

BRECON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



Cyngor Tref
Aberhonddu

Brecon
Town Council

FOREWORD

This is Brecon Town Council's Annual report detailing its work carried out in 2022-23 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 Sian Drinan
St Mary Ward:	Councillor Charlotte Walton Councillor Trish Fretten Councillor Mark Perry Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Councillor Nigel Kilgallon
St John Ward East:	Councillor Neil Stone 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 2022/23:

Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee	Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee	Environment and Events Committee
Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor R Thomas Councillor C Walton Councillor M Matthews Councillor S Drinan Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Perry Councillor N Stone Councillor T Fretten	Councillor N Kilgallon Councillor T Fretten Councillor M Dorrance Councillor M Davies Councillor S Morgans Councillor N Stone Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor J Powell Councillor M Perry	Councillor C Walton Councillor M Matthews Councillor N Kilgallon Councillor M Dorrance Councillor S Drinan Councillor J Powell 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 and keeping active.

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 appointed its first two Youth Representatives in April 2021. Their term of office has now ended and the Council is very grateful for their support, input and assistance during the development of this scheme. In March 2023 a new Youth Representative was appointed and we look forward to working with them in the forthcoming municipal year. There is presently a vacancy for a second position, with recruitment underway.

FINANCES

In 2022/23 Brecon Town Council's income was £597,264 including the precept of £562,000. The expenditure for the year was £529,669. Further details can be found about the Council's finances at www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk

LOCAL WELLBEING PLAN

Section 40 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 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 managing Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, Beacons Park open space and Maendu Well, as well as the planters and parasols in the town center. 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 Environmental and Events Committee is also responsible for managing fishing rights on the River Usk between Llanfaes bridge and Gwennies Lane.

The Committee is supported by two volunteer water bailiffs and two co-opted members of the public and the newly appointed Youth Representative from the Town Council.

Fishing Committee ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

The Town Clerk continues to be the Secretary for the Fishing Association. Written reports from the Water Bailiffs have not been submitted this year.

- Angling still remained a popular pastime during 2022 and ticket sales remain high on the Town Council stretch of the river.
- The tracking of salmon smolt continued this year, invaluable information about the environment and the migration of the salmon can be gathered this way.
- Bank clearance at certain fishing runs have been requested and the Committee is seeking guidance from the Wye and Usk Foundation.
- The Lone Working Risk Assessment for Bailiffs and Anglers was reviewed and amendments were made.
- The improvements to the disabled fishing bay is an ongoing project.

Civic Events ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

- The Annual General Meeting and Mayoral installation was held in the Y Gaer Courtroom, due to Covid restrictions.
- The Best of Brecon Awards, which replaced the Mayor's Voluntary Organisation Civic Reception, celebrated the work of volunteers in the community and was able to take place in the Guildhall. Although social distancing rules at that time prevented everyone attending, the event was recorded and an edited version was posted on social media for others to view.
- The Gurkha Parade was at last able to take place in the town centre and was very much enjoyed by the large gathering of the community.
- Civic Sunday was able to take place, with afternoon tea at Llanfaes park.
- A wreath laying ceremony at the cenotaph in St Mary's took place on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday at the Cathedral.
- The Civic Guest list was reviewed and approved with additions and removals noted.

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

- The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebration took place at the bandstand, with the lighting of a beacon to finish. It was a well attended event and enjoyed by all ages of the community.
- Another successful busking month took place in July with several pitches throughout the town. The project has now been passed to a local group to continue running it.
- The new Christmas lights were installed, bringing fresh Christmas cheer.
- Brecon With Bells On was able to take place in the town centre again and was a huge success with a central stage, market stalls, Santa in the Vaults and a local band to close the event. The day was enjoyed by everyone.
- There was a small reception for the retiring Macebearer Ray Morgan who has served 40 years with the Town Council.
- A working group has been set up to hold a Pride event at the King George playing field in September, a consultation will be taking place in the next few weeks in order to obtain community engagement.
- The Gurkha Parade will take place as per usual arrangements.

Environment (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)

The Brecon Town Council continues to work within the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which imposes a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of the Council's functions and in doing so promotes the resilience of the ecosystem.

- The Biodiversity Conference was attended and a report submitted to the committee. It was agreed to explore the further proposed actions, such as continuing to use greener products, for planting to be carried out using peat free soil, and allowing grass edges to grow longer. This is within guidance received from One Voice Wales concerning the Importance of Community and Town councils in Building Resilient Spaces for nature.
- The S6 Action Plan which is: The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Action Plan, was reviewed and the suggested additions were approved for publication.
- All necessary Risk Assessments have been undertaken this year at the Camden road Park, Llanfaes Skate Park and Park and Maendu Well.
- Through the support of funding and other grant schemes two parks were improved and developed; Priory Park had a zip wire and play equipment for smaller children was installed. Through consultation with the residents and neighbours of Bryn de Winton a community garden was made with raised herb pots, a willow tunnel and willow wigwam. A large bench has also been installed for the community to enjoy the views down the valley.
- Work to improve the pond at Maendu Well was undertaken this year, with the advice from the Well group and the BBNPA. Excess weed has been removed and the pond has been dug out for a more productive environment. Several ash trees were also cut to prevent ash dieback, the branches left for the wildlife.
- A mixture of fruit trees have been planted in Llanfaes park, supported by the residents to mark the beginning of Women’s Month.

- A working group has been set up regarding the hanging baskets and parasols and the improvement of the town centre planters. New parasols have been purchased. Smaller versions were decided on and these will be seen throughout the town.
- Swift boxes have been installed in several locations, one on the Guildhall has been fitted with a camera and a Councillor has donated a bird caller which will soon be fitted to increase the chances of the boxes being used.
- The Green Spaces working group has started work again on the Skatepark/Pump track project. This will be an ongoing project with community engagement.
- A new high quality seesaw has been installed in Llanfaes park to replace the previous one which had come to the end of its lifespan.
- The outside disabled friendly table tennis, that had been an ongoing project for the Committee, was installed at Llanfaes Park and is enjoyed by many people from the community.
- New play equipment is to be purchased for Newton Green Park which has funds for the improvements in this current and next financial years budgets. The options are being looked at by a working group.
- Bunting in the same colour and design as last year has been installed in the town to enhance the streets.
- New recycling bins have been purchased and installed at Llanfaes Park and Camden Road Park.
- The Environment and Events Committee has set up a working group to look at Art Installations in Tredegar Street and other areas of the town. Work is ongoing in producing a large plastic bottle dome, dragon trail and deckchair street art.
- An open air event to commemorate the King's Coronation has been planned for the bandstand; with an Elvis tribute act and other community groups appearing throughout the day.
- A request to set up 'Friends of the Groves and Promenade' group has been proposed; this will be a community driven group, supported by the Committee and Town Council.
- Brecon has been chosen to be at the forefront of recycling innovation with the Digital Deposit Return Scheme and will test a new digital method of tracking recycling using a mobile phone.

Events to come: ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

- The Best of Brecon Awards will be held at Y Gaer this year with a more relaxed set up.
- The works on the Guildhall will have been completed by the time the Gurkha parade takes place in June.
- Planning has already started for Brecon with Bells On with a magical theme.
- Pride event in September

Conclusion

The Environment and Events Committee has had a very busy but productive year, through the guidance of Fiona and Rhys and the support from Alex the Committee has been able to

work through the various agencies. Although the Committee meetings take place on Zoom there is always a lot going on in the background with all the working groups.

Thank you to all Committee Members of the Environment and Events and a big thank you to the outgoing Youth Representative from the Town Council for all he had to offer and welcome to the new Youth Rep. The Committee is looking forward to new ideas and challenges going forward into the next year.

Councillor Marie Matthews

20th April 2023

PLANNING GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

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 2022-23 the PGSC has conducted all scheduled meetings and business via zoom. Minutes of all meetings are published on the Brecon Town Council (BTC) website which contains details of how members of the public can access minutes or join a meeting.

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 BBNPA.

A number of building works have been scheduled at The Guildhall throughout the year and liaison has taken place with the BBNPA Listed Buildings Consent officer to ensure that any works meet listed building requirements. ("environment")

GPSC submitted an application to BBNPA for a Tree Protection Order (TPO) to be placed on a Japanese Dogwood Tree which is situated outside the Old Library on Ship Street Brecon. Although the tree is currently within Brecon Conservation Area the PGSC felt that a TPO would provide additional protection. BBNPA confirmed in June 2022 that the owner was to be served with a notice of the intention to serve a TPO which would allow a six-month window for objections. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

BBNPA was offered grant funding for a Canals, Community and Wellbeing Project to improve access to green space within the canal corridor. Members of PGSC provided BBNPA with input on some of the proposed improvement works within the area covered by BTC. Members also provided input on other potential improvements although no further funding is available at this point. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Training Plan

A training plan has been set in place by the Town Clerk to ensure that all new members complete the basic training requirements and that returning members are able to refresh. This includes Induction to the Council, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations.

First Aid Training and Manual Handling was organised for all staff and members in Autumn 2022.

The Town Clerk holds an up to date training record on all staff and council members. ("environment") ("healthy")

Annual Appraisals

Appraisals have been completed with all members of staff. These took place in January with meetings being held between staff members, the Town Clerk, and the Chair of PGSC. Training and development opportunities were discussed with all staff and new objectives set for 2023-24.

The Mayor and Chair of PGSC followed the same process for the Town Clerk with objectives set for the year and development opportunities identified. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Staffing/Recruitment

Recruitment for an Innovations Officer to be based with the Guildhall Team was placed on hold and will be reviewed in 2023-24. This is to allow assessment of the combined skill set of the current team before final decisions are made.

Recruitment is underway for a Macebearer following the retirement of Mr. Raymond Morgan MBE who served for 40 years.

Health and Safety

1 Annual legionella risk 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 to the Fire and Rescue Authority for a visit to be made. ("environment") ("healthy")

Repairs and Refurbishment

A comprehensive structural report was commissioned to assess the fabric of the Guildhall in 2021-22, following signs of damp and water ingress. Although this concluded that the building was sound some remedial work was identified. The engineer provided plans of the work needed so that enquiries could be made with BBNPA, contractors approved and scaffolding erected. Due to the time required to carry out the identified work and to follow the required process to appoint building contractors it was agreed to postpone the work until Spring 2023.

Ongoing communication continued to take place between the Surveyor, Building Contractor and BTC to ensure that work remained on track. Scaffolding was erected in early April 2023, and it is anticipated that work will be completed by 31st May 2023. During the period of works The Guildhall will be closed for public functions. ("environment")("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Stage Works

A routine electrical inspection of the Guildhall Stage identified repair work and adjustments in relation to the load bearing capacity of stage curtains and lighting bars. A structural engineer was commissioned to check the feasibility of proposed repairs and BBNPA was consulted to ensure all listed building requirements were followed. Contractors commenced work in March 2023. In addition to improving safety the works have improved the quality of the facility which will benefit performers and audiences. ("environment")("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Energy Saving

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 was accepted into the second round. Our building was inspected by a representative of Severn Wye Energy (SWE) and our energy bills assessed to identify ways to reduce usage. A report was prepared by SWE and reviewed by members of PGSC. This resulted in match funding being used to deliver loft insulation; draught proofing; valves to improve radiator efficiency. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

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

Electrical Inspection

An electrical inspection has been completed during 2023 at The Guildhall and a valid safety certificate issued. Financial investment will be required for some future improvement works and plans are in place to accrue funds. Repairs have been completed on emergency lighting.

Cenotaph

A review of the Cenotaph took place in March and the maintenance plan was updated with works identified. These are currently being completed.

Purple Plaque – Frances Hoggan

A purple plaque to commemorate Frances Hoggan's achievement was unveiled in Brecon in Spring 2023. Frances Hoggan was the first British woman to receive a doctorate in medicine and the first female doctor to be registered in Wales. PGSC was approached with a request to provide a reception at The Guildhall following the unveiling and this was subsequently agreed and took place. ("communities") ("economy")("environment")

Policy Review

The Town Clerk and PGSC undertook a review and approval of the following policies:

Grievance Policy

Pensions Policy (in progress)

TOIL (in progress)

Visit Brecon – Staffing Element

Visit Brecon (VB) has undergone a significant change in staffing profile during the last 12 months which has provided an opportunity for a period of review and consolidation. We have a new team of staff and some resolute long-term volunteers working alongside new recruits. It has been recognised that periodically we need to hold open events for our volunteers where they can join council members and staff to share ideas and their views on how Visit Brecon works. This also provides an opportunity to thank them for their service. Two such events were held in 2022-23 with the most recent in December, with the invitation extended to anyone interested in becoming a volunteer with VB. The recently appointed Coordinator provided an overview to attendees of the work of the VB team.

Work to improve Social Media platforms and in particular our Events Diary is ongoing and has presented some platform challenges. (“economy”)(“environment”)(“communities”)(“healthy”)

Swift Boxes

Last summer, the newly installed swift boxes on the Guildhall, including a camera box, were not occupied, but this is not unusual in the early years after installation. The nest boxes are an attempt to help mitigate the decline of the swift population in Wales and the rest of the UK following the formation of a Brecon swift group. In April 2023, a bird caller will be installed near the camera box, as this is known to increase the chances of the box being inhabited. The caller was donated to the council by one of its Members. (“environment”)

Cross Committee Activity

Members from all BTC committees have worked together on some key projects during 2022-23. Some examples are specified below:

- Brecon with Bells On
- Climate Change Strategy
- Coronation Celebrations

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 are met. As a committee we are appreciative of the work of all our Guildhall and Visit Brecon staff. We are particularly pleased that new team members have

settled into their posts and are bringing new skills and perspectives to our work. ("economy") ("environment") ("communities") ("healthy")

Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Chair of PGSC
Councillor Rob Thomas Vice-Chair of PGSC
April 2023

FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

Introduction

In 2022-23 Brecon Town Council has an annual precept of £562,000 which is managed through the Town Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and the Council's Finance, Commissioning & Contracting Committee.

The Committee membership for 2022/23 is detailed earlier in this report. This meets on a monthly basis (with exception to August and December) to review the Council's financial activities. This includes the development of the Council's annual budget in conjunction with the RFO.

The accounts are inspected by an internal auditor and externally audited via the Welsh Audit Office. It was pleasing to receive another unqualified audit from our external auditors for 2021/22. This means that Brecon Town Council can make arrangements to implement the General Power of Competency. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Work Programme

The Committee has undertaken a range of activities during the year, including a review of the grant application form, consideration and awarding of financial grants, review and awards of service contracts / tenders, and precept considerations.



Financial Grants Awards

To assist the Committee Members a review of the grant application form was undertaken. The application form was updated to enable applicants an opportunity to provide relevant details about their projects which assist the Members of the Committee to evaluate the application more effectively.

During the 2022/23 municipal year the Committee has allocated £43,849 in various grant aid to a number of groups and organisations which include:

- Brecon Advice Bureau
- Chamber of Trade
- Theatr Brycheinog

- Brecon Jazz Club
- Brecon Festival Ballet
- The Wellbeing Centre

New Contracts

Toilet Cleaning Contract

The Town Councils toilet cleaning contract was reconsidered due to the previous contract reaching its review. Tenders were invited and following the Committee's assessment the Town Council appointed City 2 City as the new contractor for a two year period.



Feedback from residents and visitors has been positive with regard to the Lion Yard toilet block although the Town Council also recognises that this provision is in need of an upgrade. The Committee would like to report to residents that during the last year £9,607 was generated from the coin meters, which is used to ensure the toilets are



cleaned effectively. ("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

New Christmas Lights Contract

The former Town Council (2017-22) awarded the Christmas lights contract to LITE Ltd

and at the Brecon with Bells on event, the new Christmas lights were turned on. The new lights are spectacular (see attached pictures) receiving lots of positive feedback. The lights provide Christmas cheer and with the new contract using LED lights this reduces our carbon emissions. (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

Street Cleaning Contract

The Committee provided scrutiny to the street cleaning contract with Powys County Council, receiving monthly reports and presentations from the Head of Service. Feedback has generally been positive during the contracting year. Members of the Committee have made requests for the smaller sweepers to be utilised within the town and other ward areas.

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

Visit Brecon Visitor Information Service

The Committee has welcomed the increase in visitor numbers using the service following the COVID pandemic. The Committee would like to thank the Staff and Volunteers for their hard work and support they provide to residents and visitors.

(“communities”) (“economy”)

Draft work plan consideration for 2023/24

The following work plans will be considered during the next municipal year: #

- i. Review of the financial regulations to determine if any updates required.
- ii. Introduce a formal Notice of Motion for the adoption of the General Power of Competency.¹
- iii. Review of allocated reserves to set projects – amend as required.
- iv. Review of general reserves and implications for the setting of said precept.
- v. Set new precept and budget.

Cllr Chris Walsh

Chair of Finance, Commissioning and Contracting Committee.

Date 22nd April 2023

¹ **General Power of Competency**

The General Power of Competency (GpOC) will enable Brecon Town Council *‘to do anything that individuals of full age can legally do’* provided they act within the law and within the general principle of reasonableness. GPoC is the power of first resort and replaces section 137 *in the interest of the area* which is now the power of last resort.

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 work and projects, including:

- Appointment of Members to outside bodies (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding of a second crossing patrol facility at the Struet – due to commence shortly (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Work and preparations under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act and the General Power of Competency (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Continuation of negotiations to secure the retention of Island Fields as a community space (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)
- Section 106 funding for a community meeting facility (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”)
- Participation in the ‘Smart Towns’ project and creation of a digital plan for Brecon (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Work undertaken within the Council’s Climate Action Plan (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Support to a Brecon signage project undertaken by Brecon Buzz (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Free parking initiatives (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding arrangements for Y Gaer (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Recruitment of Youth Representatives (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Internal audit responsibilities, financial assessments and budgeting (“economy”)
- Consideration of a new Twinning opportunity (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Reviewing policies
- Assisting with co-ordination of Jazz weekend arrangements. (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Collaboration with local organisations and response to Powys’ Transforming Towns consultation (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Street cleaning arrangements via collaboration with Powys County Council and in-house (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

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 2022-23 the work of the Brecknock Welfare Trust was reduced significantly due to depleted funds during and since the Covid crisis. However, grant funding has now been secured for Cost of Living related applications and donations and modest income streams mean the Trust is once again able to offer much needed local support.

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 2022-23 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
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
Youth Representative Scheme	4, 5, 6, 7
Digital improvements for Brecon	1, 4, 5, 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 Pride event in Brecon
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Consideration given to active travel when planning and making decisions and when responding to planning applications
- ✓ Leading on research and options for pump track and co-ordinating local cycling ambitions meetings
- ✓ Funding for street cleaning and contribution towards cleanliness of roads, pavements and carparks

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

- ✓ Participation in Brecon becoming a 'Smart Town' including training for Staff and Councillors and developing a Smart Town Action Plan
- ✓ Engage local support for digital infrastructure and co-ordinate implementation of trials

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

- ✓ 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

- ✓ Development of Skills & Training Fund in collaboration with Neath and Port Talbot College
- ✓ Training and development opportunities for all Staff, Councillors and Volunteers

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 and medium term measures within the Climate Emergency Action Plan as well as developing plans for longer term actions
- ✓ Energy efficiency improvement measures installed in the Guildhall
- ✓ Ambition for green and biodiverse measures to be incorporated into all possible projects and workstreams

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/> and works undertaken as detailed therein

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, further developed in 2023 by support to Brecon Buzz signage project
- ✓ Organising of events
- ✓ Collaborative working with tourism and grant providing colleagues
- ✓ Support of Twinning organisations

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 and seeking specialist stakeholder advice in project development stage e.g. local accessibility groups
- ✓ Undertaking consultation exercises for events and proposed projects

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 for Councillors, Staff and Volunteers

Fiona Williams, Town Clerk
21st April 2023

Approved by Brecon Town Council
22nd May 2023