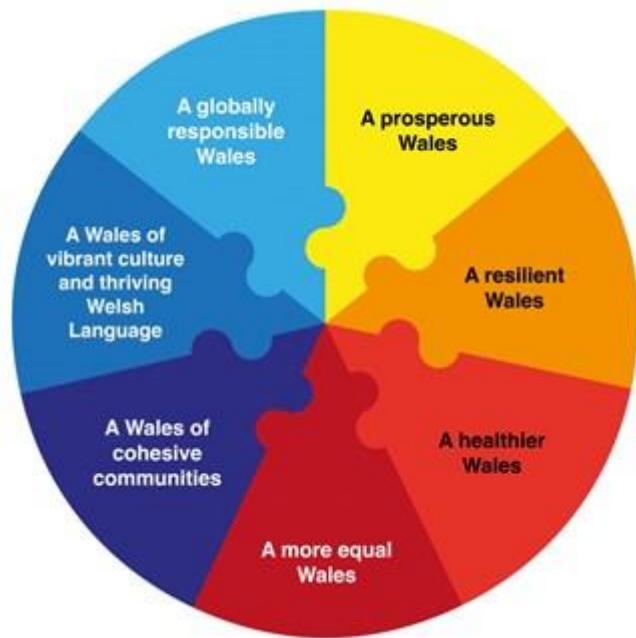


CAIA PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Annual report on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 For 2024-25



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.

2024-25 has been a 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)

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.

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 healthy functioning ecosystems 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	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 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)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. The Community Advice Service							
2. Play Provision							
3. School crossing patrols							
4. Maintenance and repair of public play facilities							
5. Youth work							
6. Climate change / biodiversity/Environment							
7. Financial assistance							
8. Pentre Gwyn Community Centre							
9. Crime prevention and reduction							
10. Community Agent							
11. Competent Council							

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 is by pre-booked appointments and telephone consultations rather than a drop in and wait service. During 2024-25 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 (£109,772 for 2024-25) are met entirely by the Community Council (approximately 40% of the total precept income.) The advice Service also provides one session per week for a neighbouring 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 one full time and three part time staff (2.73 full time equivalent) from April to November, and one full time and two part time staff (1.92 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 1st and 2nd in the highest areas of multiple deprivation. By providing this service, the Community Council is making a positive contribution.

During 2024-25 the Advice Service opened 587 cases: 500 for Caia Park residents; 79 for Offa residents and 8 for residents of other areas. Of the 587 cases, 461 were Welfare Benefit cases (78%), 28 cases were debt advice cases (5%), and the remainder of cases 98 (17%) mainly being housing matters, food/fuel vouchers, charitable grants, and cheaper tariff applications for water.

Clients by Ward:

Cartrefle	58
Queensway	101
Smithfield	25
Whitegate	51
Wynnstay	79
Offa Wards	51
Other areas	2
Total	367

From the assistance offered, financial gains to clients amounted to over £1,849,614 in 2024-25.

2. Play Provision

In 2024-25 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 £35,647.

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.

The Community Council funds three manned school crossings: Deva Way (Hafod y Wern School); Queensway (Gwenfro School); and Prince Charles Road (St Anne's R.C. Primary school).

Given that there are 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 2024-25 was £11,880.

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 Charles Road Queensway (Whitegate)

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

The inspection/maintenance costs this year was £15,089 and in addition, the Community Council has spent £269 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 2024-25 was £9,158.

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 to kick start and support the delivery of a Low Carbon Community Plan. Work on the plan continued during 2024-2025.

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 2024/25 such groups included:

Marie Curie Cymru	50.00
Friends of Belle Vue	50.00
Pentre Gwyn Older Peoples Group	1000.00
Nightingale House	500.00
Caia Park Environmental Group	500.00
Wrexham Sounds	360.00
Eisteddfod Cymru	300.00
The Venture/Gwenfro Valley	14,801.28
Wales Air Ambulance	500.00

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

During 2024-25 the Community Council employed 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.

As of May 2024-25 the position with regards to members was:

- There were 13 Councillors (elected) and 2 vacancies
- The current Clerk has appropriate professional qualifications (CILCA).
- The Council's budget for 2024-25 was £294,792

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

Appendix 1

Rate Estimates BUDGET 2024/2025

INCOME

Precept	271,932
Interest on Investments	2,500
Rent & letting fees: Prince Charles Rd	1,000
Sundry Income	0
Community Advice Service	7360
Community Agent	12,000
Reserves	0
TOTAL INCOME	294,792

EXPENDITURE

s.137 Donations	6,364
General Administration	44,973
Community Advice service	122,634
Prince Charles Road	21,558
Amenities & Environment	1,000
Children's Services:	
Play areas	14,737
Repairs play areas	3,000
School crossing	18,869
CPP outreach SLA	9,158
Wrexham Play & Youth Partnership	17,666
Venture SLA	17,981
Footway Lighting	0
External Grants Comm Agent	9,681
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	287,621

Based on Tax Base 2024/25: 3999

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (as at May 2025)

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Vacancy

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Vacancy

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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