

CAIA PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Annual report on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 for 2020-21



About this report

Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives a legally binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

This report describes how Caia Park Community Council has contributed to the seven well-being goals for the community.

2020-21 has been a very challenging year due to the Covid 19 pandemic with no interaction between the Public Service Board or Community Council. The PSB website reveals that there have been no published minutes since 13th June 2019 and key strategic documents remain unaltered.

Community Council services have been amended or cancelled in the light of Covid restrictions.

Wrexham Public Service Board (PSB) (www.wrexhampsb.org)

The Community Council, because it is a larger community council with a precept in excess of £200k, is also required to ensure that it complies with and contributes to the objectives of the Local Well-Being Plan 2018-2023 as produced by the Wrexham Public Services Board. The Public Service Board (PSB) published its first annual report in June 2019 detailing progress on its determined objectives. There does not appear to be any further annual reports published. The PSB have agreed 15 objectives but for 2018-19 focussed on 2 main objectives:

- All people have opportunities to learn and develop throughout their lives
- Children and young people are given a healthy start in life

They also agreed to focus on two or three additional objectives each year over the five- year plan period, covering all 15 by 2023. In Year 1 these were:

- People have positive mental health
- People can live healthily, happily and independently in their old age
- People are able to make healthy choices.

The challenge for the Community Council is to demonstrate how it can make a positive contribution given that these objectives are strategically determined and of more relevance to the staffed larger statutory bodies who can more effectively influence their progress. All community councils have their own local priorities which are important to their communities as well as having to manage within an agreed budget. Budgetary pressures, which are exacerbated by the cost of devolved functions previously funded by the principal authority, can create tensions and limit what a community council can be realistically expected to provide. Additionally, to date, there has been no clear communication with the community council sector from the PSB or advice on how the sector can meaningfully contribute to the objectives.

The Community Council has therefore focussed on contributing to some of the 15 objectives in the PSB plan whilst “mapping” its activities within the seven well-being goals. The other 10 objectives within the five-year plan are:

- The town is vibrant and welcoming
- There are good employment opportunities in Wrexham
- There is a range of things for people to do in their spare time
- The economy in rural areas is well supported and can thrive
- All people have access to good quality, appropriate homes throughout their lives
- People can travel easily around the county and beyond
- The Welsh language is thriving
- Tourism supports the local economy
- The county borough is a safe place to live
- Our communities are prepared for the future.

The seven well-being goals for Wales

The well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines seven well-being goals which need to be considered when drawing up local objectives. A description of each well-being goal and the issues identified within that theme is provided below. All of the issues identified in this needs analysis are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being.

Prosperous (1)	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); 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.
Resilient (2)	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with health functioning eco systems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)
Healthier (3)	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
More equal (4)	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)
Cohesive communities (5)	Attractive, viable safe and well-connected communities
Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language (6)	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts and sports and recreation.
Globally responsive (7)	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

Matrix showing cross-cutting themes

Some of the activities of Caia Park Community Council towards the well-being goals are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being. The grids below give an interpretation of how each contribution might fit within the list of well-being goals. Activities this year have been hampered by the pandemic and as such some have not taken place.

Prosperous (1)	Resilient (2)	Healthier (3)	More equal (4)	Cohesive (5)	Culture (6)	Globally responsive (7)
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1.	The Community Advice Service						
2.	Play Provision						
3.	School crossing patrols						
4.	Maintenance and repair of public play facilities						
5.	Youth outreach work						
6.	Climate change / biodiversity/Environment						
7.	Financial assistance						
8.	Pentre Gwyn Community Centre						
9.	Crime prevention and reduction						
10.	Community Agent						
11.	Mental Health Project (Commencing April 2021)						
12.	Competent Council						

1. Community Advice Service

The Community Council invests in providing a free advice service for all residents of Caia Park. Under normal circumstances, there are twelve sessions per week operated primarily from the Community Council offices with two sessions being run from Caia Park Partnership. In addition, three appointments per week are offered for the completion of certain complex benefit forms (PIP, DLA etc). This year, due to the Covid 19 pandemic, all face to face activities have been severely curtailed but a telephone service has been provided throughout with staff mainly working from home.

Advice offered can cover any benefit related or debt issue as well as more generalist advice on any number or range of topics. It is an open-door service with the sessions run on a "first come first served basis". It is also authorised to issue food bank vouchers to eligible residents and complete debt relief orders.

The costs of the service are met entirely by the Community Council (approx. 38% of the total Council precept income) The Advice Workers do provide two sessions per week for a neighbouring council on a cost recovery basis. Clearly, to provide an efficient service there is a requirement for appropriate administrative and I.T. support with specially commissioned computer software packages. The service has been delivered this year by 1 full time and three part time staff. (2.35 full time equivalent) although this reduced to 2.19 full time equivalent staff due to a staff resignation in July 2020

In the reporting year 2020-21 the Advice Service has faced very unusual time due to the Covid pandemic; the Advice Service has had to change and adapt to provide advice and support to community of Caia Park as well as supporting the staff to provide the advice service.

The total number of clients contacted and taken on as a case for the last 12 months was 2080, this is an increase of 35.5% with the loss of one member of staff. We also saw an increase of dealing with out of areas clients as one-off advice with 44 accessing our service, this is an increase of 300%.

Clients from Wards

Cartrefle	442
Queensway	667
Smithfield	161
Whitegate	290
Wynnstay	520
Total	2080

From the assistance offered, financial gains to clients amounted to over £800,000. The total level of debt presented to the service was £568,261.58 for 311 clients and the Advice Service was able to help 21 clients out of debt by writing off £180,801.01.

2. Play Provision

In 2020-21 the Community Council made financial provision to fund play sessions located at Gwenfro Valley (Whitegate Ward) and The Venture (Wynnstay Ward) as these are both established play settings. The sessions amount to two per week at each location with some additional ones over the Summer holiday period at Gwenfro Valley. The service at Gwenfro Valley is provided by Wrexham County Borough Council Play Development Team.

Due to Covid restrictions, the Play Development Team did not provide a service. The Venture reconfigured their service to respond to the pressures of the pandemic and reopened as and when restrictions were lifted.

3. School crossing patrols

In 2013, Wrexham County Borough Council decided to withdraw funding for the school crossing patrols based in the community as the volume of traffic and perceived risk did not meet their criteria. Accordingly, they invited the Community Council to fund the provision. The Community Council undertook a community survey and the school crossing patrols featured most highly as a valued service and so the Council decided to fund them.

At the time, there were three manned school crossings – Holt Road (Alexandra School) Deva Way (Hafod y Wern School) and Queensway (Gwenfro School). As the Holt Road crossing also had a pedestrian controlled traffic light crossing, it was decided to relocate that member of staff to Prince Charles Road to cover St Anne’s R.C. Primary school.

Given that there is a number of children of primary school age who make their journey to and from school unaccompanied, the Community Council have always felt that this service is important for health and safety reasons.

The service continued throughout the year as and when schools were allowed to open. Unfortunately, a vacancy arising in year at Gwenfro school is yet to be filled.

4. Maintenance and Repair of public play facilities

In 2013, Wrexham County Borough Council decided to withdraw funding for the future maintenance, inspection and repair of equipped playgrounds within the community and offered these via a service level agreement to the Community Council or the facilities would close and any equipment removed.

There are six equipped play areas:

Bala Road	Pont Wen	Prince Charles Road
Pentre Gwyn	Abenbury Fields	Rear of Benjamin Road

Two multi use games areas:

Prince Charles Road Queensway (Whitegate)

And one skate park and chat shelter adjacent to the Queensway Sports Centre.

The inspection/maintenance costs this year was approximately £14,000 and in addition this year, the Community Council has spent £1500 on repairs to equipment largely due to vandalism. The Council actively seek grants and financial opportunities to upgrade or enhance these facilities. During the year, the play area at Pentre Gwyn was refurbished funded by s106 (planning obligation) funding and a capital donation of £5k from the Community Council.

5. Youth Outreach Work

The Community Council normally fund the provision of three sessions per week. The service is provided by Caia Park Partnership (CPP) . The outreach workers travel around the five community wards engaging with young people offering support and guidance as well as acting as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour. In 2020-21 the Community Council changed its requirements and it was agreed that CPP would be funded to provide premises based youth work during the school holiday periods. Unfortunately, this coincided with Covid lockdown and so was not deliverable. As a result, they continued to offer limited outreach work and towards the end of the year online based activities.

6. **The Gardening competition and Community Litter pick** were not held in year due to the Covid restrictions although the Community Council have supported volunteer litter picks.

Climate change/ biodiversity/Environment

The Council is conscious of the need to act responsibly and to try and influence the wider community. The Community Council in 2019, formally declared a climate change emergency and endeavour to use this to influence its ways of working. The Council is not responsible (as owners) for any open space or premises within the community other than its own offices and so is confined to trying to influence others.

Member representatives take part in the Green Infrastructure Project (led by Wrexham CBC and funded via Welsh Government). As part of this, some of the ground within the curtilage of the community council offices has been prepared for wildflower planting.

7. Financial Assistance

The Council support organisations which help people with particular needs or provide a service to Caia Park. Through the Financial Assistance Grant Scheme, the Council awarded grants to voluntary or charitable groups primarily based or working in the community. In 2020/21 such groups included:

Advance Brighter Futures	357.00
Air Ambulance Wales	100.00
British Red Cross	50.00
Caia Park Partnership	500.00
Cerebral Palsy	50.00
Family Friends	50.00
Friends of Wrexham Museum	400.00
Hope House Hospice	100.00
Macmillan Cancer Care	100.00
Marie Curie	50.00
Nightingale House Hospice	1000.00
Tenovus Cancer Care	50.00
The Venture (Lead agency food project)	500.00
Vic Studios	200.00
Wrexham Allotment & Leisure Gardeners	100.00

The grant given to The Venture was to support the work being undertaken by third sector organisations within the community to support families following the closure of schools and the resultant lack of available free school meals in the early stages of Covid lockdown. Food was distributed by a number of organisations based within the community. This service provided much welcomed relief up to and beyond the introduction of direct payments to parents facilitated by Welsh Government and administered by the County Borough Council.

8. Pentre Gwyn Community Centre

The Community Council have supported the Trustees of the Pentre Gwyn, Tan y Coed and Coed y Bryn Residents Association to take back the freehold of the community centre. The centre was originally funded and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council who leased the land from the Trustees.

In 2013 the Community Council were approached by Wrexham CBC to see if it would be interested in taking on the funding and management of this community venue as it was their intention to cease involvement with it due to a review of their discretionary services. Whilst the Community Council did not want to take direct control it agreed to underwrite any excess expenditure over income until such time as the County Borough Council withdrew its support. The Community Council then pledged a sum of £6000 per annum and continue to support the Trustees now that they have taken back the freehold with some financial support and managerial advice. The Trustees are now in a position where the centre is self-sufficient. They have attracted support from businesses to enhance the fabric of the building and have a good volunteer base to undertake day to day functions.

Unfortunately, the Centre has remained closed during the pandemic restrictions.

9. Crime prevention and reduction

With two of the five community wards being recognised within the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) statistics as areas of high deprivation the Council is mindful of the challenges that face the community and the need to support and work with the local Police. Police have been unable to attend monthly community council meetings held remotely due to a Force directive. There is a dedicated monthly agenda item to consider crime statistics and discuss with members any issues or trends. Coupled with this, the Council have and will continue to financially support initiatives subject to finance being available.

The Queensway Ward was fortunate in being identified for Home Office funding under the Safer Streets initiative. A sum of £500,000 was awarded for administration by the N. Wales Police and Wrexham County Borough Council with some projects being delivered locally by organisations within the community. Enhanced CCTV provision, selected demolition and alley gating are being funded by this project.

The Community Council has also invested in CCTV cameras at the Community Council offices due to a spate of vandalism.

The Community Council have agreed to fund an interactive speed sign to be located on Hightown Road although this has yet to be implemented due to significant delays by Wrexham County Borough Council.

10. Community Agent Scheme

The Community Council employ a part-time Community Agent (16 hrs per week) funded by Wrexham County Borough Council via a grant they receive from Welsh Government. The role of the agent is to primarily work with the over 50 age range and identify, often by referral from other agencies such as GP practices and adult social care, those in the community who may need support or are particularly vulnerable. They are responsible for signposting residents who are seeking help to the relevant agency. They also get involved with voluntary groups such as luncheon clubs to try and minimise social isolation. This year, the method of working has been very different with the agent relying on remote working and telephone interaction with the client base. Supplementary hours have been funded to meet the challenges of the Covid situation.

11. Mental Health Project Worker

This year the Community Council in partnership with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Caia Park Partnership agreed to fund a local based initiative to support residents with mental health problems. The service will hopefully start in April 2021 subject to recruitment and will be delivered by MIND from within the community.

12. Competent Council

Finally, these are challenging times for community councils. The Council faces many new challenges and opportunities and it is important to be ready to be fit for the future.

A number of competency tests are emerging.

As at 2020-21 the position was:

- All councillors (14) have been declared elected with no co-options. 9 of the councillors were elected following a ballot and 4 were elected unopposed.
- The current Clerk has appropriate professional qualifications (although not CILCA) and is a County Councillor.

- The Council's budget is in excess of £200k

The Council has sound management and financial systems. Its accounts are scrutinised by others and the Council has received an unqualified (no matters to raise) external audit report since introduced in 2001. Agendas, minutes, accounts and contact details can be found at www.caiapark.gov.uk . The community can email the Clerk at clerk@caiapark.gov.uk

Rate Estimates BUDGET 2020/2021**INCOME**

Precept	228,180
Interest on Investments	400
Rent & letting fees: Prince Charles Rd	1,100
Sundry Income	15
Community Advice Service	6,429
Community Agent	9,136

TOTAL INCOME	245,260

EXPENDITURE

s.137 Donations	5,000
General Administration	35,538
Community Advice service	100,801
Prince Charles Road	16,546
Amenities & Environment	6,000
Children's Services:	
Play areas	14,201
Repairs play areas	1,000
School crossing	14,110
CPP outreach SLA	8,000
Wrexham Play Development Team	15,951
Venture SLA	15,670
Footway Lighting	0
Traffic Calming	0
External Grants Comm Agent	9,136
Misc.	-----
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	241,953
SURPLUS	3,307

	245,260

Based on Tax Base 2020/2021: 3803

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

CARTREFLE WARD (3 MEMBERS)

Brian Halley	14 Bryn Eglwys Road, Wrexham LL13 9LA Tel: 01978 357782	(Welsh Labour)
Leanne Claire Crawford	23 Broxton Road, Wrexham LL13 9BA Tel: 01978 512098 Mobile 0781153394 E mail l.crawford579@btinternet.com	(Independent)
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QUEENSWAY WARD (3 MEMBERS)

Michelle Jayne Downard	80 Y Wern, Wrexham LL13 8TY Tel: 01978 291338 E mail chelle64.ml@gmail.com	(Independent)
Steve Jones	(Contact via Clerk of Council)	(Plaid Cymru)
Colin Powell	26 Ashbourne Ave., Gwersyllt LL11 4RR Tel: 01978 268003 E mail colin.powell@live.co.uk	(Welsh Labour)

SMITHFIELD WARD (3 MEMBERS)

Adrienne Julia Jeorrett	26 Beechley Road, Hightown Wrexham LL13 7BA Mobile 07934920269 Email adrienne.Jeorrett@wrexham.gov.uk	(Welsh Labour)
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WHITEGATE WARD (3 MEMBERS)

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Carole Lloyd	57 Pentre Gwyn, Wrexham LL13 8YE Mobile 07522929341	(Welsh Labour)
A. Keith Gregory (Elected 2.05.19)	13 Colwyn Road, Wrexham LL13 8ET 01978 263552 Mobile 07842758614 E mail: akeithgregory@gmail.com	(Plaid Cymru)

WYNNSTAY (2)

Malcolm King	Tyddyn Draw, Llanelidan, Ruthin LL15 2TA Tel: 01824 750710 (home) 01978 355761 (work) Mobile: 07855 959489 E. mail: malcolm.king@wrexham.gov.uk	(Welsh Labour)
Mrs. Linda M. Platt	118 St David's Crescent, Wrexham LL13 8SF Mobile 07708549433 E.mail: linda.platt@the-venture.co.uk	(Independent)

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Appendix 3

Some of our partners and associated groups

- Caia Park Partnership Ltd
- Deva House Day Centre
- The Venture
- Wrexham Play Development Team
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Wrexham Mission Area / St Marks Church
- Local businesses including Tesco, Mecca, Sainsbury, Wrexham Motoring Supplies, Caia Barbers Shop, Co-op, Costa Coffee
- Gwenfro, Hafod y Wern and St Anne's Primary schools
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Plastic Free Wrexham Campaign
- Pentre Gwyn Community Centre (Trustees)
- Caia Park Environmental Group
- William & John Jones Trust
- Pentre Gwyn Pensioners Club
- Nightingale House
- Urdd Eisteddfod
- QP Music Development Group
- North Wales Police & PCSO's