



Abergavenny Town Council
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



www.abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk



Welcome from the Mayor

I am pleased to be able to share this annual report with you. The Town Council is working to make the town of Abergavenny a better place to live and to work and we do this by directly funding services and by supporting other organisations working in the town. I am proud of our town and I will, together with my fellow Town Councillors, continue to make Abergavenny an attractive, busy and friendly town.

T. Davies

About this report

This is the first annual report that Abergavenny Town Council has produced.

This report sets out the activities that Abergavenny Town Council has undertaken during the year 2017-18 to contribute to the economic, social and well-being of the town of Abergavenny. It also provides a brief outline of what the Council does.

The report includes examples of our many activities.

About Abergavenny Town Council

Abergavenny Town Council is the local council for Abergavenny. The Council has fifteen members covering five wards. All five wards have three councillors.

Each year in May the Council elects a Mayor who is installed at a special function. The new Mayor also has a Civic Service to dedicate him/herself to the good of the Town. The Town Council is supported by a small team consisting of two staff based in the Town Hall in Abergavenny.

The Town Council meets monthly to discuss and take decisions on a wide range of issues that affect the town. In addition, the Council has set up a number of Committees and working groups to take forward specific issues and more details on these meetings can be viewed on the Council's website www.abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk. The public are welcome to attend full Council and Committee meetings.



The Town Council gets almost all of its funds from its precept. This is, an additional amount added to the Council Tax bill based on the Town Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2017/18 the Council, the precept was £280,683.

The Council's main responsibilities include:

- Paying for litter picking and street cleaning in the town centre and outlying areas
- Paying Monmouthshire County Council so that the public toilets in the town remain open and that the toilets in Bailey Park are open at weekends.
- Paying for the dog waste bins including weekly emptying
- Providing the Christmas lights in the town
- Paying for CCTV in the town
- Management and maintenance of hanging baskets and other floral displays around the town (Abergavenny in Bloom)
- Financial support to ensure that the town has a Tourist Information Centre
- Supporting local events
- Providing a number of free events in the town during the summer.
- Providing grants to local groups.



Who are your Councillors?

CANTREF WARD

Cllr Samantha Dodd	Conservative	07481 110383	samdodd2609@outlook.com
Cllr Fred Morgan	Conservative	07762 000831	fredmorgan@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr David Simcock	Labour	07810 855482	davidsimcock@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk

CASTLE WARD

Cllr Morgan Lewis	Conservative	07449 630748	morganlewis@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Martin Hickman	Conservative	01873859543 07956240594	blorengeview@gmail.com
Cllr Tony Konieczny	Labour	07890 451820 01873 858912	tonykonieczny@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk

GROFIELD WARD

Cllr Nick Tatam	Liberal Democrat	01873 853574	nicktatam@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Penny Simcock	Labour	07800 768615	pennysimcock@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Gethin Jones	Labour	07539 506663	gethinjones@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk

LANSDOWN WARD

Cllr Roger Harris	Labour	01873 858143	rharris275@aol.com
Cllr Margaret Harris	Labour	01873 858143	maggiemrharris@aol.com
Cllr Martyn Groucutt	Labour	01873 857153	martyngroucutt@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk

PRIORY WARD

Cllr Teslin Davies	Labour	01873 855536	teslindavies@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Tudor Thomas	Labour	01873 840299	tudorthomas@abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Luke Van de Vyver	Independent	07854197106	DBE1972@gmail.com



Abergavenny Town Council & the Monmouthshire Well-Being Plan


The Town Council, as one of the larger Town and Community Councils in Wales, is required by law to prepare an annual report showing how the Council is contributing to the objectives in the Monmouthshire Public Services Board Well-being Plan. The first time we are required to provide this report is 2019 however, we have decided to use the four objectives in the Well-Being Plan in this report. The Well-being Plan objectives are:

- **Give Children and Young People the Best Possible Start in Life from birth through to early adulthood.** This would cover schooling, finding a job or training, having a healthy and active lifestyle and having places to play.
- **Address the Challenges of Demographic Change.** The area has an increasing proportion of the population classed as older people which means that the services that the Council provides must cater for this age group. Older people have a lot to offer the town and often play a vital role in their communities and have a wealth of skills, knowledge and experience.
- **Communities and Business to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.** Connecting people and businesses digitally or through a good transport network is crucial to a thriving economy.
- **Protect and Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change.** This objective is about looking after and improving our natural environment which also contributes to the economy through tourism, agriculture, forestry and much more. Natural resources are vital to our everyday lives.

About This Year

Give Children & Young People the Best Possible Start in Life

What we've done this year:

- Many of our councillors are school governors and been involved supporting the development of these schools.
 - We encouraged young people to be creative and enter the Youth Abergavenny Eisteddfod supporting prizes for 'off stage' categories of photography, model making, drawing and creative writing as well as the on- stage categories of recitation, composition, vocal solo, choir and dance
 - We provided financial support to a number of organisations supporting families and young people; some of these included Homestart Monmouthshire, Abergavenny Youth Service and Abergavenny Community Enterprise
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- We paid £8000 to Monmouthshire County Council to run summer playschemes providing free activities for children during the summer holiday.

What we would like to do over the next few years:

- Widen the impact of the summer playscheme so more families can benefit
- Work with Monmouthshire County Council Youth Service and youth focused organisations to understand where there are gaps in service and what more can be done
- Liaise with King Henry VIII School to find out what young people would like to see in the town

Address the Challenges of Demographic Change

What we've done this year:

- For many years we have provided significant financial support (£10,000) to Abergavenny Citizens Advice Bureau so that residents of all ages can seek local free advice and support on a wide range of matters.
- The Town Council has been actively involved in campaigning for improved accessibility at the railway station
- Financial support was provided to a number of organisations supporting older people
- We celebrated volunteering with annual Community Awards recognising the unsung heroes
- Supported voluntary organisations by helping them work together, promoting their activities and helping with funding
- Our town councillors contributed an average of 240 hours a year each on Town Council related work
- We paid £12,800 for CCTV in the town which contributed to making the town centre a safer place and reduced the fear of crime
- Been involved in the Crime Prevention Action Committee
- Part-organised a Freedom Parade for the Royal Welsh Regiment



What we would like to do over the next few years:

- To encourage more people to volunteer and get involved in community projects

Communities and Business to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county

What we've done this year:

- Financially supported (approximately £12,000) many of the town's festivals which offer a range of activities throughout the summer for residents and visitors alike eg Cycling Festival, Wall2Wall Jazz Festival, Food Festival.
- Provided significant funding (£58,000) to Monmouthshire County Council to ensure that there are public toilets in the town
- We provided significant funding to Monmouthshire County Council to ensure that our streets were cleaned
- By working with Y Fenni Business Community and Abergavenny and District Tourism Association we promoted the town and encouraged tourism
- Contributed to the Visit Abergavenny brochure which is distributed widely in the UK
- With our support of £7,500 the Tourist Information Centre remained open
- Organised and paid for the Christmas Lights at a cost of £22,500
- As a partner in an EU project Agri-Urban, promoted the importance of the agricultural sector to towns through farming and food processing.
- Supported the renewal of the Abergavenny Fairtrade Town status
- Managed and maintained hanging baskets and other floral displays throughout the town during the summer months

What we would like to do over the next few years:

- Improve the public toilets
- Make our streets cleaner



Protect and enhance our natural environment and minimise the impact of climate change



What we've done this year:

- A number of Town Councillors have been instrumental in Keep Abergavenny Tidy litter picks
- The Town Council paid £6000 for the weekly emptying of thirty dog bins located around the town
- The Town Council supported the Monmouthshire County Council initiative 'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card'
- Every month the Town Council commented on planning applications and made recommendations to Monmouthshire County Council
- The Town Council is involved with a number of groups who are concerned with the environment of Abergavenny such as Team Abergavenny and Friends of Bailey Park.

What we would like to do over the next few years:

- To continue to support voluntary groups to improve Abergavenny's environment
- To reduce the incidents of dog fouling throughout the town

For more information contact:

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Thank you to Seren Image Photography for supplying many of the photographs.

