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## **CHAIR'S WEEKLY COLUMN – 10 DECEMBER 2020**

I once worked in an organisation where the concept of 'flipping the pyramid' was widely encouraged. The organisation employed 120,000 people (it's a household name and you probably regularly shop there!) but the company knew the best ideas didn't come from the executive team but from everyone throughout the company. They therefore widely encouraged everyone to engage and share their ideas with each other (hence the 'pyramid' phrase).

Shepton Mallet Town Council undertook a survey just over a year ago (we leafleted every household and hosted the survey online) which led to the development of our Town Plan. In a way, that was 'flipping the pyramid'; listening to residents and developing our 4-year strategy for the future. Of course, we wanted to do a lot more than we have physically achieved this year but like the rest of the world, Covid has meant many plans have been paused. But that means 2021 is going to be an exciting year for the town, with many visible improvements taking place. To have a look at the plan, search online for Shepton Town Plan.

The Council consists of 16 councillors and 6 members of staff. Councillors are volunteers who give up their time to improve the town by setting the strategic direction of the Council and taking decisions by voting in meetings. The 6 members of (mostly part-time) staff actually do the day-to-day work (!) assisted by Councillors on various working parties. With so many ideas in the pipeline we need a full team to get everything done.

We currently have 3 vacancies on our Council. These will be filled by a local by-election next May (this would be in the next few weeks, but again, because of Covid no public elections are allowed to be held until May).

To help deliver our plan and get involved with some (or all!) of the many projects we currently have going or are about to start, why not consider standing yourself? The best way to start thinking about how to get involved is to speak to an existing Councillor. All their contact details are available on our website (sheptonmallet-tc.gov.uk). If you don't think you can commit the time to becoming a Councillor, do feel free to make contact to discuss any ideas you have; we are always on the look out for people who want to actively contribute to the improvement of our town.

**Matt Harrison, Chairperson**

**Shepton Mallet Town Council**

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Shepton Mallet Town Council, Town Clerk – Ms Charlotte Starkie  
Shepton Mallet Town Council Chairman – Councillor Matthew Harrison**