

4. Infrastructure

Roads

The area being predominantly rural is in essence a typically Monmouthshire community. There are no major roads and the road network is made up of a minority of B road classifications with the remainder being country lanes with both tarmaced and non-tarmac surfaces. Upkeep of the road network is sporadic and road surfaces are patchy causing unevenness, pot-holes and some water problems.



Services

Like many rural areas around the country, services are very limited compared to those available in more urban locations. There is no Post Office within the community, the nearest being some three miles away. Postal services are poor in line with recent Post Office economy changes, with only one collection per day and daily deliveries extending into the afternoon in some parts of the area. Medical services are non-existent and it would be desirable if a Doctors surgery could be developed. Ambulance services are provided from the Park Wall depot, some 4 miles distant. There is no Police presence in Shirenewton, the nearest Police Station being 5 miles away in Chepstow. There is an assigned Police Officer, stationed in Chepstow. This Police Station is not open at night and calls are routed to Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran or Pontypool some 15 - 19 miles distant, with relatively slow reaction times.

There is a village shop and 4 public houses, all of which attract a considerable clientele from outside the community.

Electricity / Water / Sewage

The electricity distribution system to Shirenewton and surrounding areas was upgraded in the early 1990s, but is still has the characteristics of an overhead rural supply. It is subject to disruption and interruption from debris (trees) in stormy weather and to damage from snow or agricultural activity. Power cuts are not frequent, but a regular feature especially in the winter.