



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2017



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 and the involvement of more and more young people in the work of the Council.

The Council's 2016 Annual Report was recognised as an example of Best Practice by One Voice Wales, the umbrella organisation for town & community councils in Wales. The Council was thrilled to receive an Innovative Practice Award for its approach to Annual Reporting. This Annual Report continues this award winning approach.

Finally, I wish to thank everybody who donated towards my nominated charity this year, The Multiple Sclerosis Society, Torfaen & District Branch. Details of the work of the Society can be viewed here: <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/>

Councillor KK Manneh,
Chairman Cwmbran Community Council

2016/17

About This Report

This report describes how Cwmbran Community Council has contributed to the economic, social, cultural 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 diverse and sophisticated nature of a modern local council also brings a degree of overlap between each goal.

The report includes details of future objectives.

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor KK Manneh's year of office as Chairman of the Council, which commenced in May 2016 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 26 July 2017.

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www.cwmbbran.gov.uk

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 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 2017/18 the Council has estimated that it needs to spend £555,750.

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 activities aimed at Primary Schools to our Gardening & Decorating service which has concessions for the elderly. 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?

Have you looked at our website or social media pages?

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
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Chapter One:

A Prosperous Cwmbran

The Council provides financial support to a range of local organisations. This “core funding” provides vital support to a range of local organisations who deliver Well-Being in Cwmbran.



Our picture illustrates the work of one of our key partners, who we have been pleased to support for many years.

The work of Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) includes the delivery of Traineeships to young people aged 16-18. The programme gives young people the opportunity to complete work-based training to develop their skills, confidence and knowledge in order to progress onto higher learning, employment or volunteering. Trainees take part in various trips, activities, community projects and sessions.

After completing the Engagement phase of training, trainees can progress onto Level 1 in Youth Work or Business Administration to give them vocational skills and knowledge.

Outputs & Outcomes

In 2016/17 the Council contributed £52,500 to CCYP.

- 75% of Engagement learners progressed (Welsh Government target of 68%)
- 72% of Level 1 learners progressed (Welsh Government target of 68%)

(2015/16 Contract)

Chapter Two:

A Resilient Cwmbran

The Council helps to promote and maintain a biodiverse natural environment...as this picture of our unique wildflower planters illustrates.



The planters sit proudly outside our premises and contain plants grown from seed - 50% annuals & 50% Native Perennials

Species include corn poppies, corn flowers and foxglove. There are even a few small bee houses!

Outputs & Outcomes

This has been one of the most cost-effective projects undertaken by the Council.

Seeds were donated free by Bron Afon Community Housing, through funding they received from [Grow Wild](#).

Bron Afon's commitments include Investing in People, Homes and Communities locally. We have also been grateful for their technical advice regarding planting, flowering and maintenance.

The display encourages passers-by to take an interest in the importance of wildflowers and biodiversity. The planters also form a colourful and interesting backdrop to community events.

Chapter Three:

A Healthier Cwmbran

Each year, our Chairman nominates a charity to support during his term of office. The chosen charity is usually one which is very active here in Cwmbran or with which the Chairman has a strong personal connection.

In 2016/17, our Chairman, Councillor Manneh, worked tirelessly to raise funds on behalf of his chosen charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Torfaen Branch.

Supported by other Members and Staff, fund-raising activities included public collections and private donations. We also enjoyed great support from the local community – including local businesses - in raising awareness of the work of the charity and collecting vital funds.



MS
Multiple Sclerosis Society

There are over 300 MS Society groups run by volunteers working alongside local staff.

The services they offer include emotional & practical support, financial help, information & social events.

In 2016/17 the Chairman raised over £1,000 for this charity.

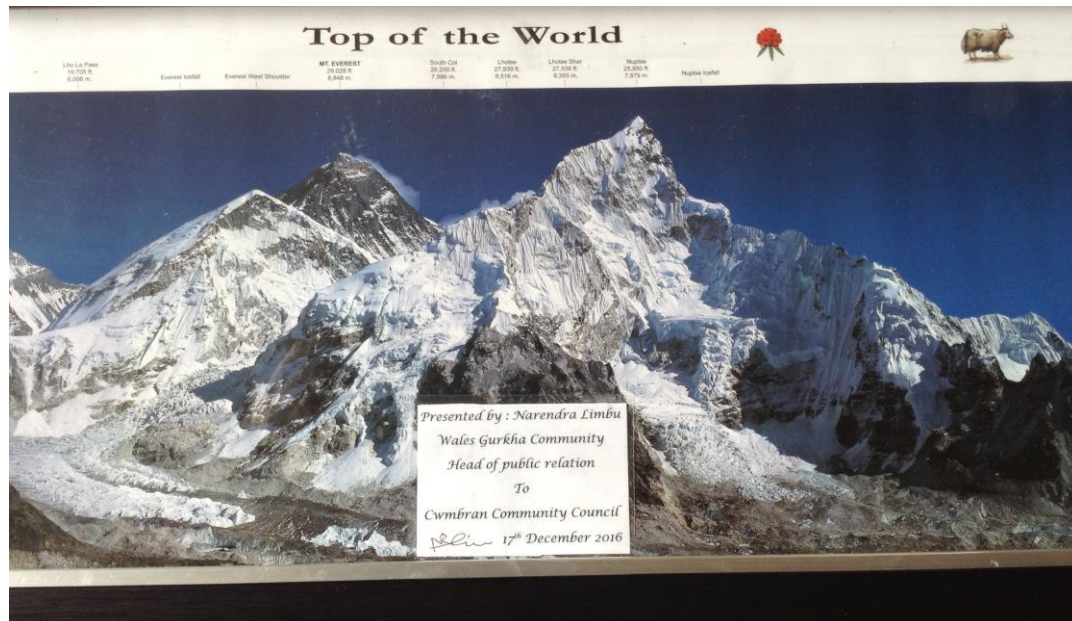
Chapter Four:

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.

In particular, the Council enjoys a long-standing special relationship with the local Gurkha community.



Outputs & Outcomes

The local Gurkha community has been an active supporter of the Council for many years, attending events such as the Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Our relationship with this unique and proud community is a visible sign of how the Council can work with its own community to promote a greater understanding of different traditions and culture.

In February 2017, the Chairman of the Council was delighted to accept an acknowledgement of this special relationship from the Wales Gurkha Community itself, in the form of this magnificent Appreciation Certificate and Himalayan Poster.



Noson Gwobrau Cymunedol a Chyflwyniadau Grantiau Community Awards and Grants Presentation Evening

2017



Chapter Five:

A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities

Each year, Cwmbran Community Council hosts an Annual “Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities.”

This event, hosted by the Chairman, helps the Council celebrate the contribution made by so many groups and individuals to Cwmbran society. The function makes an important contribution to promoting community cohesion, with guests from a range of organisations who come together to network and share one another’s experiences.

The nature of the event means that attendance is by invitation only but guests for the 2017 event were drawn from all aspects of civic and community life. The Lord Lieutenant of Gwent was joined by the Mayor of Torfaen, our local MP, chairs of other local councils and other elected members. Churches, the armed forces and community safety partners were also represented along with many organisations which the Council supports, such as the Congress Theatre and CCYP. The Chairman was especially pleased to welcome students from Cwmbran High School to the event for the first time.

Entertainment was provided via a lively display from Torfaen Sea Cadets. Guests also enjoyed a thoughtful address from the Cwmbran Street Pastors about their valuable work in the community. Displays were provided at the event by the Congress Theatre and the Chairman’s charity, the MS Society Torfaen Branch. The opportunity was also taken to showcase the work of the Council and distribute information about Council services.



Outputs & Outcomes

The Council approves an annual budget for this function. The 2017 Celebration was delivered within the approved budget of £3,000.

No charge is made for guests to attend but voluntary donations are invited on behalf of the Chairman’s charity. £500 was raised for the charity on the night.

Chapter Six:

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

This report includes several examples of how the Council protects and promotes culture and heritage. In this way, the report demonstrates how its different services have a cross cutting impact on the various Well-being goals.

The Council has paid particular recent attention to promoting its bilingual identity and commitment to the Welsh language. The language features prominently within the everyday life and identity of the Council.

The Annual “Celebration of Cwmbran and its Communities” (which takes place in March) carries a distinctive Welsh flavour to coincide with St David’s Day. Events held to commemorate Remembrance Sunday and Armed Forces Day feature Welsh language readings and the Welsh National Anthem. Our Schools Choral Festivals also feature a strong Welsh language element.



Outputs & Outcomes

In January 2017 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.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 enshrines in law the official status of the Welsh Language in Wales. The Welsh Government has yet to make regulations setting out the Welsh Language standards which will apply to community and town councils but it is the intention to do so in due course, following further consultation. Existing Welsh Language Schemes remain in force until the regulations are made.

The Council’s Welsh Language Scheme can be viewed at www.cwmbran.gov.uk.

Chapter Seven:

A Globally Responsible Cwmbran

Our Eco Quiz for local schools is one of our most successful long-standing events. The event follows the established format of an environmental based quiz for local Primary Schools.

12 schools took parts this year with Coed Eva Primary School victorious on the night. The Council is grateful for the generous support of Knauf Insulation who not only contribute generous financial support evening but provided the winning team this year with a plant tour and buffet, shown in the pictures below. The children were thrilled to see the work undertaken by Knauf as part of their environmental studies.



Outputs & Outcomes

This event helps address many challenges which many town & community councils face. It embraces youth engagement, promotes sustainability and displays excellent partnership arrangements with the private sector. It is a simple but sound example of the Council's ever improving record in such areas.

Chapter Eight:

A Competent Council

Following the 2017 elections which took place in 2017 all our councillors have been declared elected. None have been co-opted.

Our Clerk is both CiLCA qualified and a Fellow of the Institute of Local Council Management. Our annual budget is over £200k

We have sound management & 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. This is kept under review.

Outputs & Outcomes

The Council has used its resources wisely and prudently. We have set aside Earmarked Reserves to fund known, long-term commitments.

The Council's record of achievement, engagement and good governance has been recognised across Wales; we were delighted to feature on the cover of this guide for candidates at the 2017 elections for example, produced by One Voice Wales, the umbrella organisation for town & community councils in Wales.



Be a Local Councillor in 2017
A Guide to Community and Town
Councils and the Role of Community
and Town Councillors

Our 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.

2018 will be an important year for town & community councils. The Torfaen draft assessment of Well-being, published in May 2017, will be used to develop the Well-being plan itself, which will be published in May 2018. Once the plan is published, the Council will be required to evidence using the objectives and relating to the plan. We will use the published local well-being assessment to set organisational goals and objectives. Using the published plans and updated assessments going forward, will help ensure that the Council is connected to and contributing to wider overarching strategy.



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.

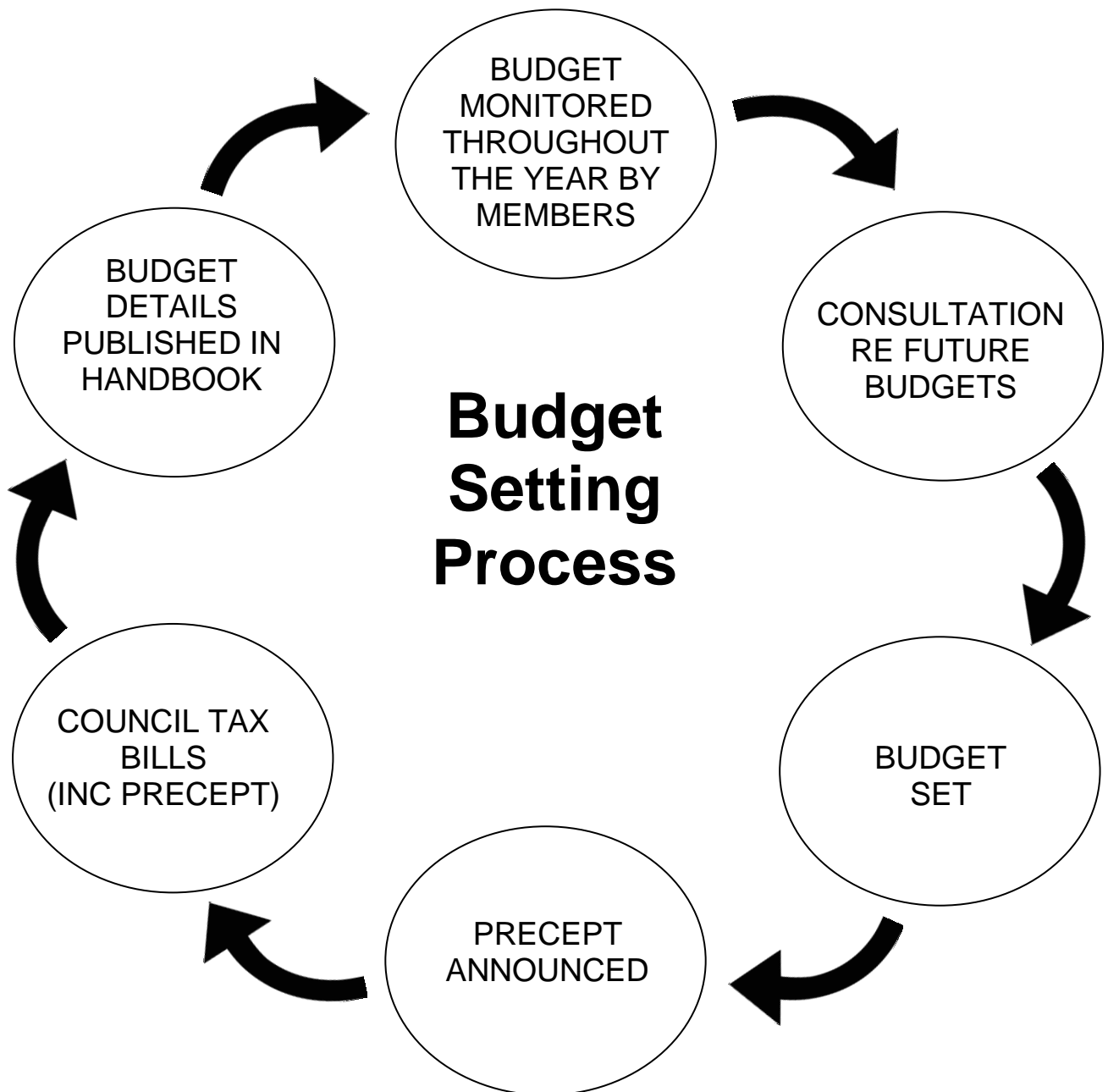
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.
- Take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has affect in its area. In this regard and when 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 Well-being objectives.
- Supporting Sustainable Development.

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 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.
- To support Sustainable Development.
- To work with others to bring about Well Being in Cwmbran.

Our Budget Setting Cycle



Chairman of Cwmbran Community Council Councillor Kebba Manneh
“My Year in Pictures”



Councillor Kebba Kwiney Manneh
Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council 2016/17