



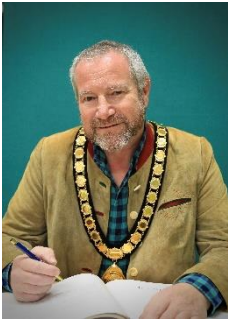
LLANGOLLEN TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



MAY 2022 – APRIL 2023

Welcome to this Annual Report.



Serving as the Town Mayor has been a great privilege and honour. This year has seen the election of several new Members to the Town Council, but unfortunately, due to personal circumstances a number of these Members had to step down and the Town Council is in the process of filling these vacancies.

However, in the first term of this new council all Members have operated closely together to form an efficient and effective team working, alongside the staff of the Town Council, to bring forward projects and services of the highest order for the residents of Llangollen.

I would therefore like to thank my fellow Councillors for their dedication to the people of Llangollen over the last year. Much has been achieved and there is still more to do, and I look forward to a bright future for the Town.

Cllr Paul Keddie
Town Mayor.

Town Clerk's Statement.

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 welcome and thank those Councillors who have joined the Council over the last year and for all of the contributions that they have made to the operation of the Town Council.

The sense of community and civic pride, exemplified in the creation of the Caru Love Llangollen Peoples Plan, adopted by the Town Council, and the volunteering undertaken by residents, provides me with the confidence that Llangollen will continue to prosper as the town moves forwards.

Gareth Thomas
Town Clerk
May 2023

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 who took office in 2022 will hold office until May 2027.

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 either in person or via video conferencing which is now a legal requirement for all Town Council meetings. Meetings of the Asset Management Committee, Climate, Ecology and 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.
- Dementia Friendly Llangollen
- John Mathews Trust.
- Llangollen Christmas Festival.
- Llangollen Parks Project
- Llangollen Silver Band.
- Llangollen Youth Trust.
- One Voice Wales.
- Plastic Free Llangollen.
- Ysgol y Gwernant.



Finance.

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.

Town Council Receipts and Payment 2022/23

Code	Title	Cost Centre	Receipts	Payments
1	Precept	Income	£149,000.00	
2	Interest	Income	£208.00	
3	Room hire	Income	£13,000.00	
4	Rents	Income	£23,500.00	
5	Grants	Income	£4,900.00	
6	Tenants' recharges	Income	£1,841.00	
7	VAT refund	Income	£11,500.00	£11,500.00
8	Fees and charges	Administration		£1,060.00
9	Cloud services	Administration		£2,000.00
10	Health and safety	Administration		£2,000.00
11	Insurance	Administration		£3,800.00
12	Licenses	Administration		£555.00
13	NNDR	Administration		£12,000.00
14	Payroll	Administration		£550.00
15	Subscriptions	Administration		£1,000.00
16	Equipment	Asset Management		£1,700.00
17	Projects	Asset Management		£22,000.00
18	Cleaning	Asset Management		£1,800.00
19	Grounds maintenance	Asset Management		£10,000.00
20	Christmas illuminations	Asset Management		£12,000.00
21	Repairs and renewals	Asset Management		£15,450.00
22	Waste collection	Asset Management		£1,000.00
23	Water charges	Asset Management		£1,000.00
24	Election expenses	Cost of Democracy		£6,000.00
25	Civic costs	Cost of Democracy		£2,150.00
26	Civic events	Cost of Democracy		£1,510.00
27	Mayor's allowance	Cost of Democracy		£500.00
28	Remuneration	Cost of Democracy		£450.00
29	Member Training	Cost of Democracy		£2,500.00
30	Member allowances	Cost of Democracy		£1,650.00

31	Electricity	Energy Costs	£3,500.00
32	Gas	Energy Costs	£4,000.00
33	Loan repayments	Capital Financing	£0.00
34	Community grants	Community	£4,000.00
35	Donations	Community	£3,500.00
36	Cittaslow	Community	£3,500.00
37	Office supplies	Office Costs	£1,000.00
38	Telephone and broadband	Office Costs	£1,500.00
39	Photocopier rental	Office Costs	£1,100.00
40	Photocopying	Office Costs	£1,000.00
41	Translation	Office Costs	£1,300.00
42	Salaries	Staff Costs	£37,775.00
43	HR fees and charges	Staff Costs	£0.00
44	Pension	Staff Costs	£2,800.00
45	Staff Training	Administration	£1,250.00
46	HMRC	Staff Costs	£12,000.00
47	Computer hardware	Office Costs	£8,000.00
48	Expenses	Administration	£569.00

Administration.



The Clerk to the Council as defined in is Section 112 of the Local Government Act 1972the act as 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.

In addition, her role encompasses the arrangement of civic events, such as the Annual Service of Remembrance held on Centenary Square.



Llangollen Town Council's contribution to Well-being.

The Well-being of Future Generations Act gives us the ambition, permission and legal obligation to improve our social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being and the Town Council, as custodians for the coming generations is keen to ensure that its policies and operational aspects meet the needs of both the current and future residents. This section of the report describes how the Town Council has and seeks to continue to contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Llangollen under the seven well-being goals identified in the Act.

A prosperous 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.

The Town Council strongly supports the aspirations of the Caru Love Llangollen Peoples Plan ; to create a blueprint for the future of Llangollen, and its hinterland, which will reflect the aspirations of the community and sustain a vibrant and beautiful town of which we can be proud, by Increase employment opportunities in the town.

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".

A number projects have been supported and directly undertaken by the Town Council in terms of tree planting and members have resolved to increase the number of ground level planters particularly on the Centenary Square in which pollinators will be grown to support the work of Bee Friendly Llangollen another organisation that has the full backing of the Town Council.

A healthier Llangollen.

Whilst having no direct powers or duties 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 31 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:

- Denbighshire County Council's Castle Street highway improvement scheme.
- Denbighshire County Council's active travel proposals
- Shaping Wales's Future: Using National milestones to measure our Nation's progress.
- Consultation on extending the well-being duty (part 2) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to additional public bodies.
- Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales Draft Annual Report - February 2023
- One Voice Wales training needs survey 2023

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

The introduction of hybrid 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.



With online collaboration it easy to bring individuals working together into an online workspace, it can increase engagement with external stakeholders more than by using traditional methods such as meetings, audio and video calls, paper surveys, press advertisements and similar. This brings diversity to real time communication, resulting in

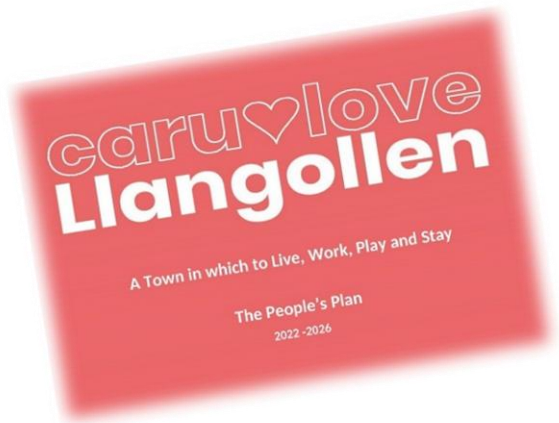
more creativity and the creation of stronger and healthy relationships with the added benefits of reducing commuting with the knock-on effects of reducing CO2 emissions further contributing to the Town Councils pledge to work towards making Llangollen carbon neutral by 2030.

A Llangollen of cohesive communities.

Supported by a team of local community members the Town Council has adopted the Caru Love Llangollen, The peoples plan.

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.



Compatible with the vision of the plan the Town Council will ensure that the wishes of the community translate into tangible actions by government agencies, and the wider community.

Since May 2022 Members of the Town Council support a range of Community groups which include: -

- Dementia Friendly Llangollen.
- Friends of Pengwern.
- Llangollen Community Christmas Lunch.

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

- Llangollen Community Christmas Lunch.
- 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 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 just over £14,800 in 2022/23

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.

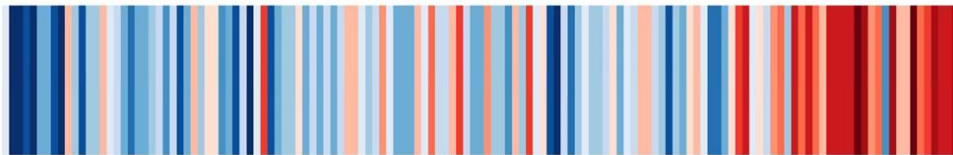
One such goal is promoting and increasing the value of local cultural events and as the variety of events staged throughout the year attract large audiences and day visitors to the Town and greater focus will have to be directed to this activity in the future.



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.

The Town Council has delivered on a number of the actions within its own climate action plan but recognises that there is still work to be done in terms of community engagement to drive forward significant change in the volumes of greenhouse gases generated within the community and to support the identification of alternative methods of energy production.



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. During this year, the Cittaslow Committee has widened its remit and is now known as the Climate Ecology Cittaslow Committee and has taken on responsibility to ensure that the Town Council's declaration of a climate emergency is implemented as a matter of urgency.

However, the Cittaslow principles are still valid as they encourage towns to adopt good environmental practices and inspire and support 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.

Contacts



townclerk@llangollentowncouncil.gov.uk

facilities@llangollentowncouncil.gov.uk



01978 861345



Town Council Offices
Parade Street,
Llangollen,
Denbighshire
LL20 8PW.



www.llangollentowncouncil.gov.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/llangollentowncouncil>