

# BRECON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Cyngor Tref  
**Aberhonddu**

**Brecon**  
Town Council

## FOREWORD

This is Brecon Town Council's Annual report detailing its work carried out in 2021-22 and illustrating the well-being objectives contributed to this year, as well as providing some general information about the Council.

## THE COUNCIL

Brecon has 15 Town Councillors in 4 wards:

St David Ward:	Councillor Steve Morgans Councillor David Meredith Councillor Martin Weale
St Mary Ward:	Councillor Tomos Davies Councillor Ieuan Williams Councillor Gren Ham (until January 2022) Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Councillor Mark Perry
St John Ward East:	Councillor Ann Mathias Councillor Chris Walsh Councillor John Powell
St John Ward West:	Councillor Marie Matthews Councillor Rob Thomas Councillor Matthew Dorrance Councillor Michaela Davies

Contact details for Councillors can be found on Brecon Town Council's website at <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/councillors/>

## COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Brecon Town Council has three Committees as follows:

### **Planning Guildhall and Staffing Committee**

This Committee considers planning applications within the Brecon Town boundary received by the National Park Authority and is also responsible for the Guildhall and all employment matters relating to members of staff working for Brecon Town Council. It also deals with Civic matters such as the Mayoral robes and regalia and Twin Towns.

### **Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee**

This Committee is responsible for administering the Town Council's grant scheme and awarding where appropriate. Its duties also include procurement and management of all contracts and services commissioned by Brecon Town Council and review and monitoring of contracts and services for best value and quality control purposes. This Committee also deals with all matters relating to Visit Brecon (except staffing).

### **Environment and Events Committee**

This Committee is responsible for managing Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, Beacons Park open space and Maendu Well, as well as the planters in the town centre. It works in partnership with other organisations and agencies in relation to environmental matters.

It is also responsible for events that are organised by Brecon Town Council including Brecon With Bells On, Remembrance Sunday, events at the bandstand, and Civic events such as the ceremonial AGM, the Mayor's Civic Sunday and the annual Gurkha Parade.

The Environment and Events Committee is also responsible for managing fishing rights on the River Usk between Llanfaes Bridge and Gwennies Lane.

This Committee is supported by two volunteer water bailiffs and three co-opted volunteer members of the public who all bring their skills and knowledge to assist the Committee in its work.

### **Committee Membership 2021/22:**

<b>Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee</b>	<b>Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee</b>	<b>Environment and Events Committee</b>
Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor R Thomas Councillor A Mathias Councillor S Morgans Councillor I Williams Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Perry Councillor J Powell Councillor G Ham (up to Jan 2022)	Councillor T Davies Councillor M Matthews Councillor M Dorrance Councillor M Davies Councillor A Mathias Councillor A M C Weale Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor J Powell Councillor M Perry	Councillor I Williams Councillor M Matthews Councillor A M C Weale Councillor M Dorrance Councillor T Davies Councillor G Ham (up to Jan 22) Councillor R Thomas Councillor S Morgans Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Davies

## THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk is appointed by the Council under section 112 Local Government Act 1972 and is the proper officer of the Council. The Town Clerk carries out a varied role, duties of which include legal and financial guidance and record keeping; project management; research; implementation of Council's decisions; staff management and administration. The Town Clerk is also responsible for the internal management and organisation of the Council.

Brecon's Town Clerk, Mrs Fiona Williams, was appointed in 2014, lives in Brecon with her family, and enjoys travel, keeping active and walking in the Brecon Beacons.

## YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Brecon Town Council appoints up to two individuals to be Community Youth Representatives who are over the age of 11 but under the age of 18, and are considered by the Council to be suitable to represent the interests of those individuals under the age of 18 who live, work or receive education or training in the Brecon Town Council area.

The Council presently has two Youth Representatives who attend meetings and actively contribute where possible both of whom were appointed for a two year term in April 2021.

## FINANCES

In 2021/22 Brecon Town Council's income was £504,144 including the precept of £468,120. The expenditure for the year was £459,512. Full details can be found in the year end accounts at [www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk)

## LOCAL WELLBEING PLAN

Section 40 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2019 places a duty on certain Town Councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has effect in their area.

Powys has developed a wellbeing plan which can be accessed at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan> and identifies four local objectives:

- People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy ("economy")
- People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment ("environment")
- People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible ("healthy")
- People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture ("communities")

Each of Brecon Town Council's Committee Chairs have prepared an annual report for that Committee, as set out below, and the Committee's work has been colour coded illustrating where each of the above four local objectives has been contributed to.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE**

The Environment and Events Committee is responsible for all the green spaces that are owned and managed by the Town Council. It is also responsible for events that are organised by Brecon Town Council, such as Brecon with Bells On, Remembrance Sunday, the annual Gurkha Parade and events at the bandstand.

### **Committee Membership**

The Committee membership including the Co-opted members remains the same with the exception of the two new young Town Council representatives.

### **Fishing Committee**

The Town Clerk also continues to be the Secretary to the Fishing Association, and reports were submitted over the year by the Water Bailiffs.

- Angling appeared to be a popular pastime last year and ticket sales for the Town Council stretch of the Usk were higher than two years ago. ("economy") ("environment") ("healthy")
- The tracking of salmon smolt restarted this year, invaluable information about the environment and the migration of the salmon can be gathered this way. ("environment")
- The Committee is seeking grant funding to bring the fishing bay up to current standards to ensure inclusivity and safety for users. This is a unique area for fishing, and it is hoped it will be enhanced soon with a new 'access for all' fishing point. The relevant permissions are presently being sought. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")

### **Events**

- The ongoing Pandemic in May 2021 was still preventing large social gatherings, and it was decided that the Gurkha Parade be postponed until 2022. ("healthy")
- The Annual General Meeting and Mayoral Installation was again held on Zoom. Fortunately Remembrance Sunday was able to take place - following the Covid guidelines at that time. ("healthy")
- September 2021 saw the first Busking Scheme, which was hugely successful and greatly enjoyed by the late summer visitors. All sites were risk assessed and appropriate social distancing was observed. ("economy") ("communities")

- Brecon With Bells On 2021 became a hybrid event with Christmas Market stalls in the Guildhall and Santa in the Market Hall Vaults. These events were risk assessed and had Track and Trace in situ, they were well attended and a lovely day was had by all. ("economy") ("communities")
- The Mayor's Voluntary Organisation Civic Reception was replaced with the 'Best of Brecon Awards' and this online event celebrated the work of volunteers in the town. In 2022 a hybrid event of film and ceremony is planned, to be held at the Guildhall to celebrate volunteers in the community. ("communities")
- Discussions have started regarding the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, with an open air event to be held at the bandstand with a Freddie Mercury tribute act and the lighting of a beacon. ("communities")
- Bunting has been purchased for the town centre. ("economy") ("communities")

## Environment

- The Environment and Events Committee revisited the Teenage Shelter project in May of last year. This was something that had been mentioned in the 2020 Brecon Town Survey that young people would like to see in the town. Several meetings took place via Zoom, and a new survey was sent out to the High School, with differing results post lock down than had been highlighted before the Pandemic. It became apparent that the young people were unsatisfied with the upkeep of council kept parks regarding grass cutting. The project is now on hold for the time being. ("environment") ("communities")
- The Committee has also been involved in the Active Travel Consultation, to improve the routes from the High School and Priory School, up to the estates - walking and cycling. ("environment") ("healthy")
- The Committee has also been involved in looking at new signage for the Town and have worked with the Brecon Buzz group to improve these. ("economy") ("environment")
- Discussions have also taken place regarding hanging baskets and the improvement of the town centre planters ("economy") and also to approve the installation of swift boxes. One of these will be fitted with a camera in order to watch the progress of the swifts. ("environment")
- The Town Council continues to address the problems of rats and pigeons for residents of Brecon. ("environment") ("healthy")
- The Chair and Town Clerk carried out the risk assessments for Maendu Well, Llanfaes Park, Skatepark and Camden Road Park, with quotes being obtained for new surfacing. ("environment") ("healthy")
- Four picnic benches were donated to the town and positions were found for them within the town parks. ("environment") ("communities")

- Brecon Town Council also went green last year, following the guidelines from the Environment Act Working Group, sourcing greener products where necessary. (“environment”) (“healthy”)
- Several Oak trees have been planted to support the Queen’s Green Canopy and other trees are waiting to be placed. (“environment”)
- The Environment and Events Committee continues to work with the Maendu Well group in keeping the site environmentally safe. (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Two new parks are in the process of being developed, Priory park and Bryn de Winton, with the support from grant options and other funding schemes. (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)

### **Conclusion:**

The Environment and Events Committee meetings are held via Zoom, however there is always work going on in the background regarding our green spaces. Much of this work is being undertaken by Alex, the Town Council Park Keeper. From park maintenance to mending stone leats and constructing willow sculptures, there is not much that he can’t do. It is through his knowledge and hard work, and the dedication of Fiona the Town Clerk that the Environment and Events Committee have been able to achieve these projects and events. Fiona has managed to secure several grants in order to move projects forward and her guidance has been invaluable.

Although Covid continued to disrupt large social gatherings, the hard work carried out by the Working Groups to make these projects a reality has meant that the Town’s unique green spaces stay unique.

‘You have all done very well!’ My year as Chair has been incredibly busy but very enjoyable. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to our Co-opted Members, whose support is invaluable, and to all the Members who sit on the Committee. A big thank you to the Water Bailiffs, and a huge thanks to Rhys, Admin Officer, who has to do the boring stuff.

**Councillor Marie Matthews**  
**Chair Environment and Events Committee**  
**22nd March 2022**

## **PLANNING GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE**

### **Annual Report 2022**

The Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee (PGSC) considers planning applications received by the National Park Authority and is responsible for the upkeep of the Guildhall and all members of staff working for Brecon Town Council.

During 2021-22 the PGSC has conducted all scheduled meetings and business via zoom and has operated all activities in line with Welsh Government requirements in relation to COVID.

At the start of the Pandemic all members of Brecon Town Council were provided with written and verbal briefings on how to operate the zoom facility with support available from the Town Clerk as and when needed. Confidence and skill have developed amongst members who were previously less familiar with the platform. Use of digital tools to support meetings has increased accessibility for members, particularly those who have domestic and employment commitments, thus increasing the opportunity for participation.

The PGSC considered whether new equipment should be purchased to support the council to operate hybrid meetings with a choice of in person or remote attendance. It was concluded that meetings should continue to be operated remotely, for the remainder of the Council term with this being deferred to the new council.

### **Planning Applications and Decisions of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA)**

The Committee has considered Planning Applications throughout the year with the opportunity to submit comments to the BBNPA.

The PGSC received notification in July 2021 that work on the replacement Local Development Plan had been 'paused' for 12 months following agreement with Welsh Government and BBNPA members. This was to allow work to take place on addressing solutions to Phosphate levels. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

Members of PGSC met to consider a response to the draft 'Future Beacons' which is the proposed Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2022-2027. Members found the narrative and visuals in the draft clear and easy to understand. Observations and suggestions were submitted to BBNPA. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

The PGSC submitted a letter of support regarding a Tree Protection Order relating to Lime Trees on The Avenue Brecon. (TPO/53/2021)

An application for a Tree Protection Order to be placed on a Japanese Dogwood Tree, on Ship Street Brecon, has been submitted to BBNPA. The owners of the land where the tree is situated were informed. ("environment") ("communities")

### **Weddings and Funerals at The Guildhall**

A licence to hold weddings at the Guildhall was renewed this year and during the process it became known that planning permission was required to use the building for weddings. This was followed up with the BBNPA and planning permission granted. The PGSC made the decision not to proceed with a licence to hold weddings on the Bandstand because the onerous requirements outweighed the benefits and there had been no weddings during the previous three years.

A task and finish group convened to consider whether The Guildhall could be used as a venue for funeral services and funeral receptions. It was established that a licence was not needed for this type of event. The practicalities of hosting a funeral service where a coffin was present

were considered and it was concluded that this would be possible and that the individual needs of families and mourners could be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Both Councillors and staff are trained to be on duty at wedding ceremonies and as some members have stood down from this duty a plan is in place for interested staff members to join the team. Similarly, arrangements will be set in place to ensure that staff and councillors are briefed and available to support funeral ceremonies as required.

("environment") ("communities")

### **Kickstart Scheme**

The Committee supported a proposal to join the Kickstart Scheme, the Government funded project aimed at providing a 6-month term of employment to individuals aged 16-24 in receipt of Universal Credit. Two potential job descriptions were devised and agreed by Full Council. Firstly, a post focused on street cleaning and improving the environment with opportunities to work alongside the Park Keeper. The second was an administrative role with opportunities to work alongside our Visit Brecon team and our Guildhall staff. Both posts were devised to provide a taster of the work undertaken by Brecon Town Council. The outcome was to provide experience which would make the young person more employable and to give support in CV writing and Interview skills. It was also a requirement that the jobs filled should be new roles and should not take work from existing employees. Support offered to the young person should also aid with such things as CV writing and preparing for interviews.

Unfortunately, there was little interest shown in either post and we were not able to recruit via the gateway provider to these posts. We had a couple of enquiries and one candidate who was invited to interview failed to attend. General feedback was that the wider uptake of the scheme was low. Should other opportunities for a similar scheme become available then Brecon Town Council could consider applying and it may be useful to identify any learning from this round. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

### **Law Student Placement**

During January 2022 BTC offered a one-week placement to a law student from Worcester University. The placement involved spending time with Councillors and shadowing the Town Clerk on appropriate pieces of work to identify project issues and risks. Whilst there were limitations on what the student could be allocated to do because of confidentiality, feedback was that the placement proved beneficial to both parties. ("communities"). ("economy")

### **Health and Safety**

A comprehensive risk assessment was undertaken, and a safety plan set in place to ensure COVID prevention measures in both The Guildhall, Visit Brecon office, public conveniences, and our parks. All staff were provided with a briefing and written information setting out the Welsh Government approach to safe working and how this would be applied locally. Additional cleaning and sanitising regimes were implemented and due to the confined working space in Visit Brecon a fan was installed to draw in clean air, protecting the public and our staff. Signage on COVID safety requirements were placed at our town parks.

As things began to move out of Level 4 the requirements for distinct parts of Brecon Town Council business became more complex as requirements for The Guildhall, Visit Brecon, civic events, hospitality and hire of the building were each slightly different. The Town Clerk ensured that risk assessments and signage for each element of business were reviewed with staff, Councillors and other stakeholders updated. Assessments were undertaken to establish the seating numbers that could be accommodated for weddings, theatre hire and other events, for example Brecon with Bells on.

The following risk assessments/reviews were some of those completed during 2021-22.

1 Annual legionella assessment was undertaken at The Guildhall and public conveniences.

("environment") ("healthy")

2 A review of the Fire Risk assessment for The Guildhall was undertaken and signed off with a request being made for the three yearly visit of the Fire Officer to take place.

("environment") ("healthy")

3 A lone working risk assessment was undertaken and signed off.

### **Repairs and Refurbishment**

A comprehensive structural report was commissioned to assess the fabric of the Guildhall following signs of damp and concerns that there could be movement in the building. This concluded that the building was sound. The engineer provided plans of the work needed so that enquiries could be made with BBNPA, contractors approved and scaffolding erected.

("communities") ("environment")

Following the clearance of the cellar during 2020-21, plans are now in place to purchase fireproof cabinets for the storage of documents.

BBNPA (Sustainable Development Fund) have developed a match funded opportunity for Community Buildings to improve their energy efficiency. Brecon Town Council applied to be part of this programme and has been accepted into the second round. Our building will be inspected by a representative of Severn Wye Energy and our energy bills assessed to identify ways to reduce usage which supports our Climate Change Action Plan.

PGSC is continuing to work to deliver the conversion of halogen/fluorescent lighting to LED in line with legislation.

("economy") ("environment")

### **Policy Review**

The Town Clerk and Committee undertook a review and approval of various policies including the following: ("economy") ("healthy")

- Sickness Management Policy
- Recruitment Policy
- Complaints Policy

## **Visit Brecon.**

Planning for the operation of Visit Brecon during the varying lockdown levels was managed by the Town Clerk in conjunction with staff and volunteers. As restrictions were lifted, we were able to hold a volunteer evening in The Guildhall to thank existing volunteers and welcome new people interested in volunteering. This resulted in three new recruits joining the volunteer team. Some volunteers chose to stand down during the Pandemic and we hope that they will return in due course.

Again, during the summer of 2021, we saw large numbers of visitors accessing the Visit Brecon services. When the Visit Brecon Office was open on restricted hours staff worked together to respond to telephone queries. Staff were provided with homeworking tasks which helped to develop the service. Staff have been flexible in managing the service with a reduced number of volunteers with occasional help from Councillors and Guildhall staff.

Cross committee work has continued to improve the Visit Brecon website and social media platforms. New equipment has enabled better use of these platforms and work continues to encourage businesses to use I-towns as a means of promoting visitors to Brecon.

Job descriptions have been drawn up to recruit to two new posts to Visit Brecon which will cover one staff member retiring and another staff member reducing their hours. These are currently being advertised.

In addition, recruitment is underway for an Innovations Officer to be based with the Guildhall Team. The intention is for this post to focus on grant opportunities, and other income generation projects which will benefit the community of Brecon.

(“economy”) (“environment”) (“communities”) (“healthy”)

## **Cross Committee Activity**

Members from all Brecon Town Council Committees have worked together on some key projects during 2020-21. Some examples are specified below:

- Brecon with Bells On
- Climate Change Strategy
- I-Towns
- Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Support to Ukraine

The Town Clerk has again managed a range of projects in addition to the day to day functioning and maintenance of the Guildhall. She has managed staff supervision and appraisal requirements, ensuring that all legal, financial, and statutory requirements of Brecon Town Council have been met. As a Committee we are appreciative of the work of all our Guildhall and Visit Brecon staff and proud of the work that been achieved in the last 12 months in challenging circumstances. Our thanks to everyone as we reach the final months of the term of this Council.

("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

**Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Chair of PGSC**  
**Councillor Rob Thomas Vice-Chair of PGSC**  
**March 2022.**

## **FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE**

### **Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee Report 2021-22**

#### **Introduction**

---

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the Committee's activities and achievements during 2021-22. Additionally this reports aims to:-

1. Contribute towards Brecon Town Councils Future Generations Act accountabilities and Wellbeing Report as our annual precept is over the £200,000 threshold for Town & Community Councils.
2. Provide insight into work plan activities for the municipal year 2021-22.

#### **Work Plan for 2021-22**

---

The key objectives / tasks identified evidence its activities and the contributions made towards the Council's wellbeing goals / plans. **See figure 1.**

#### **Key Achievements 2021-22**

---

- **Grant Aid Support –**

One of the main functions of the Committee is to allocate grant funding to local/national groups and in the support of localised services. A number of examples can be shown including support for Brecon Jazz Festival, Brecon Advice Centre and funding school crossing patrols.

The Town Council is responsible for the provision of public toilets in the Town and spent £27,678.05 on the service including maintenance and cleaning services. It should be noted that an income of £11,663 was generated through the coin boxes. ("economy") ("environment") ("healthy")

The Town Council also provided funding this year to support the Sunday openings of Y Gaer Museum. The funding commenced 1 April 2021 in the sum of £40,000 per annum, payable quarterly. ("economy")

Grant funding is allocated following receipt of a completed grant application and is based upon specific funding powers, for example, within the Local Government Act 1972 Section 137 (in the interest of the area) or Section 145 (Arts & Theatre). The Committee needs to identify the relevant powers to act in support of a grant request.

During 2021-22 the committee allocated £50,085 in grants to various organisations including the following:-

- St John's Family Centre
- Theatr Brycheiniog
- Wales Air Ambulance
- Brecon Festival Ballet
- Brecon Mind

("economy") ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")

### **Achievement of an Unqualified Accounts Status by the Welsh Audit Office**

---

As a public body our accounts are externally audited via the Welsh Audit Office. Brecon Town Council audit for 2020-21 was given another ***unqualified account status*** which is the highest qualification of the accounts audit. The Chair would like to thank the Town Clerk as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the support team on behalf of the Committee for this achievement.

### **Visit Brecon Service**

---

The Visit Brecon Service has throughout the last year continued to operate but on a reduced level subject to the ongoing COVID restrictions. Nevertheless this service has been popular and is welcomed by visitors, residents and localised businesses. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities")

### **Other Activities completed by the Committee**

---

- Preparation of draft precept and budget for the Committee spend in conjunction with RFO.
- Review of Financial Regulations by the Chair & Responsible Financial Officer
- Review of the Welsh Audit Office Reports & development of an appropriate Action Plan
- Members scrutiny of the Councils accounts and procedures
- Review of service contracts e.g. street cleaning service, Christmas lights tender and grass cutting
- Completion of a review of the Councils Standing Orders
- Appointment letter and function of internal auditor
- Completion of External Audit requirements for 2020 -21 audit
- Review of the Visit Brecon Lease
- Development of the 2021-22 Work Plan

**Figure 1 : Draft Finance Committee Work Plan 2021-22**

	<b>Tasks / objectives</b>	<b>Progress &amp; Commentary</b>
1	Review the Terms of Reference for the new Finance & Commissioning Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing – Committee meets monthly with exception to August &amp; December</li> </ul>
2	Prepare and publish the Annual Report for the Finance Committee 2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Completed May 2022</li> <li>• Achieved an Unqualified Account Status for 2020-21</li> </ul>
3	Develop a draft budget / precept for 2022/23 initially with the Chair, Vice Chair & RFO submitting to members for review / comment and then to the internal auditor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft completed in October / November - &amp; Approved by the Council</li> </ul>
4	Review of all external contracts to ensure best value as and when required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Street cleaning</li> <li>• Christmas light tender</li> <li>• Grass cutting contract</li> <li>• Toilet cleaning contract</li> </ul>
5	Consider appropriate Press Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular reports submitted regarding grants awarded.</li> </ul>
6	Participate in the review of a new toolkit for the new Local Government Act requirements facilitated by One Voice Wales.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair &amp; RFO have undertaken this and participated in relevant workshops in early 2022.</li> </ul>

**Key:** *Green* = Completed

**Cllr Chris Walsh**  
**Chair of Finance**  
**March 2022**

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

As well as the work streams mentioned in the Committee reports above, the Council as a whole has been busy this year on other projects, including:

- Negotiating options to secure the retention of Island Fields as a community space
- Participation in a Brecon Beacons Transport Study
- Section 106 funding for a community meeting facility
- Participation in the 'Smart Towns' project and creation of a digital plan for Brecon
- Declaring a Climate Emergency and creating a Climate Action Plan
- Contribution to a Brecon signage review undertaken by Brecon Buzz
- Free parking initiatives
- Development of Skills & Training Fund in partnership with Neath and Port Talbot College

## **BRECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST**

The Brecknock Welfare Trust is a Charity that is run by appointed Members of Brecon Town Council and Chaired by the Mayor in Office. The object of the Trust is to relieve either generally or individually persons resident in Brecon who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Charity has small, limited funds, and has seen a sharp increase in applications during and since the Covid-19 Pandemic took hold. It is possible for its work to be within any of the four local wellbeing objectives, but most likely to meet the **“healthy”** objectives and criteria.

In 2020-21 Brecknock Welfare Trust supported 18 separate individuals and organisations in the total sum of £6,211.

## **CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL WELL BEING GOALS**

The National Well Being Goals are:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

Below is an illustration of how some of the projects and workstreams for 2021-22 are contributing to the National Well Being goals.

Item	Well Being Goal met
Financial support for Y Gaer to allow extended opening and provision	1, 2, 6
Free Parking Initiatives	1, 2, 4, 5
Street Scene Projects/Repairs/Improvements/Greening	All
Provisions of dog poo bag dispensers	2, 3, 7
Rats/pigeons prevention and solutions	1, 3, 7
Parks and Green Spaces Management and installation of equipment	1, 3, 5, 7
Public Events	1, 3, 5, 6
Civic Events	1, 5, 6
Management of Guildhall	1, 5, 6
Considering Planning Applications	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
Christmas Lights	1, 5
Issuing of Grants	All
Provision of Public Toilets	1, 3, 7
Visit Brecon Tourist Information Office	1, 5, 6, 7
Street Cleaning	1, 2, 3, 7

## CONTRIBUTION TO POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL'S 12 WELL BEING STEPS

Powys County Council has four objectives which set out the goals it is aiming for in the longer-term, described earlier in this report. To help it reach these goals Powys County Council agreed an initial 12 Well-being Steps to focus on delivering in the shorter term. These are collective steps, where it is necessary for various organisations to work together and enhance the work we're doing as individual organisations and communities. None of these steps can be delivered in isolation and each will have an impact on the others. The 12 steps are detailed below along with indications about some of the work that Brecon Town Council is doing which contributes to each of these steps:

### **Well-being Step 1: Actively engage with residents, communities and key stakeholders to promote, shape and deliver our vision for 2040**

- ✓ Preparation and publication of an Annual Report detailing the work of Brecon Town Council and how it is contributing to the National and Local Well Being goals
- ✓ Consulting with residents about projects for delivery e.g. development of Bryn de Winton Park and play equipment at Llanfaes Park
- ✓ Regular news updates via social media and posters

### **Well-being Step 2: Establish a simple and effective performance management framework to monitor progress in delivering the well-being steps and achieving the vision**

- ✓ Regular monitoring and evaluation of contracts
- ✓ Robust system of internal financial audit
- ✓ Listen to and take note of feedback

**Well-being Step 3: Work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure, our existing transport links and develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery**

- ✓ Contribution to Active Travel Consultation
- ✓ Engagement in Brecon Beacons Transport Study
- ✓ Consideration of active travel requirements when responding to planning applications

**Well-being Step 4: Work with and influence others to improve digital infrastructure**

- ✓ Implementation of Brecon becoming a 'Smart Town' including training for Staff and Councillors and developing a Smart Town Action Plan
- ✓ Investment in Brecon Town Council's IT security
- ✓ Budget provision for further digital infrastructure

**Well-being Step 5: Develop a joint approach to community resilience by co-ordinating existing support and building the skills and capacity within communities helping them do the things they can't do for themselves**

- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Recruit and support volunteers at Visit Brecon
- ✓ Management of 'Brecknock Welfare Trust'
- ✓ Issue of grants

**Well-being Step 6: Develop a holistic approach to skills and lifelong learning which offers a range of formal and informal opportunities, including apprenticeships and traineeships**

- ✓ Participation in schemes such as 'Kickstart' providing employment opportunities
- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Training and development opportunities for all Staff and Councillors

**Well-being Step 7: Develop a carbon positive energy strategy that maximises green energy production**

- ✓ Creation of a Climate Emergency Action Plan
- ✓ Implementation of short term measures such as using greener products, creation of wildflower meadows and planting trees, ceasing use of glyphosate, as well as developing plans for longer term actions
- ✓ Working with other groups and organisations to maximise impact

**Well-being Step 8: Develop a sustainable environment strategy: by strengthening activity to deliver the sustainable management of Powys' natural resources through coordinated conservation work and actions underpinning the Nature Recovery Plan and Natural Resources Wales Area Statement(s)**

- ✓ Publication of Environment Act Report  
<https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016/> and Action Plan  
<https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016-section-6-action-plan/>

**Well-being Step 9: Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism**

- ✓ Provision of Visit Brecon service
- ✓ Provision of street cleaning and clean public convenience facilities
- ✓ Organising of events

**Well-being Step 10: Develop a strong brand to promote and attract inward investment into Powys**

- ✓ Development of Visit Brecon branding, extended into infrastructure such as town parasols and café barriers
- ✓ Support of local initiatives to improve signage infrastructure
- ✓ Organising of events

**Well-being Step 11: Implement more effective structures and processes that enable multiagency community focused response to wellbeing, early help and support**

- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Inviting relevant stakeholders and organisations to contribute to project working groups

**Well-being Step 12: Develop our organisations' capacity to improve emotional health and well-being within all our communities**

- ✓ Grant support for organisations supporting health and well being
- ✓ Relevant training and support available

## **COVID 19 IMPACT**

The 2021-22 year once again required the Council to adapt to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, which it did so successfully and continued to fully operate within.

The Council continues to meet remotely. This has proved advantageous in many ways, allowing access to attendees when meetings in person may not have been convenient. Staff and Councillors have worked from home where possible and methods of working, role sharing, and new systems have been embraced, which ensure the continuation of projects and workstreams, and protect the health and safety of the Public, Staff and Councillors in the present climate.

Large scale events were curtailed again this year, but smaller scale and hybrid events were successfully run and the Guildhall was available for hire subject to implementation of Covid safety measures.

**Fiona Williams, Town Clerk**

**March 2022**

**Approved by Brecon Town Council**

**25 April 2022**