

Abergavenny Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2020-21

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 2020-21 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 in the Town Hall.</p>
<p>What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?</p>	<p>The Council's 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 concerned with changes to the operation of the Town Council.</p> <p>Councillors receive regular updates on progress against the action plan and revised the Strategy and Action Plan in December 2020.</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 signed a further partnering agreement with external organisation Mind Monmouthshire. This agreement offers Mind Monmouthshire the security of multi-year funding in return for delivery of outcomes against the four PSB wellbeing objectives.</p>
	<p>Prevention 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. 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 continues to work closely with many organisations to deliver its actions, particularly with MCC.</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 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>It has collaborated well with MCC Grounds Team on a project to enhance biodiversity in the town. The Town Council provided the funding for the plants and engaged a landscape designer with MCC providing the team to undertake the clearance of the old planting and planting of new.</p> <p>The Town Council has also commenced discussions with MCC Grounds Team with the aim of setting up a small team dedicated to improving the streetscene in Abergavenny. Monmouthshire CC would employ this team with their work schedule determined collaboratively.</p>

	<p>Involvement</p> <p>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>The Town Council continues to reach out to the community through improved communication. The Town Council writes a regular column in the Abergavenny Chronicle covering the work of the Town Council, activities taking place in the town, volunteer opportunities as well as requesting feedback on specific issues. The Town Council has an active Facebook page which is regularly updated as is the website. During 2020-21 the Town Council conducted a survey to find out more about people's vegetable & fruit growing habits to inform future provision. It has not been possible to hold events or other physical engagement activities in 2020-21.</p>
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OBJECTIVE	
Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life	
STEP	
Supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of young people	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
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 available in Abergavenny to support young people experiencing emotional wellbeing issues.
To provide opportunities for young people to encounter different experiences	Through grant funding to the Abergavenny Community Centre and also to MCC playscheme, play activities were available during summer 2020

OBJECTIVE	
Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life	
STEP	
Working to tackle physical inactivity and obesity to improve well-being	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To provide summer activities for under 11 years	Contributed £12,000 towards the summer playscheme in Abergavenny.
To improve facilities for outdoor activity	Approved funding for the resurfacing of the former hard courts area in Bailey Park. Work to be carried out in 2021/22

OBJECTIVE	
Address the Challenges of Demographic Change	
STEP	
Developing networks for all ages that support people's wellbeing in their local communities	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To support community organisations that offer activities for all generations and offer a supportive and welcoming environment	<p>The Town Council's multi-year funding agreement with Abergavenny Community Trust contributes to staffing and running costs which enabled the community centre to run a limited programme of activities including subsidised lunches and coffee mornings when covid restrictions eased in the summer/early Autumn.</p> <p>Abergavenny Town Council supports Abergavenny Community Enterprise Partnership which offers support and advice to residents, particularly those living in north Abergavenny</p>
To improve dialogue with town based groups	Many groups have stopped meeting during 2020-21, however there has been ongoing discussions with environmental groups regarding greater collaborative working.

OBJECTIVE	
Address the Challenges of Demographic Change	
STEP	
Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To introduce and pilot Adopt A Garden scheme in Abergavenny	<p>Development work is underway to ensure all the backroom processes are in place. Promoted through the Our Monmouthshire platform, adopt a garden matches would-be gardeners with people who own too much garden, preferably living close to each other. The garden owner allows the gardener to use a part of their garden to grow food or flowers, and in return, that part of their garden is cared for. This takes away the worry and anxiety from not being able to manage the gardening.</p> <p>The gardener may wish to share some of their produce with the owner, or help to keep another part of the garden looking nice, but this is not a condition of the scheme. It is anticipated that friendships will develop, often across generations, between predominantly younger gardeners and older owners.</p>

OBJECTIVE	
Communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county	
STEP	
Better business networks to share knowledge & regional opportunities to help businesses grow	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To set up an Abergavenny Town Centre Action Group	No progress in 2020
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. In 2020-21, a new Christmas Lighting scheme was introduced with a virtual switch on. Only two of the many town festivals supported by the Town Council went ahead on a virtual platform.</p> <p>The Town Council also provides services which create a more pleasant and accessible 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> <p>The Town Council contributed to the new fixtures and fittings for the Tourist Information Centre when relocating to the Town Hall.</p> <p>The Town Council contributed towards the painting of the exterior woodwork at the Town hall following an extensive internal refurbishment.</p>

OBJECTIVE	
Protect & Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change	
STEP	
Improving the resilience of habitats and wildlife and the benefits they bring	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To increase the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town centre planters	The Town Council was successful in its application for Local Places for Nature funding. This has enabled 2 large beds to be replanted with pollinator friendly planting, 30 bird boxes to be made by school children and installed in the town, production of a biodiversity trail and leaflet, planting of a wildlife corridor on Castle Meadows
To support volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town parks	The Town Council has agreed a budget for multi year funding to enhance the work of the volunteer groups that contribute to the upkeep of the town greenspaces. This will enable them to plan their work programme with more certainty.
To create new habitats by replanting areas of town where the current planting is poor and of little value for biodiversity	The first phase of replanting was carried out in 2020-21 in collaboration with Monmouthshire County council. Further planting will be carried out in Autumn 2021.
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. Further information is included in the Council's Annual report delivered to all households and in the Strategy & Action Plan progress report available on the Council's website. The revised Strategy & Action Plan incorporates actions to maintain, enhance and promote biodiversity.

To continue to promote Abergavenny Refill initiative	There has been little progress on this action as a result of the pandemic

Protect & Enhance Our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change	
STEP	
Working with Children and Young People to make them responsible global citizens of the future	
VISION	
ACTION	PROGRESS
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 vocaleyes , however as a result of the pandemic there has been no progress against this action