



MUCH WENLOCK TOWN COUNCIL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Much Wenlock is situated in the rural county of Shropshire. It is bordered by Wenlock Edge, which falls within the Shropshire Hills National Landscape. The town benefits from a good range of shops and services and has both primary and secondary schools.

The town has many historic buildings and a rich heritage. Much Wenlock has close links with the Modern Olympic Movement, being the birthplace of William Penny Brookes, who initiated the local Olympian Games in 1850.

Much Wenlock is a market town with a population of around 3,000. The Town Council has 11 Councillors, including a Mayor. There are eight part-time staff (see organization chart). The Council's precept for 2024/5 is £275,287, with an overall budget of just under £350,000 for the year. The Council has a Finance & Asset Management Committee, a Planning & Environment Committee and an HR Committee, as well as several working groups.

By virtue of their office, Town Councillors are Trustees of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Charity. There is a management committee formed of Councillors and representatives of Wenlock Estates, who manage the site on a day-to-day basis.

The Town Council owns the Corn Exchange, the Guildhall, the Museum building, the Gaskell Recreation Ground, Linden Lodge, 10 High Street and the Pound. It is responsible for the town cemetery, some street lighting, public toilets, market stalls, two bus shelters and a town clock as well as the town archives. It is not responsible for services such as highways, waste collection and housing, which are provided by Shropshire Council.

The Council is currently engaged with a review of the Much Wenlock Neighbourhood Plan, under the guidance of an external consultant, and has set up a steering group to oversee this process. Consultation is ongoing.

The Council is also nearing the end of the first stage of a project to renovate the Guildhall and extend its use. It was successful in obtaining grant funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund for a feasibility study and audience engagement activities. It is expected that further funding will be sought to move this project forward in the coming year.

Further information can be found on our website: www.muchwenlock-tc.gov.uk