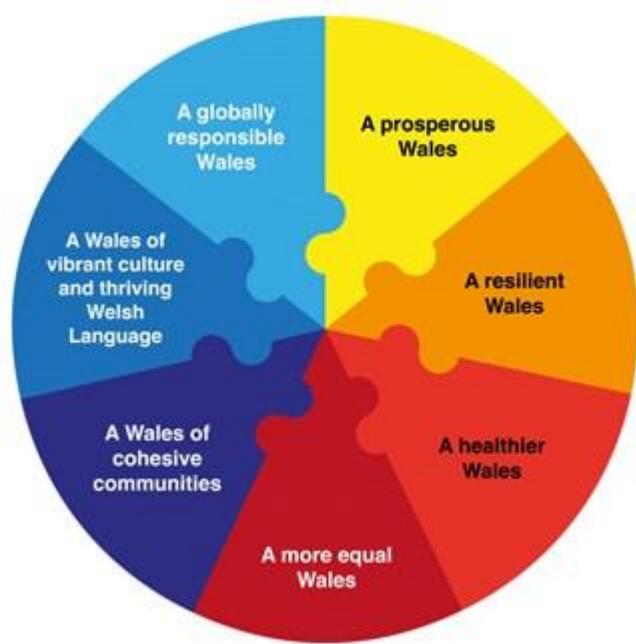


# CAIA PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## Annual report on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015

For 2023-24



## 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.

2023-24 has been a very challenging year due to the cost of living crisis and economic uncertainty. Community Council services have been affected but not as significantly as during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Following the Covid 19 pandemic there has been minimal interaction between the Public Services Board and the Community Council. The PSB has not produced an annual report for the year (in accordance with statutory procedures) because of the work being done to produce the next well-being plan. The Wrexham PSB has been working closely with Flintshire PSB on a recovery strategy to support community resilience and an assessment of well-being has been carried out. This assessment can be viewed on the PSB website.

## **Wrexham Public Service Board (PSB) ([www.wrexhampsb.org](http://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. The PSB have agreed on 15 objectives but for 2018-19 focused 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 focused 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 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.

<b>Prosperous (1)</b>	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.
<b>Resilient (2)</b>	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).
<b>Healthier (3)</b>	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.
<b>More equal (4)</b>	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
<b>Cohesive communities (5)</b>	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
<b>Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language (6)</b>	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.
<b>Globally responsive (7)</b>	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 contributing towards the well-being goals are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being. The grid below gives an interpretation of how each contribution might fit within the list of well-being goals.

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

### 1. Community Advice Service

The Community Council has been running a free advice service for all residents of Caia Park for over 20 years. As far as we know, we are the only Town or Community Council in Wales to run such a service.

Service provision was reorganised due to Covid 19, and now relies on pre-booked appointments and telephone consultations rather than a drop in and wait service. During 2023-24 the service has been fully operational from the community council offices.

The advice offered can cover any benefit related issue as well as more generalist advice on any number or range of topics including debt. It is also authorised to issue food bank vouchers to eligible residents.

The costs of the service (£96.3K for 2023-24) are met entirely by the Community Council (approx. 38% of the total Council precept income). The Advice Service also provides one session per week for a neighbouring council on a cost recovery basis. 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 three part time staff (1.73 full time equivalent) from April to November, and one full time and three part time staff (2.73 full time equivalent) from December to March.

The Community Council is mindful of the pressures placed on families within the community with Queensway and Wynnstay Wards being in the 10% most income deprived areas for children in Wales and ranking 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the highest areas of multiple deprivation. By providing this service, the Community Council is making a positive contribution.

During 2023-24 the Advice Service opened 514 cases for Caia Park residents: 382 of these were Welfare Benefit cases (74%), and 24 cases were debt advice cases (5%), with the

remainder of cases (21%) mainly being housing matters, food/fuel vouchers, charitable grants, and cheaper tariff applications for water.

**Clients by Ward:**

Cartrefle	56
Queensway	98
Smithfield	24
Whitegate	37
Wynnstay	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>299</b>

From the assistance offered, financial gains to clients amounted to over £1,411,039 in 2023-24.

**2. Play Provision**

In 2023-24 the Community Council made financial provision to fund play sessions located at two long established play settings: Wrexham Youth and Play Partnership (WYPP) at Gwenfro Valley (Whitegate Ward) and The Venture (Wynnstay Ward). The Council funds two sessions per week at each location. The cost of the two service level agreements amounted to £33,596.

**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 cost of school crossing service for 2023-24 was £16,623.

**4. Maintenance and Repair of public play facilities**

In 2013, Wrexham County Borough Council decided to withdraw funding for the future maintenance, inspection and repairs 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	Benjamin Road

Two multi use games areas:

Prince Chares Road	Queensway (Whitegate)
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And one skate-park and chat shelter adjacent to the Queensway Sports Centre.

The inspection/maintenance costs this year was £14,170 and in addition, the Community Council has spent £1,976 on repairs to equipment and surfaces due to increased vandalism and aging equipment.

## 5. **Youth Work**

The Community Council traditionally funded the provision of three outreach sessions per week. The service is provided by Caia Park Partnership (CPP). During 2021-2022 the service was reconfigured to provide premises-based youth club provision when it would not normally take place (i.e. school holidays). The cost of the service for 2023-24 was £8,806.

## 6. **Climate change/ biodiversity/Environment**

The Council is conscious of its leadership position as the only body with statutory duties specifically for Caia Park. It is aware of the growing global concerns regarding the widespread evidence of harmful climate change. The Community Council in 2019 became one of the first Community Councils to formally declare a climate change emergency. The Council is not responsible (as owners) for any open space or premises within the community other than its own offices and so is largely 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 was planted with wildflowers in 2021, and supplemented with the planting of fruit trees. The Community Council actively supported the Green Infrastructure Project and purchased some tree guards to protect newly planted trees.

The Community Council have supported volunteer litter picks by resourcing equipment and litter bags to support the Wrexham Litter Pickers Group. These are volunteers who make a massive impact in helping to keep the community litter free.

During 2023-24 the Community Council applied to be part of WCBC's Low Carbon Communities Pilot Project and was awarded a grant of £10,000 in order to kick start and support the delivery of a Low Carbon Community Plan. Work on the plan will continue in the next year.

## 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 2023/24 such groups included:

Family Friends	200.00
Hope House Hospice	200.00
Cerebral Palsy Cymru	50.00
Teenage Cancer Trust	50.00
Wrexham Sounds	200.00
Pentre Gwyn Older Peoples Group	1000.00
Caia Park Environmental Group	300.00
Caia Park Environmental Group (Xmas)	95.00
Wales Air Ambulance	500.00
Wrexham Litter Pickers	200.00
Advance Brighter Futures	500.00
Family Friends	200.00
National Eisteddfod	50.00

The grant given to Pentre Gwyn Older People's Group was to support a Caia Park community event to mitigate social isolation.

#### **8. Pentre Gwyn Community Centre**

The Community Council continues to support the Trustees of the Pentre Gwyn, Tan y Coed and Coed y Bryn Residents Association who now manage their landholding and have a long lease from Wrexham County Borough Council on the community centre building.

The Trustees have worked hard to establish a position where the centre is now largely self-sufficient. They have attracted support from businesses to enhance the fabric of the building and have a small, dedicated volunteer base to undertake day to day functions. The Community Council see this centre as a vital resource for the community and allocates a budget amount to assist the centre financially if necessary.

#### **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.

There is a dedicated monthly agenda item to consider crime statistics and discuss with members and representatives of the Police 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 in 2020. 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. Comprehensive enhanced CCTV provision, selected demolition and alley gating have taken place.

The Community Council have funded an interactive speed sign which is located on Hightown Road.

#### **10. Community Agent Scheme**

The Community Council employ a part-time Community Agent (15 hrs per week) funded by Wrexham County Borough Council via a grant they receive from the 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. The Community Agent is responsible for signposting residents who are seeking help to the relevant agency. This year, the method of working has continued to rely on remote working and telephone interaction with the client base.

#### **11. Well-being**

The Community Council has funded a publicly accessible defibrillator and jointly funded a second one in partnership with Abenbury Community Council. These are located at the Housing Estate Office at Churchill Drive and Pentre Gwyn Community Centre. An additional defibrillator is to be installed on Holt Road.

#### **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 fit for the future. A number of competency tests and reporting requirements are emerging.

In May 2022 the Council elections were held with some boundary changes affecting Whitegate, Smithfield and Wynnstay Wards as well as returning an extra community councillor (now 15)

As of May 2023-24 the position was:

- There were 12 Councillors (elected) and 3 vacancies
- The current Clerk has appropriate professional qualifications (CILCA).
- The Council's budget for 2023-24 was £272,080

Agendas, minutes, accounts, and contact details can be found at [www.caiapark.gov.uk](http://www.caiapark.gov.uk) . The community can email the Clerk at [clerk@caiapark.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@caiapark.gov.uk)

**Rate Estimates BUDGET 2023/2024****INCOME**

Precept	250,866
Interest on Investments	450
Rent & letting fees: Prince Charles Rd	1,000
Sundry Income	25
Community Advice Service	6,943
Community Agent	12,000
Reserves	796
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>272,080</b>

**EXPENDITURE**

s.137 Donations	6,364
General Administration	37,435
Community Advice service	117,499
Prince Charles Road	19,263
Amenities & Environment	3,000

**Children's Services:**

Play areas	14,320
Repairs play areas	3,640
School crossing	17,635
CPP outreach SLA	8,806
Wrexham Play & Youth Partnership	16,986
Venture SLA	17,289
Footway Lighting	0
External Grants Comm Agent	9,843
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>272,080</b>

**Based on Tax Base 2023/24: 3982**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS: (as at May 2024)**

**CARTREFLE WARD (3)**

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Carole Lloyd	57 Pentre Gwyn, Wrexham LL13 8YE Tel: 07522 929341	
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**QUEENSWAY WARD (3)**

Siôn Edwards	14 Cobden Road, Wrecsam. LL13 7TH E mail: <a href="mailto:cymrosion@gmail.com">cymrosion@gmail.com</a>	(Lab)
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Vacancy

**SMITHFIELD WARD (3)**

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Vacancy

**WHITEGATE WARD (3)**

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Philip Huw Owen	13 Coed y Bryn, Wrexham, LL13 8YD E mail: <a href="mailto:philipowenhuw@gmail.com">philipowenhuw@gmail.com</a>	(Lab)

**WYNNSTAY WARD (3)**

Malcolm King	Tyddyn Draw, Llanelidan, Ruthin LL15 2TA Tel: 01824 750710 (home) 01978 355761 (work) Mobile: 07855 959489 E. mail: <a href="mailto:malcolm.king@wrexham.gov.uk">malcolm.king@wrexham.gov.uk</a>	(Lab)
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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 Youth and Play Partnership (WYPP)
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Wrexham Mission Area / St Marks Church
- Local businesses including Tesco, Co-op, Happy Hedgehog Café.
- Gwenfro, Hafod y Wern and St Anne's Primary schools
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Wrexham Litter pickers
- Pentre Gwyn Community Centre
- Caia Park Environmental Group
- William & John Jones Trust
- Pentre Gwyn Pensioners Club
- Nightingale House
- North Wales Police & PCSO's

Approved by Council with amendment June 2024