

Pembrey and Burry Port Town/Community Council Annual Report

2019-2020 Civic Year

Introduction

Outline of Council Indication of what could be included: <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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Town Council covers the Carmarthenshire wards of Burry Port and Pembrey which has a total of around 9,000 residents. This makes it the third largest Town in the County.• It is a coastal community which is home to the only working Harbour in Carmarthenshire. It lies on the north eastern shore of Carmarthen Bay is part of the Millennium Coastal Path, houses Pembrey Airport and the Pembrey Motor Circuit and is home to Pembrey Country Park with one of the most attractive coast lines in Wales.• It has a mixed community with a small number of businesses and local shops which, much like other places, are reducing in number.• It is a fast growing community with several hundred new homes in the pipeline.• The Council Employs 14 members of staff led by the Town Clerk. The Council's precept for 2019-20 is £482,935. At present the Council has an acting Town Clerk, Mr Huw Thomas.• The Council does not have a Leader, instead it has a co-ordinating committee, the Chairs Committee, and the Chairman is Cllr. Mike Theodoulou.• The Mayor is Cllr. Peter Freeman and the Deputy Mayor is Cllr. Lisa Mitchell.• The Council provides a portfolio of accommodation in five different locations which it rents to local community organisations as well as others.• The Council also provides and manages a cemetery.• The council is made up of 18 Councillors – 9 Independents, 8 Labour and 1 Plaid. They are: Richard Adler, Linda Edwards, Pam Every, Amanda Fox, Peter Freeman, John James, Stephen James, Robert John, John Hedley Jones, Shirley Matthews, Lisa Mitchell, Karen Morris, David Owens, Hugh Shepardson, Mike Theodoulou, Moira Thomas, Bob Walpole and Mary Wenman
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The Town Council is structured on the basis of standing committees and their sub-committees dealing with the Council's workload under terms of reference and delegated power from the full Council.

The full Council meets monthly and deals with strategy and policy matters.

There are four Standing committees:

- The Chairs Committee. This is the co-ordinating committee and is made up of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three functioning standing committees. They are:

Chairman – Cllr Mike Theodoulou

Vice chairs – Cllrs David Owens and Robert John

Members - Cllrs Bob Walpole, Shirley Matthews, Linda Edwards

- The Regeneration and Wellbeing Committee.

Chair - Cllr Robert John

Vice chair - Cllr Shirley Matthews

Members - Cllrs Richard Adler, Pam Every, Peter Freeman, Lisa Mitchell, Robert John and Mary Wenman

- Finance, Governance and personnel Committee

Chair - Cllr David Owens

Vice Chair - Cllr Bob Walpole

Members - Cllrs Linda Edwards, Peter Freeman, John Hedley Jones, Hugh Shepardson

- Facilities and Assets Committee

Chair - Cllr Mike Theodoulou

Vice Chair - Cllr Linda Edwards

Members - Cllrs Richard Adler, Karen Morris, Peter Freeman, John James, Robert John, Shirley Matthews, Lisa Mitchell, David Owens and Moira Thomas

	<p>The Town Council has a Mayor and deputy Mayor who carry out all ceremonial duties. The Mayor chairs the monthly full Council meetings but has no executive power or authority.</p>	
What is the Council's Vision/Objectives?	<p>The Council's objectives are to deliver its statutory duties and to focus on improving the quality of life of the residents.</p>	
How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?	<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>The Council is in the process of a Community Engagement programme, overseen by a sub-committee, chaired by a Councillor with years of experience in community development and putting at its core the active participation of the community in establishing the vision and the long term plan for the area.</p> <p>The long term plans, in the form of a detailed Community Strategy will guide the council's policy and strategy decisions and enable the Council and the wider partnership to produce short term plans which not only deal with the "now" but also contribute to the long term.</p>
	<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>Part of long term planning is about the identification of potential problems in advance and planning a response. Internally the Council has just established a risk management sub-committee which will be focusing on this area of work. It also works very closely with the local Police who are invited and give reports to each full Council meeting. The challenge for the next period is to establish better communication channels between the</p>

		town Council and other Public Bodies in ensuring a more co-ordinated way of responding to these issues as they are identified.
	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.	The Community Strategy and Action plan will take full account of the need for integration and joint-up planning. To ensure that this is an important aspect of our work the Council is about to employ a full time Community Development Officer with the help of a grant from Carmarthenshire County Council.
	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.	This is one of the Core responsibilities of the new Community Development Officer and an important part of the work of the wider community partnership.
	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.	The Council's engagement programme includes the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of well attended Public meetings to engage in a conversation about the needs and priorities of the community. • The establishment of six community forums reflecting the themes of the Wellbeing Act with the inclusion of interested members of the community and local organisations. The forums will feed into the Community Strategy but will also act as a scrutiny group keeping an eye on the progress in delivering the strategy and plans. • A number of workshops for local organisations and stakeholders so that input into the strategy and plans

		<p>can include the different perspective that they may have.</p> <p>The creation of a Community Partnership Board which will not be controlled by the Town Council but will be serviced by it. Membership will include individual members of the community, local organisations, local businesses, public bodies and agencies and the Town Council. The role of this Board is to sign off the Community Strategy, monitor the delivery against it and ensure that the ongoing level of integration, collaboration and involvement is safeguarded.</p>
<p>What approach has the Council taken to embed the four PSB well-being objectives into its plans?</p> <p>Healthy Habits People have a good quality of life, make healthy choices about their lives and environment.</p> <p>Early Intervention To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.</p> <p>Strong Connections Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.</p> <p>Prosperous People To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county.</p>	<p>Healthy Habits, Early Intervention, Strong Connections and Prosperous People, the four PSB well-being objectives, are integrated into the work of the six forums and will be embedded into the Community Strategy and the community plan for the year.</p> <p>The national well-being goals have been shadowed by the six forums who will input and monitor the delivery of the Council's response to the national goals.</p> <p>On an ongoing basis, both the PSB and the national goals have been embedded into the Council's structure through the terms of reference and delegated authority given to the Community Engagement Sub-Committee (responsible for the actions and architecture for the creation of the Community strategy and plans) and the Regeneration and Wellbeing Standing Committee, (accountable for the delivery of the Town Councils responsibilities in the Strategy and Plans). This element has been active for some time and the results are given further on in this report.</p>	

and Places	
What approach has the Council taken to embed the national well-being goals into its plans?	Healthy habits – The establishment of 6 community forums reflecting the needs of national well being goals overseen by an empowered Community Partnership Board.

Report of Steps Taken & Progress Made

Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective	Steps to be taken by the Town/Community Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	Progress <i>What have you done so far?</i> <i>How are you tracking progress?</i> <i>How effective have you been? (RAG Status)</i> <i>What is the improvement for different communities?</i>
Healthy Habits: People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment	<p>Healthy Habits.</p> <p>The steps to be taken by the Town Council are to react less and to plan and be more pro-active and co-ordinated in the actions taken to ensure that people have a good quality of life and make healthy choices about their lives and the environment. The way this will be achieved is through the work of the community Forums, the creation of a long term Community Strategy and the annual actions plans to deliver it.</p>	<p>The progress made so far is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaigned to strengthen and safeguard the local doctor's surgery/health centre. • Took over through asset transfer the seven parks in the community and kept them open for local people. • Provided a new and additional play area which included an element of an outside Gym for adults. • Took over the asset and supported the local Bowls Club to ensure its survival and continued viability • Supported the following clubs in the community either with direct intervention, subsidisation or grant; Burry Port Rugby Club, Burry Port Football Club, Burry Port Bowls Club, Pembrey Football Club, the Aikido club, the Cycling club, the Local Gym, Pembrey Gardening club, Short Mat Bowls Club, U3A yoga and the local weightwatchers • Make annual grants of around £10,000 to local organisations • Organised a programme of local events • Flower displays in the community which have won national awards • Foodbank appeals and delivery twice a year. • Annual Christmas lunch for Senior Citizens.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Davids Day lunch for Senior Citizens. • Working closely with Ty Mair Family Centre to help them achieve their objections.
Early Intervention: To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it	<p>Early Intervention</p> <p>The steps to be taken by the Council are to identify, understand and prioritise the areas in which people need to have the right help at the right time, as and when they need it. The Council has some appreciation of areas of complaint such as the local health centre closed to new registrations, the traffic problems on the road to Llanelli, growing poverty levels and so on but needs the work of the community forums to produce more reliable and rounded intelligence</p>	<p>The progress made to date is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of the community forums • The appointment of a Community Development Officer <p>The proposal to create the Community Partnership Board.</p>
Strong Connections: Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change	<p>Strong Connections</p> <p>The steps to be taken by the Council are to work closely with the large number of very active local organisations and to support them as much as possible in the work they do in the community but in a much more connected and co-ordinated way. We will improve connectivity and awareness by launching a new Council Website. Finally, a large and effective community Partnership Board will work in a way that will assist local organisations adapt to change.</p>	<p>The progress made to date is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new website has been commissioned and will go live shortly • Development and preparation for the establishment of the Community Partnership is under way and the Board should be established before the end of the year • The appointment of the CDO will lead to support and advice to local organisations regarding sustainability, adapting to change and getting better connected.

<p>Prosperous People and Places: To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county</p>	<p>The steps to be taken by the Council are to work closely with the County Council to improve the tourism offer in the area and to take any action we can to help and assist local businesses to thrive and grow.</p>	<p>The progress made so far is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the annual planting and flower display making our place more attractive • To launch the Town WI FI system which will benefit visitors, residents and local businesses • To continue to pressurise the County Council to carry out major repairs and improvements to the Harbour • To continue to press for progress on the proposed new developments in the area (and the right level of infrastructure investment, especially road investment).
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Contribution to the National Well-being Goals

Other activity that the Town/Community Council is undertaking that contributes to the National Goals

National 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 Council maintains an annual budget with the objective of spending as much as possible in the locality. • It has a Finance Governance and Personnel Committee which focuses on financial sustainability and the continued and increasing employment of staff adding to the local economy. • It has just completed a new WI fi system for the Town which will support local businesses and tourism. • It invests heavily every year on planting and flower displays which have won national awards and encourage visitors and increases tourism. • It holds annual events which increases visitor numbers. • It invests heavily in the improvement and expansion of its facilities. • It has developed a new web site which will share information and assist local businesses and local groups. • It has an active social media programme which does the same as above. • It supports (both financially and in other way) a number of local organisations which deliver activities that increase footfall and visitor numbers. • It works very closely with One Voice Wales over changes to the Local Government sector which will increase the Council's ability to be more effective within the local economy.
<p>A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It has taken over 7 parks under asset transfer from the County council and is investing in the care and continued sustainability of the open spaces. • It is part of the Millennium Coastal Path which is a natural area of local importance.

National Goal	Local Activity
ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It considers and contributes to all planning applications in the area on the basis the natural environment and a healthy functioning ecosystem is taken into account. • It maintains paths and open spaces in the community. • Improving the environmental aspects of the cemetery by constructing a wild flower garden for the scattering of ashes.
<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"> • It supports both financially through grants and/or through subsidised rent and hire charges the following organisations which deliver a healthier lifestyle; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Burry Port Rugby Club - Burry Port Football Club - Burry Port Bowls Club - Pembrey Football Club - The Cycling Club - Pembrey Gardening Club - The local Gym (Gerrans) - Short Mat Bowls Club - U3A yoga - Weightwatchers - Scouts, cubs and rainbows • It provides and maintains a number of open play areas for young people. • It provides and maintains an open outside Gym. • It campaigned for increased local health care when a local Doctor's surgery closed. • It supports local organisations which take care of the health and well-being of elderly people. • It works in partnership with Incredible Edibles to encourage healthy growing and eating. • Numerous grants to the local Dementia Group.

National Goal	Local Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked in partnership with a local Arts Society Group with initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing. • Working in partnership with the Town Band and Choir to improve mental health and wellbeing.
A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council gives grants and support to local organisations which work to enable local people to fulfil their potential whatever their circumstances or background. • The Council works very closely with all local schools and strongly encourages and supports a culture of equality in all their work.
A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is at the heart of making our community a more attractive and enjoyable place through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding and maintaining all the parks and open spaces - Planting and flower displays that have won national awards - Maintaining and increasing play areas - Maintaining and safeguarding paths and walkways - Managing public toilets • The Council campaigned energetically (and successfully) with the community to save and maintain the local police station so that people could feel safer. • The Council works closely with the police who are invited to every Council meeting so that community safety can be discussed and monitored jointly. • The Council runs a programme of events which increase cohesion and bring the community together on a regular basis. • The creation of the Community Partnership will have community cohesion as one of its prime objectives and will work to increase it during the year.

National Goal	Local Activity
<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"> • The Council partners and supports the local Heritage Society, funding a number of the heritage initiatives delivered in the community including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Heritage Information Boards - Heritage Walks - Blue Plaque programme • The Council supports and encourages the local Historical Society. • The Council supports, financially and in other ways, local organisations who play a part in adding to the local culture, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Burry Port Town Band - The Burry Port Male Voice Choir - The Burry Port Opera • The Council supports and works closely with Friends of Burry Port Harbour to safeguard part of our maritime heritage • The Welsh Language and Culture Forum established by the Council will work to deliver a programme and action plan to increase the use of the Welsh language in our community.
<p>A Globally Responsible Wales: where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<p>n/a</p>

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first and perhaps the most important opportunity presented by the Act has been to force the Council to reconsider and evaluate its approach to partnership working and community consultation. This has led to a programme of action which will enable the Council to better meet the requirements of the Act. • The completion of Asset transfers of seven parks and play areas. • The appointment of a full time Community Development Officer for the first time. • The creation of six Community Forums which will influence the Community Strategy and Plan and will go on to act as Scrutiny Forums • A number of better and more productive partnerships with individual organisations • The creation of the Community Partnership.
<p>Has the Council encountered any barriers and if so what actions have been/are being taken to overcome these?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asset transfers are far too lengthy a process • Funding assistance not available for the work required to take the Council through a fundamental change in working and culture • Lengthy delays from the County Council to deliver some key and important initiatives (Harbour development plans and repairs to Harbour wall) reflecting on the Town Council. • The County Council's culture of secrecy, delayed communication and lack of transparency making it difficult for the Town Council and the community to play a meaningful role in some important local matters.
<p>What challenges has the Council faced and what measures have been put in place to overcome them?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal political tensions within the Council have delayed things but now appear to be vastly improved. • A level of under-resourcing within the staff of the Council which has now been/being resolved • The absence of the Town Clerk for over a year and the departure of the Responsible Finance Officer has put the Council under considerable work load pressure and has led to delays.

<p>Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix the disconnect between the PSB and Town and Community Councils by including representation of the sector on the PSB Board • Better and more frequent communication with the larger Town Councils which fall under the requirements of the Act • Redesign and make more user friendly the standard format for the annual report to the PSB.
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