

# Chepstow Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2021-22

## Introduction

<p><b>Outline of Council</b></p> <p>Indication of what could be included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number and names of councillors</li><li>• Name of Mayor/Leader</li><li>• Name of clerk and officers</li><li>• Geographical area of Council</li><li>• Number of residents represented</li><li>• Any other relevant information</li></ul>	<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 Christopher’s – Councillors Hilary Beach, Jenni Brews and Yvonne Havard;</p> <p>St Mary’s – 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 (resigned 23.2.22) 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 2021/22 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 in mobile hygiene and asset maintenance. 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 Community Projects Officer.</p> <p>Precept of £657,553.</p>
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<p><b>What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?</b></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. In doing so, it is hoped that the community will become more sustainable, cohesive and ambitious. The Council is committed to providing the best service possible to its residents, visitors and partners who are 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><b>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</b></p>	<p><b>Long Term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Town Council recognised the need to balance short-term needs with the long term in 19/20 and agreed to start work on a Place Plan. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the start of the consultation was delayed, however during 21/22 the Town Council carried out extensive online and face to face consultation with stakeholders and the public. The final stage whereby all consultation information has been received and collated has resulted in a summary report and ideas for next steps to be taken.</p> <p>The Place Plan has given the opportunity for local people working together with the Town Council to consider the needs and aspirations for the future and a number of projects which the Town Council may wish to work towards have been formed.</p> <p>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>To further develop the Place Plan the Town Council are working with MCC on a Placemaking Plan which will seek to interpret and build upon feedback collated from the Place Plan consultation exercise, along with other transport studies, Impact Assessment Reports, Wye Valley Villages Strategy and Action Plan and numerous MCC countywide strategies that have specific relevance to Chepstow.</p>
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	<p><b>Prevention</b> How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>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>In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic the Town Council put aside a sum of money to support a grant scheme. Chepstow-based charities, community groups, third sector groups and voluntary organisations who directly supported the community through the coronavirus pandemic and beyond are eligible to apply. To date funding has been used for issues around food and fuel poverty, social isolation and loneliness and digital exclusion, and to support mental health and wellbeing and provide warm winter clothing,</p>
	<p><b>Integration</b> 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</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 and Placemaking Plan will allow the Town Council to develop services and projects across all goals and help us identify where an</p>

	<p>objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>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><b>Collaboration</b> 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.</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><b>Involvement</b> 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 and Chepstow Chamber of Commerce and Tourism to ensure diversity in the area in which it represents.</p> <p>The Place Plan reached out to different organisations and individuals through its surveys, stakeholder groups and general communications and the results have reflected the diversity in the area.</p>

<p><b>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the four PSB well-being objectives into its plans?</b></p> <p><b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b></p> <p><b>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</b></p> <p><b>Communities and Businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well connected county</b></p> <p><b>Protect &amp; Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</b></p>	<p>Chepstow Town Council has embedded the four PSB well-being objectives and goals into its plans for example by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing funding for local and national organisations that provide services within the Community;</li> <li>• Providing emergency grant funding for Covid related activities;</li> <li>• Measuring every grant funding application against the local and national well-being objectives;</li> <li>• Supporting the Summer Play Scheme;</li> <li>• Supporting the climate emergency by grant funding local initiatives and working with the Local Places for Nature initiative;</li> <li>• Partnership working with organisations to provide additional services;</li> <li>• Providing complimentary summer floral displays and Christmas trees to support local businesses;</li> <li>• Holding weekly markets to encourage foot fall in the Town;</li> <li>• Installing defibrillators throughout the five wards of Chepstow;</li> <li>• Replacement litter bins programme;</li> <li>• Installing chewing gum bins;</li> <li>• Establishing a Procurement Policy whereby it purchases local where possible;</li> <li>• Funding free car parking spaces over the Christmas period to encourage footfall back into the town;</li> <li>• Replacing wooden barrel planters with self-watering containers helping with sustainability and biodiversity,</li> <li>• Undertaken an Energy Survey of the Chepstow and the Town Council’s buildings to identify where the Town Council can support Climate Change but also look at ways of supporting the wider community;</li> <li>• Support the work of the circular economy;</li> <li>• Support the less able bodied by working with them to find better ways of moving around and visiting the town;</li> </ul>
<p><b>What <u>approach</u> has the Council taken to embed the seven national well-being goals into its plans? (Globally responsible, prosperous,</b></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>

**resilient, healthier, more  
equal, cohesive communities,  
vibrant culture and thriving  
Welsh language)**

**Monmouthshire PSB well-being plan step progress report 2021/22**

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
<b>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</b>	
<b>STEP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase funding to provide for additional provision within the current summer play scheme.</li> <li>• Working to ensure that schools and services for children focus on well-being and a more rounded approach than purely academic results.</li> <li>• To tackle the issues surrounding Holiday Hunger.</li> <li>• To support the work of the Youth Provision</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
To provide summer activities for 5 to 11 year olds	Funding support of £20,000 was made available towards the delivery of an open access play scheme which is delivered by MCC.
To tackle the concerns regarding holiday hunger	This is an ongoing conversation with MCC to find ways in which to offer support in this area.
To support those children whose families are impacted by the Covid 19 Pandemic.	The Town Council continued to support the schools in this area with an additional £5k to the Schools Cluster PTA to start a used uniform bank, £1,538 to Basecamp who have created a Safe Space Garden to be used as a therapeutic space throughout the year, St Mary's Primary School for the purchase of gazebos to extend their outdoor space ensuring that community groups can keep offering their support and to MCC for a local marketing campaign to support residents experiencing financial hardship.
Councillors as School Governor's	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.
Community Events	Supports community events and encourages engagement with young people.
Youth Centre	Funding to cover the costs of venue hire and equipment.

OBJECTIVE	
Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	
STEP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring the potential to develop good relationships between people of different ages</li> <li>• Focusing on well-being and looking after each other rather than just formal care provision</li> <li>• Developing networks for all ages that support people's well-being in their local communities</li> <li>• Ensuring suitable and affordable housing is available to people of all ages</li> <li>• Promoting active citizenship, like volunteering and time-banking</li> </ul>	
ACTION	PROGRESS
To ensure easy access community defibrillators across the five wards of Chepstow	Defibrillator to be installed at Beaufort Square. All units logged on apps and batteries and pads regularly checked.
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 21/22 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 purchase kitchen equipment enabling 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	Continued to supply all community centres with the required PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) enabling them to open 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	<p>The Place Plan has given the opportunity for local people working together with the Town Council to consider the needs and aspirations for the future and a number of projects which the Town Council may wish to work towards have been formed.</p> <p>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>
Partnership working MCC	The Town Council has continued its discussions with MCC and supported the initiative to set up a local marketing campaign to assist residents experiencing financial hardship by signposting them to the appropriate support.

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	
Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change	
<b>STEP</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider projects in support of the climate emergency</li> <li>• Street Cleansing Partnership Agreement</li> <li>• Support local organisations with an interest in protecting and enhancing the environment</li> <li>• Dog Fouling reduction</li> </ul>	
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>PROGRESS</b>
Climate emergency	A Chepstow Energy report was commissioned which will have a number of projects contained within it that the Town Council can look to work with community stakeholders to take forward.
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. This has been expanded with the support of the partnership arrangement with MCC and the Town Crew and has now provided a much needed visual improvement to the bus station area whilst encouraging biodiversity.
Street Cleansing	The Town Council works 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. The location of the bins is regularly under review and bins moved dependent on demand.
Reducing energy bills across all Council owned / managed buildings	The Gatehouse utilities have been renewed with part green energy. A survey has been undertaken on all Council owned/leased properties and work will commence in 22/23 on the recommendations.
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 (state 'drinking water fountains'?)	The water fountain at the Dell Park will be refurbished in the coming year along with a new fountain to be installed at the Riverbank.
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 year. A more permanent arrangement is currently being worked on due to the success of the recycling.
Green roof eurobin store	Green roof eurobin store has been installed in Bank Square which combines a tidy bin storage for local residents with the potential for a flourishing, wildlife friendly, growing space, that attracts butterflies, bees and other wildlife.
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. A council working party has been formed to consider projects that may be taken forward.

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"> <li>• To carry out a Whole Place Plan</li> <li>• Support the Tourist Industry in Chepstow</li> <li>• Promotion of Chepstow through events</li> </ul>	
ACTION	PROGRESS
Whole Place Plan	The final stage whereby all consultation information has been received and collated has resulted in a summary report and ideas for next steps to be taken.
Work with other organisations / local business who bring trade into the area	The Town Council offer support where needed and have provided free car parking spaces over the Christmas and New Year period to encourage people into the town.
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 March 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><b>A Prosperous Wales:</b> 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"> <li>• The Town Council makes budgetary provision for community improvement schemes;</li> <li>• Maintains a website allowing community access to Council information, grant funding application forms and annual newsletters and financial reports;</li> <li>• Maintains and builds on links to the business community by having Council representation on the Chepstow Chamber of Commerce;</li> <li>• When responding to planning applications, gives consideration to business requirements and the distinctive and historic character of the town;</li> <li>• To increase the use of the Facebook page sharing relevant local information for both businesses and residents.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Resilient Wales:</b> 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"> <li>• The Town Council is working with the County Council in the extension of wild flower planting schemes and supports biodiversity;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Supports sustainable projects in and around Chepstow;</li> <li>• To consider further permanent tree planting which is more sustainable, provides for cleaner air and reduces carbon footprint;</li> <li>• All contractors are asked for a copy of their sustainability policy before carrying out any work.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Healthier Wales:</b> 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"> <li>• The Town Council financially supports a number of community groups whose sole aim is to maximise people’s physical and mental well-being;</li> </ul>

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
behaviours that benefit future health are understood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership with MIND Monmouthshire to help adults build resilience to support families to cope with life’s challenges;</li> <li>• To continue to provide a Summer Play scheme (through play children learn life skills and well-being);</li> <li>• To actively promote the walking and cycling routes around Chepstow;</li> <li>• To actively promote the Community Grant scheme which is available to financially support the many voluntary groups seeking funding for their projects;</li> </ul>
<p><b>A More Equal Wales:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council has lobbied a number of community stakeholders to provide better cross border social care;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• To explore the opportunities to the young people of Chepstow and to find ways of working with stakeholders to enhance the offering.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Wales of Cohesive Communities:</b> Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue to support local activities;</li> <li>• To provide notice boards in all wards;</li> <li>• To continue to provide clean, well maintained and accessible public toilets;</li> <li>• To continue to work with Gwent Police in providing a safe town.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language:</b> 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"> <li>• To encourage all members of the community to participate in the arts, sports and recreation;</li> <li>• To continue to fund celebrations and festivals, particularly those which are relevant to the history of Chepstow;</li> </ul>

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To empower all members of the community to research historical events and hold celebrations in their wards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Globally Responsible Wales:</b> where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue the close links with Chepstow Fairtrade, Transition Chepstow and Plastic Free Chepstow;</li> <li>• To continue to think of alternative, more environmentally friendly ways in which to go about our business</li> </ul>



## 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>Has the Council encountered any barriers and if so what actions have been/are being taken to overcome these?</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. The Place Plan has been a vehicle through which this evidence was gathered through the Community Engagement events 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 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 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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