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**CHURCHSTOKE
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

About Churchstoke Community Council

What Are Community And Town Councils?

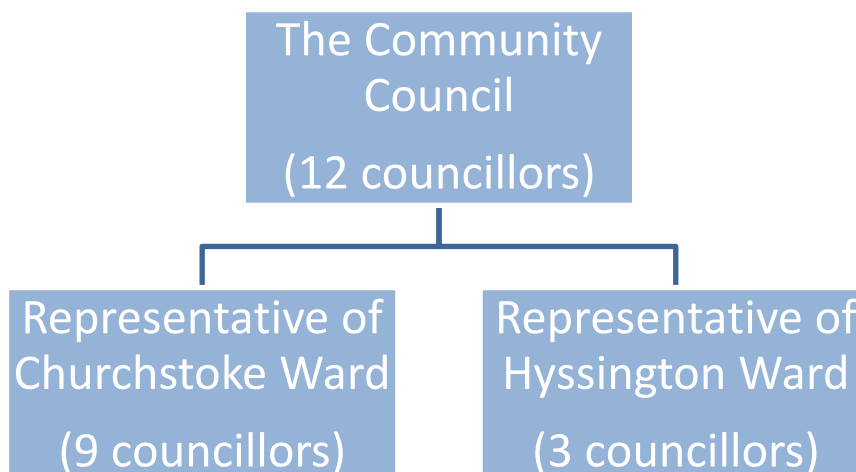
There are over 730 community and town councils in Wales. They are the part of local government closest to the people. They serve the smallest area and are responsible for the most local of matters. Very importantly, these councils can "precept" – raising a sum collected with the council tax each year to improve facilities and services for local people.

Community and town councils have a number of basic responsibilities in making the lives of local communities more comfortable. They do this by:



Source: Independent Review Panel on Community and Town Councils in Wales (2018)

The Community Council has 12 elected community councillors, representative of 2 wards, although it must make its decisions in the interests of the community as a whole.



Source: Churchstoke Community Council

Services provided by Community Council include:

- Benches and seats

- Community Car Park
- Cemetery and its maintenance
- Community Fund grants
- Community Halls grants
- Field Allotments provision
- Garden Allotments provision
- Notice Boards
- Playground and its maintenance
- Recreation field and its maintenance
- Representing the community at the annual remembrance event
- Responding to consultation on planning applications
- Responding to other formal consultations
- Road verge grass cutting in Churchstoke and at Hyssington
- Waste bins at the cemetery and at the recreation field
- Website for the community.

The Community Council is NOT responsible for the following services:

- Hospitals/ healthcare
- Social Care Services
- Libraries
- Benefits
- Cemeteries
- Community Halls Management
- Council housing
- Education and Schools
- Emergency Services and Emergency Planning
- Environmental Health Services
- Planning applications
- Policing/ CCTV
- Roads/ highways/ rights of way
- Trading Standards
- Waste/ rubbish collections.

Community Council's Business Plan

Each year the community council prepares and publishes its budget for the year ahead. This is in effect the council's business plan for the year – what it will do, how much it will raise in funds, and how much will be spent on each piece of work.

How Much Time Will I Need To Contribute?

At Churchstoke Community Council, each councillor is expected to attend the monthly meeting of the Full Council. A meeting may take approximately 2 hours. Councillors also expected to join a committee meeting if one is called – although these are very rare. Each meeting has an agenda and set of papers to read in preparation for the meeting. You can see examples of agendas on the Community Council website: <https://www.churchstoke.org>. Some councillors take on special responsibilities, such as the cemetery or allotments, although they have no powers of decision over these.