

## **The Huntsman**

Shirenewton Community Council has received the following statement from Councillor Sara Burch, Monmouthshire County Council Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing and Tourism.

“The Huntsman remains a thriving local pub, which offers Bed and Breakfast rooms. Currently the bed and breakfast accommodation availability is utilised by MCC to meet the need for temporary accommodation for a small number of homeless residents. The Huntsman continues to provide warm and caring accommodation for people who need it, for which we are very grateful.

Anyone can become homeless, and all the people housed by MCC have a connection with Monmouthshire. All people who have lived at the Huntsman in the last few years have experienced a housing crisis and include individuals from Shirenewton, people who are working, ex-service people and currently, people flooded out of other accommodation. Across Monmouthshire, MCC typically provides around 250 newly homeless households each year with temporary accommodation and housing support, together with help to secure a permanent home locally.

While we are developing more permanent affordable homes in Monmouthshire, it is important that MCC continues to have a range of temporary accommodation across the County in towns and rural areas, suitable for families and for single people whom we have a legal duty to house. Over the last three years we have built, bought and leased more self-contained and shared accommodation, but we still need additional capacity. We’ve made big strides over the last few years but there is more work to do.

Many of the people we house have support needs, as do some people in every community. MCC Housing Options and Housing Support teams work closely with health services, police and other agencies to support these residents and address risky or anti-social behaviour. We carry out a risk assessment before placing people, but we can’t always prevent adults from making choices which impact on their neighbours.

Anyone who is concerned about suspected or actual criminality or anti-social behaviour should always contact Gwent Police at the time via 999 or 101. Gwent Police and MCC work closely together to quickly address any issues which are affecting our communities. “