

SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

2017-2018

Annual Report

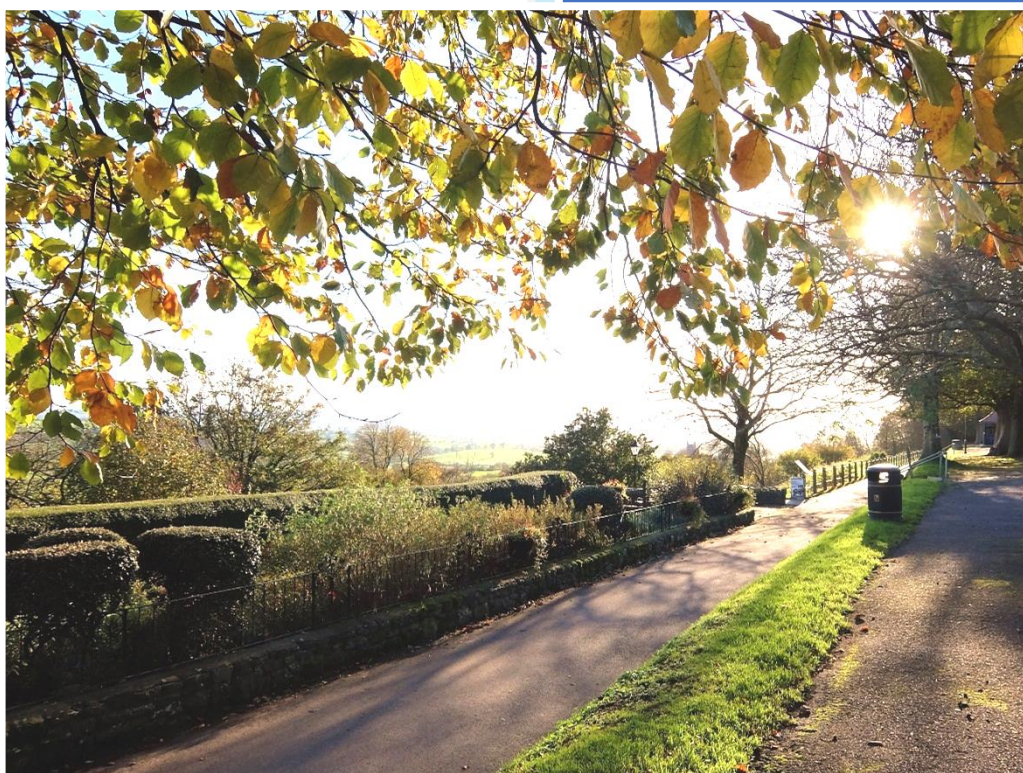


Table of Contents

MAYOR'S REPORT – COUNCILLOR JOHN LEWER	3
GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR TIM COOK	5
PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR PIERS BROWN	6
RECREATION, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR GEORGE HALL	8
HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR ANDY PERKINS.....	9
WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP – COUNCILLOR ANTHONY AUSTIN	11
MEET THE OFFICERS	13
COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE	14
2018/19 BUDGET.....	14
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS	16
YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS	17
REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.....	18
Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Gardens	18
CedarsCastleHill.	19
Shaftesbury & District Branch, Royal British Legion.....	20
A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS, WE HAVE COMPILED A FEW THIS YEAR... ..	21

Mission Statement

Shaftesbury Town Council will work conscientiously with the community to define and provide best value, high quality services and facilities, ensuring that Shaftesbury is a 21st Century Town that respects its heritage and upholds its values making it a great place to live, work, plan and visit.



COPIES OF MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE BY REQUEST FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES OR CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE AT:

www.shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

Office opening hours are Monday–Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm;

Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm.

MAYOR'S REPORT – COUNCILLOR JOHN LEWER

This has been another busy year for John Lewer, the Mayor of Shaftesbury, the Mayor's civic duties and invitations have been abundant and varied. Ranging from Civic days, to openings, to hosting Charity events and attending Council meetings the Mayor has had an eventful year.



Remembrance Day Nov.2017

Councillor Lewer chose to support Dementia Friendly Charities in Shaftesbury and has raised awareness and funds to help those living with Dementia. He has set the ball in motion for Shaftesbury as a Town Council and as a Community to work towards becoming a

Dementia Friendly Town and form an official Dementia Action Alliance registered Charity. Look out for the Shaftesbury Dementia Friendly logo in months to come, designed by local artist Anna McDowell who made a traditional Dorset button with the iconic forget-me-not logo.

The Town Mayor is also Chairman of the Council and responsible for chairing the Full Town Council which has met twelve times during the year, making decisions to benefit Shaftesbury and help deliver the Strategic Plan.

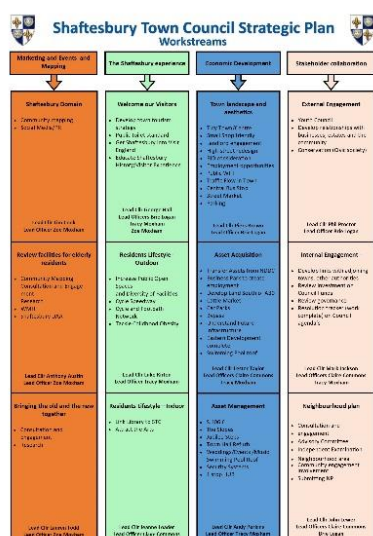


Dementia Friendly Dorset button

John writes;

"When I wrote last year's report, the Council had just restored its number to 12, and a permanent Clerk (Mrs Claire Commons) had just been appointed. The framework of a 5-year Strategic Plan had also just been started.

The intervening year has been a busy time for all of us, but a very rewarding one. The office is now at full complement, with a new Business Manager (Mrs Brie Logan), who has been very pro-active in engaging with both the business and voluntary sectors of the community. We were also joined by Mrs Zoe Moxham, who, among her other duties, has been an indispensable Mayor's Secretary. A huge amount of work has been put into implementing the Strategic Plan this year, it has been split into four main headings with twelve manageable workstreams, one of which has been assigned to each



one of the twelve Councillors to oversee. Advisory Committees have been formed for some of these workstreams to include experts from our community in the relevant subjects, this enables the Council to make decisions based on expert advice on topics that they themselves may not have specialised skills in. I am excited to see the plans taking form and the projects that Shaftesbury as a community has asked for, coming to fruition.

One of the Advisory Committees formed has been the Shaftesbury Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee, this is twelve members strong, made up from individuals living in Shaftesbury who have a variety of background and a diverse range of skills.



Neighbourhood Plan Group. Photo Courtesy of Mr Thomas, Gillingham and Shaftesbury News



The Mayor with his wife hosting the Great Gatsby event

I have attended a great many functions and events in the course of the year, concentrating my energies in and around Shaftesbury, with occasional forays to such distant places as Bournemouth and Portland. Probably equally memorable in their own way were the dedication of the Rifles sculpture at the National Arboretum in September, and the Nativity Play by the Flying Start Nursery Group at Christmas.

Continuing the Civic theme, my chosen charity (Dementia Friendly Shaftesbury) has made good progress in recent months. This includes the Great Gatsby Soiree (to raise funds and awareness), a Concert-with-Cake (to

appeal specifically to

people living with Dementia and their carers), and a meeting planned for May to increase the number of the Town's institutions which are Dementia Friendly.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone in the Town Hall team for their support during the year, from my 11 fellow-councillors, through the office staff, to the groundsmen.

You all make great team and should be proud of what you have achieved."



The Mayor with local Scouts, Beavers and Girl Guides at the Dementia Friendly Afternoon Tea

GENERAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR TIM COOK

The General Management Committee members are:

**Councillor Tim Cook [Chair]; Councillor Andy Perkins [Vice Chair];
Councillors Anthony Austin, Piers Brown, George Hall, Luke Kirton
and Lauren Todd.**



The General Management Committee advises the Council on its corporate policies, strategies and level of resources and to ensure that the financial status of the Council is maintained within agreed budgets having due regard to both revenue and capital expenditure. It holds authority for the financial planning of the Town Council and monitors performance of the Council's Committees and services. It gives careful consideration to present and future tax payers.

Tim writes;

"The General Management Committee has had a good year. I thank the members for keeping debate and discussion focussed and meetings short and I also thank the Town Clerk and her team for keeping us informed of all relevant detail.

I'm pleased to say that we have given the go ahead to four projects that will have a lasting benefit to the people of Shaftesbury:

- *New allotments on land south of the A30*
- *Adoption of the 5-year Strategic Plan for the town*
- *Setting aside land for a cycle speedway track and clubhouse, a project brought to the town by Shaftesbury Rotary Club*
- *Installation of a hearing loop system in the Town Hall*

I am very happy that the committee has recommended to Full Council to grant £30,000 to community groups and organisations in the past year and on behalf of the committee I'd like to pay tribute to all the volunteers in the town who give their time and effort to make Shaftesbury a better place for all.

At the September 2017 meeting we had presentations from the two shortlisted candidates for the new position of Business Manager and, after delegating the choice back to the original interview panel, Brie Logan finally won through. She has brought valuable skills and dynamism to the council as a whole.

At our last meeting the committee discussed updating the council's Snow and Ice Policy following the two recent periods of abnormal weather and also considered what other measures we could reasonably take to maintain access to the town for as many residents as possible if we get more snow. This is something we will need to consult on in the next municipal year."

PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR PIERS BROWN

The Planning and Highways Committee members are:

Councillor Piers Brown [Chair]; Councillor Lauren Todd [Vice Chair]; Councillors Anthony Austin, John Lewer, Philip Proctor and Lester Taylor



The Planning and Highways Committee is mindful of the historic nature of the town and the natural beauty of its surroundings. It seeks to preserve the heritage that has been entrusted to the people of Shaftesbury for the benefit of future generations. It gives careful consideration to all planning applications received in consultation with local planning and government guidance so that it might give a well informed and considered opinion to the Planning Authority. The Committee seeks to promote the conservation of the best of the historic built environment and the best possible design for any new development, including means of integration with the old town.

It's important to remember that the Town Council is a consultee on planning issues – decisions are made by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) – North Dorset District Council.

Piers writes;

“Over the last 12 months Planning & Highways have been working to ensure that Shaftesbury Town Council has continued to have productive working relationship with the local planning authority. We have commented on over 75 applications ensuring that a local voice is heard on every planning application in Shaftesbury. A big thank you to all the residents who came to see us when they felt strongly about an application.

We were contacted by a number of residents about a set of parking issues in Lyons walk, we were happy to request of Dorset County Council that double yellow lines are extended to include all of Lyons Walk and Church Lane. So, if you know of somewhere in the town that needs double yellow lines or has any other parking enquiries, please get in contact and we will happily try and help your case to Dorset County Council.

We were contacted by a number of residents about the issue of not having enough bins along Shaftesbury's High Street. I am happy to report that Shaftesbury Town Council has added more bins and has increased the size of some of the existing ones. We also have more bins in storage ready to install if required in the future.

One of our more fun meetings was when we were asked to suggest further street names for the town, some suggestions were more serious than others! But we finally settled on;

- Willow Way
- Bennington Rd
- Wykes Road
- Pheasant View
- Melstock Rd
- Leance Lane
- The Bluebells
- Snowdrop Wynd
- Egdon Way



I hope you approve!

As the residents of The Maltings estate will know only too well the developer, Persimmon Homes, has never finished work on the roads and footpaths along with other remedial works in the estate. In October the committee decided that enough was enough. (Our friendly attitude wasn't working!) We therefore worked closely with our partners in the Highways authority, our District Councillor, Jo Francis and our MP, Simon Hoare. Despite being a small cog, I am pleased to confirm that works have now started and that we will continue to work with our colleagues to ensure that the developers deliver!



Councillor Brown at the Young Enterprise event

As deputy Mayor this year, I have attended a number of events held by local organisations and have been impressed by the amount of work individuals in Shaftesbury are putting in. One event in particular that stuck with me was the young enterprise event I attended. What a fantastic project to help the young people of Dorset get a better start to their working life, as they

develop their life skills and learn about the world of work.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Office Team, Claire Commons, Town Clerk, Brie Logan, Business Manager, Tracy Moxham, Finance Officer and Zoe Moxham, Office Administrator and the Grounds Team, Andy, Mike, Andrew and Terry for their help and tireless work - thank you all."

RECREATION, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR GEORGE HALL

The Recreation, Open Spaces & Environment Committee members are: Councillor George Hall [Chair]; Councillor Luke Kirton [Vice Chair]; Councillors Tim Cook, Mark Jackson, Jeanne Loader and Philip Proctor



The Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee is committed to the sensitive and careful management, maintenance and improvement of the town's open spaces, recreation and amenity areas and seeks to conserve the environmental heritage entrusted to the people of Shaftesbury for the benefit of future generations. It gives careful consideration to the strategic plans for the town's recreation, environment and amenities and is mindful of and will discharge its role with due consideration to operate within its budget and be financially accountable.

George writes;

"Having been the ROSE Chairman for two years now I have seen a huge number of successful projects completed and many more started in conjunction with the strategic plan.

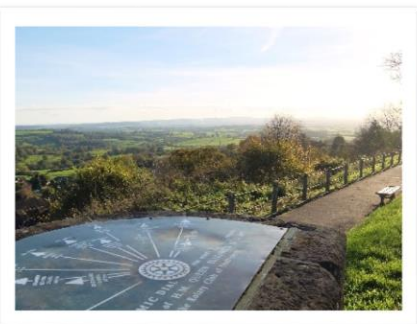
Most recently we have seen the completion of the new pathway at St James park, for which many residents especially ones with pushchairs are very appreciative of.

The Council is currently in the process of deciding the specification for new railings for Jubilee steps. We are looking at using local blacksmiths, some of whom have already put forward some fantastic ideas to incorporate, including some creative designs highlighting the heritage and history of Shaftesbury.

We have been working effectively with local organisations on projects such as traditional fingerpost signage for walks in Shaftesbury and the aim longer term is to produce a beautiful map of

Shaftesbury for visitors and residents alike to include walks and the many highlights in Shaftesbury.

A Visitor Experience Advisory Committee has just been set up; this group includes local residents of Shaftesbury who are highly skilled in Tourism and have had many years of experience in this field. I am very excited at the new ideas and energy that this group is bringing to the table and look forward to working closely with them."



View from Park Walk

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – CHAIRMAN: COUNCILLOR ANDY PERKINS

The Human Resources Committee members are: Councillor Andy Perkins [Chair]; Councillor Anthony Austin [Vice Chair]; Councillors John Lewer, Jeanne Loader and Lauren Todd



The Human Resources Committee will advise the Council on all human resources matters relating to the Council and its staff team. The Town Council employs eight staff who are all based in Shaftesbury. The staff are divided into three departments – office, grounds and swimming pool. The office staff are based in the Town Hall in Shaftesbury and consist of a Town Clerk, two full time and one part-time member of staff. The grounds team are based at Wincombe Business Park and consist of a Head Groundsman, Senior Groundsman and 2 groundsmen. The swimming pool staff member is the Pool Manager and seasonal staff are engaged for the pool season from May to September each year.

Andy writes;

In my report for 2016/17 I wrote the following

'The last municipal year has been a very difficult year for the HR Committee.

We have had a significant staffing issue to deal with, which we did with grace and professionalism.

We instigated various recruitment processes to appoint a community focused town clerk within a commercially challenging economic environment and some internal headwinds, which have been distracting and energy sapping for a group of committed volunteers.

We have had significant changes within the committee – sadly Mr Tippins and Mrs Francis decided to seek fulfilment outside the HR committee and the Full Council – the HR Committee wishes them both every happiness.

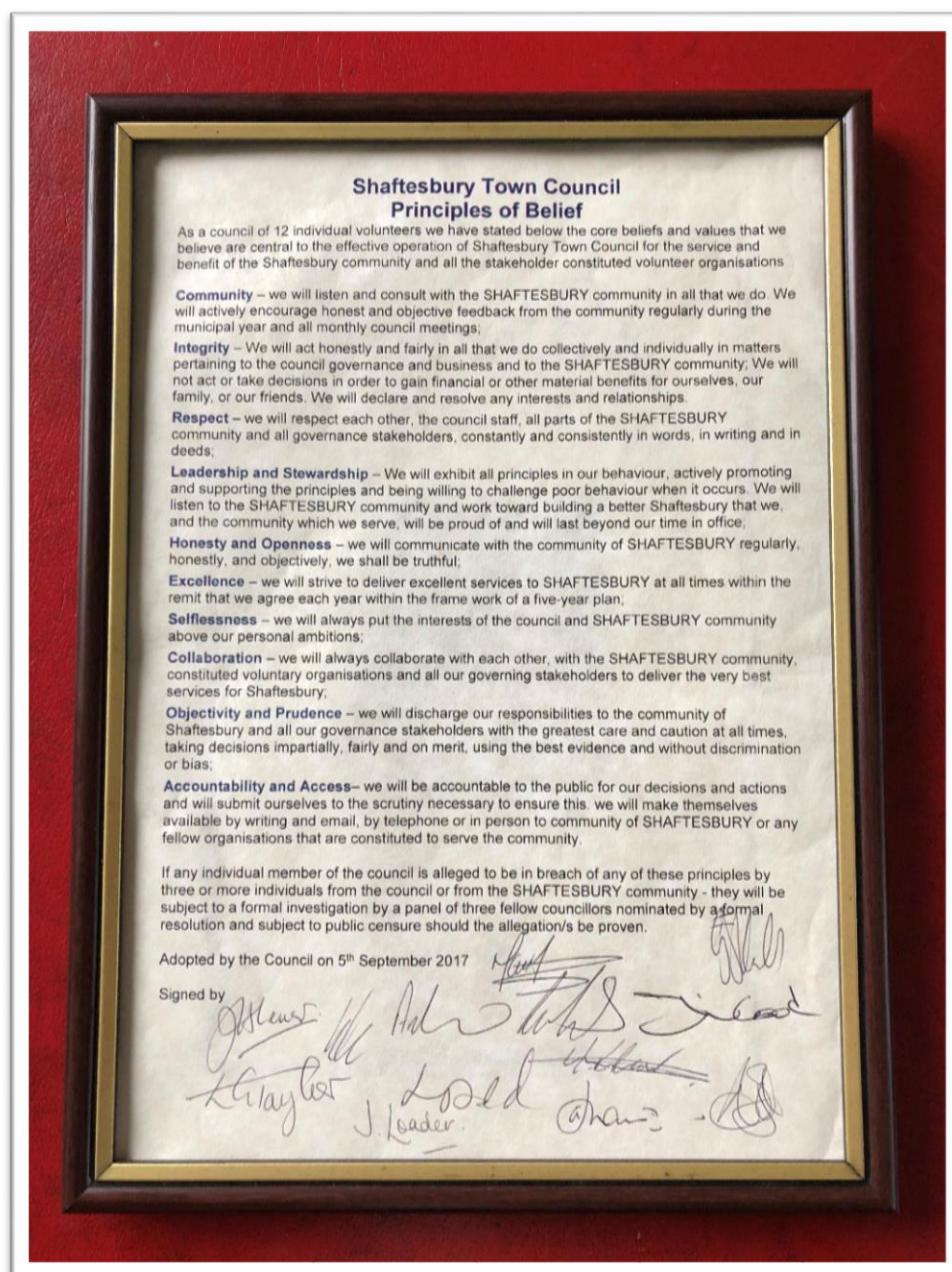
So what's changed since my last report.....Quite simply - the culture, the style, the organisation and way we work – the air that we breath.

Specifically, we have:

- *Reorganised the office and we believe we now have a council administration team that is fit for purpose and the future challenges that our council and community will surely face*
- *Welcomed two fantastic new members of staff – Zoe Moxham – to strengthen our Administration Team and Brie Logan as our Business Manager*

- *Supported Claire to continue to grow and develop into the excellent Town Clerk that we always believed she would be and that Shaftesbury deserves and needs*
- *Supported Tracy to be the spine of our continuously improving processes so that we can serve our community more effectively*
- *Implemented six monthly staff meetings that are highly focused and fully inclusive*
- *Helped the Grounds Team to achieve their usual exceptional standard of work despite people resourcing pressures due to illness – thankfully we are now back to full fighting strength.*
- *Designed and implemented The Shaftesbury Council Principles of Belief as attached and signed unanimously by the Council*

I would personally like to thank the members of the HR team for their energy, enthusiasm, and expertise – the vice chair Anthony Austin, Jeanne Loader, Lauren Todd and John Lewer.



WESTMINSTER MEMORIAL WORKING GROUP – COUNCILLOR ANTHONY AUSTIN

2017 was a fantastic year for a huge number of people living in the Shaftesbury and North Dorset community.

The Westminster Memorial Hospital was under the threat of losing its “Community Hospital Beds”. At the end of 2016, following a huge public campaign, there was nothing to do but wait for the decision about the hospital’s future to be announced by the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group in September 2017. Despite a brilliant campaign run by the Save Our Beds leader, Julian Prichard, and a huge team of Volunteers he had harnessed, cajoled and pressed into service, the outcome was totally unpredictable.

The Town Council Group, set up to oversee the processes of defending the situation, has members from just about every council (Parish and Town) both in South West Wiltshire and in North Dorset; our MP, Simon Hoare and, from South West Wiltshire, Andrew Murrison, not to forget many groups having an involvement with the Hospital had been hugely supportive. Every Market Day people at the Town Hall had signed the Consultation Document and we ended with 6,000 sent in to stake our claim to keeping the beds. The support from every corner of the community was overwhelming. The Hospital is deep in everyone’s hearts.

So, we waited. The day – the 21st of September 2017 – came and it was a protracted ordeal. The various decisions, and there were many, were announced and the reasons for them given and after nearly 2 hours of nail-biting tension we heard, and it was met largely by incredulity at first, that CCG had taken into account the points sent in and had decided to review their plans for North Dorset completely.

The closures proposed had been put on hold, and the CCG was offering an opportunity to the whole North Dorset Community, those affected in Somerset and in South West Wiltshire, to work with them to find ways to provide services, including NHS Beds, within the funding and resources available and taking into account the needs of each area.

From that moment, the Town Council supported the start of a new Working group (the Shaftesbury Town Council Westminster Memorial Working Group) to help oversee the way the suggested procedures should work. In particular the Group should ensure that there is full consultation and openness about everything and that the two sides should talk to each other at all times. There are over 60 members of this Group.

We worked with representatives of the CCG, the Dorset Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and we met with Somerset MP David Warburton and representatives of the South West Wiltshire CCG. We discussed the community Bed needs with Salisbury Hospital Trust Board staff plus others to ensure this Group is widely represented and finally, on the 21st February 2018 the formal proceedings started. These move into the next Council Year and we hope to be able to report further successes. Matters are now in the hands of the Community. I'd like to thank so many people for all their support during the last 18 months.

MEET THE OFFICERS

Claire Commons - Town Clerk

The role of Clerk is to ensure that the Council as a whole conducts its business properly and to provide independent, objective and professional advice and support.



Brie Logan - Business Manager

The role of Business Manager is to engage with the community and facilitate the delivery of the strategic plan.



Tracy Moxham - Finance and Services Officer

The role of the Finance and Services officer includes being responsible for the Council's accounts and the management of all Council services.



Zoe Moxham - Office Administrator

The role of the Office Administrator is to support all the officers with administrative work and process general enquiries.



Andy Dodd - Head Groundsman

The role of head groundsman is to manage the grounds team and is responsible for the maintenance of all Council owned grounds.

Mike Wakely – Senior Groundsman

Andrew Flitcroft - Groundsman

Terry Bugler - Groundsman

Ryan Baker – Swimming Pool Manager

Linda Roberts – Facilities Support Officer

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE

A councillor agrees to attend all meetings (reasonably possible) that he or she is summoned to. This may only require one meeting of full council a month. However, along with full council meetings, there are further committee meetings or working groups. Most meetings are held at 7pm in the evening but some committees and group representation may be during the day.

Below are the statistics for the attendance of Councillors at formal Council meetings for the 2017/18 municipal year.

Key:

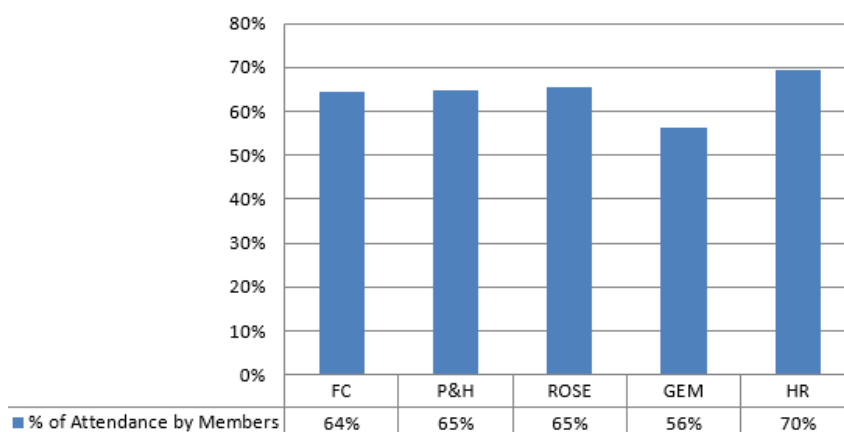
FC - Full Council

P&H - Planning and Highways

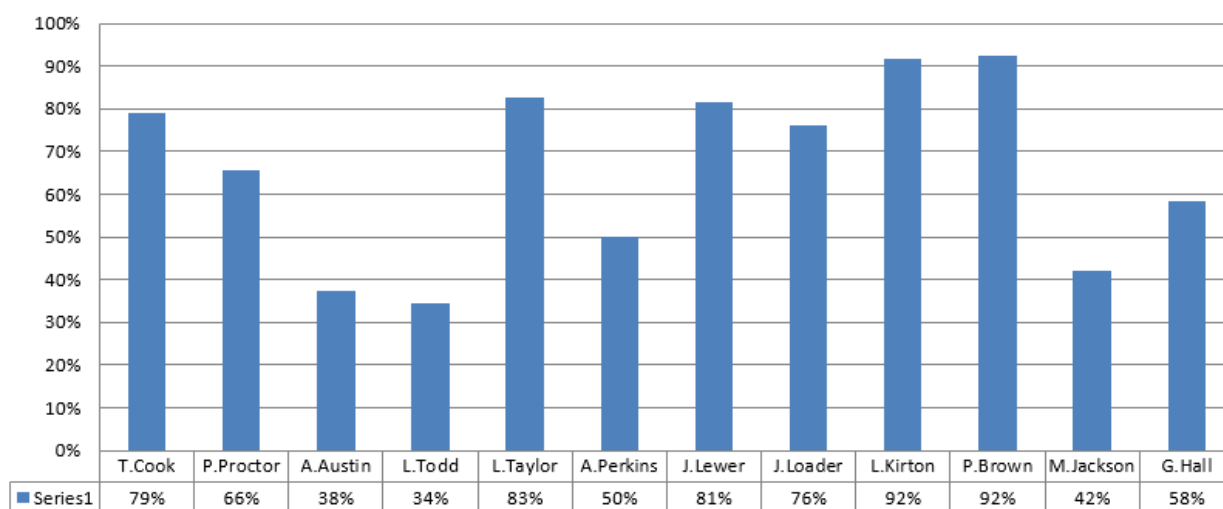
GEM - General Management

ROSE- Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment

Meeting Attendance

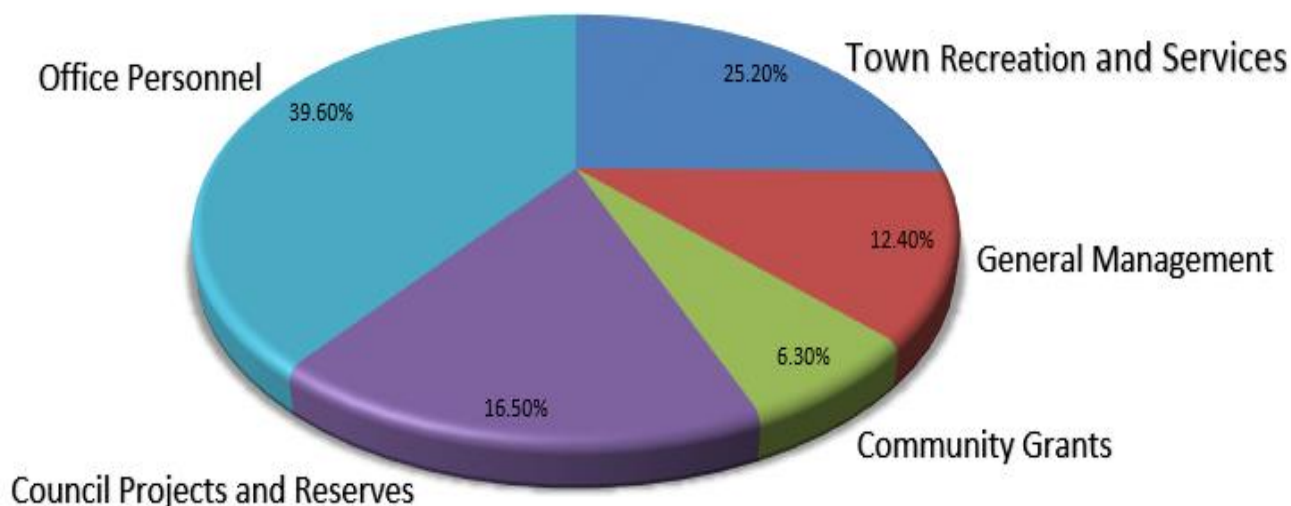


Councillor Attendance



2018/19 BUDGET

The Council's precept for the financial year 2018/19 is £480,183 which is £156.45 per Band D equivalent household. An increase of £1.97 per Band D equivalent per annum or 1.28%.



Town, Recreation and Services £39.48 per year for:

Markets, Cemetery, Toilets, Hall Hire, Allotments, Swimming Pool, Parks, Play Areas, Grounds Team and Street Cleaning

General Management £19.45 per year for:

Civic Costs, Legal and Professional fees, Books and Subscriptions, Insurance, Printing, Stationery, Postage, Office Equipment including Telephone, Internet and Advertising

Council Projects and Reserves £25.85 per year for:

Street Furniture, Playground Equipment, Grounds Equipment, Capital Expenditure for the Swimming Pool, New Allotments, Town Hall, CCTV, Bus Shelters and Replacement IT Equipment.

Grants £9.78 per year for:

Community Grant Funding

Office Personnel £61.89 per year for:

Town Clerk and Officers

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the Council usually start at 7pm, Planning and Highways will start at 6:30pm and ROSE at 7:30pm. Always check the agenda for the meeting for specific time, date and location. Below is the calendar of meetings as planned for the municipal year starting May 2018.

2018											
May		Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2019		2019		2019		2019		2019		2019	
Apr		May		Jun		Jul		Aug		Sep	
Mo		Tu		We		Th		Fr		Sa	
1 Annual Meeting		2		3		4		5		6	
2		3		4		5		6		7	
3		4		5		6		7		8	
4		5		6		7		8		9	
5		6		7		8		9		10	
6		7		8		9		10		11	
7 Early May Bank Holiday		8		9		10		11		12	
8 Neighbourhood Plan		9		10		11		12		13	
9		10		11		12		13		14	
10		11		12		13		14		15	
11		12		13		14		15		16	
12		13		14		15		16		17	
13		14		15		16		17		18	
14		15		16		17		18		19	
15 Planning & ROSE		16		17		18		19		20	
16		17		18		19		20		21	
17		18		19		20		21		22	
18		19		20		21		22		23	
19		20		21		22		23		24	
20		21		22		23		24		25	
21		22		23		24		25		26	
22 GEM		23		24		25		26		27	
23		24		25		26		27		28	
24		25		26		27		28		29	
25		26		27		28		29		30	
26		27		28		29		30		31	
27		28		29		30		31			
28 Spring Bank Holiday		29		30		31					
29		30		31							
30		31									
31											

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

<p>Cllr John Lewer Mayor and Chairman of the Council Shaftesbury West Ward johnlewer@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 01747 852710 39 Layton Lane Shaftesbury SP7 8EY</p>			<p>Cllr Piers Brown Deputy Mayor Shaftesbury West Ward padbrown@icloud.com 07511 156811 c/o Shaftesbury Town Council The Town Hall, High Street Shaftesbury SP7 8LY</p>
<p>Cllr Anthony Austin Shaftesbury West Ward anthonyaustin@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 01305 260217 Gemma House, 6 North Street Charminster DT2 9QS</p>			<p>Cllr Lester Taylor Shaftesbury East Ward lestertaylor@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 07517 825897 Flat 1, Cann Lodge, Salisbury Road Shaftesbury SP7 8ER</p>
<p>Cllr Tim Cook Shaftesbury East Ward timcook@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk c/o 01747 852420 c/o Shaftesbury Town Council The Town Hall, High Street Shaftesbury SP7 8LY</p>			<p>Cllr George Hall Shaftesbury East Ward georgehall@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 07713 100764 36 Yeatmans Close Shaftesbury SP7 8LU</p>
<p>Cllr Mark Jackson Shaftesbury East Ward markjackson@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk c/o 01747 852420 c/o Shaftesbury Town Council The Town Hall, High Street Shaftesbury SP7 8LY</p>			<p>Cllr Luke Kirton Shaftesbury East Ward lukekirtton@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk c/o 01747 852420 16 Anstee Road Shaftesbury SP7 8GT</p>
<p>Cllr Jeanne Loader Shaftesbury West Ward jeanneloader@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk c/o 01747 852420 c/o Shaftesbury Town Council The Town Hall, High Street Shaftesbury SP7 8LY</p>			<p>Cllr Andy Perkins Shaftesbury West Ward andyperkins@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 07768 876255 22 St James Street Shaftesbury SP7 8HE</p>
<p>Cllr Philip Proctor Shaftesbury West Ward philproctor@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 01747 852628 Walled Garden, 15 Parsons Pool Shaftesbury SP7 8AL</p>			<p>Cllr Lauren Todd Shaftesbury East Ward laurentodd@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk 01747 853447 31 Blackmore Road Shaftesbury SP7 8RD</p>

REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Shaftesbury Town Council places great value in the work of local organisations and charities which all create the rich tapestry of Shaftesbury. The Town Council is working towards increased external engagement and building relationships with businesses and the community. Reports from some organisations are provided below.

Shaftesbury Abbey Museum & Gardens

Shaftesbury Abbey Museum and Gardens are all that remains of what was, according to historical records, the pre-eminent women's religious house in the country until its destruction during and after Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries some 450 years ago. The few pieces of intricately carved stone, of medieval stained glass, of ceramic floor-tiles, and the stones where the walls and pillars of the Abbey Church once stood, only give us a glimpse of the magnificent edifice which once reared over the Blackmore Vale: but that glimpse is about to change.

2018 is about to see the start of a major community-based archaeological and historical project to provide the first-ever comprehensive survey of not just the Abbey Church, but the whole Abbey precinct. This will hopefully provide indications about where its cloister, chapter house, abbess' lodgings, exchequer, infirmary, bakery, brewery, guest-houses, stables, dovecote and other buildings originally stood. The survey, using the latest technologies of laser-scanning and ground-penetrating-radar may even provide clues about the first abbey, founded in AD888 by Alfred the Great. And then, using augmented reality, we should be able to show Shaftesbury's abbey in all its splendour.

The project won't only be surveying and excavating archaeological remains; it will also be delving into archives near and far – the Dorset History Centre and our own Abbey archive but beyond to Canterbury and Lambeth Palace, the British Library, and maybe even the Vatican. Our quest is to discover as much as we can about the people who made the Abbey what it was, and then to tell their stories in a major redevelopment of the museum.

Many individuals and local businesses and organisations joined with charitable funders including the Heritage Lottery Fund to underwrite the costs of the project. Over 80 people have already signed up to be volunteers and 6 local schools have said that they want their children to be actively involved. The people of Shaftesbury appear to be as excited as the Abbey team!

The first project activities – archaeological training for volunteers, and assessments of what lies in Shaftesbury's archives – have already started... we'll keep you informed of our progress and results.

Meanwhile, the Abbey Museum & Gardens will continue to be open for business as usual, every day from 10:00 to 17:00, and with free entry on those special Shaftesbury days of the Food Festival, the Fringe and Gold Hill Fair. This year's Shakespeare "Play in the Garden" will be A Winter's Tale (but in June, so it should be warm!), and we are delighted to be able to announce the return of Professor Ron Hutton of Bristol University to deliver our annual Spring Lecture at the Arts Centre in May. A host of other events are being finalised: some contemplative, some musical, some educational, some plain fun!... but we plan them all to be enjoyable.

Cedars Castle Hill.

Unlike our founder Dr Geoffrey Tapper whose passing we record with both sadness and pride, I cannot write in limericks or blank verse so am using bullet points instead.

- **The Geoffrey Tapper Palliative Care Suite** opened by Geoffrey last Spring was almost his last public activity. Two palliative care rooms with their own entrance, fresh decor, and quiet restful surroundings continue the work of looking after our elderly today. Two rooms where those with serious illnesses are looked after with skill, dignity and loving kindness. Two rooms where relief will be found for both residents and their families worried about the future, stressed by events which seem too momentous to contemplate.
- **Day Care at Castle Hill House** in our recently renovated and renamed Day Room which opens onto a lovely tranquil garden to explore and enjoy. This is a great facility for both carers and those needing care as we offer:
 - ❖ All sorts of activities from gardening to knitting to games to art and more
 - ❖ Companionship with no effort required to find friends.
 - ❖ Home cooked food using local fresh ingredients – yes special diets, of course!
 - ❖ Some respite for carers knowing that all is well and safe at Castle Hill House.
 - ❖ Staff specifically employed to run this service with skill, understanding and care
 - ❖ Registered with CQC and with the National Activity Providers Association (NAPA)
- **We welcome visitors and volunteers** – some of our residents have no family living nearby and love to have a chat with volunteers. On a sunny day, what could be nicer than a wander down to Park Walk and perhaps have a time to sit and enjoy the Abbey gardens? Or during other times listening to reading, trying a jigsaw or some craft activity?

- **Working with the Town Council towards Shaftesbury becoming a Dementia Friendly town** is important and ongoing. The Mayor has taken a lead on this important project which will benefit many – residents and tourists alike as it becomes increasingly developed.
- **Working with Adult Services at DCC** is proving difficult as staff changes are frequent, decisions having been made seem to be forgotten and contracts not issued when stated – we are still waiting for at least two. New ways of delivering adult care remain a dream!
- **In the future** we look forward to continuing to co-operate and work with those who are focussed on the future replacement of local health services – not least the Westminster Hospital.

Sara Jacson, Chair of Trustees.



Shaftesbury & District Branch, Royal British Legion

17 April 2018

Legion Helpline

The Legion General Helpline on 0808 802 8080 is free from UK landlines and open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. Enquirers are recommended to ring later in the day, as the lines do become overwhelmed earlier. It



covers enquiries on the following subjects:-

- War pensions and compensation claims
- Inquest advice
- Benevolent/welfare help
- Benefits and money advice
- Independent living
- Poppy Breaks, Family Holiday Breaks and Adventure Breaks and Care Homes
- Remembrance travel (pilgrimages, school & group tours)
- Legion membership
- Poppy Appeal, and fundraising events
- Tracing advice

Legion Beneficiaries and Disbursements

If you are a serving or ex-Serviceman or Servicewoman or eligible dependant who needs help of any kind, or you know of someone else who does, please ring the Chairman on (01747) 854765. Do leave a contact telephone number if he is not in. The Branch arranges hospital and/or home visits for those needing them.

Poppy Appeal

Last year's total Poppy Appeal was £22,365. For this year so far, and with more time until 30 September before the total closes, we have forwarded £20,770 excluding gift aid. Once again many shops in the town are participating in the shop-front display for Remembrance during the two week period from 27 October 2018.

Dorset County forwarded £684,000 in the year 2016-2017. There is always a need for more Poppy Appeal collectors; if you wish to volunteer please contact Barry Brown on (01747) 855739.

Membership

The branch is always looking to recruit more members. Serving or retired Servicemen and women, and their dependants are eligible to join, as is anyone (even those with no Service connections) who subscribes to the aims and objectives of the Legion. Anyone wishing to join should contact Elf Jones the Membership Secretary on (01747) 229126. We presently have 139 members. New members may join:-

Online at <britishlegion.org.uk/membership>,

By telephone and credit or debit card on 0808 802 8080,

Or with a paper application provided by the branch.

By far the simplest way to pay is by Direct Debit, and the membership department will send you a DD form to fill in if you request it by telephone on the 0808 number above. In the event of further problems, members should ring the Branch Membership Secretary on 01747 229126 for advice or assistance.

The Shaftesbury Branch of St John Ambulance has recently joined the Affiliation Group, formed already of Shaftesbury Detachment ACF, the Scouts, Guides, and Town Silver Band Youth Section.

Morning Coffee Every Thursday

The Branch has a regular coffee morning in the Coppice Street Legion Hall every Thursday morning from 1000 to 1130 except Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Anyone, including non-members, is welcome to attend for some warm company and refreshment. Current events are publicised at the meetings. We have special presentation events, followed by a free lunch five times a season, which runs from September to March (that is, excluding summer holidays) – see the presentation programme in the Diary Dates below.

Gold Hill Fair

As in past years, the Branch has booked a stall at the one-day Gold Hill Fair on Sunday 1 July 2018. All members and friends are encouraged to come along and support us. This year we will again have an armoured, turreted Ferret Scout Car alongside us.

Legion Hall Bookings

The Legion Hall was designed to hold 60 seated and 70 standing, and has full disabled access. Our present rate of donation is £30 per session (a session is a morning, afternoon or evening). Its monthly rate of occupancy in November 2016 reached a record peak of 62.2%. For bookings please contact Michael Hill on 01747 850082.

The Legion Hall

Over the last four years the Legion Hall has been systematically refurbished. This has included a programme of repainting, repair and replacement for most if not all parts of the building, inside and out. It has also meant the installation of a solar panel system. We received the Legion HQ Trustees' approval in December 2017 for the second tranche of funding to pay for the 16-year upgrading programme. This includes major works this year, which include:

- New non-slip floors in the halls, kitchen and toilets;
- Refurbishment of the three toilets.

The Branch Website

If you type "Shaftesbury Legion" on your web browser (e.g. Google) you will gain entry to the Branch section of the national website with lots of news and events.

Diary Dates (watch notice boards, the Branch Website and local Press for details)

Wednesday 25 April 2018 - 103rd Anniversary of Gallipoli ANZAC Day. Short service on Park Walk Memorial at 11.00. Branch Standard.

Tuesday 8 May 2018 - VE Day.

Thursday 28 June 2018 - Armed Forces Day Summer BBQ at Gears Mill on lieu of coffee morning. Starts 1100 until 1500. Members and invited guests only.

Saturday 30 June 2018 - Armed Forces Day.

Sunday 1 July 2018 - Branch stand at Gold Hill Fair.

Wednesday 8 August 2018 – Short commemoration service 11.30 a.m. at the Town Memorial (as ANZAC day) to mark 90 years since the Ypres Ceremony of Standards (GP90) and dedication of the Menin Gate in 1928.

Thursday 9 August 2018 - WW1 Presentation by Barbara Skull at coffee. Final commemoration of GP90.

Wednesday 15 August 2018 - VJ Day.

Thursday 20 September 2018 - Presentation by St John Ambulance: “First Aid in the Home and the Hall”, followed by fish and chips. Starts 11.30 sharp after coffee.

Thursday 18 October 2018 - Presentation by Barry Brown: “Southern Hemisphere Cruises”, followed by quiche and coleslaw lunch. Starts 11.30 sharp after coffee.

Sunday 11 November 2018 - Remembrance Sunday. Service 11 a.m. at the Town Memorial. Marchers muster 10.30 at Kings Arms car park. Note no separate 11/11/11 ceremony as the dates coincide this year.

Thursday 15 November 2018 - Branch AGM 10.30 a.m.

Thursday 22 November 2018 – 12.30 p.m. Poppy Collectors Thank You Lunch, Legion Hall.

Thursday 6 December 2018 - Photo Fun Presentation after coffee.

Thursday 13 December 2018 - Christmas Draw, sherry, port, mince pies and sing-along at coffee morning.

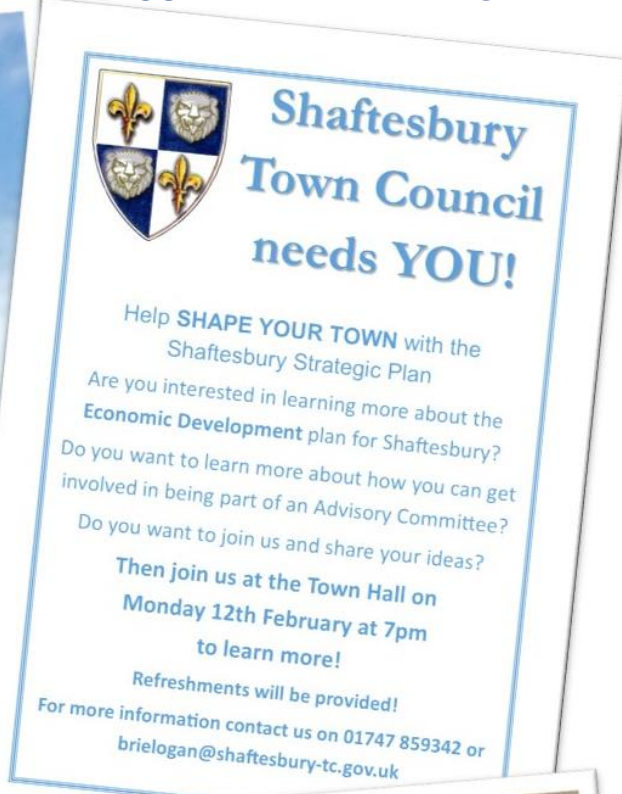
Sunday 13 January 2019 - Annual County Conference.

Thursday 17 January 2019 - Presentation by Commander Vernon Phillips: “Royal Naval Hovercraft in the Falkland Islands 1967” followed by lasagne and homemade coleslaw.

Thursday 21 February 2019 - Presentation by Tom Benyon: “ZANE” (Zimbabwe a National Emergency), followed by ploughman’s lunch.

Thursday 21 March 2019 – Presentation by Rodney Attwood: “How the First World War Ended”, followed by fish and chips.

A PICTURE SPEAKS A THOUSAND WORDS, WE HAVE COMPILED A FEW THIS YEAR...



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY COMES TO SHAFTESBURY

Celebrate the diversity of our High Street
Support our local businesses in Shaftesbury
Shop independent this Saturday!

FREE CAR PARKING FOR SHOPPERS

ON

SATURDAY

2ND DECEMBER 2017

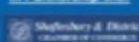
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
2ND DECEMBER

@ShaftesburyTC

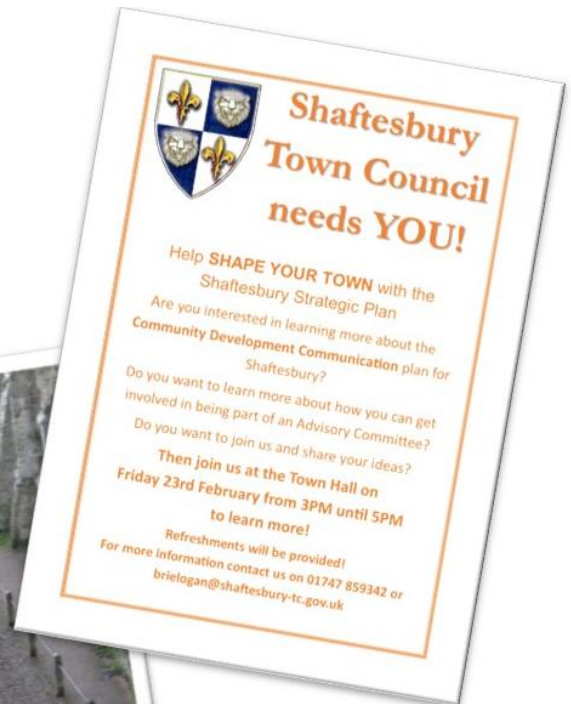
Shaftesbury Town Council

For more information visit our website at www.shaftesburytc.gov.uk or give us a call on 01747 859342

In Partnership with







Shaftesbury Town Council

COMMUNITY GRANTS







Shaftesbury Town Council needs YOU!

Help **SHAPE YOUR TOWN** with the
Shaftesbury Strategic Plan

Are you interested in learning more about the
Visitor Experience plan for Shaftesbury?

Do you want to learn more about how you can get
involved in being part of an Advisory Committee?

Do you want to join us and share your ideas?

**Then join us at the Town Hall on
FRIDAY 23rd February at 10AM
to learn more!**

Refreshments will be provided!

For more information contact us on 01747 859342 or
brielogan@shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk



Shaftesbury Town Council

t: 01747 852420

www.Shaftesbury-tc.gov.uk

Office opening hours are Monday–Thursday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm;

Friday 9:00am to 1:00pm.

