



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cwmbran Community Council
Council Meeting
12 May 2021
Agenda Item No 21

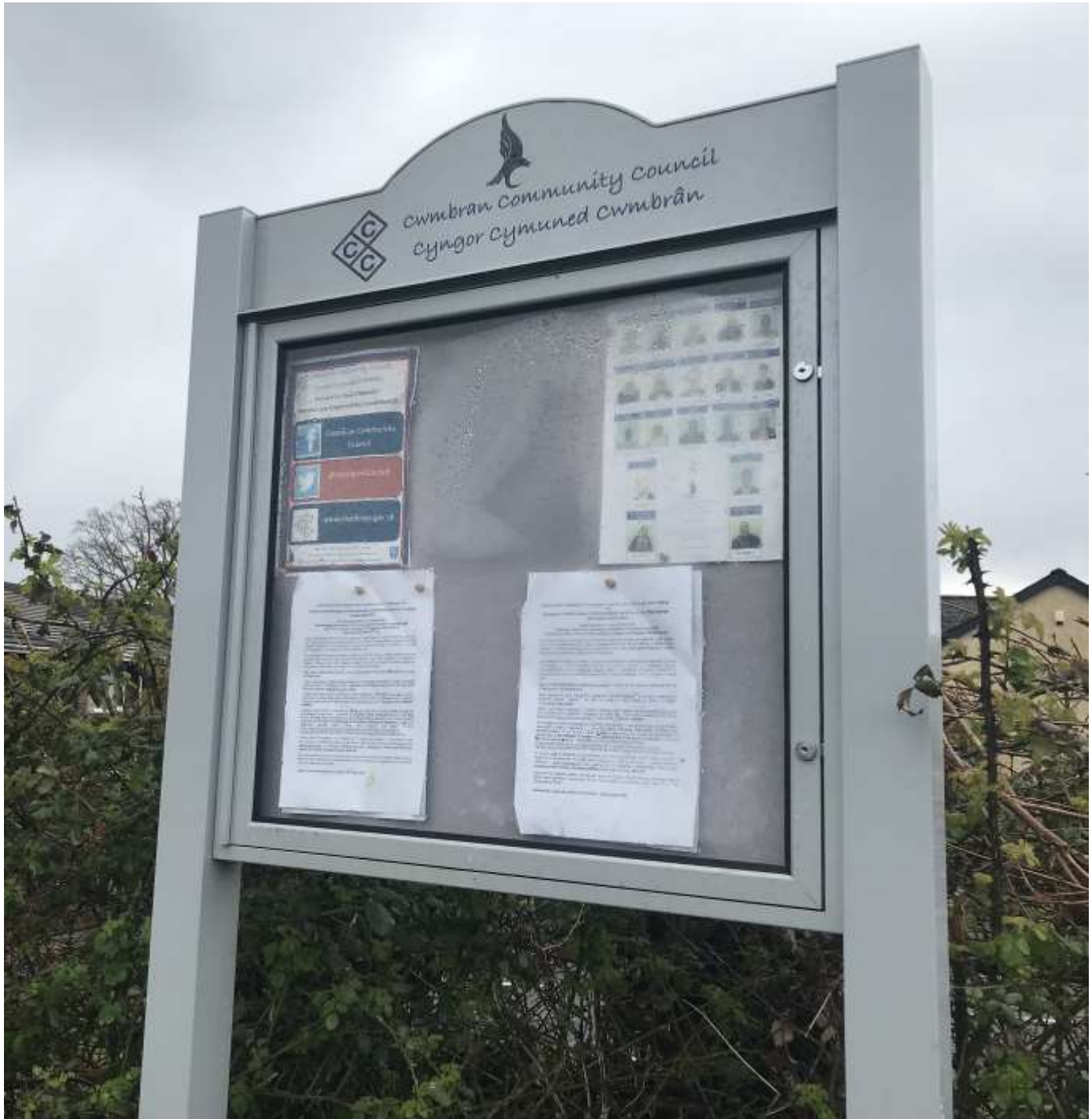
**Cwmbran Community Council
Annual Report 2020/2021**



The Report describes how Cwmbran Community Council is contributing to the wellbeing of its area.

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





contact us at cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk
visit our website at www.cwmbran.gov.uk

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Foreword

The past year has brought unprecedented challenges for our communities. 2020 was a year like no other. We all faced new challenges. Communities were stretched to new limits. A new vocabulary emerged. "Lockdown," "Social Distancing" and "you need to unmute yourself!"

Despite these difficulties though, I am delighted that the Council continued to meet its goals.

This Report, describes how we helped sustain communities, worked with others and succeeded under pressing circumstances. It explains how we contributed to local, "Well-being" goals, helping people and communities feel better about themselves. It describes how we met our own objectives.

I am grateful to the many organisations who have helped Cwmbran through difficult times, especially those who worked with us to help deliver important support and encouragement to the community. I pay special tribute to Council Members (Councillors) and our staff.

We welcomed a "new" Councillor during the year as Councillor Lyndon Chaney returned to the Council for the Greenmeadow Ward.

Sadly though, we said farewell to my predecessor as Council Chairman, Peter Cathcart, who passed away in March 2021. He will be sadly missed in Cwmbran. We send our sympathies to Pete's family.

We now want to hear your views about how we have performed and the objectives we have set. Have we done all we can? Would you like us to consider other ways of contributing to local Well-being? Please let us know. You can reach us via Social Media or email at cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk

Councillor Anthony L Bird
Chairman Cwmbran Community Council, 2020/21



Councillor Bird is pictured above alongside the late Peter Cathcart.

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About This 2021 Report

Torfaen Public Services Board (PSB) has published a [Well-being Plan for Torfaen](#) (2018 to 2023). It sets out how public services will work together to improve local well-being. The PSB reports [annually](#) against this Plan.

Cwmbran Community Council's Annual Report indicates the progress **we** have made towards these objectives. It also records our wider achievements and ways of working. The Council has produced an Annual Report for many years. Previous reports can be viewed at www.cwmbran.gov.uk.

In recent years, Residents' Handbooks have also documented our progress towards delivering Well-being in Cwmbran. We have also used the Handbook to consult on priorities.

Here are our current objectives, which provide a framework for our activities:

A Prosperous Cwmbran.

A Healthier Cwmbran.

A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities

A Globally Responsive Cwmbran

A Resilient Cwmbran.

A More Equal Cwmbran

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

A "Competent" Cwmbran

These goals continue to inform our work. We have assessed the progress made this year towards meeting these objectives in this report.

This Report covers the financial year 2020/2021. The Report, including the Statement of Well-Being, was approved by Cwmbran Community Council on 12 May 2021.

We encourage views from the public about our services.

Have you used our Gardening & Decorating Service?

What do you think about our spending priorities?

Have you visited our website or social media pages?

Have you received a grant from the Council or attended one of our events?

How well do we contribute to the Well-being goals referred to in this report?

We welcome your views on how our services are provided.

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About Cwmbran Community Council

Cwmbran Community Council serves the community of Cwmbran in the south eastern corner of South Wales. Torfaen occupies the valleys and hills of Gwent along the Afan Llwyd river.

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. There are almost 30,000 electors in Cwmbran today.

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 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 governance documents and other Council information.

The Council derives most of its funds from its precept. That is an amount which is added to Council Tax bills to fund the Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2020/21 the Council estimated that it needed to spend £650,425.

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

The Council also has a lively social media presence, details of which are shown on the final page of this report.

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Our Contribution to Local Well-being

The following objectives are set by the Torfaen Public Services Board (PSB).

- 1. To develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.*
- 2. To develop adaption & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.*
- 3. To provide children & young people with the best possible start in life.*
- 4. To support healthy lifestyles and enable people to age well.*
- 5. To tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.*
- 6. To improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.*
- 7. To create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.*

Here are some examples of how we contributed to these local “Well-being” objectives, working with others to benefit future generations. The objectives embody our own goals.

1. We sit on the Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen Local Nature Partnership which brings communities together to explore, discover and share nature on their doorstep, providing advice and support for action to benefit local wildlife. We also helped develop a strategic vision for the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal.
2. The Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) will respond to climate change and environmental challenges now and in the future, ensuring sustainable development. It must take into account sustainability and well-being objectives. We commented on issues the Plan should address and helped raise awareness of [opportunities](#) for the public to contribute their views.

We recycle our waste, including green waste.

The PSB supported a Carbon Positive eWorkshop. Councillor Stephen Brooks of Cwmbran Community Council represents town & community councils on the PSB to help deliver a Globally Responsive Cwmbran.

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3. We distributed [Play Packs](#) to local families and supported play provision across Cwmbran, encouraging play and learning. This helped children play freely but safely at a time when play was integral to a child's mental health and well-being. We encouraged outdoor play and the continuation of staffed play provision for vulnerable children.

We continued to support [Cwmbran Centre for Young People](#), funding vital refurbishment works.

The Saturday Art Club, which [Llantarnam Grange Art Centre](#) ran with our financial aid, gave young people a focus during lockdown and supported home schooling.

4. Despite the impact of lockdown, we continued to provide our gardening service, which is discounted for the elderly and infirm. Following strict safety guidelines, this helped raise morale and lift the spirits of many elderly residents.

We installed a new defibrillator in the community in partnership with Croesyceiliog and Llanyrafon Community Council at a popular local attraction.

5. By releasing vital funds, we helped relieve the impact of Covid-19 related poverty and hardship in partnership with others, for example food and delivery projects.

We encourage economic resilience by prompt payment to suppliers and paying staff the Living Wage.

6. Partnerships working with Torfaen Voluntary Alliance helped support community-based organisations, groups and social enterprise development in Torfaen. Our Grants to Voluntary Organisations also helped sustain third sector groups who have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

7. Our "virtual" Big Event enjoyed terrific support from the community. Read the press coverage of the event [here](#). Our Christmas Trees helped welcome any visitors. We supported the community through socially distanced Remembrance events and ensured that the cultural life of our communities remained vibrant during this difficult year, commemorating national milestones such as Merchant Navy Day, [VE Day](#), [VJ Day](#) and [Dydd Owain Glyndŵr](#).

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Regular dialogue with community safety partners helped maintain a Safer Cwmbran. Regular updates between the Council and the local police lead officer are an important contribution to this.

We encouraged volunteering in the community in many ways, such as through our support for the use of volunteers at local Playschemes, which we help to fund.

National Play Day occurs in the middle of the Playschemes.

And there's more....

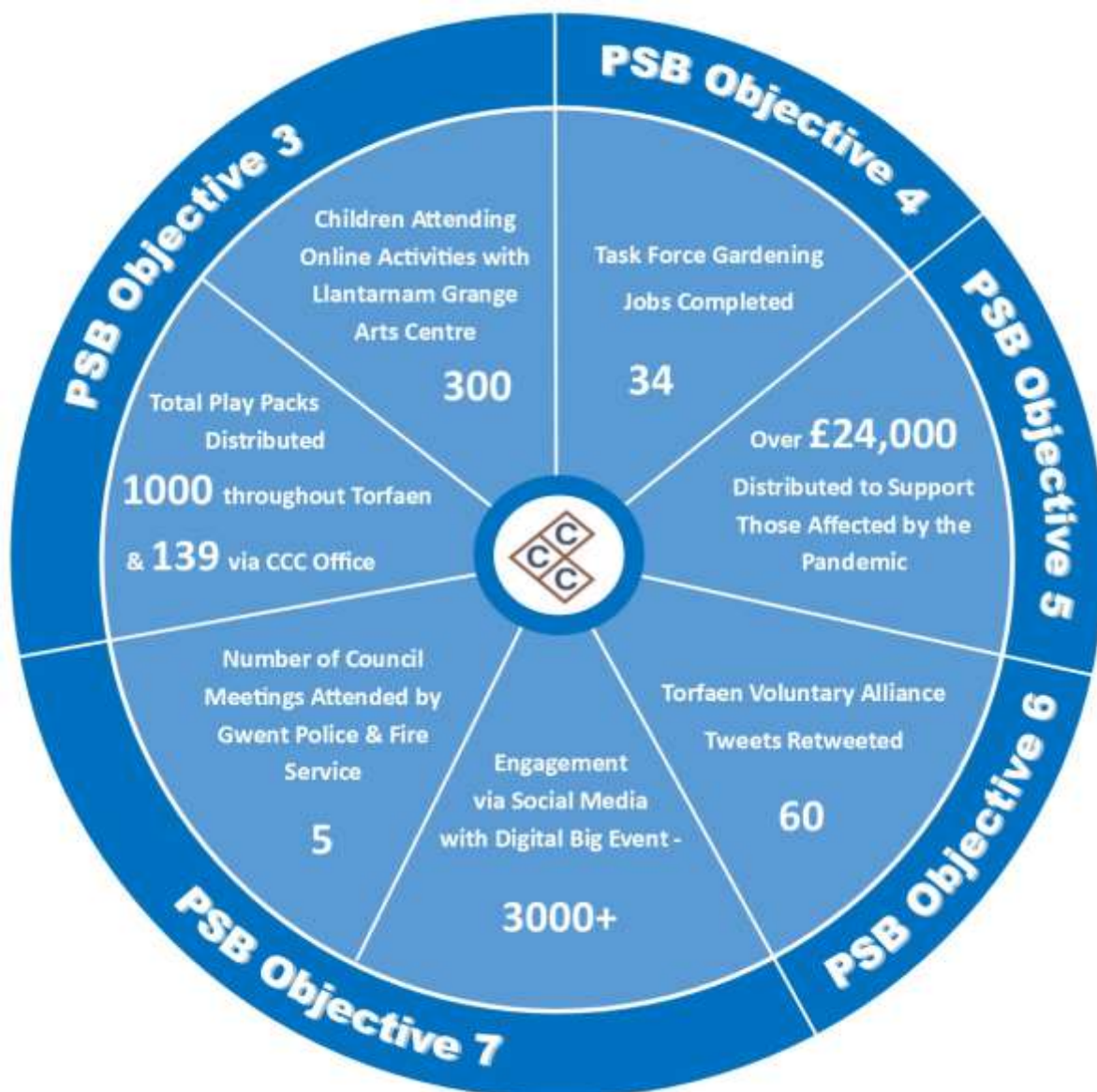
- Our funds helped sustain the Congress Theatre and Torfaen Museum, developing a Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language.
- We continued to champion A More Equal Cwmbran, raising the rainbow flag to help celebrate PrideCymru and promoting zero tolerance towards racism.
- Our social media pages promoted many of the above initiatives and shared key messages to support physical, financial and well-being needs during lockdown.
- Amidst the pandemic, the “normal life” of the Council carried on. Accounts were approved, staff were trained and bills were paid. 2020 saw several staff changes, reflecting individual needs and aspirations.
- We welcomed a new councillor for Greenmeadow, having completed the co-option process via digital communications and remote working. Council Meetings also took place on-line. You can participate in these meetings. Contact us to learn more.
- Sustainable, digital solutions were central to our communications strategy as 2020 saw the installation of our new IT and telephone system. Our website was improved as we championed new ways of meeting the community.
- Our staff kept safe by working from home as much as possible, supporting the Council and the community. They kept up with training and other changes which affect our work. We kept our building and facilities safe & secure. Safety measures helped protect staff and visitors when they needed to access the building.

“2020: Our website described a remarkable year!”

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Outcomes & Indicators

Here are some figures which indicate our success this year.



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Our 5 Ways of Working

We believe in.....

The Long Term: the importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs

Prevention: how acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration: considering how public bodies' well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration: acting in collaboration with any other person that could help the Council meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement: the importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council serves.

So we did this.....

Landscaping and Planting at our premises encourages a diverse wildlife population.

We have kept the condition of our buildings under scrutiny, replacing out-dated and ineffective plumbing. We also took action to protect our building against legionella.

We examined our staffing and financial arrangements with a view to long term pressures, making financial decisions now, to enable future generations to thrive.

Despite Covid-19 restrictions, we protected the "Cwmbran Big Event" and aim to secure its long-term future.

Our award-winning Task Force delivered a gardening service in the community, helping vulnerable residents retain their independence.

Our programme of grants to voluntary organisations helped sustain many vital community-run services.

We reviewed reports from our auditors and regulators to help bring about continuous improvement.

For several years now, the Council has aligned its activities and objectives with wider Well-being goals. We enjoy close relationships with our partners across Torfaen in delivering these goals. We continued to work towards these goals. We kept abreast of wider public sector developments through our membership of bodies such as One Voice Wales, the umbrella organisation for town & community councils in Wales.

We enjoy excellent relationships with key partners to deliver services, with support from local businesses, uniformed organisations and churches. We are especially proud of our relationships with local schools.

Councillor SJ Brooks of Cwmbran Community Council represented town & community councils on the PSB, helping to determine priorities and actions.

Our diverse programme of annual events helped build cohesive and resilient communities.

We encourage discussion about Council services via our lively social media pages. Staff have received specialist training and guidance on the use of Social Media in the public sector.

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“Our Year in Pictures”



Safe distribution of our “Play Packs.”
Summer 2020



Providing Festive Cheer
Christmas 2020



Remembering Covid victims
#NationalDayofReflection
23 March 2021
Cwmbran Wins World Cup!



Dave checks our new defibrillator.
Spring 2021

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Despite a difficult last 12 months, the people of Cwmbran have shown remarkable resilience to sustain our community throughout the challenging times.

This community spirit was very much in evidence when Cwmbran came out victorious in an online poll to find the best post-war new town in the UK.

The fun contest was devised by author John Grindrod, who had written about New Towns.

Taking place as a knock-out style competition on Twitter, Mr Grindrod's 'World Cup of UK Post-War New Towns' pitted Cwmbran against other UK "New Towns."

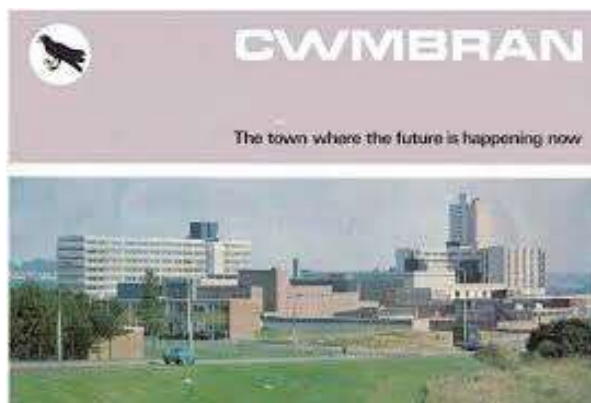
The final, held on New Year's Day, saw Cwmbran take on the Shropshire new town Telford and, after 8,140 votes were cast, Cwmbran emerged victorious!

Council officials helped promote the case for Cwmbran and Chairman of Cwmbran Community Council, Cllr Anthony Bird, heartily welcomed the result.

"Thanks to everyone who voted for Cwmbran," he said.

"We had stiff competition from some great places but this just confirms my opinion that Cwmbran is truly an amazing place to live, work, and play."

As well as bringing a smile to our faces over New Year, Mr Grindrod hoped the contest would encourage people to donate to the [Trussell Trust](#) food bank charity. A great start the year and a new way of meeting our goals!



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Appendix 1

Objectives & Targets 2021/22

The Council has adopted the following principles, as its 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 objectives provide a framework for the delivery of specific projects, services and programme of events during the year. They guide spending decisions.

The Council will continue to work towards these goals during the coming year and the PSB objectives, which reflect these wider aims.

Here are some targets to guide our work. We will measure success and record our achievements in future reports.

- A Prosperous Cwmbran

We will continue to support key agencies who provide advice and opportunities to stimulate economic activity.

We will aim to provide regeneration opportunities.

- A Resilient Cwmbran.

We will work with other agencies to maintain and enhance natural environments with healthy ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to change.

- A Healthier Cwmbran.

We will support play provision and healthy choices.

- A More Equal Cwmbran.

We will promote equality of opportunity, celebrate diversity and encourage a fairer society.

- A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities.

Our programme of events will provide the space for communities to come together.

We will help sustain the voluntary sector.

Our dialogue with community safety partners will help maintain safe, confident communities.

- A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language.

We will support the arts and embrace Welsh culture.

- A Globally Responsive Cwmbran.

We will continue to work with other agencies to help mitigate the impact of climate change and promote sustainability.

- A Competent Council.

We aspire to become a Competent Council, through continuing to employ a qualified clerk, meeting audit requirements and holding elections for councillors.

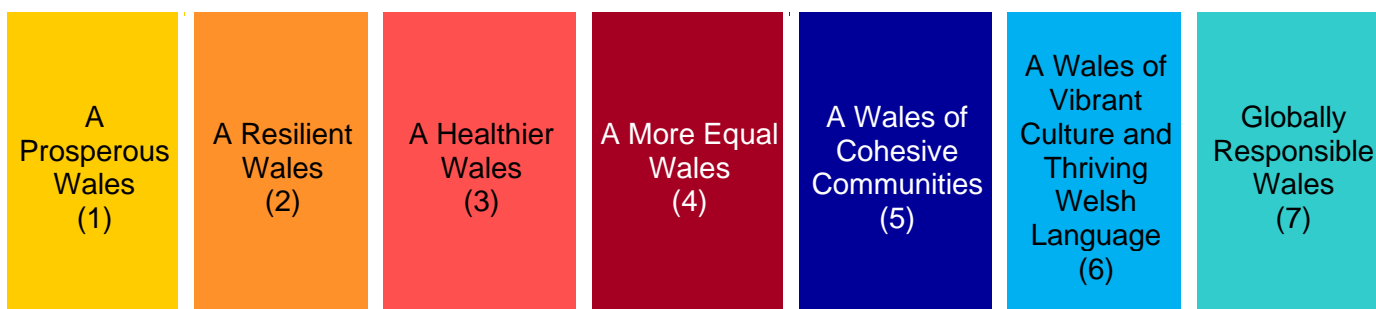
The Council will continue to embrace principles of Sustainable Development based upon Long Term Planning, Prevention, Integration, Collaboration and Involvement to deliver these goals.

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.

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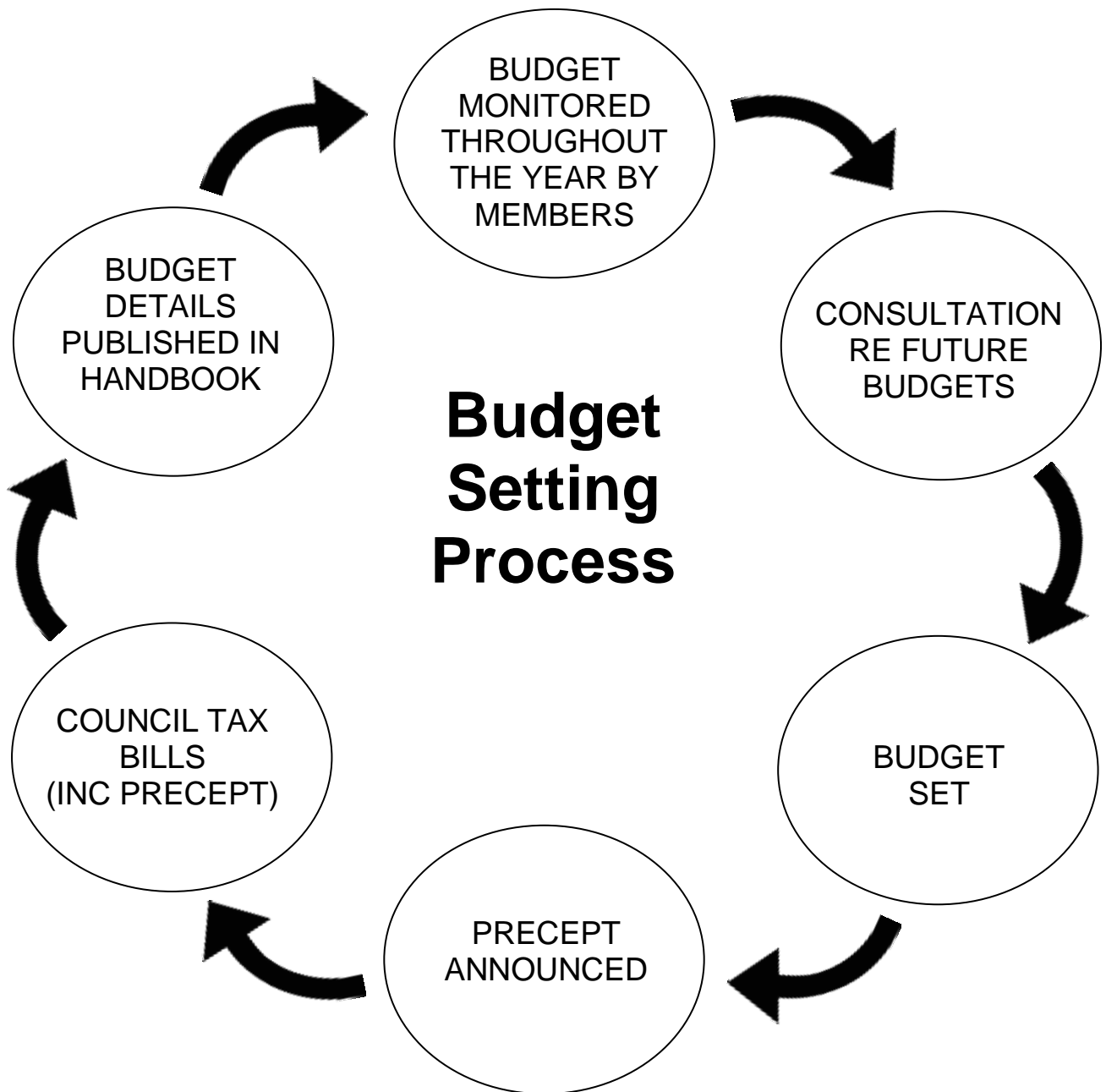
- Working with others in a collaborative way to find shared sustainable solutions.
- Understanding the root causes of issues to prevent them from occurring.
- Take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has affect in its area. In this regard the Council 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 and Annual Report 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 in what we do, and who we work with.
- To work with others to bring about Well Being in Cwmbran.

Our Budget Setting Cycle



Appendix 4

This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2021/22

Summary		PROPOSED 2021/22
A	ELECTIONS	0
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES	12,250.00
C	STAFFING	287,875.00
G	ACCOMMODATION	45,750.00
H	OFFICE EXPENSES	51,200.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE	92,600.00
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	13,250.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE	111,250.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK SCHEME	9,150.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING	6,300.00
O	CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	64,000.00
P	TWINNING ACTIVITIES	0.00
R	BANK INTEREST	-200.00
V	VAT refund or payment (VAT on income & expenditure)	-3,000.00
	Grand Totals	690,425.00
	Less Funding from Reserves	-40,000
	Precept Funding	650,425.00

What do you think should be our spending priorities as we plan for the future?

contact us at cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk
visit our website at www.cwmbran.gov.uk



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Council**



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Follow us on Social Networks!

Dilynwch ni ar Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!



David Collins, Clerk to the Council / Clerc I'r Cyngor

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