

Chepstow Town Council Annual Wellbeing Report

2022-23

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 19 elected members, with representing each of the seven wards:</p> <p>Bulwark; Councillors Sally Ashby, Margaret Griffiths, Helen Livesey-Jones and Jim MacTaggart</p> <p>Chepstow Castle; Councillors Martin Perkins, Joy Rosser and Gemma Rosser</p> <p>Larkfield; Councillors Paul Griffiths and Dominic Power</p> <p>Maple Avenue; Councillors Sadie Tulley-Cade</p> <p>Mount Pleasant; Councillors Emma Becker, Vanessa Baddeley-Potter and David Barnes</p> <p>St Kingsmark; Councillors Elizabeth Atkinson, Nic Meyrick and Marc Le Peltier</p> <p>Thornwell; Councillors Tudor Griffiths, Dale Rooke and Armand Watts</p> <p>The present councillors were elected in May 2022 to serve a five-year term of office.</p> <p>The Mayor in 2022/23 was Councillor Margaret Griffiths, supported by the Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Tudor Griffiths.</p> <p>Services provided by the Town Council are managed and delivered by a team of ten part-time employees, comprising th in administration and four in mobile hygiene and asset maintenance. This small team, based at The Gatehouse, is led by a sector qualified Town Clerk, Lucy Allen who is supported by a Deputy Town Clerk, Community Projects Officer and Administration Officer.</p> <p>Precept of £657,553.</p>
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<p>What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?</p>	<p>Chepstow Vision – a place to live, work and visit</p> <p>The new Council, as one of its first pieces of work, set about writing a 'Vision' for Chepstow to cover the 5-year term of the Council. The final document contains ideas and aspirations and is available via our website but some key highlights from the document are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Chepstow – the green gateway to Wales, a destination for the arts and a town of proud historic significance. • Our Values – ambition, inclusivity, respect and a greener and more sustainable future for Chepstow • Living, working and visiting Chepstow – improve the quality of life for the residents, work with local businesses to improve the local economy and encourage visitors. • Ways of working – inclusivity, communicative, in partnership and financial responsible • Key focus areas – improvements to transport, ensuring housing is developed to meet local needs, better provision of health services, improvements to green spaces, support retail, hospitality and tourism. <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>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</p>	<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to</p>	<p>The Town Council has recognised the need to balance short-term needs with the long term and the Vision sets out a number of key areas where this can be achieved.</p>
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	<p>also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Town Council has continued its work on the Place Plan and since early 2022 has supported Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) in a larger project known as the "Transforming Chepstow Plan". This partnership working has produced a shared vision using the stakeholder engagement carried out by the Town Council for its Place Plan and other community engagement workshops carried out by the lead consultant on the project.</p> <p>The aim of the plan is to provide a strategic document which will guide future regeneration in the town and ensure future Chepstow is an attractive and vibrant town well placed to serve its existing and future residents and visitors.</p> <p>A number of projects have been identified and prioritised which will enable the County Council to apply for funding to guide further regeneration spend in the town, with the Town Council recognising that it can develop some of the projects and initiatives itself.</p> <p>The Place Plan gave 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. 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>Prevention 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>The Councillors understand the communities they represent and the Town Council has been able to financially support a number of projects preventing problems occurring.</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 and Transforming Chepstow will allow the Town Council to develop services and projects across all goals. It will also help to 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.</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 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>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>Chepstow Town Council has embedded the four PSB well-being objectives and goals into its plans for example by:</p> <p>Give Children and Young People the Best Start in Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Summer Play Scheme and weekly Youth Provision • Call to Welsh Government to request the financial threshold for free school meals in Wales is increased and extended to secondary school children • Christmas Lantern Parade – organised for an artist to work with local school children to make lanterns for a parade at the Christmas Switch On • Responded to Welsh Governments consultation on Electoral Administration and Reform White Paper supporting proposals for students to vote in schools and colleges. <p>Address the Challenges of Demographic Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring every grant funding application against the local and national well-being objectives • Partnership working with organisations to provide additional services • Installing defibrillators throughout the five wards of Chepstow • Providing funding for local and national organisations that provide services within the Community • Call to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board to reopen the Minor Injuries Unit and if not to provide better localised clinics • Call to Transport for Wales to install better access facilities at Chepstow Railway Station 	

<p>Protect & Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responded to MCC’s RLDP asking that consideration be given to greater numbers of affordable and social housing, infrastructure, including child care provision, school places and health services to be included in the plan, an additional junction on the M48 at Caldicot and increased focus on active travel and sustainable transport. <p>Communities and Businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing complimentary summer floral displays and Christmas trees to support local businesses; • Holding fortnightly markets to encourage footfall in the Town; • Establishing a Procurement Policy whereby it purchases local where possible; • Set up an Annual Events working group inviting community stakeholders to a meeting in order to gather event information to publicise through social media and the What’s On guide <p>Protect & Enhance our Natural Environment and Minimise the Impact of Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the climate emergency by grant funding local initiatives and working with the Local Places for Nature initiative; • Replacing wooden barrel planters with self-watering containers helping with sustainability and biodiversity • Membership of Sustain Wales who are offering support in carrying out an energy audit of CTC owned buildings and looking at ways of reducing carbon emissions – LED lighting has already been installed throughout the council offices. • Worked with MCC to install 2 dual slot recycling bin housing units at the Riverbank area. • Worked with a number of organisations including MENCAP, Chepstow Boys’ Brigade and Girlguiding to enable them to take over unloved spaces in the town and provide community growing / pollinator spaces • Commenced a community bee keeping project with an employee having undertaken a Bee Keeping course • A regular bee walk is carried out to help monitor the bumble bee population in the Chepstow area. Paid administration support to Transition Chepstow’s Community Orchard Project. • Published the Section 6 Biodiversity and ecosystems resilience plan • Commenced refurbishment of the water fountain in The Dell to provide a water bottle filling station
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What approach 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)

The Town Council is committed to using the goals in its Vision document and 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.

Monmouthshire PSB well-being plan step progress report 2022/23

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. • To support the work of the Youth Provision • To enhance the current provision • Increased funding to support the Friends of the Dell in their desire to upgrade The Dell Playpark 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
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.
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.
Enhance current provision	Initial discussions held with MCC to look into enhancing the current provision in time for 2024
Friends of the Dell – play park upgrade	Undertook a rigorous evaluation of the earmarked reserves to provide £100k of funding support to enable phase 1 and 2 of the development project – planning is due to be submitted along with a bid for lottery funding.

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	Most wards have access to defibrillators, all units logged on apps and batteries and pads regularly checked.
Financially supporting the Drill Hall, Palmer Centre and Bulwark Community Centre which are seen as local hubs of community activity where people can be active and supported	All Centres received £8,000 in funding in 22/23 with members representing the Council at meetings.
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	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.

	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.
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.
Call to the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to reopen the Minor Injuries Unit and if not to provide better localised clinics	Following a Freedom of Information request in 21/22 the Town Council have had regular contact with the ABUHB and held meetings with Ms Ann Lloyd CBE, Chair of the ABUHB who listened to the Town Council's concerns regarding the level of provision from the hospital. To date a further meeting has been held with representatives from Chepstow Community Hospital to see the current facilities and details have been circulated detailing the outpatient services that are currently provided.
Call to Transport for Wales to install better access facilities at Chepstow Railway Station	Chepstow Station is one of 15 stations included in a nominations list for Department of Transport funding after April 2024.
Responded to MCC's RLDP asking that consideration be given to greater numbers of affordable and social housing, infrastructure, including child care provision, school places and health services to be included in the plan, an additional junction on the M48 at Caldicot and increased focus on active travel and sustainable transport.	Outcome of the RLDP is still awaited.

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"> • Supporting the climate emergency by grant funding local initiatives and working with the Local Places for Nature initiative; • Replacing wooden barrel planters with self-watering containers helping with sustainability and biodiversity • Membership of Sustain Wales who are offering support in carrying out an energy audit of CTC owned buildings and looking at ways of reducing carbon emissions – LED lighting has already been installed throughout the council offices. • Worked with MCC to install 2 dual slot recycling bin housing units at the Riverbank area. • Worked with a number of organisations including MENCAP, Chepstow Boys’ Brigade and Girlguiding to enable them to take over unloved spaces in the town and provide community growing / pollinator spaces • Commenced a community bee keeping project with an employee having undertaken a Bee Keeping course • A regular bee walk is carried out to help monitor the bumble bee population in the Chepstow area. • Paid administration support to Transition Chepstow’s Community Orchard Project. • Published the Section 6 Biodiversity and ecosystems resilience plan • Commenced refurbishment of the water fountain in The Dell to provide a water bottle filling station 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
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	Further to the success of grant funding to access a ‘butterfly garden’ package in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy for planting at Chepstow Bus Station, a further package was applied for and an area in Bulwark. A “wildlife garden” has now been created with the help and support of the Town Crew and members from MENCAP and has now provided a much-needed visual improvement to the 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.
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 40 dog waste bins across Chepstow and supports 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	A survey has been undertaken on all Council owned/leased properties and to date the Gatehouse has been installed throughout with LED lighting and the Old Library has had insulation installed.
Planning Applications	All planning applications are considered for their environmental impact as well as business requirements and the historic character of the town.
Drinking water Fountains	The refurbishment of the water fountain at the Dell Park has commenced and will provide a water bottle filling station.
Recycling Bins at Riverbank	Two sets of large permanent recycling bins (dual slotted for glass and plastics) have been installed at the riverbank for all year-round use following the successful trial of moveable recycling bins. The extra moveable recycling bins now stored at the Riverbank for use during events. Work is commencing on obtaining further recycling bins across the town.

To increase the use of pollinator friendly planning 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. Small projects are being undertaken by a number of community groups to adopt these planters and maintain them going forward.
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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"> • Providing complimentary summer floral displays and Christmas trees to support local businesses; • Holding fortnightly markets to encourage foot fall in the Town; • Establishing a Procurement Policy whereby it purchases local where possible; • Set up an Annual Events working group inviting community stakeholders to a meeting in order to gather event information to publicise through social media and the What's On guide 	
ACTION	PROGRESS
Annual budget to provide complimentary summer floral and Christmas displays to local businesses	This continues to be budgeted for annually
Support of markets	The local food and craft market declined following Covid, however the organisers are starting to promote the event to increase traders and footfall. A successful Vegan market was held in May 2023 and arrangements have been made for 2 events in 2024
Supportive of events in and around the Town	The Town Council undertake to arrange Bands on the Bandstand every Summer and supports the events produced by the Chepstow Events Team and any others. The What's On guide has been revamped and promotes all events in the town – during the summer months it is produced monthly and during the winter it is bi-monthly

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 on the Chepstow Chamber of Commerce; • When responding to planning applications, considers 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 behaviours that benefit future health are understood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council financially supports a number of community groups whose sole aim is to maximise people’s physical and mental well-being; • Partnership with MIND Monmouthshire to help adults build resilience to support families to cope with life’s challenges; • To continue to provide a Summer Play scheme (through play children learn life skills and well-being); • To actively promote the walking and cycling routes around Chepstow;

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; To continue to think of alternative, more environmentally friendly 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</p>
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	<p>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 TownCrew.</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>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 Town Councils who are subject to the act. This would help T&CC to offer support and enhance the provision already being offered.</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>