

Abergavenny Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2018-2019

Introduction

<p>Outline of Council</p> <p>Indication of what could be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and names of councillors• Name of Mayor/Leader• Name of clerk and officers• Geographical area of Council• Number of residents represented• Any other relevant information	<p>Abergavenny Town Council has fifteen councillors covering the five wards of Grofield, Cantref, Priory, Castle and Lansdown. All five wards have three councillors. The population of Abergavenny Town area is approximately 10,000.</p> <p>The Mayor in 2018-19 is Councillor Teslin Davies and Deputy Mayor is Councillor Tony Konieczny.</p> <p>The Council employs Jane Lee as the Full Time Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Jane Lee and Jax Postoyalko as a part-time (12 hours a week) Admin Assistant. The Town Council's office is based in the Town Hall.</p>
<p>What is the Council's Vision/ Objectives?</p>	<p>The Council has recently agreed a Town Council Strategy & Action Plan and contained within is a clear mission statement "Working for and with the people and communities of Abergavenny".</p> <p>The Town Council has used the four Monmouthshire PSB Wellbeing Objectives to structure their strategy together with an additional priority area detailing changes to the operation of the Town Council.</p>

<p>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</p>	<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Council identified that a longer-term view was needed and during 2018 steps have been taken to develop a strategy and action plan. This strategy will guide future activities and spend. The Town Council has also reviewed how it funds a number of external bodies to move away from annual funding cycles to multi year funding.</p>
	<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>The Council actively engages with a range of organisations and MCC departments to understand issues. During these discussions, the Council considers if there is a role for the Town Council in helping to prevent problems occurring or getting worse. The Town Council very much considers itself part of the solutions to many of the issues faced by residents and businesses in the town.</p>
	<p>Integration Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>The Town Council is adopting a partnership approach to how it works with a number of organisations. It is requesting that partners demonstrate how they are contributing towards the four well-being objectives.</p>
	<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</p>	<p>The Town Council has limited human and financial resources so seeks to collaborate with other organisations wherever possible to enable the Town Council meet its wellbeing objectives.</p>
	<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>Through its work, the Town Council has reached out to different organisations and individuals whether this is through surveys, exhibitions, activities or general council communication. The Town Council has agreed a social media policy as the first step in using social media to involve and inform new groups of people.</p>

<p>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the four PSB well-being objectives into its plans?</p> <p>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</p> <p>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</p> <p>Communities and Businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county</p> <p>Protect & Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</p>	<p>Generally, the Town Council has revised a number of its documents to embed the four PSB wellbeing objectives. These include revising the grants application form and criteria, the public facing annual report and the recent strategy & action plan.</p> <p>The Strategy & Action Plan has used the four PSB well-being objectives as the structure for the strategy and accompanying action plan. This enabled councillors to discuss the priority areas and put forward actions that the Town Council can implement to make a difference in Abergavenny.</p> <p>All grant recipients are required to identify ONE objective that their proposed project contributes to and set out details of how their project contributes. This helps the Town Council in the assessment of the grant and enables the Town Council to provide detail to the PSB.</p>
<p>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the seven national well-being goals into its plans? (Globally responsible, prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language)</p>	<p>The Town Council recognises that it has a part to play and by contributing to the four PSB well-being objectives, it is contributing to the seven national well-being goals.</p>

Report of Steps Taken & Progress Made

Monmouthshire PSB Well-being Objective	Steps to be taken by the Town Council that contribute to the PSB Well-being Objective	Progress <i>What have you done so far?</i> <i>How are you tracking progress?</i> <i>How effective have you been? (RAG Status)</i> <i>What is the improvement for different communities?</i>
Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life	Increasing financial support to the summer playscheme by 50% thereby enabling increased opportunity for children including FSM recipients	A report is provided by MCC on numbers attended. In 2018-19, the increase in FSM recipients has been lower than anticipated.
	The annual programme of free town events is being refocused to include events of interest to children and young people.	A free Circus Skills event was arranged in the town in June 2018. This included a stilt walker dressed as the BFG in the town centre and circus workshop in Linda Vista Gardens
	Financial support offered to Abergavenny Community Enterprise, Dance Blast, Summer Reading Challenge, Youth Amateur Dramatic group, Local schools, Youth projects, Youth Eisteddfod, local environmental groups has offered opportunities for young people to access support and activities.	All grant recipients provide a feedback report on the success of their project and how it has benefitted residents of Abergavenny. The Town Council will continue to support local organisations to offer opportunities for children and young people.
	Discussions have started with pupils at King Henry School to find out more about what young people want	So far two meetings have taken place and young people are keen to engage with the Town Council particularly around the plastic free agenda.

Address the Challenges of Demographic Change	<p>Through support of Abergavenny Community Centre, there will be an increase in the number of subsidised ‘community cafe’ meals served. These are not exclusively for older people however older people tend to make up the majority. The Café provides a welcoming and supportive environment.</p>	<p>Through the signing of a partnership agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust, the Town Council has agreed a three year funding package to enable the Trust to deliver a range of outcomes aimed at older people.</p>
	<p>Accommodation of the needs of older people in future service provision.</p>	<p>The Town Council in its deliberations over the future arrangements for the public toilets in the town is considering the future needs based on future demographic change.</p>
	<p>Working with MCC to understand current provision and identify potential gaps.</p>	<p>ATC Councillors have had initial discussions with MCC officers on how to take this action forward.</p>
	<p>To pilot an ‘adopt a garden’ scheme to help match residents with gardens that they can no longer maintain with residents that would like access to a bigger garden. This not only resolves the issue of maintaining a garden but helps reduce social isolation</p>	<p>Examples of similar schemes have been researched to inform how an adopt a garden scheme may work in Abergavenny</p>
Communities and Businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county	<p>Forging closer links between Abergavenny Town Council and Y Fenni Business Community</p>	<p>The successful Christmas Light Switch-On event was a joint initiative between the Town Council and Y Fenni Business Community.</p> <p>Town Councillor attends Y Fenni Business Community meetings</p> <p>Y Fenni Business Community supporting Refill Abergavenny</p>

	Continued support of Abergavenny TIC	Increased financial support to the TIC and in discussions with partners re future location of the TIC
	Promotion of the town centre by Town Council through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial support of a number of Festivals (Cycling, Arts, Writing) • Funding contribution to Visit Abergavenny brochure • Putting up of bunting • Floral displays as part of Abergavenny in Bloom • Programme of events 	Attracting visitors to the town is important for the local economy, the Town Council assists several organisations to offer activities that do this.
	To review the arrangements for street cleaning, litter collection and dog waste collection.	Discussions are underway with MCC officers to consider future long-term options. Regarding dog waste, collaborative discussions are being held between Monmouthshire Community & Town Councils & MCC as any future proposal will have implications across the county.
Protect & Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change	The Town Council is leading on the Refill Abergavenny initiative which seeks to reduce the use of single use plastic by making refilling water bottles easy to do. Businesses display a Refill sticker which indicates that water bottles will be refilled for free.	15 businesses are already signed up. The scheme was launched in December 2017 and received good publicity in the Abergavenny Chronicle and Abergavenny Focus magazine. Activity is ongoing to continue promotion and recruit more refill stations.

	The Town Council has provided a significant grant of £25,000 to Abergavenny Community Centre for energy saving measures	The grant was provided in March 2019 so impact on energy consumption not yet apparent
	Keeping the town clean	Contributing towards the street cleaning in Abergavenny Paying for the emptying of 35 dog waste bins on a weekly basis
	Financial support to various community organisations participating in Abergavenny in Bloom	Grants give to Friends of Bailey Park, Friends of Castle Meadows, Friends of Linda Vista Gardens, Our Lady's & Saint Michael's school.

Contribution to the National Well-being Goals

Other activity that the Town Council is undertaking that contributes to the National Well-being Goals

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
<p>A Prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>The Town Council is a Living Wage employer</p>
<p>A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<p>The Town Council contributes to the MCC Green Infrastructure Strategy The Town Council encourages the use of pollinator friendly plants in its planting schemes</p>
<p>A Healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood</p>	<p>The Town Council encourages residents to get involved with Abergavenny in Bloom and help the 'Friends' groups maintain the greenspaces in the town.</p>

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
<p>A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>The Town Council has provided funding for a section in Abergavenny Library containing books about inspirational women</p>
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<p>The Town Council has joined forces with a number of organisations in the town to lobby Network Rail, WG and Department for Transport to approve funding for access improvements to Abergavenny railway stations.</p>
<p>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh</p>	<p>The Town Council sponsors the Abergavenny Youth and Adult Eisteddfod. The Council assisted with the unveiling ceremony of Carreg Ddathlu, a stone sculpture on Castle Meadows to commemorate the 2016 National Eisteddfod held in Abergavenny.</p>
<p>A Globally Responsible Wales: where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<p>The Town Council has passed a Fairtrade resolution and supports Abergavenny's status as a Fairtrade Town.</p>

Implementing the Act

An opportunity to reflect on how things are going.

What opportunities have the Council encountered and how have these been best utilised?	The Council planned to prepare corporate documents such as the strategy and annual report so the Wellbeing agenda has provided the structure for these documents and the activities of the Council.
Has the Council encountered any barriers and if so what actions have been/are being taken to overcome these?	The language associated with the Well being Act is not always easy to use when conveying a message to a wide range of organisations.
What challenges has the Council faced and what measures have been put in place to overcome them?	The Council is undertaking an internal refocus to ensure that it has in place appropriate policies and procedures and this process is taking time and effort. This has restricted the efforts of the Council to focus more closely on actions in relation to the PSB Wellbeing plan.
Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?	The Town Councils that have a duty under the Act would like to be more involved with the PSB and its programme groups. Town Councils are represented on many PSBs in Wales.