

## THE CHEPSTOW SOCIETY

### NOTES OF THE MEETING ON CIVIC AND AMENITY ISSUES, HELD VIA ZOOM ON 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2020

Present: Geoff Sumner (Chair), Keith James (Vice-Chair), Chris Penrose (Vice-President), Guy Hamilton (Secretary), and about 30 other members of the Society  
Elected local authority members including Cllrs. Jez Becker (MCC/CTC), Alan Braund, Tom Kirton, Dale Rooke (CTC), Nick Evans, Patrick Molyneux (FoDDC)  
Lucy Allen (CTC Town Clerk), Tim Melville (Transition Chepstow)

1. Geoff Sumner welcomed everyone and said that, so far as the Chepstow Society was concerned, the main objective of the session was to start a process of developing the way the Society operates in trying to maintain and improve the amenity and environment of the town
2. Guy Hamilton said that there were clearly many issues being addressed by the town council, Monmouthshire County Council, neighbouring authorities, and cross-border initiatives, and the Society needed to get to grips with these. There were also other organisations with an interest, such as Transition Chepstow. Possible ways forward would include regular (or irregular) meetings such as this one, and/or a small group of members to monitor and input on issues – but all options were dependent on the willingness of Society members, and the various authorities and groups, to engage with each other.
3. There was a wide-ranging discussion and many points were raised. These included:
  - The Place Plan for Chepstow, which was now being prepared, which would be considered by the town council in the New Year, and then be subject to public consultation
  - The different responsibilities of the town and county councils, in Wales, and the different authorities in England. The timetable for considering planning applications was usually very tight, so that town council views could be considered by the county council. Cllr. Becker offered to host a briefing for Society members on the various responsibilities.
  - The emerging proposals for small-scale improvements at High Beech roundabout, and the longer-term transport study which was now being consulted upon
  - The positive reception given by the town council to Simon Maddison's report on pavements – Simon would hopefully be involved in the Society's future inputs on issues
  - There was a need to cover issues about the future of the High Street, and tourism in the town
  - The Chepstow Society was already recognised as a consultee. Most town council meetings and meetings of its planning and amenity committees are open to the public, and the Society's input would be valued there.
4. The general conclusion was that the meeting was very valuable, and that similar meetings should be held on a regular basis, perhaps quarterly. The Society would consider how it could best monitor changes and input to the various processes, and identify individuals responsible on its behalf.
5. Geoff Sumner thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021 at 7 pm, via Zoom, and an agenda would be prepared – suggestions to the Secretary would be welcomed.