

Chairman's Column – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

My Boris hour's exercise today enabled me to walk across our wonderful town to collect the Chair of the Councils chain of office from Chris Inchley who has served the office with esteem for the last two years. Looking at the chain of office there are some very well-known Sheptonians proudly named on the chain. I shall endeavour to serve the town as well as they did.

Although our Town Council offices are currently closed work continues behind the scenes to keep the cogs of Local Government turning and the office staff and council members have been working hard and getting use to virtual meetings via the internet. The law was changed recently so we can hold full council meetings on the web and we were joined by two members of the public at our council meeting on Thursday where I chaired for the first time

Amongst the decisions we made recently was one to fund The Salvation Army food bank. If you or any friends or family are in need of assistance they are open 10am until 2pm Monday to Friday. This and other help and advice is available on the newly commissioned [www.helpshepton.info](http://www.helpshepton.info) website our phone number is 08000614089. These details are also posted on banners round the town. This compliments the work being done by the coronavirus volunteer group they can be found on 01749200200 or 01749830132. By working as one team we can help each other get through this crisis and emerge the other side as a stronger closer knit community

As I write this I am hoping I can find my best shirt and tie ready to don the chain of office in preparation to unfurl the Union Flag in honour of The Queen's birthday which we shall fly from the flag staff tomorrow (April 21st).

Cllr. Edric Hobbs, Chair, Shepton Mallet Town Council