



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2016



Incorporating Well-being Statement



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Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about the work of Cwmbran Community Council and the people we serve. The Annual Report describes some of the ways in which we aim to deliver well-being for future generations of Cwmbran residents.

I would like to thank the elected members and officers of the Council for their hard work this year.

I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of the communities of Cwmbran. I have been especially pleased to see the increased public participation at our events and meetings.

Finally, I wish to thank everybody who donated towards my nominated charity this year, "All Creatures Great and Small", a local animal sanctuary which relies on the help of the public. Details of their work can be viewed here:

<http://www.allcreaturesgreatandsmall.org.uk>.

Councillor M Johnston
Chairman Cwmbran Community Council

2015/16

About This Report

This report describes how Cwmbran Community Council has contributed to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Cwmbran using Wales-wide sustainable development principles. The Report uses a series of Case Studies to illustrate how each goal was achieved.

The report includes details of future objectives.

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor M Johnston's year of office as Chairman of the Council, which commenced in May 2015 and ran for 12 months.

This Annual Report, including the Statement of Well-Being, was approved by Cwmbran Community Council at a meeting held on 22nd day of June 2016.

David Collins
Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council
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About Cwmbran Community Council

Cwmbran Community Council serves a population of around 30,000 within Torfaen, in the south eastern corner of South Wales. Torfaen occupies the valleys and hills of Gwent.

Cwmbran was created as a “New Town” in 1949, when its existing and traditional villages were developed into a cohesive and vibrant community. Today, Cwmbran is essentially urban in character but with many areas of rural and unspoilt charm.

Cwmbran Community Council is one of the largest Community (town) Councils in Wales. It provides grass roots services to all parts of a diverse and growing community. The Council’s strategic direction is set by its 21 elected Councillors (“members”) who oversee a small team of staff responsible for delivering services on a day to day basis.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at www.cwmbran.gov.uk. Notices of Meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can also be viewed here, along with many governance documents and other information about the Council.

The Council derives almost all of its funds from its precept. That is, an additional amount which is added to Council Tax bills based upon the Council’s estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2016/17 the Council has estimated that it needs to spend £606,690. Of this amount, £561,375 will be made up from the precept and the remainder will be funded from the Council’s Reserves

Further information about the Council’s finances, including its annual accounts, can be seen at www.cwmbran.gov.uk.

This Report includes examples of many of the Council’s services which are delivered to all age groups in a variety of forms. From our Playschemes which provide Summer Fun for children from 5 years old, to our Gardening & Decorating service. The Report describes how Cwmbran Community Council delivers services which contribute to the well-being of Cwmbran and its communities.

The Council would encourage views from the public about its services. Have you used our Task Force? Do your children attend Playschemes? Have you received a Grant from the Council or attended one of our events? We would very much welcome your views on how these services are provided.

David Collins
Clerk to Cwmbran Community Council
david@cwmbran.gov.uk
Tel 01633 624154

Chapter One:

A Prosperous Cwmbran

The Council has made significant progress in developing links with the local business community, through networks such as *Cwmbran Business Connect*.

Our marketing initiatives include opportunities to showcase the work of local businesses, helping to boost the local economy and encourage employment activities.

These opportunities have also helped generate income for the Council and provide valuable sponsorship opportunities.

Cwmbran Business Connect

Wednesday 2nd September 2015

8am - 10am

The Gate in Llanfrechfa NP44 8DQ

Cwmbran Business Connect will be hosting their networking meeting at The Gate in Llanfrechfa on Wednesday 2nd September 2015

We always host the Cwmbran meetings on the first Wednesday of each month.

The network provides a group for businesses to attend which has a friendly atmosphere for you to let other businesses know about your business.

Along with our trademark Flash Presentation, there will also be plenty of opportunity for you to have one to one meetings to help you build long lasting relationships with like minded professionals.

To book in please email nicola.wesson@primrosecollections.co.uk

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Our mailing address is:

5, Forgeside, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 3LN

Chapter Two:

A Resilient Cwmbran

Cwmbran just lost out in the recent Grow Wild Flagship Site competition. The competition entry would have seen the regeneration of parts of Northville & Southville using wildflower planting and other landscaping projects to tell the history of Cwmbran. The scheme would also have supported a diverse range of wildlife.

But Cwmbran Community Council has been able to invest in the scheme and work in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council and Bron Afon Community Housing Ltd. to make sure that this still happens in 2016!



Chapter Three:

A Healthier Cwmbran

We know how important Play is to the physical, mental, emotional and social health of our children. Through Play, children learn life skills and develop Well-being.

Our Summer Playschemes provide a safe and supportive environment to allow children to learn and develop through play. In 2016, we will be collaborating with Torfaen County Borough Council Play Services Team to deliver the service in a new way, adding further to the quality of play provision locally.



Torfaen Open Access Summer Playschemes 2016



Monday 1st August - Thursday 25th August



Working In partnership with Cwmbran Community Council to deliver the following Playscheme sites

Llantarnam Primary School	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Cwmbran Stadium Sports Hall	8 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Maendy Primary School	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Henllys Primary School	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Greenmeadow Primary School	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Nant Celyn Primary School	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Integrated Children's Centre, Hollybush	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran (3 bears School) – Welsh Medium Playscheme	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Glen Llwyd Scout Hall, Hollybush – Welsh Medium Playscheme	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Coed Eva Primary School	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Blenheim Road Primary School	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Woodlands Primary School , Thornhill	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Leadon Court Community Hall, Thornhill	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Woodlands Road Annexe, Croesyceiliog	8 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Ashley House, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
St Dials Community Hall, Cocker Avenue, St Dials	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Sandybrook Park, Hollybush	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Fairwater Leisure Centre, Fairwater	8 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Fairwater Outreach Play / Sport Sessions (venue to be confirmed)	8 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Ponthir Village Hall, Ponthir	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Llanyrafon Social Club, Llanyrafon	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Llanyrafon Church, Llanyrafon	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm

Working In partnership with Pontypool Council to deliver the following Playscheme sites

Glansychan Park Building, Abersychan	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Pentwyn Wellbeing Centre, Pentwyn	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Garndiffaith Workmans Hall, Garndiffaith	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Garndiffaith Rugby Club, Garndiffaith	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Zion Hill Community Centre, Pontnewynydd	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Pentranch Community Hall, Tranch	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
New Inn Primary School, New Inn	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Fishponds Park, Panteg	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Coldbarn Farm, Trevethin	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Woodlands Field , Penygarn & St Cadocs	5 – 12 years	1:00pm - 3:00pm
Blaenavon Heritage VC School	5 – 12 years	10:00am - 12:00pm
Blaenavon Active Living Centre	5 – 12 years	1.00pm - 3.00pm

No prior booking is required unless your child requires 1-1 support. To book on to the playschemes you are required to attend the first session with your child and complete the full registration process.

All children under 8 must be dropped off and collected by a responsible adult.

For more information on playschemes please contact the Play team on 01495 742952.

Children can attend more than one site. This information is also available in Welsh.





Promoting every child's right to play safely within their community. Whatever the Weather!

Chapter Four:

A More Equal Cwmbran

The Council promotes and encourages equality of opportunity across all socio economic backgrounds and circumstances.

The Council has also championed diversity within the community, recognising and rewarding the contribution made by those across different cultural boundaries.



The Wales Gurkha Community has a strong presence in Cwmbran. They received an award from the Council in recognition of their contribution to community relations.

Chapter Five:

A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities

We are playing a bigger part than ever in the annual “Big Event,” a wonderful community festival which includes music & dance acts, sports, craft & food stalls, and much more.

More than 10,000 people attended last year’s event, with most of the activities being free and designed to be fun for the whole family.

More than 10,000 people attended last year’s event, with most of the activities being free and designed to be fun for the whole family. The event encourages sustainability by providing facilities for cycling.....and recycling!

We enjoy working with our key partners to deliver a joined up, cohesive and sustainable community event!



<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/LeisureParksEvents/Events/CwmbranBigEvent/Cwmbran-Big-Event.aspx>

Chapter Six:

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

We continued our core funding to local museums and galleries this year, recognising the significant economic contribution through tourism and regeneration they make.

They also strengthen community identity and empower people through learning, participation and inspiration.

We also give our excited children the chance on a real, live theatre stage look! Go Greenmeadow!



Chapter Seven:

A Globally Responsible Cwmbran.

As evidence of our commitment to delivering and encouraging sustainable solutions, we were pleased to become voluntary signatories of the Sustainable Development Charter during the year.

The Charter encourages and enables organisations across all sectors in Wales to make decisions that produce the best long-term outcomes for themselves and for the future of Wales.

The Charter is Wales' highest profile commitment to sustainable development. This Annual Report is part of our commitment to its aims of the Charter and records our progress towards achieving our goals

We hope that we can encourage others to make sustainable development their central organising principle and embed sustainable development in their decision-making and ways of working. By sharing this document more widely with other signatories we hope to promote sustainability to the wider community, in particular, other Town & Community Councils.

"Hi David

Paul Egan, Deputy Chief Executive of [One Voice Wales](#), says you have an ideal 'Annual Report' as a model document for other town and community councils in Wales.

Can you email me a copy of your report please?

Regards

Bob Campbell

Clerk, Risca Town Council"

Chapter Eight:

A Competent Council

Finally, the Council continues to satisfy tests of competency.

Following a Bye Election which took place in 2015 all our councillors have been declared elected. None have been co-opted. Our Clerk remains CiLCA qualified and our annual budget is again over £200k

We have sound management and financial systems. Our accounts are scrutinised by others.

Agendas, minutes, accounts and contact details can be viewed at www.cwmbran.gov.uk.

You can e-mail the Clerk to the Council at david@cwmbran.gov.uk.

A Charter is in place to govern our relationship with Torfaen County Borough Council.

The Council continues to play a part in the development of policies which impact on the Local Council sector.



Progress Against Goals – some Outputs.

A Prosperous Cwmbran

Our close relationship with Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) helps them support unemployed young people into work or training. In 2015/16 the Council contributed £52,500 towards CCYPs core funding.

A Resilient Cwmbran

The Council allocated £28,500 towards supporting the diversity & wildlife regeneration project described in this report.

A Healthier Cwmbran

Citizens Advice Torfaen provides free, confidential and impartial advice and campaign on big issues affecting people's lives. Their goal is to help everyone find a way forward, whatever problem they face. In 2015/16 the Council gave £4,200 towards this important local source of health & welfare advice.

A More Equal Cwmbran

The Council has begun to examine Anti-Poverty Initiatives, such as support to the Local Foodbank and what part the Council could play.

In January 2016 the Council agreed to allocate £5,000 towards this work for the coming financial year.

A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities

At the end of 2015/16, we allocated £444 towards a project which engaged large groups of children positively at a local Leisure Centre, enabling the police to concentrate on those handful of young people in that area who were determined to continue acting anti-socially in the community. From 01.01.16 – 31.03.16 inclusive, Gwent Police received 29 calls in relation to Anti- Social Behaviour in the area concerned. From 01.04.16 – 26.05.16 inclusive, the calls had reduced to 4.

Members also allocated funds of £438 to support anti-drug initiatives brought forward by Gwent Police.

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

In January 2016 the Council agreed to core fund a range of local organisations who promote and deliver cultural activities – the Congress Theatre £7,350; Torfaen Museum £1,315; Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre £2,625.

A Globally Responsible Cwmbran

The Council has used its resources wisely and prudently, once more keeping the precept the same but funding improved, additional services through use of Balances. The Council has also set aside Earmarked Reserves to fund known,

long-term commitments.

Appendix 2

Progress against Last Year's Goals – some Outcomes

What We Thought We Could Do Better	The Progress We Made
<p>A Prosperous Cwmbran</p> <p>We are building good relationships with the local business community. We will look to improve on this even more.</p>	<p>We improved our links with the local business community, attending a series of local networking events and working with business betters to secure sponsorship & promotional opportunities.</p>
<p>A Resilient Cwmbran</p> <p>We will continue to look at ways of working with the community to encourage sustainability. We will work with our partners to make the best use of our resources.</p>	<p>The Council underlined its commitment by becoming a signatory to the Sustainable Development Charter</p> <p>The Charter encourages and enables organisations in Wales to make decisions that produce the best long-term outcomes for the future of Wales. It is Wales' highest profile commitment to sustainable development and provides an opportunity to highlight good practice.</p>
<p>A Healthier Cwmbran</p> <p>We will keep current arrangements under review to make sure they still help us to serve the community in the best way and comply with any new regulations about Playschemes.</p>	<p>Legislative changes brought an opportunity to deliver the Playschemes in a new way this year, in partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council. These arrangements will be closely monitored by the Council.</p>
<p>A More Equal Cwmbran</p> <p>We will deliver a Playscheme through the medium of Welsh in 2015.</p>	<p>The Council delivered a Playscheme through the medium of Welsh in 2015. This will continue in 2016.</p>
<p>A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities</p> <p>We want to encourage more members of the</p>	<p>The Council has produced regular Handbooks for Residents listing Council events, meetings</p>

public to attend our events. We will make this a priority for the future.

and services. This Handbooks were widely distributed locally. Since the publication of the Handbook, attendance at, an interest in, the Council's events and meetings has increased

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

The Council's Welsh Language Scheme was approved in 2008. We are going to review it soon to make sure that it still meets local needs.

Before reviewing its Scheme, the Council has considered whether Community Councils will need to comply with new service standards in relation to the Welsh language.

The Welsh Language Commissioner has published a timetable for carrying out service standards investigations to decide which standards should be included in legislation, and which standards the Commissioner could require organizations to comply with.

Community Councils are not expected to come within the new Welsh language Standards until after April 2018.

A Globally Responsible Cwmbran

We will Strive to keep our working practices environmentally friendly, supporting sustainable approaches to recycling, waste management and use of resources.

Our 2015 Annual Report describing our commitment to Well-Being was recognised as Best Practice on a Wales wide level.

(See also reference to Sustainability Charter above and Statement of Well Being attached.)

Our Future Objectives

The Council has adopted the following principles, as featured within the report, as the Council's long term objectives.

To contribute towards the delivery of:

- A Prosperous Cwmbran.
- A Resilient Cwmbran.
- A Healthier Cwmbran.
- A More Equal Cwmbran.
- A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities.
- A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language
- A Globally responsive Cwmbran.
- A Competent Council.

These overarching goals provide a framework for the delivery of specific projects. The Council will embrace principles of Sustainable Development based upon Long Term Planning, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement to deliver these goals.

Statement of Well-being: Cwmbran Community Council

This Well-Being Statement sets out the Council's commitment to the principle of sustainable development to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 'the Act', defines sustainable development as the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals. In this regard the Council recognises the role it has to play. Therefore, it will promote sustainable development in how it goes about meeting its duty under the Act and when working for and with the communities that make up its area.

The Act puts in place seven well-being goals. These well-being goals are indivisible from each other and explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales. The Council embraces these well-being goals and will place them at the heart of its forward planning and decision making arrangements to improve the general quality of life (well-being) within its administrative area. The Act provides a more detailed definition for each of the seven well-being goals. However, for the purposes of this statement the seven goals are:



When applying these well-being goals to the functions, activities and services provided by the Council; the Act requires the Council to think more about the long term, to work better with people and communities and also other public bodies, to look to prevent problems and to take a more joined up approach.

The Council will go about this by making the following commitments:

COMMITMENTS

- Look to the long term so that its actions or lack of action does not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Taking an integrated approach to applying the seven well-being goals when deciding upon priorities.
- Involving the diversity of the population in the decisions affecting them, when and where it is applicable to do so.

- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.
- Take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has affect in its area. In this regard and when the Public Services Board publishes its local well-being plan, the Council will consider and review the local objectives contained in the plan alongside its own objectives for the year ahead.
- Form its own judgement of what steps it would be reasonable for it to take towards meeting the local objectives in its area, on the basis of its own knowledge and consideration of the circumstances and characteristics of its area.
- Report annually detailing the progress it has made in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan prepared and published by the Public Services Board.
- Supporting Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Charter as a Charter signatory.

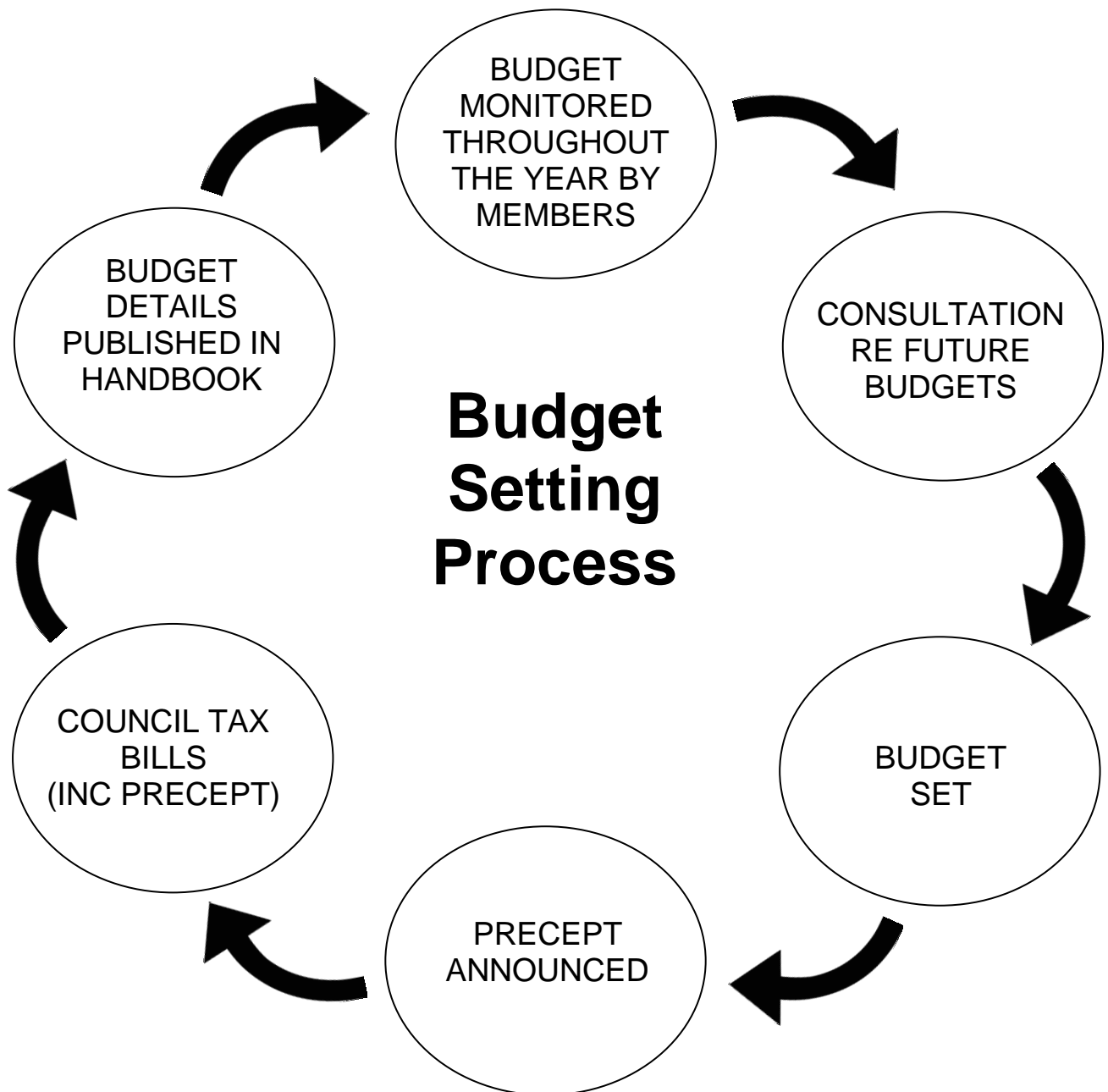
ACTIONS

The Council commits to the following set of actions:

- Publishing this well-being statement on its website.
- Incorporating this well-being statement into its Annual Report, which provides an overall framework to focus the Council's activities, investments and spending priorities.
- Incorporating the seven national well-being goals into its Strategic Planning
- Continue to extend its influence and reach into the community to help sustain general well-being in the communities that make up its area. It will do this by dedicating resources to promote community development through the Council's work programme; its dedicated Community Development Officer who will act as an important interface with the communities in the Council's area and through other community initiatives such as the Council's Community Development Fund grants policy and its other forms of grant support.
- To support the Sustainable Development Charter.
- To work with others to bring about Well Being in Cwmbran.

Appendix 5

Our Budget Setting Cycle



Appendix 6

Chairman of Cwmbran Community Council Councillor Mike Johnston “My Year in Pictures”



**Councillor Mike Johnston, Chairman
Cwmbran Community Council**