



**LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



**MAY 2021 – APRIL 2022**

### **Welcome to this Annual Report.**

Serving as the Town Mayor has once again been a great privilege and honour. This year has continued to be a difficult even though activities have begun to normalise, after a few very difficult years.

As my time as Town Mayor comes to an end, so does that of this term of the Town Council and I would like to thank all the Councillors for their dedication to the people of Llangollen over the last five years. Much has been achieved and there is still more to do, and I look forward to a bright future for the Town.



Cllr Austin Cheminai  
Town Mayor.

### **Town Clerk's Statement.**

As society, as a whole, recovers from the effects of the last two years so does the activity of the Town Council. Here has been a slow return to the use of the Town Hall for plays musical theatre performances and other events this in turn is generating the confidence needed to aid recovery.

The Town Council still faces financial pressures and recent economic events will mean that great care must be taken in managing budgets to ensure value for money for the residents of Llangollen.

I must thank those Councillors who have decided to step down from office for all of the contributions that they have made to the operation of the Town Council and I must also reiterate again this year the tremendous support offered from our residents. The sense of community and civic pride shown by the residents provides me with the confidence that Llangollen will bounce back as the town moves forwards.

Gareth Thomas  
Town Clerk  
May 2022

## About Llangollen Town Council.



Llangollen Town Council was created in 1974 following local government re-organisation and the disbanding of Llangollen Urban District Council. It is one of 37 city, town and community councils in Denbighshire.

Llangollen Town Council serves a community of approximately 3,900 residents (3,362 electorate). It consists of eleven Councillors elected for a term of 5 years. The Councillors elected in 2017 will hold office until May 2022.

Meetings of the Town Council are held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall on the third Tuesday of every month at 6.00 pm and the public are welcome to attend. Meetings of the Asset Management, Cittaslow Committee and Human Resources Committee are held quarterly.

The Town Council has a legal identity as corporate bodies and are separate and distinct from the persons who, comprise an authority for the time being. As such, they can hold property, employ staff, and sue or be sued in their own name.

This means that individual councillors are not personally liable for acts done in good faith by the Council. However, Local Authorities derive their powers from statute and do not exist independently of it. This means that, although they may properly lobby for changes in the law, in their day-to-day conduct of affairs they must act within the law as it stands. It also means that councils are subject to the ultra vires doctrine and cannot act beyond the powers bestowed upon them by statute.

### Councillors

It is the role of Councillors as individuals to represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process. individuals have a duty to act properly as a councillor.

Additionally, Members actively support other local and national groups and there are Member representatives on the following outside bodies: -

- Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Denbighshire Tourism Destination Partnership.
- Friends of Pengwern.
- Friends of the Town Hall Group.
- John Mathews Trust.

- Llangollen 2020 Group.
- Llangollen and Glyn Traian Welfare Charities.
- Llangollen Christmas Festival.
- Llangollen Parks Project
- Llangollen Silver Band.
- Llangollen Youth Trust.
- One Voice Wales.
- Plastic Free Llangollen.
- Ysgol y Gwernant.

**Finance and administration.**

The Council derives funds from generated income and the precept. The precept is an additional amount which is added to Denbighshire County Council Tax bills based upon Llangollen Town Council’s estimated expenditure.



The Council has maintained relatively healthy financial reserves and balances and can be assured of the continued payment of the precept which is a statutory requirement placed on the County Council.

The statutory basis for employing a Clerk is Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk to the Council as defined in the act is ‘The Proper Officer’ of the Council i.e., the person responsible for formal acts and to whom all correspondence is addressed in the normal course of events. A council must also appoint a Responsible Financial Officer to manage its finances. The Town Clerk fulfils both these functions.



The Town Clerk is a professional officer employed by the Town Council to manage its activities to provide administrative assistance and professional advice. The post holder supports the Town Council before, during and after meetings, preparing Councillors for their decision-making role and putting their decisions into practice. As its chief officer, the Town Clerk protects the Town Council as a corporate body.

In addition, the Town Council employs a part time Facilities Officer the Facilities Officer’s role is to work flexibly to ensure the necessary cover is provided to support the Town Council’s business needs and assist in the maintenance of all

Council premises, property, open spaces and recreation areas, street furniture and any other item controlled by the Council and for the cleaning and maintenance of the Town.

The post holder has regular contact with suppliers, local community groups, tenants of the Council and liaises with architects, engineers, etc. on various schemes and projects and is responsible for the engagement and supervision of contractors working on the Council's property and estates.



### **Llangollen Town Council's contribution to Well-being.**

Town Council is keen to ensure that its policies and operational aspects meet the needs of the local community, and this section of the report describes how the Town Council has contributed to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Llangollen.

#### **A prosperous Llangollen.**

Over the pandemic the Town Council rightly focused on minimising the human cost, providing relief to the community and delivered essential day-to-day services.

As restrictions eased the major challenge for the Town Council was to mitigate the impact on the local economy so that businesses can once again thrive and provide employment opportunities and vibrancy to local communities.

Llangollen Town Council continues to encourage and promote the economic and commercial vitality of the town and support existing major employers and more generally help to nurture new and innovative businesses. to create locally tailored solutions that will deliver more economic support, social benefits and resilience

#### **A resilient Llangollen.**

The Town Council actively supports initiatives that enhances biodiversity in order to ensure natural environments with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and have the capacity to adapt to change.



The Town Council continues to monitor biodiversity through its Biodiversity Action Plan stimulated by the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which makes biodiversity an important consideration for all local authorities.

Section 40 of this act sets out the duty to conserve biodiversity: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with

the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity”.

The Town Council, by adopting the action plan, is showing its commitment not only to this new duty but also to the promotion of resilient ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of the Town Council's functions.

### A healthier Llangollen.

The Town Council continues to support initiatives that delivery health benefits to the local community.

More generally the Town Council actively supports local support groups such as Llangollen CAB, Dementia Friendly Llangollen and will work in collaboration with local providers and the third sector to improve access to activities and opportunities for older people; improving access to activities for young people; supporting and enabling better sports provision and local healthcare needs.

### A more equal Llangollen.

The Town Council has actively promoted the views and interests of Llangollen at the national and county level on a host of consultative matters.



The Town Council's Planning Committee has continued to be vigilant in scrutinising planning proposals and has made careful and considered recommendations to 66 planning applications received.

Even though the Town Council has limited powers in respect of planning, on the whole recommendations have been noted by the County Council's Planning Committee.

Since May 2021, the Town Council also responded to consultations on the following:

- Supplementary Planning Guidance Note 'Planning for Dark Night Skies'.
- The Boundary Commission for Wales Initial Proposals.
- The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales draft Annual Report Consultation
- The Welsh Governments proposals on local taxes for second homes and

self-catering accommodation.

- Planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets.
- The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Community and Town Councils statutory guidance.

The Town Council continues to make public information accessible through a variety of formats utilising newsletters, social media, and the Town Council's own website [www.llangollewntowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.llangollewntowncouncil.gov.uk)



The introduction of online meetings had provided more opportunities for public participation and webinars have presented opportunity for more engagement and the use of online collaboration tools has provided the employees and Members with more freedom to work where they want, while doing so more efficiently.

Collaboration has generated inventive ideas and has help colleagues learn from one another. Online collaboration will continue to be a useful tool in the future

#### A Llangollen of cohesive communities.

Supported by a team of local community members the Town Council has completed the production of a Place Plan for Llangollen based on the Shape my Town model of community engagement Caru Love Llangollen the peoples plan is the result.

This People's Plan is a summation of many months of work by residents of Llangollen. With the exception of the sections dealing with traffic management and car parking, the work has been completed by residents committed to building a plan to deliver a better future for our community.



The ethos of a place plan is one which seeks 'grass roots' opinion and presents the wishes and aspirations of the community in a formal way that can be assimilated into the future planning of all government agencies. This is the



beginning of a new process, and we look forward to forging new working partnerships with all parties concerned.

Since May 2021 Members of the Town Council support a range of Community groups which include: -

- Llangollen Dementia Friendly Community.
- Friends of Pengwern.
- Llangollen Food Share.
- Llangollen Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Llangollen 2020.
- St Collen Genesis project.
- Llangollen Community Christmas Lunch.

In addition, direct financial support was provided to the following groups.

- Friends of Pengwern,
- Llangollen Community Christmas Lunch.
- Llangollen Food Share
- Llangollen Recreation Ground Trust.
- Llangollen Parks Project.

#### **A Llangollen of vibrant culture and a thriving Welsh Language.**

The Town Council continued to acknowledge the importance of a number of community events, run solely by volunteers, which greatly benefit the town. Llangollen Hamper Food Festival, the Christmas Festival, the Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod and the Llangollen Fringe and the Women's Festival all add to the vibrancy and culture of our town.

Direct financial support is provided to community events using the Town Hall through subsidies hire fees costing the Town Council £4,718.00

As a Cittaslow Town, Llangollen is keen to encourage and celebrate diversity rather than standardisation. In this context events help to raise awareness of Cittaslow and the goals and principles that each Cittaslow town commits to work to achieve.

One such goal is promoting and increasing the value of local cultural events and as the variety of events staged throughout the year attract large audiences and day visitors to the Town and greater focus will have to be directed to this activity in the future.



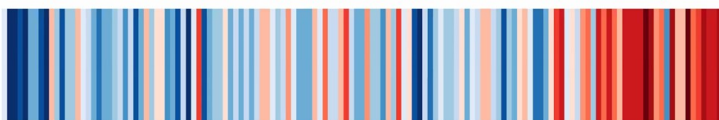
The Town Council supported Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych to engage in a St. David's Day window competition with the aim of instilling positivity into the town centre after two exceedingly difficult years of trading.

#### A globally responsible Llangollen.

Town Council continues to implement its climate and ecological emergency action plan and have, during the year, moved to its gas and electricity supplies to Good Energy a company set up to give people the choice to do something about climate change by choosing renewable energy for their homes and businesses.

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In the spring of 2022, the Town Council secured a number of mature trees with the assistance of the AONB Climate Change, Green Infrastructure and Catchments Officer which were planted around the Recreation Ground



The Town Council continues to support Llangollen's status as a Cittaslow towns which aim to be places where people enjoy living, working, and visiting.

Cittaslow principles encourage towns to adopt good environmental practices and encourages and supports practical projects that help local people, and local businesses, by maintaining and promoting the unique traditions, strengths, and character of their town.

Each Cittaslow town agrees to adopt the following principles fostering economic, social and environmental sustainability:

- Encourage and celebrate diversity rather than standardisation.
- Support and promote local culture and local traditions.


- Work for a more sustainable environment.
- Raise awareness and appreciation of local produce and local businesses.
- Promote healthy eating and healthy living.
- Work with the local community to build on these principles.

During the year, the Councils Cittaslow Committee have launched a newsletter and convened several consultations and community engagement events.

**Sgyrsiau Cymunedol Cittaslow Llangollen Community Conversations**

Cymuned, Iechyd a Lles.  
9 Mawrth 2022 6.45yh  
Y ddoleni fynychi'r webinar yw <https://tinyurl.com/yef6rdna>

Community, Health and Wellbeing.  
9 March 2022 6.45pm  
The link to attend the webinar is <https://tinyurl.com/yef6rdna>



**Siaradwyr < Speakers**  
Eleri Jones – Denbighshire Citizens Advice  
Margaret Sutherland – Pengwern Community Project  
Rebecca Roberts – Nature for Health



## Councillors' attendance.

### Town Council.

Councillor.	Meetings attended	Attendance %
Cllr Baker.	3	27%
Cllr Carol	8	72%
Cllr Cheminai.	11	100%
Cllr Davies	9	81%
Cllr Grindley.	10	91%
Cllr Haddy.	11	100%
Cllr Keddie.	9	81%
Cllr Lovelock.	10	91%
Cllr Lube.	10	91%
Cllr Mile.	9	81%
Cllr Palmer.	10	91%

**Total 11**

### Asset Management Committee

Councillor.	Meetings attended	Attendance %
Cllr Baker.	0	0%
Cllr Haddy.	6	100%
Cllr Keddie.	6	100%
Cllr Mile.	6	100%
Cllr Palmer.	6	100%

**Total 6**

### Cittaslow Committee

Councillor.	Meetings attended	Attendance %
Cllr Carol	4	71%
Cllr Cheminai.	5	82%
Cllr Grindley.	5	82%
Cllr Lovelock.	5	82%
Cllr Mile.	6	100%

**Total 6**

### Human Resources Committee

Councillor.	Meetings attended	Attendance %
Cllr Cheminai.	5	100%
Cllr Keddie.	5	100%
Cllr Lovelock.	5	100%
Cllr Mile	5	100%
Cllr Palmer	5	100%

**Total 5**

## Contacts



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