

Chepstow Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2020-21

Introduction

<p>Outline of Council</p> <p>Indication of what could be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number and names of councillors• Name of Mayor/Leader• Name of clerk and officers• Geographical area of Council• Number of residents represented• Any other relevant information	<p>Chepstow Town Council comprises 15 elected members, with three councillors representing each of the five wards:</p> <p>St Kingsmark – Councillors Martin Brady, Alan Braund and Alan Horne;</p> <p>St Christophers – Councillors Hilary Beach, Jenni Brews and Yvonne Havard;</p> <p>St Marys – Councillors Jez Becker, Caroline Duchet and Ned Heywood MBE;</p> <p>Thornwell - Councillors Tom Kirton, Dale Rooke and Armand Watts;</p> <p>Larkfield – Councillors Phyl Hobson, Paul Pavia and Tony Redhead.</p> <p>The present councillors were elected in May 2017 to serve a five-year term of office.</p> <p>The Mayor in 2020/21 was Councillor Tom Kirton supported by the Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Dale Rooke.</p> <p>Services provided by the Town Council are managed and delivered by a team of six part-time employees, comprising three in administration and four mobile hygiene and asset maintenance operatives. This small team, based at The Gatehouse, is led by a qualified Town Clerk, Lucy Allen who is supported by a Deputy Town Clerk, and Administration Officer. The Maintenance team consists of a Maintenance Operative, two Mobile Hygiene Operatives and two Street Cleansing Operatives.</p> <p>The Town Council represents an electorate of 9002 residents.</p>
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<p>What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?</p>	<p>Chepstow Town Council is committed to supporting the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in Chepstow and in doing so, it is hoped that the community will become more sustainable, cohesive and ambitious. We are committed to providing the best service possible to all our residents, visitors and partners who we see as essential in the future success of the town.</p> <p>The Town Council is the closest level of government to the Community and provides a voice representing the area at County and Welsh Government level as well as ensuring other Stakeholders take account of the needs of the Community. The Council is able to use powers and resources to respond to the needs of local community groups and local initiatives.</p>
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<p>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</p>	<p>Long Term</p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Council has acknowledged that a longer-term view is needed and in 2019/20 agreed that the best way to do this was to undertake a Place Plan for Chepstow with the results being used to develop a strategy and action plan guiding future activities and spend. This will also allow the development of services, projects and initiatives which meet current needs but will embed and improve foundations for future development within our community.</p> <p>Whilst in receipt of an annual precept, the Council is very aware of balancing short and long-term goals in its budgeting and planning and longer term funding agreements are considered with external bodies ensuring the short and long term needs of the community are met with these collaborations.</p>
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	<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>The Town Council allocates resources to prevent problems from occurring or getting worse and strives to address problems by prevention and early intervention rather than being responsive. The Town Council welcomes discussions with community stakeholders and is able to work in partnership to provide funding to prevent future problems. In addition, a community grant scheme is available to local organisations who have identified areas of concern and the Town council is able to financially assist to provide a suitable resolution.</p>
	<p>Integration Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>The Town Council works closely with a variety of community stakeholders to deliver its actions and strives to have a positive effect on people, the economy, the environment and culture. When making decisions the well-being objectives are considered to ensure the goals are achieved.</p> <p>The results of the Place Plan will allow us to develop services and projects across all goals and help us identify where an existing organisation or community group may be able to enrich our delivery, or theirs and achieve greater efficiency through integration.</p>

		<p>The Town Council works in partnership with, and is represented on many groups and organisations as well as supporting many others through its community grant scheme.</p>
	<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</p>	<p>The Town Council works hard at building relationships with community stakeholders to assist with the meeting of the Well-Being objectives. Councillors and staff are committed to implementing the well-being goals and objectives and strive to improve the services provided. The Town Council is facilitator in this area and in 20/21 supported a number of organisations, particularly those involved with the Covid response.</p> <p>Partnership working is integral to the Council's work and the Council works closely with organisations such as Monmouthshire County Council, Transition Chepstow, MIND Monmouthshire, Monmouthshire Citizens Advice Bureau and Gwent Police.</p>
	<p>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 body serves.</p>	<p>Councillors are active within their wards ensuring that the decisions made by the members reflect those of a diverse community. An annual report is produced and available online summarising the work of the council in the previous mayoral year. The Town Council also appoints school governors and representatives to groups such as the One Voice Wales Area Committee, Bulwark Community Centre, Drill Hall Management Committee, Palmer Centre, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Monmouthshire County Council Lower Wye</p>

		<p>Area Committee to ensure diversity in the area in which it represents.</p> <p>The Place Plan will reach out to different organisations and individuals through its surveys, stakeholder groups or general communications and the results will reflect the diversity in the area.</p>
<p>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the four PSB well-being objectives into its plans?</p> <p>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</p> <p>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</p> <p>Communities and Businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county</p> <p>Protect & Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</p>	<p>Chepstow Town Council has embedded the four PSB well-being objectives and goals into its plans by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing funding for local and national organisations that provide services within the Community; • Providing emergency grant funding for Covid related activities; • Measuring every grant funding application against the local and nation’s well-being objectives; • Supporting the Summer Playscheme; • Supporting the climate emergency by grant funding local initiatives and working with the Local Places for Nature initiative; • Partnership working with organisations to provide additional services; • Providing complimentary summer floral displays and Christmas Trees to support local businesses; • Holding weekly markets to encourage foot fall in the Town; • Installing defibrillators throughout the five wards of Chepstow; • Replacement litter bins programme; • Installing chewing gum bins; • Establishing a Procurement Policy whereby it purchases local where possible; • Funding free car parking spaces over the Christmas period to encourage footfall back into the town; • R Replacing wooden barrel planters with self-watering containers helping with sustainability and biodiversity,. 	

<p>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the seven national well-being goals into its plans? (Globally responsible, prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, cohesive communities, vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language)</p>	<p>The Town Council is committed to using the goals in this Act in its decision making to contribute to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Grant applicants are asked to refer to the Well-being of Future Generations Act when submitting applications and the Town Council ensures any funding agreed is measured against the goals.</p>
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Monmouthshire PSB well-being plan step progress report 2020/21

OBJECTIVE	
Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life	
STEP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase funding to provide for additional provision within the current summer play scheme. • Working to ensure that schools and services for children focus on well-being and a more rounded approach than purely academic results. • To tackle the issues surrounding Holiday Hunger. 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To provide summer activities for 5 to 11 year olds	<p>Due to the pandemic the usual summer activity changed from being run in three sites to just being run from the Leisure Centre due to the schools being closed. Funding support of £20,000 was made available towards the delivery of open access playschemes and uptake was good. In Chepstow 96% of the paid spaces available on the scheme were booked (the highest proportion in the county) and 66% of the free spaces were booked (this is the second highest in the county).</p> <p>The feedback received from children and parents this year was extremely positive.</p> <p>The Town Council also supported MCC with delivery of the Play Packs out to the community.</p>
To tackle the concerns regarding holiday hunger	<p>The usual SHEP (School Holiday Enrichment Programme) scheme was cancelled due to the Pandemic however the Town Council financially supported Mon Housing with their Community Breakfasts and Picnics which provided breakfasts for the week to those attending.</p>

<p>To support those children whose families are impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic.</p>	<p>The Town Council awarded a grant of £30,000 to the Chepstow Schools' Cluster PTA from the Covid Emergency Funding scheme. This much needed funding was and will be used across all schools in Chepstow allowing for additional support and resources to the many families who have been impacted by the Covid crisis.</p> <p>The main areas of concern within all schools are social isolation, mental health and wellbeing, digital exclusion and lack of provision for warm winter clothing and footwear.</p> <p>The funding will provide additional IT equipment, stationery for those at home who may not otherwise afford these items, warm winter clothing, access to a Counsellor who will be available online to offer wellbeing support and information on National On Line Safety which will provide information and safety tips to pupils and parents who are spending time at home isolating.</p>
<p>Councillors as School Governor's</p>	<p>Councillors take on this role giving their time, skills and expertise in a voluntary capacity to help their schools provide children with the best possible education.</p>
<p>Community Events</p>	<p>Supports community events and encourages engagement with young people.</p>

OBJECTIVE	
Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	
STEP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages • Focusing on well-being and looking after each other rather than just formal care provision • Developing networks for all ages that support people's well-being in their local communities • Ensuring suitable and affordable housing is available to people of all ages • Promoting active citizenship, like volunteering and time-banking 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To ensure easy access community defibrillators across the five wards of Chepstow	Adoption of phone boxes in Denbigh Drive and Beaufort Square to install public access defibrillators. Installation of a AED (Automated External Defibrillator) outside Chepstow Community Hospital.
Financially supporting the Drill Hall and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported	Both Centres received £8,000 in funding in 20/21 with members representing the Council at meetings.
Financial support was provided to a number of organisations supporting older people.	Grant funding was provided to The Palmer Centre to enable them to continue to provide the much-needed service to those who may otherwise be isolated, lonely and unable to meet friends due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
Community Centre reopening post Covid	Supplied all community centres with the required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to enable them to reopen safely.

Continued support to the Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau	Enabling residents of all ages to obtain free advice and support on a wide range of matters.
Representatives on committees	Provided Council representation on a number of outside committees including the Palmer Centre Trust, Senior Citizens Welfare Trust, Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, CCTV, Air Quality.
Partnership working MIND Monmouthshire	Partnership commenced May 2020 with the agreement that they would provide wellbeing and resilience sessions to adult individuals which will support families to cope with life's challenges
Whole Place Plan	Whole Place Plan for Chepstow which will act as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the County Council's Local Development Plan allowing the community to positively influence the type of future developments in Chepstow. In addition, this plan will act as a vehicle through which the Town Council can engage with the local community to discover the needs and aspirations of the residents and use this evidence based approach to understand how best to fulfil projects within the community to align with the Council's responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

OBJECTIVE	
Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change	
STEP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider projects in support of the climate emergency • Street Cleansing Partnership Agreement • Support local organisations with an interest in protecting and enhancing the environment • Dog Fouling reduction 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
Climate emergency	In October 2019 the Town Council voted to declare a climate emergency and considered ways of reducing carbon dioxide emissions to net zero by 2030. A number of initiatives are being investigated.
Biodiversity	The Town Council secured grant funding to access a 'butterfly garden' package in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy for planting at Chepstow Bus Station. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place around the Covid 19 pandemic it has been unable to involve the local primary schools and Transition Chepstow therefore representatives from Keep Wales Tidy planted the area and the Town Council will maintain until such times as restrictions are lifted.
Street Cleansing	The Town Council is working in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to provide a full street cleansing service to Chepstow. This includes cleaning the Town, emptying waste bins, grounds maintenance, bench maintenance and replacement and any other ad-hoc duties which are required.
Transition Chepstow / Plastic Free Chepstow	Continue to financially support both of these groups.
Litter Picks	The Town Council supports and promotes the litter picks which take place across the town

Monmouthshire County Council's "Give Dog Fouling the Red Card" initiative	The Town Council is currently responsible for the emptying of 35 dog waste bins across Chepstow and work with the County Council under their Give Dog Fouling the Red Card scheme to educate residents about the risk of dog waste
Chewing Gum Littering	The Town Council has installed six Gum Ball Bins at locations found to have gum littering hot spots to encourage the public to reduce gum littering in a way that encourages a circular economy.
Reducing energy bills across all Council owned / managed buildings	The Gatehouse utilities have been renewed with part green energy.
Planning Applications	All planning applications are considered for their environmental impact as well as business requirements and the historic character of the town.
Water Fountains	Investigating restoring the water fountain in the Dell and also the provision of a water fountain at the Riverbank.
Bicycle Racks	The Town Council worked with Monmouthshire County Council resulting in a number of bicycle racks and a bicycle repair station being installed throughout the town and Bulwark to encourage more active travel.
Green Barrier A48	A submission to the Forest of Dean DC for S106 funding to cover the costs associated with installing a green barrier along a section of the A48 to provide a barrier to diesel particulates as well as increasing biodiversity opportunities and reduce water surface run off.
Recycling Bins at Riverbank	Recycling bins are now stored at the Riverbank for use initially during events however this has been extended out to being used throughout the summer months.
Green roof eurobin store	Project ongoing to install a green roof eurobin store.
To increase the use of pollinator friendly planting in the town	Additional planters have been placed throughout the town planted with pollinator friendly plants. The town's floral contractor sources plants from a peat free nursery, reuses hanging basket liners and all soil at the end of the summer is recycled.

Street Cleansing ways of working	In an effort to encourage biodiversity opportunities and support pollinators the County Council has agreed to an area of wild planting at the Riverbank. Additionally, within the Town Crew Street Cleansing partnership agreement MCC will investigate the provision of an electric pick-up truck and non-evasive weed removal.
Energy Survey of the Town	Project ongoing – a survey has been commissioned by the Centre of Alternative Technology (CAT) to deliver a report providing information such as existing baseline and CO2 emissions, existing renewable energy capacity, energy efficiency and renewable energy generation but can be tailored to suit the needs of Chepstow.

OBJECTIVE

Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected community	
STEP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To carry out a Whole Place Plan • Support the Tourist Industry in Chepstow • Promotion of Chepstow through events 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
Whole Place Plan	Due to the pandemic this project was delayed by a few months. It is however now proceeding with us currently as the stage of inviting community groups to be involved in online stakeholder events. Residents have also been asked to become involved in shaping the future of Chepstow.
Work with other organisations / local business who bring trade into the area	Relationship with Chepstow Racecourse established with a view of greater partnership working to bring visitors into Chepstow. Grant funding to the Tourist Information Centre allowing them to remain open.
Supportive of events in and around the Town	The Town Council undertake to arrange Bands on the Bandstand every Summer. It supports the events produced by the Chepstow Events Team. Works in partnership with Green Top Events to provide a weekly market between April and December on Sundays encouraging local people to have stalls.

Other activity that the Town Council is undertaking that contributes to the National Well-being Goals

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
<p>A Prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council makes budgetary provision for community improvement schemes; • Maintains a website allowing Community access to Council information, grant funding application forms and annual newsletters and financial reports; • Maintains and builds on links to the business community by having Council representation at the Chepstow Chamber of Commerce meetings; • When responding to planning applications, gives consideration to business requirements and the distinctive and historic character of the town; • To increase the use of the Facebook page sharing relevant local information for both businesses and residents.
<p>A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council is working with the County Council in the extension of wild flower planting schemes and supports biodiversity; • The Town Council encourages the use of pollinator friendly plants in its planting schemes and is working with its floral contractor to extend this into the annual hanging basket scheme; • Supports sustainable projects in and around Chepstow; • To consider further permanent tree planting which is more sustainable, provides for cleaner air and reduces carbon footprint; • All contractors are asked for a copy of their sustainability policy before carrying out any work.
<p>A Healthier Wales: A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council financially supports a number of community groups whose sole aim is to maximise peoples physical and mental well-being; • Partnership with MIND Monmouthshire to help adults build resilience to support families to cope with life’s challenges;

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
behaviours that benefit future health are understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to provide a Summer Playscheme (through play children learn life skills and well-being); • To actively promote the walking and cycling routes around Chepstow; • To actively promote the Community Grant scheme which is available to financially support the many voluntary groups seeking funding for their projects;
<p>A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council has lobbied a number of community stakeholders to provide better cross border social care; • Provide practical support i.e. free meeting accommodation and use of equipment e.g. pop up marquees, photocopying, event promotion, advice on funding sources and networking to help link groups together; • To explore the opportunities to the young people of Chepstow and to find ways of working with stakeholders to enhance the offering.
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to support local activities; • To provide notice boards in all wards; • To continue to provide clean, well maintained and accessible public toilets; • To continue to work with Gwent Police in providing a safe town.
<p>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage all members of the community to participate in the arts, sports and recreation; • To continue to fund celebrations and festivals particularly those which are relevant to the history of Chepstow; • To empower all members of the community to research historical events and hold celebrations in their wards.
<p>A Globally Responsible Wales: where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue the close links with Chepstow Fairtrade, Transition Chepstow and Plastic Free Chepstow;

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="891 240 1899 272">• To continue to think of alternative ways in which to go about our business

Implementing the Act

An opportunity to reflect on how things are going.

<p>What opportunities have the Council encountered and how have these been best utilised?</p>	<p>The Town Council continues to seek opportunities to make improvements and considers these ideas when setting the budget. Council powers have been utilised to support partnership agreements, replacement litter bins and the provision of notice boards and defibrillators in each ward.</p> <p>COVID-19 has meant that while services were curtailed, through remote working we have been able to continue providing vital services to the people of Chepstow.</p>
<p>Has the Council encountered any barriers and if so what actions have been/are being taken to overcome these?</p>	<p>The disruption by the COVID-19 crisis brought numerous challenges and meant that some of our projects and services were heavily curtailed during the 20/21 reporting period.</p> <p>Barriers have included the need for better joined up working between local stakeholders and the County Council. Actions in this area include increasing partnership working between the County Council and Town Council as demonstrated by the inception of the Town Team.</p> <p>To truly understand the needs of the local community the Council needs the evidence gathered at a local level. It is hoped that the Place Plan will be the vehicle through which this evidence can be gathered through the Community Engagement events that will be carried out as part of the process.</p>
<p>What challenges has the Council faced and what measures have been put in place to overcome them?</p>	<p>The current COVID-19 situation is a huge barrier in how the Town Council continues to actively engage with their local community and enable residents to continue to contact the Council during this time.</p> <p>Measures put in place so far include implementing policies to support home working of both staff and Councillors to keep the Council work moving forward.</p> <p>Shifting meetings to an online platform.</p> <p>Developing the new Town Council website to better engage with the local community.</p>

<p>Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?</p>	<p>The PSB could support with greater information sharing and developing a closer working relationship with the Town and Community Council subject to the act. This would then translate to direct action on the ground especially as the services required in relation to the COVID-19 crisis and recovery move forward.</p> <p>A more consistent/regular awareness of the work we are doing/seeking to do as a Council would definitely allow for better collaboration between us and members of the PSB where relevant.</p> <p>To keep the Town Council informed of any consultation opportunities pertinent to Well Being aims that the Town Council could be involved in to help deliver its Well Being projects.</p>
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