

YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL



**ANNUAL & WELL-BEING
REPORT 2021-2022**

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The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

1. Introduction

Ystradgynlais, the southern most and the second largest (by electorate) town in Powys, developed because of the coal and iron industries of the 19th century. These have now been replaced by small industrial units throughout the district. The community is located towards the upper reaches of the River Tawe and its tributaries Twrch and Giedd. Habitation is concentrated along the course of the main river valleys in a ribbon development near the main routes of the A4067, A4068 and B4599.

Ystradgynlais provides a gateway to the Brecon Beacons National Park making the surrounding area a popular venue for outdoor enthusiasts. The town is the area's business, transport and cultural centre with a busy shopping centre where the Welsh language is in common use.

The Town Council has 16 elected councillors with two part time members of staff representing approx.6,500 electors. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected annually in May The Council is divided into four wards:- Abercraf, Cwmtwrch, Ynyscedwyn and Ystradgynlais and has a current precept raised from Powys County Council of £304,000 (2021-22).

The following documents are attached to this Annual Report and relates to the important details regarding the elected Council Members who serve the community, the Council's Committees and Sub-Committees and Key contact information.

- (a) A list of Town Councillors, by Ward, is attached as Appendix 1.
- (b) Key contact information as Appendix 2
- (c) Details of the Town Council's Committees and sub- Committees as Appendix 3
- (d) Representatives on outside bodies as Appendix 4

2. Council's Current Responsibilities

The Council is responsible

- to the local electorate for delivering a range of public services.
- for the provision and upkeep of local amenities.

- for representing the interests of individual members of the public and the wider community.
- for supporting/encouraging members of the community to improve the local environment and services within the community.
- for maintaining and enhancing the area's biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.

The Town Council vision, as the closest level of government to the Community, is to provide a voice for the Community, representing the area at County and National level. The Council works closely with the Local County Council Ward Members to ensure that County Council, Police, Welsh Government and other authorities take account of the needs of the Community when making decisions that affect local residents. The Council uses the powers and resources available to it to proactively react to the needs of the Community and provide appropriate levels of relevant services to the community of Ystradgynlais.

3. Financial Information for 2021-2022

(a) Annual Income and Expenditure Budget

The Town Council sets its annual budget for the Financial Year 2021-22 in January 2021.

The Council's Financial Year extends from 1st April to the 31st March of the following year.

The Council's agreed budget estimates relating to expenditure, income and reserves are shown below..

Estimated Expenditure	£
Parks, Planning & open spaces	76,000
General Administration	98,200
Gorof Cemetery	22,100
General & Section 137 Grants	46,000
Ward budgets / Path Maintenance	53,300
Community/Welfare Halls Grants	71,000
Council Property Maintenance / Insurance	<u>20,550</u>
Sub Total	387,150
Reserves	<u>95,000</u>
Total Estimated Expenditure 2021-22	<u>482,150</u>

The above Total Estimated Expenditure of £482,150 for the 2021-22 financial year was achieved as;-

Projected Financial Balance as at 31 st March 2021	76,650
Estimated Reserve as at 31 st March 2021	85,500
Estimated income 2021-22	16,000
Agreed Precept Demand From Powys C.C.	<u>304,000</u>
Total Estimated Income 2021-22	<u>482,150</u>

(b) Audit Process for the year 2021-22 accounts

The accounts for the financial year 2021-22 have been produced in draft form and will now be subject to both an internal and external audit process which is carried out in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Reports and correspondence relating to this audit process between the Town Council and the appointed Auditors will over the audit period be considered and discussed at various Council Meetings and minuted accordingly in the Council's records and website. The audit process normally takes an estimated six to nine months to complete.

4. What are the requirements of the Well-being Act ?

The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term; work better with people and communities and each other; look to prevent problems; and take a more joined-up approach. This will help to create the Wales that people want to live in, now and in the future.

The Act places a duty on community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the local well-being plan that has effect in their areas.

If a community or town council is subject to the duty, it must publish a report annually detailing its progress in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan.

The Act requires public services boards (**PSBs**) to involve community and town councils in the process of improving the well-being of their areas, regardless of whether the duty in section 40(1) of the Act applies to those councils. All community and town councils are classed as "other partners" of public services boards and must be consulted by those boards on the assessment of local well-being and subsequently on the local well-being plan. They will also have the opportunity of engaging with the public services board when invited to do so. The **Powys Public Service Board's Well-being Plan** concentrates on four areas: *Social, Economy, Environment and Culture*.

It should be noted that during the years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 the work of Ystradgynlais Town Council (along with all other Councils) has been severely curtailed due to the lockdown arrangements imposed by the Wales and National Governments during the COVID pandemic.

5. The Act sets seven well-being goals and gives a description of each of them.

Well-being goal	Description
A more prosperous Wales	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); 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.
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 (for example climate change).
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.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.
A globally responsible Wales	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

6. The Council's response to the seven Requirements/Goals

Powys PSB Plan

y = completed
O = ongoing

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment.	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
A more prosperous Wales	The Town Council makes budget provision for Community improvement activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festive Christmas lights in each of the four council wards • Provision of bunting for use by local groups and decoration of the town centre and satellite villages. 	O	O			O	O
		O	O			O	O
	The Town Council continues its work in upgrading its current web site.	O	O		O	O	O
	Town Centre Ystradgynlais Grant aid managed in conjunction with Powys C.C.. The Town Council role was to gather information regarding the needs of local businesses. Began in March 2020 and ended in June 2020.			O	O		Y
	The Town Council has representatives on the Governing bodies of local Primary schools and appoints representatives on local voluntary and charitable organisations. See Appendix 4	O	O		O	O	O
A resilient Wales	The Town Council has responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorof Cemetery. Grass is mown following a regular programme. Hedges surrounding the cemetery are maintained in good order. Timber and pruned branches from surrounding trees are stacked in the cemetery's expansion plot providing natural habitats for birds, reptiles and small mammals found in the area. The use of pesticides/herbicides is not encouraged except on invasive species such as knotweed. • Drainage work has been implemented at the cemetery to prevent flooding onto neighbouring land. • The first cut of grass is done as late as possible in order to support early pollinators. 						
				O		O	O
				Y		O	O
						O	O

A resilient Wales (continued)	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'men	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In October 2021 the Council commissioned a report regarding Ash Dieback on a number of trees in the district to prioritise recommendations for relevant trees with infestation in particular on footpath 110 (Wind Rd towards A4067). Required work to commence in 2022-23 in this long term project. Further areas may require work and will be addressed as and when finance becomes available. Children's Playground at <i>Swn y Nant</i>, Cwmtwrch , Playground at <i>Caerbont</i>, Playground at Abercraf There is a regular maintenance programme of grass cutting and tree maintenance during late spring and summer only allowing natural plant, birds and insect life to develop during the remainder of the year. <p>The Town Council will always consider biodiversity and associated environmental issues in its projects and annual maintenance programmes. Work in an attempt to eradicate Invasive species (Himalayan Balsam) in the Diamond Park and adjacent land along Footpath 8 was undertaken</p> <p>In April 2021 work commenced on clearing drainage ditches in the area of Coronation Park with a view to alleviate possible flooding of properties near the Park boundary. Project to continue in 2022-23.</p>			<p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p>		<p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p>	<p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p> <p>○</p>
A healthier Wales	<p>The Town Council owns and maintains four Parks/Open spaces near the town centre. These areas are well used by visitors and members of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coronation Park covering an area of approx. 32 hectares. The development of this Park commenced in 1980s and is ongoing. The grass and hedges are maintained following a regular programme. 	○		○		○	○

A healthier Wales (continued)	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'men	Cullture	2021-22	2022-23
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District War Memorial at Gorsedd Park. Planting of appropriate shrubs/flowers in the immediate area. Refurbishment work was completed in 2017 and additional work in providing floodlighting of the memorial in 2020-21. 	Y		Y	Y	O	O
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond Park covering an area of approx. 14 hectares. Development of this Park on former colliery sites began in 2005. Its facilities have been regularly enhanced. In 2020-21 a commemorative bench, based on the mining theme, has been installed alongside one of its many footpaths. Path maintenance and improvement work continues. 	O		O	Y	O	O
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Protheroe Memorial Park covering an area of approx. 0.125 hectares. Refurbished the hard landscape as a joint project with the <i>Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society</i> in 2017. Appropriate shrubs and planting have been completed and maintained by <i>Blodau</i> a local volunteer group. 			Y	Y	O	O
	<p>The Town Council maintains these open spaces to a high standard and they provide quiet, contemplating areas close to the town centre and have been appreciated and well used by the members of the community during the period of the Covid Pandemic.</p>	O		O			O
	<p>The Town Council provides and maintains annually a number of benches in and around the town as well as a series of Heritage Panels erected by the <i>Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society</i></p>	O		O	O	O	O
	<p>Public footpaths. The Town Council maintains to a high standard a network of public footpaths in the area which are well used and appreciated by the members of the community. Regular on- going maintenance of the footpaths in the care of the Town Council is undertaken</p>	O		O		O	O
	<p>Council's response</p>						

A healthier Wales (continued)		Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
	<p>Sports facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Council owns the Tick Tock Bowls Club which is available for use by members of the community. The lease for which has been extend for a period of 25 years from December 2021. The Town Council grants an annual payment of £5k to the Bowls Committee covering maintenance costs etc. Recreation Ground. The Town Council along with Powys County Council and representatives of local sports clubs have completed negotiating an extension of the lease on this sports field for the benefit of the community. The Town Council has agreed to make a major financial contribution of £25,000 towards a new 50 year lease costing £100,000.00 for this area of land. Charitable status has been obtained for the Group tasked to manage the Recreational Grounds. 	O		O		O	O
		Y		Y		O	O

A more equal Wales	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
	<p>The Town Council has representatives on the following local organisations promoting well-being and volunteering opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre • Nant Helen Liaison Committee Welfare Fund. • One Voice Wales • Ystradgynlais Welfare & Community Hall • Tick Tock Community Bowls • Ystradgynlais Focus on Health Committee • Discover Ystradgynlais • Recreation Grounds Steering Committee • Nant Helen OCCS Restoration Committee • Abercrave Welfare Hall • Cwmtwrch Wefare Hall <p>See Appendix 4</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p> ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>○ ○ ○</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>	<p>○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>The Town Council supports the enhancement of the town centre and its satellite communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financially supporting the work of volunteer groups by contributing finance to provide floral displays along kerbside and strategic areas in the community and bilingual heritage interpretation panels outlining the area's rich cultural and industrial heritage. • Speed restrictions. Regular consultations with the police service regarding reported speeding incidents through Cwmtwrch along the A4068. <p>Town Centre toilets. A grant is paid annually (£6,000) to the Town Amenities Society to maintain the town centre toilets.</p>	<p> ○</p>	<p> ○</p>	<p> ○</p>	<p> ○</p>	<p> ○</p>	<p> ○</p>

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'men	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
	<p>The Town Council generously supports financially the activities at three Welfare Halls:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall (<i>The Welfare</i>) which it owns • Abercraf Welfare Hall and Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall by providing operational grants to the Management Committees <p>Regrettably, few activities have taken part during the lockdown period imposed by Government Covid Regulations.</p> <p>The <i>Welfare</i> has increased its activities program during the past few months. It is now open to the public and outside organisations. The Town Council is supportive of the work of local volunteer groups which provide cultural events, exhibitions and enhancement features to the community. Financial assistance has been provided to the following groups :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society</i> to provide bilingual interpretation panels alongside public footpaths to illustrate the area's local heritage and provision of associated bilingual information pamphlets. • <i>Blodau Ystradgynlais</i> to provide floral decoration in the town centre and surrounding areas of the town centre. • <i>Abercraf Regeneration Group</i> which as one of its activities has planted flowers along the Abercraf By-pass and placed flower troughs at various points in the Abercraf Ward. • <i>Cwmtwrch Regeneration Group</i> where flower containers have been placed at various points along the A4068 passing through the Cwmtwrch Ward. • <i>Discover Ystradgynlais</i>. The group of volunteers is funded to provide summer and winter events in the town centre, Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall and the Gorsedd Park. 	○	○	○	○	○	○
				○		○	○
				○		○	○
				○		○	○
				○		○	○
				○		○	○

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. (continued)	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2021-22	2022-23
A globally responsible Wales	<p>Electric power has been provided in the Gorsedd Park to illuminate the Christmas Decorations, Community Christmas tree etc. in the park. Bunting & banners provided to decoration of the town provided.</p>	○	○		○	○	○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New and upgrading of Christmas Light arrangements provided for Ystradgynlais Town Centre and new lights purchased for Cwmtwrch & Abercraf Wards. Annual maintenance will be provided by the Town Council 	○				○	○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council annually maintains the town clock located in the town centre. 			○			○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council supports local community groups and organisations by providing an annual grants programme to support the organisations' activities. Grant recipients are listed in Appendix 5 	○	○	○	○	○	○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council supports the work of the <i>Welfare</i>, Ystradgynlais as a cultural centre for performances by international arts and cultural collaboration groups. 	○			○	○	○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council contributes grant aid to local choirs and youth groups that have organised overseas concert/ educational visits. 	○			○	○	○
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council is associated with its sister community at Clark's Summit, Pennsylvania U.S.A. 	○			○	○	○

APPENDIX 1 YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCILLORS 2021-2022 and contact details

Abercraf Ward		
Cllr Evan Evans	07980 071825	No political affiliation
Cllr Adrian Williams Chairman of the Town Council	07816 758813	Labour party
Cllr Rhiannon Jackson	07813 489623	No political affiliation
Cwmtwrch & Gurnos Ward		
Cllr Leighton Evans	07866 435715	No political affiliation
Cllr Wayne Thomas	01639 831261	Labour Party
Cllr Matthew Gough	07539 397606	Labour
Cllr Josh Morgan	*****	Labour
Ystradgynlais Ward		
Cllr Meurig Evans	01639 849983	No political affiliation
Cllr Robert G. Lock	07492 788196	Labour Party
Cllr Michael Allen	07541 833515	No political affiliation
Cllr Martin F. Donnelly Vice Chair of the Town Council	07984 640181	No political affiliation
Cllr Richard P.G. Millington	07780 667209	No political affiliation
Ynyscedwyn Ward		
Cllr Cenydd Nickels	01639 842181	Plaid Cymru
Cllr Tristan S. Davies	07585 757579	Labour Party
Cllr Simon Thomas	07768 875501	No political affiliation
Cllr Graham A. Davies	01639 845596	No political affiliation

APPENDIX 2 Key Contact Information 2021-22

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. Chairman of the Council | Cllr. Adrian Williams | Email: adewills@hotmail.com | Mob; 07816758813 |
| 2. Vice Chairman of the Council | Cllr. Martin Donnelly | Email: mfdonnelly@sky.com | Mob: 07984640181 |
| 3. Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer | Mr. Brian Rees | Email: ystradtowncouncil@btinternet.com | |
| | | Telephone: 01639 845269 | Mob:07984497084 |
| 4. Deputy Clerk | Mrs. Jane Conroy | | Mob 07726431255 |

APPENDIX 3 Appointment of Committees

(a) Planning Committee

1. A planning Committee be established to include all Council Members with plenary powers to decide on observations to be submitted to the Powys County council on planning applications.
2. Meetings of the Planning Committee to be convened as and when necessary during each month so that observations are submitted to Powys County Council within the prescribed period and reports of the meetings be submitted to the next suitable meeting of the Council.
3. In the event of Members present at any meeting of the Planning Committee not being unanimous on the observations to be submitted, or when the application is of an important nature, then the application shall be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Council.
4. The deputy Clerk be responsible for receiving planning applications from the Powys County Council, convening meetings of the Planning Committees, submitting observations to the County Council and report thereon to the next suitable meeting of the Council.

(b) Ward Committees

1. Ward Committees shall be established to include all Council ward members for the following Wards:-

Ystradgynlais Ward	5 Members
Ynyscedwyn Ward	4 Members
Cwmtwrch Ward	4 Members
Abercraf Ward	3 Members

2. Ward Committees shall have plenary powers under the Council's Small Contract Scheme for paths, parks, open spaces maintenance, improvement and Ward projects.
 - (i) Determine work programmes and estimated expenditure, and the submission thereof to the Council for approval in January of each year for the contract work to be undertaken in the next financial year.
 - (ii) Carry out the works by engaging contractors identified on the Council's approved list.
 - (iii) Allow any two of the Ward Members and the Clerk or Technical Adviser to issue, monitor and approve the contractor identified on the Council's approved list.
 - (iv) To inform the Council regarding the letting of a contract, the name of the contractor so that the Council can approve payment.

(c) Urgent Action

Resolved that the Chairman, Vice chairman and appropriate Ward Members, acting together be given plenary powers to deal with matters requiring urgent immediate action between the Council's Ordinary Meeting.

In addition, that where correspondence is received by the Town Clerk which is deemed to warrant investigation by the Chairman and Vice Chairman, then the Ward members to which the correspondence relates would be contacted in order to provide a report to the next Ordinary Meeting of the Council in relation to the content of the correspondence.

(d) Management Sub Committee

Resolved that

- (a) The Membership of the Management Sub Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Council and four Council Members, one from each Ward. Appointment on the Sub Committee to be confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the Council held normally in May of every Municipal Year.
- (b) The Chairman of the Sub Committee shall be appointed annually each year at the first meeting of the Management Sub Committee following the Council's Annual Meeting.
- (c) A quorum for any meeting of the Sub Committee shall be at least four Council Members. Should the appointed Council Member be unavailable for any reason to attend a meeting of the Sub Committee then the Ward Chairman or in his/her absence the Ward Vice Chairman be authorized to appoint a substitute within the Ward to attend the said meeting.
- (d) Each Member of the Sub Committee shall have one vote apart from the Chairman who in addition to his/her normal vote shall also have a casting vote in a situation where there is an equal number of votes on an issue.
- (e) The main purpose of the Sub Committee will be to assist the council in the discharge of its services to the community and also to deal with relevant financial and staffing issues.
- (f) The power of the Sub Committee will be limited in that no direct decisions are taken on the issues addressed and it will be the responsibility of the Sub Committee to make recommendations to the Council on all issues. The Sub Committee will also undertake a monitoring role on behalf of the Council on certain functions as required such as project management, financial control issues relating to the Council's accounts.
- (g) Examples of other areas of work that the Council may discharge to the Sub Committee will include:-
Personnel/Training, Health and Safety, Project Monitoring, Accounts Monitoring, Welfare Hall matters.
The above list is not exhaustive, and the Council may from time to time allocate other specific work to the Sub Committee as deemed appropriate.
- (h) In addition to the Chairman of the Council the Ward appointed Members on this Sub Committee for the Municipal Year 2021-22 shall be Cllrs. R. Millington, R. Jackson, G. Davies and M. Gough.

APPENDIX 4 Representatives on Outside bodies

The Town Council is represented on the following outside bodies by the members as listed.

One Voice Wales	Cllrs. G. Davies & M. Evans
Ystradgynlais Welfare & Community Hall	Cllrs. R. Millington & R. Lock
Ystradgynlais Volunteer Service	Cllr. G. Davies
Tick tock Community Bowls	Cllrs. G. Davies & S. Thomas
Open Cast Liaison Committee	Cllrs. M. Evans & E. Evans
Ystradgynlais Focus on Health Committee	Cllr. M. Donnelly
Discover Ystradgynlais	Cllr. L. Evans
Recreational Ground Steering Committee	Cllrs. W. Thomas & T Davies
Nant Helen Restoration	Cllrs A. Williams, E. Evans & S. Thomas
Abercraf Welfare Hall	Cllr. E. Evans
Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall	Cllr. M. Gough & L Evans

APPENDIX 5 Grants awarded to local Organizations & Societies 2021-2022

Abercraf RFC – Sporting Group
Cwmtwrch RFC – Sporting Group
Penrhos AFC Juniors – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais RFC – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais AFC – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais Ladies Bowling Club
Ystradgynlais Welfare Sports Ground
Ainon Chapel Sisterhood -
Bethania Chapel
Beulah Chapel
St Cynogs Church
St Cynogs Church Hall
Eglwys Annibynol Sardis
Abercrave Senior Citizens
Abercraf Regeneration Group
Blodau – Community Action Group
Cwmtwrch Regeneration Group
Heritage Book publication
Citizens Advice Powys
Côr Dathlu Male Choir
Côr y Gyrlais
Discover Ystradgynlais
Stitching for Superheroes – Covid Community Group
Penrhos Allotment Association
Ystradgynlais Senior Citizens
1st Swansea Valley Scout Group
1st Ynyscedwyn Scout Group
Ystradgynlais District Heritage and Language Society
Ystradgynlais Foodbank
Ystradgynlais Public Band
Ystradgynlais Summer Playscheme
Cwmtwrch Summer Playscheme
Ystradgynlais Volunteer Service