

# Abergavenny Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2019-20

## Introduction

<p><b>Outline of Council</b></p> <p>Indication of what could be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number and names of councillors</li><li>• Name of Mayor/Leader</li><li>• Name of clerk and officers</li><li>• Geographical area of Council</li><li>• Number of residents represented</li><li>• Any other relevant information</li></ul>	<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 2019-20 was Councillor Tony Konieczny and Deputy Mayor Councillor Tudor Thomas</p> <p>The Council employs Jane Lee as the Full Time Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer and Jax Postoyalko as a part-time (12 hours a week) Admin Assistant. The Town Council's office is usually in the Town Hall although due to the building works at the Town Hall, the Town Clerks office temporarily moved within the Town Hall and also relocated to the Melville Centre towards the end of 2019-20.</p>
<p><b>What is the Council's Vision/ Objectives?</b></p>	<p>The <a href="#">Council's Strategy &amp; Action Plan</a> 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 concerned with changes to the operation of the Town Council.</p> <p>Councillors receive regular updates on progress against the action plan.</p>

<p><b>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</b></p>	<p><b>Long Term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Council signed two more partnering agreements with external bodies (Abergavenny Local Citizens Advice and Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership). These agreements offer the security of multi-year funding in return for delivery of outcomes against the four PSB wellbeing objectives.</p>
	<p><b>Prevention</b> How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>The Council has made good progress engaging with a range of organisations and MCC departments to understand issues affecting Abergavenny. This can result in the Town Council funding different activities which can prevent problems occurring or getting worse. A good example would be our close working with MCC Youth Team on summer activities and funding towards the SHIFT project. 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><b>Integration</b> 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 continues to work closely with many organisations to deliver its actions, particularly with MCC.</p>
	<p><b>Collaboration</b> 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 continues to have limited human and financial resources so seeks to collaborate with other organisations wherever possible to enable the Town Council to meet its wellbeing objectives.</p>
	<p><b>Involvement</b> 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 launched a new website which promotes the work of the Town Council, publicises consultations and offers the opportunity to sign up to receive a regular newsletter. The website received a Highly Commended in the One Voice Wales Innovative Practice Awards 2020.</p>



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To provide additional emotional support to young people	Additional funding is being made available to the MCC led SHIFT project to increase the number of hours of support available in Abergavenny to support young people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues.
To provide opportunities for young people to encounter different experiences	Abergavenny Town Council provided a free theatre performance for all Year 6 pupils within Abergavenny Town Council area. The Town Council also financially supports the Abergavenny Youth Eisteddfod and other town based festivals which encompass free activities for young people in their Festival programme.

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity to improve well-being	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To offer an interesting and varied programme of summer activities for 11 year olds and over.	Delivered by MCC Youth Service (with Town Council funding), over 90 individual young people engaged over summer 2019
To provide summer activities for under 11 years	Contributed £12,000 towards the summer playscheme in Abergavenny at which 148 children attended. Abergavenny Town Council has facilitated the contact between MCC officers and neighbouring community councils which has resulted in contributions to the summer playscheme 2020 (which may now not take place) from many community councils. This will allow a free healthy breakfast and lunch to be provided.
Together with Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership to organise a free 'Fun Factory' in north Abergavenny	This was supported with activities provided by MCC and Melin Homes as well as activities provided by the Town Council. Activities included a bouncy castle, sports equipment, face painting, circus workshop. This event was attended by approx. 40 people and feedback has been positive



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Developing networks for all ages that support people's wellbeing in their local communities	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To support community organisations that offer activities for all generations and offer a supportive and welcoming environment	The Town Council's multi-year funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust contributes to staffing and running costs which enable the community centre to run a wide range of activities including subsidised lunches and coffee mornings.  Abergavenny Town Council supports Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership which offers support and advice to residents, particularly those living in north Abergavenny
To improve dialogue with town based groups	Town Councillors have had discussions with many organisations to increase understanding of the issues faced by different groups eg Action 50+ group, Promobility group.

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Better business networks to share knowledge & regional opportunities to help businesses grow	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To set up an Abergavenny Town Centre Action Group	The inaugural meeting was held February 2019 . Members of the action group include Abergavenny Town Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Abergavenny & District Tourism Association, Y Fenni Business Community and Abergavenny Ladies Business Network.
To contribute towards an economically thriving town centre	<p>The Town Council encourages tourism through its many actions, namely financial support of the Tourist Information Centre, contributing towards the Visit Abergavenny publication, staging of free events, Christmas Lights and the associated switch on event, financial support for the various festivals held in the town.</p> <p>The Town Council also provides services which create a more pleasant and convenient town centre, namely a significant contribution to MCC to provide public toilets, street cleaning and CCTV and all year round planting and maintenance of the permanent town centre planters.</p>



<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Protect &amp; Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Improving the resilience of habitats and wildlife and the benefits they bring	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To increase the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters	A new contract for planting and upkeep of the “newer” town centre planters was awarded to a company that sources plants from a peat free nursery and planting scheme is chosen is for pollinators. The other contractor who provides hanging baskets and plants up the blue planters is being encouraged to select pollinator friendly species
To support volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks	Financial support has been given to Friends of Bailey Park and Friends of Castle Meadows Starter kit from WG Environment Growth fund is to be provided for young people to create a community garden by the Youth Cabin, Old Hereford Road.
To create new habitats by replanting areas of town where the current planting is poor and of little value for biodiversity	A landscape designer has been engaged and designs consulted upon. Work will start on replanting of beds in Autumn 2020.
To prepare a report setting out how the Town Council is meeting its obligations under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act	Report prepared and uploaded to the Town Council’s website

To continue to promote Abergavenny Refill initiative	Abergavenny Town Council leads the Refill initiative in the town which seeks to reduce the use of single use plastics. Businesses sign up to be Refill stations where water bottles can be refilled for free. In support of reducing single use plastic use, the Town Council has agreed to fund the installation of an outdoor drinking fountain which will be progressed in 2020-21.

<b>Protect &amp; Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
Working with Children and Young People to make them responsible global citizens of the future	
<b>VISION</b>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To continue discussions with staff and pupils at King Henry School to find out more about what young people want	Young people are keen to engage with the Town Council particularly around the plastic free agenda. There has been initial discussions between the Deputy Head of King Henry VIII High School and the Town Council regarding the use of a digital democracy platform <a href="#">vocaleyes</a> , this will be followed up once schools reopen.