

# PRESTEIGNE AND NORTON TOWN COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**



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# CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

## Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to this annual report which I hope will provide you with information on your local Council and what it does for the community.

Presteigne, Norton and the surrounding rural hamlets etc. are areas of outstanding beauty and tranquility. There is no doubt we are all very privileged to live here. It is also an area of great community spirit, something that has been very apparent over the last two years during the covid pandemic when everyone has pulled together and helped each other. Without doubt this has made a difficult time considerably easier.

In May 2020 the Town Council commenced meeting virtually online and while this was not always perfect it has allowed us to continue to meet and to carry on our normal business. It also makes access for the public easier. However in May 2021 we returned to face-to-face meetings with simultaneous streaming via video conferencing software. A link to each month's meeting is put both on the agenda and on the Council website.

There is much information about the Council on the website –

<http://presteigne.org.uk/>

There is also general information, including pages for local businesses and attractions and details of our community groups etc.

I am very honoured to have held the role of Chairman and Mayor during 2021-22, having been Deputy Mayor for the two previous years. I am pleased to be able to put something back into the community and I welcome any feedback or comment on what the Council is doing.

Please do read this annual report and if you have any questions or suggestions do get in touch with myself, our Clerk or one of our Councillors.

Best wishes

Fiona Preece, Chairman and Town Mayor 2021/22

# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Town and Community Councils are known as the first tier of local government, the tier closest to the residents it represents and consisting of local people working to benefit the local area.

## **The Town Council is consulted on –**

Planning Applications and the Local Development Plan

Tree Works

Comments on County Council formal policy changes e.g. street lighting, affordable housing and changes to play areas, grass cutting, street cleaning etc.

Some Welsh Government formal policy changes e.g changes to Council Tax, second homes legislation.

## **It works on projects to benefit the local area –**

### **Currently ongoing Projects -**

Ultra-Fast Broadband Project.

Small Grant Fund for local community groups.

Provision of community defibrillators and their ongoing maintenance.

Presteigne and Norton Dark Skies.

Creation of Nature Reserve.

Presteigne and Norton Town Investment Plan.

### **Recently completed Projects have been –**

Purchase of zip wire for Wilson Terrace Playground.

Contribution towards new roundabout, Wilson Terrace Playground.

Purchase of new play equipment for Lugg View Play Area.

Securing land for an extension to Presteigne Cemetery.

Refurbishment of Town Benches (generously sponsored by a local resident)

Campaign to secure investment and improvement by Welsh Water to the Presteigne and Norton Sewerage Infrastructure.

### **Town Council Sites and Buildings –**

The Council does not have an office but holds its monthly meetings upstairs in the Assembly Rooms. It has one part time paid Officer, the Clerk to the Council, Tracey Price.

It runs –

Eddie's Meadow and the former reservoir ground adjacent to the Warden.

Went's Meadow, skateboard bowl, outdoor gym and multi-use games area.

Community Barn, Went's Meadow.

Wilson Terrace Toilets.

Hereford Street Toilets.

Thirty-six small Allotment Gardens.

## Member Attendance 2021/22 -

	Possible	Actual Attended	%
<b>NORTON WARD</b>			
Cllr. D. Edwards	14	13	93
Cllr. Chris Ruby	14	12	86
Cllr. P. Smith	14	11	79
Cllr. J. Wilding	14	12	86
<b>PRESTEIGNE WARD</b>			
Cllr. Rose Bamford	14	12	86
Cllr. Beverley Baynham	14	13	93
Cllr. Rory Bennett	14	12	86
Cllr. D. Davies	14	12	86
Cllr. C. Kirkby	14	14	100
Cllr. Trevor Owens	14	14	100
Cllr. Fiona Preece	14	14	100
Cllr. Nick Rogers	14	7	50
Cllr. Lisa Veary (resigned July 2021)	2	0	0
Cllr. Kate Van Den Ende (joined December 2021)	7	6	86

# Your Town Council Members in 2021-22

## **2021/22 MAYOR, CLLR. FIONA PREECE (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Email: [fiona.preeceptnc@gmail.com](mailto:fiona.preeceptnc@gmail.com)

Cllr Fiona Preece has lived in Norton and Presteigne all her life. Cllr Fiona Preece has lived in Norton and Presteigne all her life. She joined the Town Council because she would like to work to help all clubs and organisations in the area. She currently helps to run Presteigne Cubs, and she is also involved at district level for Scouting in Radnor. She considers herself a hard worker and tries to be an approachable councillor. She currently works for Powys County Council. Since the Radnorshire Arms closed she has been liaising with the VSCC to help with their visits to Presteigne each October and in particular with the anniversary celebrations in 2019. She considers herself a hard worker and tries to be an approachable councillor.

## **2021/22 DEPUTY MAYOR, CLLR. DEB EDWARDS (NORTON WARD)**

Telephone: 01544 260074 or 07794 351569

Email: [cllr.deborah.edwards@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.deborah.edwards@powys.gov.uk)

Deb says 'I have had the privilege to have been raised in this beautiful part of the world and have been lucky enough to gain employment locally and so to be able to stay and live here.' She worked for many years for the Royal Mail and so physically knows Presteigne and Norton well. She previously trained and engaged in the hospitality industry within the area. She hopes that residents will find her approachable, friendly and helpful.

Note: Deb was also elected as County Councillor for the newly formed Llangunllo with Norton Ward in May 2022.

## **CLLR. BEVERLEY BAYNHAM (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Email: [cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.beverley.baynham@powys.gov.uk) Telephone: 07976 928039

Cllr. Beverley Baynham has been a councillor since 2008 and was Mayor for the first time in 2013. She is a traditional local farmers daughter who grew up in the area and attended school in Presteigne. She originally joined the council as she wished to put something back into the local community, and over time has worked on numerous community projects. She has two children and works as the Chief Officer for a local charitable organisation in the private care sector. She has particular interests in facilities for children, affordable housing, the community and financial issues.



She is presently an LEA Governor of Presteigne Primary School and Newtown High School, representing the interests of the John Beddoes Campus.

In January 2014 Beverley resurrected Presteigne Carnival which ceased almost 20 years before, it turned out to be a huge success and has continued as a wonderful annual community event. Happy that the Carnival was once again established Beverley relinquished her role on the committee.

Beverley is qualified to Level 5 in NVQ's and Level 3 in the Association of Accounting Technicians. She considers herself to be a hardworking, enthusiastic and approachable Councillor.

In May 2017 Beverley was elected as County Councillor for Presteigne and Norton. During the term of office, she was Chairman of Powys County Council.

Beverley says – 'As an elected Councillor for the Presteigne Ward of Presteigne & Norton Town Council I carried out duties to the best of my ability represented the residents in a fair and appropriate way. For the period I was also the elected County Councillor for Presteigne & Norton. I attended monthly full council meetings and sat on the Staffing Sub-Committee and Dark Skies Working Group, some of these were online and some were in person when Covid allowed. I was involved with the culmination of the cemetery extension, which is a fantastic achievement for the Town Council and the town. I was also involved with the town wi-fi project and the grass cutting schedule to encourage bio-diversity. I continued to serve on the following outside organisations: John Beddoes Trust Fund, Newtown High School Governing Body, Presteigne Primary School Governing Body, Judges Lodging Museum Trust Powys, Powys Community Health Council and East Radnorshire Day Centre. I continued to support and assist the residents with a variety of issues. I have always considered the role a huge privilege and take my responsibilities very seriously and always try to do the best for the residents and the community.'

Note: Beverley stood again at the 2022 elections, and was re-elected for the new Presteigne Ward.

## **CLLR. ROSE BAMFORD (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Telephone: 07538 548020

Rose grew up in Presteigne and attended John Beddoes, later followed by a degree in silversmithing and jewellery at London Metropolitan University. Presteigne has a great sense of community and she is keen to bring people together to work to protect our vital services and organisations. Rose has run her own business in Presteigne for the last 12 years. She has been involved in a range of community groups, including the carnival, fireworks and Presteigne Players, Rainbows, Presteigne and Norton Community Trust and Sheep Music which she organised in 2009. Her last five years on the council have seen her help to focus the council on the environmental issues that we face and establish a Climate Action Group, a Tree Group, which has planted a small woodland and arranged events to raise awareness, and overseen the successful grant bid for a new nature reserve in Presteigne. She is looking forward to continuing to develop the Council's response to the Climate and Ecological Crisis.

## **CLLR. RORY BENNETT (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Rory was born and bred in Presteigne, leaving only to study Countryside Management at university. He has always been heavily involved with the community, and most recently has been a key organiser of both Presteigne Carnival & Sheep Music. Presteigne is not only his home, but also his workplace. In 2012 he started his own gardening business, and more recently started up an events business based within the town. He was very grateful to have been given the chance to play his part on the town council, and to making a difference to our community.

## **CLLR. DEBORAH DAVIES (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Debbie says - I have lived in Presteigne for over 40 years, and during that time, have been involved in the Playgroup Committee, PTA, John Beddoes Governors, the Scout Group, and am currently Chair of Presteigne Carnival Committee and Vice President of Chatterbrook W.I. I now have young grandchildren growing up in the community and am keen to ensure that Presteigne and Norton community continues to thrive and be a place that I am proud for my grandchildren to grow up in.

## **CLLR. COLIN KIRKBY MBE (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Cllr. Kirkby has been a Town Councillor since 1987 and is now the longest serving member. He has been Mayor 7 times. He has been responsible for a number of hands on projects during that time including the setting up of the Withy Beds nature reserve; the purchase of Lower Went's Meadow - three acres of ground for recreational use by the river Lugg on which the allotments were added; purchase of Silia Woods an important arboretum and backdrop to the community, which was gifted to the Woodland Trust; the setting up and running for 20 years of the Presteigne recycling centre which won 6 National Awards and put over £40,000 back into the community; obtaining grants for and leading the volunteers in the development of the Upper Went's Meadow after purchase by the Town Council, which included the refurbishment of an old barn, a community physic garden, footpath infrastructure, community orchards and the building of a skateboard and mountain bike track. He chaired the steering group and helped raise funding for the Welsh Assembly Funded Zero Waste Project which ran for three years from 2010 and achieved the highest recycling rate at that time in the UK of 74%. More recently he acquired an area of ground on the side of the Warden which has been dedicated to Cllr Eddie Taylor MBE and is managed as a hibernaculum. This was followed in 2013 by persuading Welsh Water to gift the old reservoir on the Warden to the Town. He continues to Chair the sub-committee which looks after the Went's Meadow which he has done since the formal opening in 2001. He is currently leading a proposal to secure the future of the Assembly Rooms as an Arts and Culture Centre for Presteigne and Norton retaining the building for the Library and MBA.

## **CLLR. TREVOR OWENS (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Email: [t.owens.pntc@gmail.com](mailto:t.owens.pntc@gmail.com) Telephone: 07910 072825

Joined Council May 2017.

Trevor has lived in or around Presteigne and Norton all his life. He has enjoyed long associations with the football, cricket and Young Farmers Clubs and has also been MC at the Town Carnival. He works for the BBC and has been in the media world for over 30 years.

## **CLLR. NICK ROGERS (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Nick is from a fourth-generation farming family in Presteigne. He was educated in Presteigne and has been involved with policies at Government level. He believes he is trustworthy, fair minded and is willing to listen to all. He promises to work hard for the community.

## **CLLR. CHRIS RUBY (NORTON WARD)**

See report under 'Retired Members'.

## **CLLR. PETE SMITH (NORTON WARD)**

Pete says - Having lived in Presteigne area for 42 years I've probably lived here longer than most of those born here that are alive today. I am married to Heather, now retired from many years teaching at Whitton. My children were all born here and one has recently returned with his wife to live here again. We have built a life here and will probably die here. I have been a Councillor a few times in the past, ran Sheep Music for a while and do pop up installations to provoke thoughts.

## **CLLR. KATE VAN DEN ENDE (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Cllr. Van Den Ende was co-opted onto the Council November, 2021. She came to Presteigne 22 years ago, exchanging upland farming in Snowdonia for teaching in Kington. She has a lifelong interest in social and environmental issues and is involved in local community-based activities, including support to people affected by dementia, as a volunteer at the library and with the Repair Cafe, in the roadside verge project and the tree group. As a co-opted Councillor she commits to being an energetic and engaged Member of the Town Council until the elections in May.

## **CLLR. JOHN WILDING (NORTON WARD)**

Cllr. Wilding is a farmer and builder and lives in Norton. His family has lived in Norton for over 90 years. He has served as a Town and Community Councillor for 18 years and has served as Mayor for three terms of office.

The following Members did not stand for re-election in May 2022 and so are no longer on the Town Council –

Rory Bennett, Colin Kirkby, Nick Rogers, Chris Ruby, Pete Smith, John Wilding.

Their contact details are therefore not included.

## **New Members from May 2022 were –**

## **CLLR. LEON ABECASIS (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

I moved into Presteigne 15 years ago and I have never felt more at home than I do here, that is down to the wonderful people who live and work here. Me and my partner Annemarie have been working at The Salty Dog for the past 11 years and during that time; I have been involved in; fundraising for the Presteigne Little People Play Group, organised (along with the members of Connect) The very successful Presteigne Food and Flower Festivals and the Christmas Fair, fought the ongoing fight against the town parking charges and the adoption of the recycling centre, which helped to raise a substantial amount of money for the community, all this whilst cooking some scrumptious food.

## **CLLR. MARK WILLIAMS (PRESTEIGNE WARD)**

Mark says - I've lived in or just outside Presteigne for almost 40 years during which I've engaged in many community activities including as a trustee and active member of Sheep Music (including as its chairperson), active involvement in ensuring that off-road rights of way are maintained, high street stewarding during Covid lockdowns, a panto regular, writing for and distributing Broad Sheep, helping manage Presteigne Screen, editing the Brecon & Radnor Express, volunteering at the Repair & Share Cafe, and volunteering at the town library. I hope all of this underlines my love of and commitment to this remarkable little town and my long-held ambition to become a Councillor.

I am especially interested in three areas of life in Presteigne: maintaining and developing cultural activities; ensuring that local retailers can survive and serve the needs of our

community; that local services and housing benefit the *entire* community, not just the better-off.

# Council Memberships 2021

## **Sites And Buildings Committee**

Cllrs. Kirkby, Davies, Bennett, Rogers and Smith.  
Outside Representative for Meadow Matters: Richard Rimington.  
Outside Representative for Allotments: Karen Lewis.  
Outside Representative for Meadow Matters: Gareth Graham.

## **Staffing Committee**

Cllrs. Baynham, Davies, Kirkby, Edwards and Ruby.

## **Library Service/Assembly Rooms Working Group**

Cllrs. Ruby, Wilding, Owens, Kirkby, Bennett, Bamford. (Plus Cllr. Baynham as County Councillor).

**Broadband Working Group** - Cllrs. Owens, Davies and Bennett.

**Town Wifi Liaison** - Cllr. Ruby

**Pacdg Liaison Member:** Cllr. Ruby.

**Allotment Liaison Member:** Cllr. Bennett.

**Youth Representation Member(S):** Cllrs. Bennett and Rogers.

**LDP Working Group:** Not Formed 2021-22.

**Climate Crisis Working Group** - Cllrs. Bamford, Smith and Kirkby

**Dark Skies/Intelligent Lighting Working Group (Sub Group Under Climate Change)**

Cllr. Bamford, Smith and Leigh Harling-Bowen plus Cllr. Baynham (as County Councillor).

## **Representatives On Other Bodies**

Presteigne Primary School

One Voice Wales

Plastic Free Presteigne

Warden Guardian Foundation

East Radnorshire Day Care Centre

Cllr. Preece.

Cllrs. Preece and Edwards

Cllr. Bamford

Cllr. Kirkby

Cllrs. Edwards & Bennett.

Presteigne Trust – TC Directors in place.

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND INFORMATION

The Town Council raises most of its funds through the Council Tax. It sets a budget each January for the forthcoming financial year (April to March).

2021-22 Spending summary (full accounts on the website)

2021-22	£
Administration	28,499.64
Grants/Donations	14,597.50
Member's Allowances/Expenses	1137.25
Public Toilets	9669.37
Running of Went's Meadow etc.	14,402.47
Misc. inc. grant funded spending	18152.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>86,458.61</b>

In 2021-22 a household in a Band D Council Tax property paid £54.00 (in total) over the year towards the Town Council costs.

The Council retains some funds each year to meet emergency spending and to allow for occasional one-off costs (such as larger repairs, full elections, projects).

During 2021-22 a total of £17,869.20 was obtained via grants to the Council.

# SMALL GRANTS

The grants/donations awarded in the year were to –

Air Ambulance	300
British Legion (Remembrance Wreaths)	60
East Radnorshire Day Centre	2000
Knighton & District Leg Club	100
Memorial Hall	750
Mid Border Arts	1250
Norton Community Trust	2000
Norton Sports Committee (Fireworks)	250
PACDG	250
1st Presteigne Guides	100
Presteigne Festival	1250
Presteigne Fireworks Display (Sheep Music)	500
Presteigne Little Peoples Playgroup	500
Presteigne & Norton Community Support	250
The Judge's Lodging Trust Ltd	2000
Powys CAB	200
Radnorshire Wildlife Trust	250
The Samaritans	200
Wardens Guardian Foundation	250
Youth Project	1200
Macmillan Nurses	100
	<b>13,760.00</b>

Any group or organization wishing to apply for a small grant should contact the Clerk for more information.

Note: In order to be considered for inclusion in the budget for the following financial year please apply by 1<sup>st</sup> January i.e., for a grant in 2023-24 you will need to apply by 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

# DARK SKIES PROJECT

In the UK today less than 10% of the population can enjoy a truly dark sky. Light pollution affects health, wildlife and energy consumption.

Following an approach to the Town Council from a local resident the Council has been working with the resident, a lighting designer and the County Council to investigate the possibility of applying for dark sky status for Presteigne and Norton.

The benefits of dark skies are –

To preserve the environment and protect the natural behaviour of nocturnal wildlife.

To enjoy the full experience of our night skies and to see our stars.

To appreciate the character and beauty of the natural landscape.

To protect our health and well-being.

Currently the street lighting in Norton has been upgraded to dark skies compatible lighting and work is ongoing to the Presteigne lights.

Work on a formal application to the International Dark Skies Association is ongoing and the intention is to submit an application towards the end of the Summer of 2022.





# COMMUNITY ULTRA FAST BROADBAND PROJECT

In the February 2022 the Council, working with Broadway Partners, a rural internet provider, sent letters to all properties in its area to gauge interest in bringing ultra-fast (min 100mb) fibre to the premises broadband to Presteigne and Norton and surrounding rural properties.

The target of 20% of properties was reached in July 2022 and a funding application will now be submitted to UK Government (subject to the agreement of the Broadway Partners Board). Once submitted applications take an average of four months to determine although it can be more.

You can still register an interest in the project (with no commitment) by going to the Broadway website –

[Rural Broadband Providers | Best & Cheapest Rural Internet UK \(broadwaybroadband.co.uk\)](http://broadwaybroadband.co.uk)

Or you can ring our Clerk – contact details at the back of this booklet.

## FAQ on the Project

### **I'm in a contract with another provider so I can't register can I?**

Yes you can register. You are not committed. Registration will help the scheme get started and will help us enormously. The project will take some time and it is likely your contract will have ended before we are ready to ask you if you want to commit to connecting your property.

### **I have a good speed now. Why would registration benefit me?**

Few if any properties in the area have a fibre to the premises connection with speeds starting at 100mbps. Some will have fibre from the cabinet but this is likely to have a max speed of around 70mbps. As more and more use is made of the internet ever faster speeds will be needed. This connection will help future proof your connection into the future and will also make your property more attractive to buyers should you sell.

### **What will my commitment be if the project goes ahead and I decide to connect my property?**

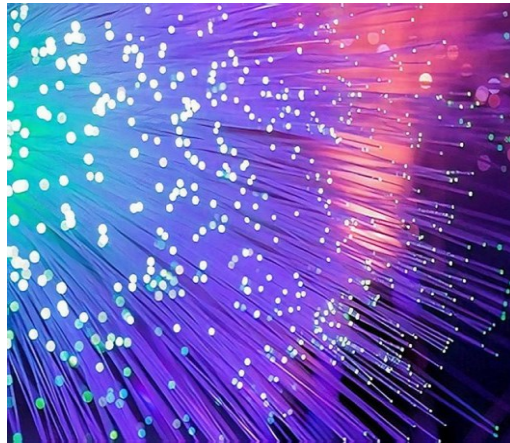
You will need to commit your 'connection voucher' from UK government. This can only be claimed by an official provider such as Broadway Partners, it cannot be claimed by individuals. Your connection will then be free of charge.

Once connected you will be in a contract for a minimum 12 month period. The minimum speed of 100 mbps currently costs £19.99 per month. After this you are free to leave if you

wish but we very much hope you will be pleased with connection and continue. £19.99 is a very competitive price.

**Would waiting for BT be a better idea?**

There is no current evidence that BT are interested in extending even their existing superfast broadband service to those properties in our area that are not currently connected.



## **SEWAGE SYSTEM UPGRADE**

A major project which came to fruition during the year was the Welsh Water upgrade of both Norton and Presteigne sewage treatment plants. In 2015 the TC held its first meeting with Welsh Water to express concern over capacity issues which were preventing housing development. Over the following years the Town Council has pushed Welsh Water to include the money for development in their business plan for 2020-25 and continued to press that it should happen early in that period. However whilst the upgrade has happened as hoped for, there is now an issue with the phosphate levels in the River Lugg and the necessary stripping plant for the water discharge has yet to be installed.

## **REFURBISHMENT OF TOWN BENCHES AND ADOPT A BENCH**

During the year, a local resident, John Kendall approached the Town Council with an offer to refurbish the Town's benches. Cllr Kirkby liaised with the resident and Nick Close undertook the work to refurbish the benches and provided a new bench at the end of Station Road. The Town Council was extremely grateful on behalf of the Town for John's generosity. John was a previous Town Mayor in 2011-12. Following this the Town Council launched an Adopt-a-bench appeal for residents to look after a bench and keep it tidy. If you'd like to help please contact the Clerk.

## **COMMUNITY DONATIONS**

The Council also received a generous donation of £1000 from an individual towards play equipment. This was used towards the new roundabout in the Wilson Terrace play area.

## **COMMUNITY BARN**

A big thank you to Sheep Music and in particular Owen Rimington who having been responsible for the design and building of the new barn on Went's Meadow was finally able post covid to have the panel in the roof filled in laser cut steel panels of his own design and which tell many stories including the building of the barn. The barn proved extremely useful during the pandemic as a safe open air venue to meet when the regulations allowed with numerous classes and groups able to use the space once outdoor activities were permitted. Classes included tai chi, dance, Women's Institute meetings, fitness, flower arranging and many more.

# CREATION OF NATURE RESERVE

Last year the Council wrote to local landowners with the hope of finding a suitable field close to the town to create a new woodland nature reserve to become part of the National Forest of Wales and to create a designated place for nature on the edge of town. This is fully funded achieved with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Welsh Government. A suitable field was found and with the help and expertise of The Woodland Trust, Natural Resources Wales, CADW, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and many local experts and enthusiasts a plan was made.

The grant fund encourages a mosaic of mixed habitats and the proposal is to create areas of open grassland, wild-flower meadow, ponds, native tree woodland as well as maintaining the currently registered area of Historic Parkland Garden vista with more of the specimen arboretum trees planted to replace the ones that have been lost. The grassland will be mown annually and encouraged over time to become a wild-flower meadow. A wide native species hedge along the field boundary and groups of native tree planting will cover the rest of the field creating corridors for wildlife and links with surrounding woodland, bringing part of the National Forest into the town.

This project will help Presteigne address climate change by storing carbon and will be managed as a nature reserve with help from members of the community to create and maintain it.

By the end of March 2023 the hope is to have planted the hedge and woodland areas, created the ponds, made new access that is suitable for people with disabilities with a wide hard path suitable for wheelchair users and started to improve the grassland areas to become wildflower meadow.



# TOWN WIFI

In July 2021 the Town Council was approached by the County Council to establish its interest in providing free wifi in the town centre.

Members met in August to consider the suggestion and it was agreed that the Council should be part of the project. The Clerk and Cllr. Ruby held meetings with the County Council and talked informally to local shopkeepers etc. about siting a unit on their premises.

In early September a grant application was submitted to Welsh Government and shortly after it was confirmed that the money had been awarded.

Work then started on producing a tender specification for the installation (County Council) and on confirming sites in the town.

Thanks is due to the following for agreeing to site the units –

The Salty Dog

No. 46 Wine Bar

The Old School (Presteigne Youth Project)

The Royal Oak

Permission to site two units on the Assembly Rooms is still awaited from the County Council but the first four units are installed and in use.

In addition to providing the free wifi the system will also provide visitor data (numbers/length of stay etc) which can be supplied to businesses and used to provide supporting information for grant applications etc.



# HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP YOU?

The Town Council is interested to know what you want from your Council.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know.

Please note that the following matters fall under the County Council and as such the Town Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to insist!

County Council matters are –

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Street sweeping
- Refuse and Recycling
- Road Signs
- Verge grass cutting
- Council Housing
- Education
- Social Services
- Planning

The PCC switchboard number is 01597 826000

Details of how to contact your County Councillor can be found on their website - [www.powys.gov.uk](http://www.powys.gov.uk)

<https://en.powys.gov.uk/findmycouncillor>

# OUR RETIRED MEMBERS

A number of Councillors retired in May 2022, at the end of the year covered by this report and three have provided the Council with some words for inclusion.

## **Deborah Davies (Presteigne Ward)**

My time as a co-opted member of the Town Council started badly, in that after just 2 face to face meetings, we went into lockdown and then began the new experience of meetings via Zoom! Thankfully our then Mayor, Trevor Owens, was experienced in all things technological and made the transition as easy as it could be. Unfortunately, as a newbie, I found the lack of human contact, and with it the chance to chat to the other Councillors and gain from their experience, very challenging. Also with the curtailing of casual town visits and the wearing of masks, it was difficult to gain an insight into the thoughts of the townspeople. Thankfully and hopefully this will not be the experience of the new Town Council.

My biggest take away from my short time on the Council was the commitment and dedication of the other Town Councillors, many of whom had given years to working to make Presteigne and Norton the best community around. Their knowledge and experience was boundless and you only have to look at the many and varied projects that have been completed to see the results of this hard work and enthusiasm.

I would like to wish the new Town Council all the best and good luck for your term of office, keep up the great work!"

## **Colin Kirkby MBE (Presteigne Ward)**

Turns out that 2021- 2022 would be my last year on the Town Council. I was first elected in 1987 and in the last 35 year have had the privilege to serve as Mayor on eight occasions. This last year has been made trickier by the pandemic and having to have meetings by Zoom – something most of hadn't heard of pre-pandemic. However from Sept on meetings were back to normal in the Assembly Rooms.

During the year the last two big projects I'd been heavily involved in came to fruition – which was very satisfying. The new Cemetery Extension was officially opened and Welsh Water upgraded our sewerage works. There were several other projects that were good to be part of including the new aerial ropeway which had been my last Mayor's project was moved and lengthened assisting local resident John Kendall with the refurbishment of the town benches and the Dark Skies project which will make Presteigne the first Dark Skies Town, is coming on well. It has been a pleasure and privilege to have been on the Council and I will surely miss it.

### **Chris Ruby (Norton Ward)**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a Presteigne and Norton Town Councillor and found a rewarding and satisfying experience. The Council worked collaboratively and effectively for the benefit of the residents and achieved a great deal during my time in office - May 2017 to May 2022.

The major projects that were achieved during that time were; extending the Presteigne Cemetery, building the Barn on Went's meadow, developing and improving the Children's Play areas. My closer and more personal involvement was in the move to make Presteigne and Norton a Dark Skies area and to achieve that recognised status, to obtain Free WIFI access in Presteigne, to assist in the development of the Presteigne and Norton Community Trust and through it start on the process of adapting Norton Church to become a Community Hub.



## **A Summary**

Presteigne and Norton Town Council covers Presteigne Town, Norton village and surrounding areas.

It is made up of thirteen Councillors and has one paid part time officer, the Clerk to the Council.

Members during 2021-22 were –

Fiona Preece (Chairman/Mayor)

Deborah Edwards (Vice-Chairman/Deputy Mayor)

Rose Bamford

Beverley Baynham

Deborah Davies (stood down May 2022)

Rory Bennett (stood down May 2022)

Colin Kirkby (stood down May 2022)

Trevor Owens

Nicholas Rogers (stood down May 2022)

Chris Ruby (stood down May 2022)

Peter Smith (stood down May 2022)

Kate Van Den Ende (stood down May 2022)

John Wilding (stood down May 2022)

## **Contact Us**

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*Annual Report 2021-22*

