3,070	1,000	25,539	1,500	5,954	3
Parks, Cemetery and Churchyard		13,800	10,491	13,930	11,464	16,100	13,989	4
Asset Maintenance, Lighting, CCTV & Community Projects		33,000	25,594	28,600	38,478	23,500	41,291	5
Fees & Subs, VAT		16,200	11,102	16,450	17,830	15,900	16,397	
Donations to Community Groups		6,000	3,246	6,500	1,780	7,000	2,396	
Total Expenditure		139,100	129,296	146,780	176,866	147,500	156,639	
Net Total		-1,751	78,735	669	-11,374	69	29,931	
Reserves		123,249	164,172	130,863	152,798	167,175	184,766	6
Notes:								
* Draft Accounts								
1. Precept is a charge per household, through Council Tax								
2. Community Infrastructure Levy, Grants, Cemetery Income, Donations								
3. Projects including installation of Vehicle Activated Signs and Street Planters								
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

Dorothy McBride
Town Clerk



Samantha Dolphin
Deputy Town Clerk



Theresa Ray
Cemetery Administrator



Richard Skellern
Maintenance



Derek Pead
Maintenance



Your Town Councillors – March 2023



John
Greaves
(Chair)

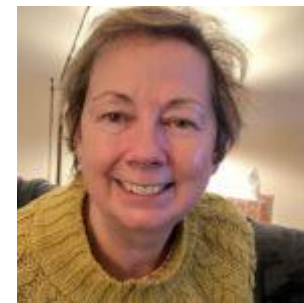


Geoff
Hainsworth



Patrick
Buck

Sally
Burns

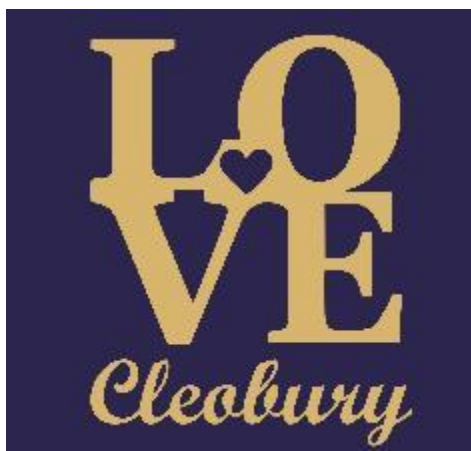


Guy James

Neil
Tysall (Vice
Chair)



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



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