



**Machynlleth Town Council Annual  
Report 2021/22**

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**Y Plas,**

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## **(1) Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present information about the activities of Machynlleth Town Council (the Council) during 2021/22. It includes a brief outline of the Council's structure, an overview of the Council's activities throughout the year, and a financial summary. The report explains how the Council contributes to the well-being of its area in accordance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Details of all Town Councillors, members of staff, and contact details for the Council for 2021/22 are included.

## (2) Background

The Town Council consists of 12 Members (Councillors) as follows:

- Councillor Michael Williams
- Councillor Geraint Davies
- Councillor Tony Jones
- Councillor Monica Atkins
- Councillor Noella Elliot
- Councillor Richie Gaskell
- Councillor James Honeybill
- Councillor Ann MacGarry
- Councillor Gareth Jones
- Councillor Jeremy Paige
- Councillor Rowlands
- Councillor Llinos Griffith

### Changes for 2022/23:

Elections were held on the 5th of May 2022 and the change in members will be reflected in the Annual Report for 2022/23.

Details of Council members can be found on the Council website (link below):

[http://www.machynlleth-tc.gov.uk/Eich\\_Cynghorwyr\\_Your\\_Councillors\\_22490.aspx](http://www.machynlleth-tc.gov.uk/Eich_Cynghorwyr_Your_Councillors_22490.aspx)

The Council elects a Mayor and Deputy Mayor each year, and the Council appoints administrative and operational staff to assist them to run Council services.

2020-21 was a difficult period in this regard. The Council did not have a full time clerk from late November 2020 and operated with only a locum clerk on short hours for 2 periods (February to April and late May to October 2021), a clerk was appointed but resigned in less than a fortnight in October. Councillors stepped up to perform essential functions, but lacked the time and experience to catch up with historical financial issues. There was a fairly new Finance and Administration officer in place in April 2021, who left and was replaced in August.

These staffing matters are now resolved and as of July 2022 the Council will employ the following staff.

- **Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer of the Council** – Dewi Wyn Jones
- **Finance and Administration Officer**
- **Plas Manager**
- **Caretakers** x 2
- **Cleaner**
- **Café Staff** – Manager and 5 staff

**Civic Offices**

**Mayor** - Councillor Tony Jones (2021/22).

**Deputy Mayor** - Councillor Jeremy Paige (2021/22)

The Council has a structure of committees, namely:

- Full Council
- Plas Panel
- Market Panel
- Finance Panel
- Staffing Panel
- Kennel (Hen Stablau) Project Panel
- Plas Energy Panel
- Climate Action Panel

Each committee submits its minutes to the Full Council, which meets on the last Monday of every month (except August). Decisions taken by committees are only actioned once approved by Council.

**The Council's main duties are:**

- Running the Town Market.
- Room and Hall Hire and Conference Facilities at the Plas.
- Managing the Plas Gardens.
- Plas Playground.
- Plas Cycle track.
- Maintaining the Town Clock.
- Maintaining the War Memorial.
- Provision of Allotments.
- Managing of the Car Park Toilets.
- Installation of a Christmas Tree.
- Running the Café at the Plas.
- Maintenance of Street Benches.
- Floral Displays

### **(3) Summary of Council Activities - 2021/22**

This summary of activities is modelled on the seven well-being goals identified in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, namely:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

The Act defines sustainable development as a process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking steps, in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, which aim to achieve the well-being goals. In this respect the Council recognises its role in promoting sustainable development and the way in which it is fulfilling its duty under the Act while working for, and with, local communities.

The well-being goals are completely integral to each other and explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales. The Council welcomes these well-being goals and will place these goals at the heart of its planning and decision-making arrangements to improve the overall quality of life (well-being) within its administrative area.

In applying these well-being goals to the functions, activities and services provided by the Council, the Act requires the Council to think longer-term, work better with people and communities and other public bodies, to look at preventing problems arising, and to take a more coherent approach. Many of these aims and the activities identified overlap and complement each other.

Some progress was made towards the establishment of a new cemetery for the town, and issues relating to fencing and walls for the allotments were resolved.

Council meetings were held on Zoom and attendance by residents was higher than it had been before lockdown.

The remainder of this Report corresponds to the 7 well-being goals in the Act.

## A Prosperous Wales

The Council has representatives on a number of relevant bodies in the town and beyond, which seek to deliver schemes that grow the town's economy. These include:

- Dyfi Biosphere committee;
- Owain Glyndwr Centre Management Committee;
- Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth Railways and Passengers Association;
- Enterprise Forum
- The Kennels / Hen Stablau project.

The Council responds to local and national consultations to ensure a voice for Machynlleth

The Offices at the Plas provide a home to a diverse range of businesses from solicitors to ship builders, diverse third sector organisations, architects, transport and construction companies an interior designer and an osteopath. The Plas has provided a crucible from which new businesses have grown and developed a presence on Stryd Maengwyn, the main commercial street of the town.

The Council supports and provides facilities to large festivals such as El Sueno Existe, the Machynlleth Comedy Festival and the Carnival. As well as their cultural contribution, these festivals provide a significant economic boost to the Town. The contributions of these festivals have been greatly missed during the Covid pandemic.

The Council gave its support to a project to provide a far better broadband service to the area.

## A Resilient Wales

**"A nation which maintains and enhances the biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to change (for example as climate change)".**

The Council has established a Plas Energy Panel which aims reduce the carbon footprint or the Council premises and realise a significant reduction in energy costs.

Continuing to modernise is a priority for the Council with the Covid pandemic having permitted and hastened moves to multi location and paperless meetings.

We recycle within the Council building and try to use local contractors to reduce carbon emissions.

Payments are made through online banking to save paper.

The Council supports Mach Maethlon providing space on the Plas grounds for a community allotment and an edible plants garden – this project connects people with local food, sustainability and provides opportunities for skills development to volunteers.

## **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 '**

The Council aims to support organisations that promote healthy living, and the council provides support to sports clubs in the town.

The Council leases land to both the Football and Rugby clubs. The grounds at the Plas have been developed and are maintained under powers conferred by the Public Health Amendments Act 1907 and provides a pump track and playground which helps introduce children to an active lifestyle from an early age.

The Council is represented on the Patient forum of Ysbyty Bro Ddyfi.

Gerddi Bro Ddyfi Gardens leases office space in the Plas and has transformed an area of council parkland to create a beautiful therapeutic wildlife community garden in the heart of the town.

## **A More Equal Wales**

**'A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)'**

The Council continues to provide support to a number of diverse groups across the town and is also represented by Members on many community groups and organisations..

The food bank utilises the premises of the Plas.

The Council hires reasonably priced rooms to ensure equal opportunities.

The Plas has disabled access.

The Council maintains a website to share information and ensures that the site complies with legislative requirements on accessibility created by the equality act 2010.

## **A Wales of cohesive communities**

### **'Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities'.**

Many community groups take advantage of the facilities provided at the Plas by the Council, these include toddler groups, Girl Guides, Scouts, Martial Arts, a Dance School, and a yoga group.

In discharging its statutory and advisory responsibilities, the Council continues to be involved in issues affecting everyone across the town, taking its time to ensure that it makes the best planning decisions (consultative role), and any other issue that arises in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the town and local communities.

The Council is at the heart of many diverse community events and activities that promote community spirit and enhance social cohesion, including:

- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas Lights Switch on
- El Sueno Existe Festival
- Machynlleth Comedy Festival

Some of these events were badly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic,

We have installed flower troughs to provide colour to the town centre.

An Enterprise Forum was set up in 2020 by a councillor with the support of other councillors. It is intended to be wider than a business forum and to include anyone who has ideas about how to benefit the town for its residents. It operated as an email network up to October 2021. It has over 100 people on the list and was used to promote opportunities and consult people, including encouraging response to the PCC consultation on the replacement LDP and collecting ideas of how to use the Transforming Towns funding which was then used to purchase a set of gazebos which are available for local businesses and organisations to borrow. It was used to advertise a very well attended presentation from a councillor in Cardiff about the innovations they have achieved. It was the mechanism used to produce a town calendar. The Calendar was financially supported by members of the enterprise forum and produced by the school with photos of the area taken by pupils, distributed by councillors and welcomed by local shops and cafes who sold it. This was the second calendar and will hopefully become an annual initiative.

The Enterprise Forum was also used to pull together ideas for a bid to the Community Renewal Fund.



## **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language**

**" A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage, and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sport and recreation "**

As befits a town which was the seat of Owain Glyndwr's Parliament, Machynlleth has a proud history and a vibrant cultural future. Institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) and the Owain Glyndwr Institute provide focal points for that culture.

The Plas is a hub in the town with music and festivals taking place in the building and grounds throughout the year.

## **A globally responsible Wales**

**" A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being"**

The Plas Energy Panel and the Climate Panel are attempt by the Council to mitigate effects council services might have on the environment. The Energy Panel met three times during the period covered by this report and the Climate Panel once.

The information set out above clearly demonstrates how the Council contributes to improving the well-being of people locally. The Council can be justifiably proud of the leading role it has played, and continues to play, in so many aspects of the Town's economic, social, environmental and cultural life.

By retaining its focus on the future needs of local people and continuing to work in close partnership with local communities, and other key stakeholders with a broader remit, including Powys County Council, Machynlleth Town Council can become confident that it contributes positively to national well-being and indeed to global well-being.

**(4) Financial Summary - 2021/22**

<b>Balances Bought Forward</b>	<b>£48,692</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Income from Precept	£191,475
Other Income	£182,483
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff Costs	£167,500
Other Costs	£157,621
<b>Balances Carried Forward</b>	<b>£97,529</b>

More Detailed Financial information (Accounts, Annual Audit and Member Remuneration) is available on the Council's website:

[http://www.machynlleth-tc.gov.uk/Cyllid\\_Finance\\_22491.aspx](http://www.machynlleth-tc.gov.uk/Cyllid_Finance_22491.aspx)