

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2021

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL | TOWNCOUNCIL@CALDICOTTC.ORG.UK

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Caldicot Town Council



@CaldicotTown



SUMMARY

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

Caldicot Town Council is one of the public bodies which is required to produce an annual report, demonstrating how the council is working towards the visions and well-being goals within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

Covid-19 has had a significant impact on public services and has affected how services have been provided since early 2020.

Caldicot Town Council has changed working practices to comply with Central and Devolved Government public health directives. Changes had to be introduced swiftly and have been complied with by the Council and staff, as far as reasonably possible to do so.

The Annual Report 2020-2021 highlights progress that Caldicot Town Council has made in relation to tackling local issues and working with partners, in order to benefit communities.



INTRODUCTION

MAYORS FOREWORD

On behalf of myself, the Deputy Mayor Maxine Mitchell and Councillors we are all hopeful that the Coronavirus Pandemic is now receding.

The past year has been difficult for everyone.

We express our thanks and congratulate all the professionals, volunteers and groups for their community spirit and hard work. This has been very evident during the past year and the commitment is commendable.

Restrictions that were imposed will hopefully be relaxed and we are now looking to improve some facilities within the town.

To you the community of Caldicot, we express our most sincere gratitude and together we will move forward.

Cllr RJ Higginson, Mayor 2021/2022



Cllr M Mitchell, Deputy Mayor

Cllr RJ Higginson, Mayor



CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

☎ 01291 420441

✉ towncouncil@caldicottc.org.uk

🌐 www.caldicottc.org.uk

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

☎ 01633 644644

✉ contact@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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DECISIONS

CALDICOT TOWN COUNCIL

Caldicot Town Council, as a body, is responsible for making decisions and managing public money.

The Council is open and transparent in decision making and spending, all decisions are published within 7 days of a meeting being held.

Town Council meetings are held monthly at 6.30pm (last Wednesday of each month - except August and December), Planning & Resources Committee meetings are held monthly at 6.30pm (second Tuesday of each month) – further details can be found on the website www.caldicottc.org.uk

All meetings are open to the public and there is an opportunity for the public to contribute, to matters on the agenda.

Caldicot Town Council serve the residents of Caldicot and is responsible for a number of assets and facilities, which include Dewstow Cemetery, Jubilee Way Toilets (supported by Mon CC), King George V Playing Fields, allotment sites and Dog Waste Bins.

Details of finance, policy documents, Council activity and additional information about the Council can be found on the website.

Caldicot Town Council is a separate body to Monmouthshire County Council, therefore, manages different functions and responsibilities.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Monmouthshire County Council is responsible for services including education, health and social services, leisure, refuse and recycling, street cleaning, highways - both roads and pavements – street lighting and libraries.

The library/hub is the base for Monmouthshire County Council and officers would be able to assist with queries relating to Council Tax, Education, Health, Highways, Leisure, Social Care and Street Lighting.

Monmouthshire Council can be contacted by telephone, email or popping into the local hub/library. Visit the website at www.monmouthshire.gov.uk

THE COUNCIL

The Council is within a tier of local government, another tier would be Monmouthshire County Council as the unitary authority. The Council is a corporate body and the decisions are made as a whole, the Council has the right to raise money through taxation (precept) and spend in accordance with the legal powers.

Membership of Caldicot Town Council has changed over the past year and new Councillors have joined the Council. Town Councillors are elected or co-opted onto wards to represent the individuals in those areas. At least two-thirds of the total number of members of the Council have been elected, whether at an ordinary election or at a by-election. The variety of representation on the Town Council means that there are a number of skills and expertise across the Council.

The Mayor is the face of the Council, attending events and chairing Town Council meetings. The Town Council employs staff who are managed by the Clerk, the proper officer of the Council in law. The clerk provides advice and support, and takes action to implement Council decisions. The clerk has a varied role and is answerable only to the Council as a whole.

Caldicot Town Council consists of five wards, represented as follows:

Caldicot Castle Ward	
 <p>Cllr J Bond 52 Wentwood View Caldicot NP26 4QH 01291 420188 JillianBond@caldicottc.org.uk</p>	 <p>Cllr O Edwards 62A Caldicot Road Rogiet Caldicot NP26 3SG OliverEdwards@caldicottc.org.uk</p>
 <p>Cllr R Garrick 15 Heol Sirhowy Caldicot NP26 4NE 07915071878 RachelGarrick@caldicottc.org.uk</p>	
Caldicot Dewstow Ward	
 <p>Cllr A Easson 60 Lodge Crescent Caldicot NP26 4JS 01291 421250 AnthonyEasson@caldicottc.org.uk</p>	 <p>Cllr M Mitchell 40 Firs Road Caldicot NP26 4DQ 01291 421445 MaxineMitchell@caldicottc.org.uk</p>
 <p>Cllr F Rowberry 149 Elan Way Caldicot NP26 4QB 01291 423672 FrankRowberry@caldicottc.org.uk</p>	 <p>Cllr P Stevens 24 Durand Road Caldicot NP26 5BZ 01291 423090 PhilipStevens@caldicottc.org.uk</p>

Caldicot Green Lane Ward



Cllr R Wilsher
Sharpy Cottage
Caldicot
01291 421508

robwilsher@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr W Conniff
94 Taff Road
Caldicot
NP26 4PY
01291 423013

WyndhamConniff@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr C Watkins
Longcroft Road
Caldicot

crispinwatkins@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr M Stevens
24 Durand Road
Caldicot
NP26 5BZ
01291 423090

MariaStevens@caldicottc.org.uk

Caldicot Severn Ward



Cllr R J Higginson
31 Eagle Close
Caldicot
NP26 5FA
01291 420663

JimHigginson@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr J Harris
Myrtle Cottage
The Cross
Caerwent
Caldicot
NP26 5AZ

01291 760311 or 07825446560

JamesHarris@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr A Lloyd
142 Castle Lea
Caldicot
NP26 4HS
01291 424886

AlunLloyd@caldicottc.org.uk

Caldicot West End Ward



Cllr D Evans
32 Denny View
Caldicot
NP26 5LS
01291 420354 or 07484635745

DavidEvans@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr J Dobson-Pettican
55 Longfellow Road
Caldicot, NP26 4LB
07305267076

Jessica@caldicottc.org.uk



Cllr K Harris
4 Blackbird Road
Caldicot
NP26 5RF

KayHarris@caldicottc.org.uk

Attendance at meetings

The following charts highlight Councillor attendance at meetings, 2020/2021

	24.06 2020	08.07 2020	29.07 2020	<i>am</i> 30.09 2020	30.09 2020	28.10 2020	<i>est</i> 10.11 2020	25.11 2020	27.01 2021	24.02 2021	31.03 2021
DA*		1	1					1			
WC				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AE	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
OE			1				1				
DE	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1
RG			1		1	1	1	1	1	1	
KH			1	1	1				1	1	1
JH			1				1			1	1
RJH	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1
AL			1	1	1	1	1				1
MM	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
FR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
MS		1						1		1	1
PS	1			1	1			1		1	
JDP				1	1			1		1	
JB	1	1		1	1	1		1	1	1	1
DN **	1	1	1	1	1						
CW ***											1

FULL COUNCIL

* resigned Mar 20
 ** resigned Oct 20
 *** co-opted Mar 20
 (*am* – annual meeting)
 (*est* – Estimates meeting)

	08.09.20	10.11.20	08.12.20	12.01.21	09.03.21
DA *	1				
WC	1	1		1	1
AE	1	1	1	1	1
OE		1			
DE	1	1	1	1	1
RG	1			1	1
KH	1		1	1	1
JH		1		1	1
RJH	1	1	1	1	1
AL		1			
MM	1	1		1	1
FR	1	1	1	1	1
MS			1	1	1
PS	1		1	1	
JDP					
JB	1		1	1	
DN **	1				
CW ***					

PLANNING & RESOURCES

* resigned Mar 20
 ** resigned Oct 20
 *** co-opted Mar 20



CHALLENGES

COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Maintaining and providing assets for the community
- Looking after vulnerable individuals
- Contributing to planning matters, through recommendations
- Effective budget management
- Open and transparent democratic process



ONGOING ACTIVITY

- Develop communication and social media presence
- Increase availability of cemetery records
- Sharing experience with partner organisations



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Increased communication via social media and website
- Promotion of health information
- Volunteering and community support
- Sharing of partner information regarding financial support and grants
- Civic attendance at events and functions

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the most challenging periods for everyone. During the pandemic, there was a lot of pressure on public services and the Council changed its ways of working. The Town Council continued to work alongside the community and expresses continued thanks to volunteers and community for the support to residents during the crisis.

RESOURCES AND LEGISLATION

The impact of the pandemic has affected the way that the Council undertakes business. Changes in legislation have allowed the Council to work electronically, the use of electronic agendas and meetings, have been introduced (previously these were not allowed by law).

- The Town Council approved policies which enabled staff to home-work. Staff were provided with relevant equipment, to facilitate this and to ensure that attendance at the Town Council's offices was strictly limited. Staff workloads changed significantly to adapt to public health measures as amended from time to time;
- The Council moved to remote meetings; to protect staff, public and members. The meetings are open and transparent, with agendas and minutes publicised in the normal way;
- There were significant implications for the Town Council, pertaining to asset management and closure of certain facilities (e.g. public toilets and play area);
- Dewstow Cemetery remained open for visitation and graveside services with limited attendance. The Town Council staff worked closely with funeral directors, to ensure that regulations were adhered to;
- The play area and public toilets were closed: This decision was taken due to Central government directives and advice from the unitary authority and One Voice Wales. Subsequently facilities were safely reopened, with relevant signage displayed, and in accordance with Central and Devolved government directives;
- The Town Council building was closed. Groups were unable to meet due to Central and Devolved government directives. However, support services (i.e. Caldicot Foodbank) continued to operate from the building, ensuring that people in need could obtain food parcels and support.

Members have implemented modified working practices to ensure that Caldicot Town Council continued to provide high quality services to its Constituents.

The Council is committed to continue to provide services and facilities which will benefit the local residents and communities.



TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE

Caldicot Town Council has legal powers to raise money through taxation (the precept) and the Council has a range of powers to enable to spending of public money. The Estimates Committee of the Council meets annually to agree the precept for the following financial year, decisions of the Estimates Committee are approved at a full Town Council meeting.

In setting the budget, the Council considers ongoing pressures and projects, as well as looking at other potential sources of funding.

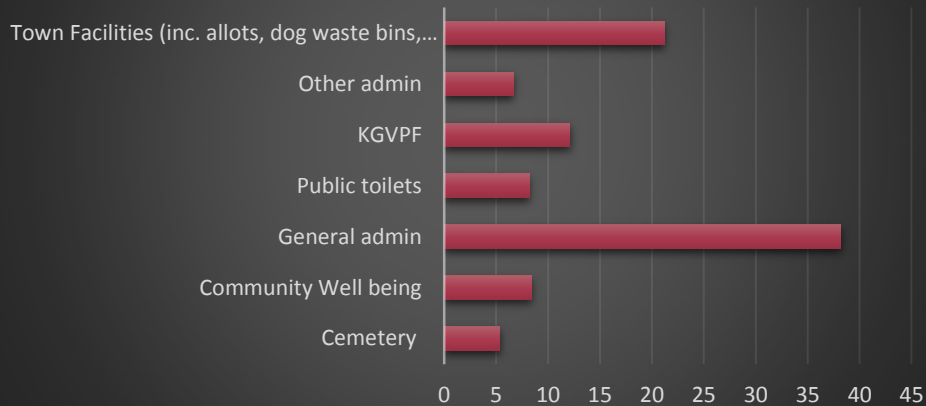
In 2020/2021 Caldicot Town Council agreed a slight decrease in the precept and published information to that effect.

Cllr David Evans, Mayor (2020/21): *“This decrease has been passed on to Monmouthshire County Council and will be considered when Council Tax demands are issued. The reduction represents an average charge of £97.18 per Band D household, this achieves a 1% saving per household compared to 2019/20.”*

This table shows a breakdown of areas for main spending for 2020/21:

2020/2021	%
Town Facilities	21
Cemetery	6
Well-being	9
King George V Playing Fields	12
Other admin	6
General admin	38
Public Toilets	8

Caldicot Town Council 2020/21 Budget



Caldicot Town Council
Budget spend shown in Percentages (%)

The chart above shows the percentages of the total Town Council spend and where the budget was used. To give context to the figures shown, the areas are broken down to include the following (lists are not exhaustive):

Well-being

- Entertainment, Arts & Events
- Support for young people (e.g. playscheme/youth group)
- Community groups
- Floral displays and presentations
- Commemorative functions (e.g. Royal British Legion, Merchant Navy)
- Support for older people (e.g. groups/lunches)

King George V Playing Fields

- Provision of green space, play area and fitness equipment
- Continued ground maintenance and management
- Bowls green maintenance
- Football pitch maintenance

General admin

- Governance and management of Town Council functions
- Support/guide/advise at Town Council meetings
- Provision of information to enable Council to make informed decisions
- Raising the profile of Council
- Implementation of Council decisions and organisation of Council procedures

Cemetery

- Provision of burial facility
- Continued grounds maintenance and management

Town Facilities

- Allotments
- CCTV
- Christmas lights
- Dog waste bins
- Bus shelters
- Contribution to Citizens Advice Bureau
- Defibrillators
- Hand sanitiser units

Public toilets

- Partnership working with Mon CC
- Management and maintenance of public toilets

Other admin

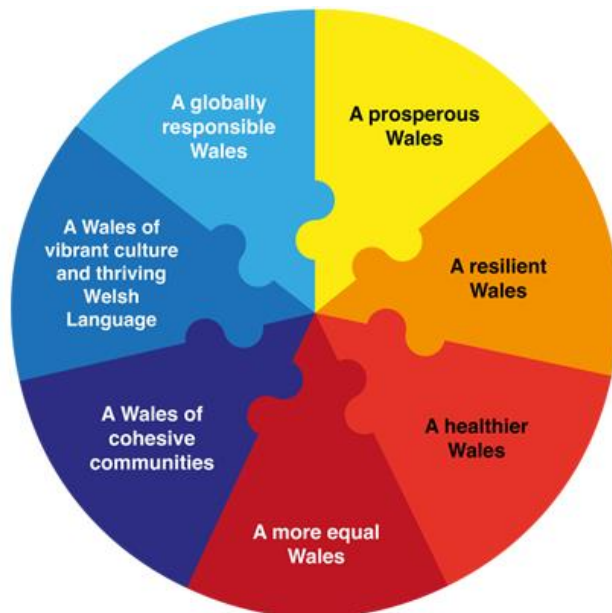
- Training for Town Council and staff
- Provision of equipment to support office infrastructure
- Insurance and IT support
- Regalia for Mayor and Deputy
- Civic functions
- Professional advice
- Newsletters and publications

WELL-BEING

A specific proportion of Caldicot Town Council budget is allocated to well-being, the amount can vary from year to year. Activities are vast and range from provision of green spaces, playing fields, play equipment, allotments, sports facilities through to hosting support groups, to assist those in need.

Caldicot Town Council annually reports the well-being objectives to Monmouthshire Public Service Board, demonstrating how the Council is achieving the goals and applying the five ways of working in order to support the Public Service Board aims.

Monmouthshire Public Service Board (PSB) have set four well-being objectives, 'provide children and young people with the best possible start in life', 'respond to the challenges associated with demographic change', 'protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change', 'develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county'.



“The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.”



'Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life'



'Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change'



'Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change'



'Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county'

APPLYING THE FIVE WAYS OF WORKING

LONG TERM

The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

Caldicot Town Council Well-being plan is a live document to be updated annually and reflect changing long and short term needs.

PREVENTION

How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Caldicot Town Council will assist in prevention, through mitigating risks and advising other public bodies of any matters that arise.

INTEGRATION

Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Caldicot Town Council will utilise expertise of other local bodies to ensure that objectives are met locally and regionally.

COLLABORATION

Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Caldicot Town Council is committed to working with partners to ensure that well-being objectives are continually identified and met.

INVOLVEMENT

The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

Caldicot Town Council is committed to ensuring that consultation and engagement is undertaken with local people to ensure maximum involvement for residents in the decision making process.

OBJECTIVES



'Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life'



'Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change'



'Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change'



'Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county'

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- Authority appointed representatives on school governing boards.
- Financial support and prize presentations at Summer Reading Challenge.
- Working with schools and Community Hub.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

- Hosting support groups to improve and promote health and wellbeing
- Working in partnership to help to reduce loneliness and isolation
- Supporting events which improve health and well being

ENVIRONMENT

- Wildflowers and planting
- Keep wales tidy – litter hub, green flag
- Monitoring the need for alternative energy source.
- Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity



ECONOMY

- Working in partnerships with groups, organisations and community volunteers.
- Supporting community economy and activities for residents.



National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
<p>Prosperous: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldicot Town Council is committed to working actively with partners to encourage and promote the town. • Caldicot Town Council has developed the website and set up a Facebook page, the website provides key contact information and responsibilities of the Council and promotes activities of local voluntary groups and organisations. Both website and social media are used to inform and communicate with residents, publicising meeting information, events and signposting to other service providers. • The Town Council financially supports a number of events and activities within Caldicot, through the grants process and as part of the agreed budget, these include Christmas Lighting, Fireworks, Carnival, Caldicot Castle, Youth Group, Church Lunches, Playscheme, Civic Ceremony, Royal British Legion parade, Best Kept Garden/Citizens Awards, Competition, Citizens Advice Bureau. • The Town Council is committed to development of young people in the area and supported the new school development, library reading initiatives and competitions, as well as contributions to the Youth Group. • Town Council grants are available for local groups and organisations.
<p>Resilient: 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldicot Town Council is committed to ensuring that the town remains a pleasant clean and safe environment. The Town Council is not responsible for any highways or street cleaning, however, has developed excellent working relationships with the responsible authority, Monmouthshire County Council. • Caldicot Town Council provides public toilets, bus shelters, dog waste bins, whilst contributing to street cleaning, grass cutting and CCTV. • Street Cleaning, litter collection, refuse and recycling are the responsibility of Monmouthshire County Council. However, in supporting these services and engaging with colleagues at the County Council, Caldicot Town Council can assist in addressing areas of concern. • The Town Council acts as consultee on Planning matters and observations will be made, to the Local Planning Authority, on any issues which are perceived to be a detriment to the town.
<p>Healthier: 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing outdoor space as Trustees of King George V Playing Fields, the Council is committed to the health of residents in Caldicot. Ensuring the playing fields are regularly maintained and safe, for use by the public. The playing fields encompass a children’s play area, adult outdoor exercise equipment and sports associations (Caldicot Bowls Club, Caldicot Town AFC) • The Town Council provides 3 allotment sites for use by Caldicot residents, the sites encourage and allow people to cultivate their own gardens, growing produce for their own consumption. • The Town Council actively supports wellbeing through use of town council building for groups and organisations within the community, such as Foodbank, AA, MIND, Community Connections (patients with dementia).

National Well-being Goal	Local Activity
<p>More Equal: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council office is based centrally within the town, within a ground floor building, services are accessible. • Town Council provide use of the building to groups and organisations, which enable a wide range of people to enhance their skills and fulfil their potential through taking part in activities. • Development of the KGVPF Compound building will encourage health and wellbeing, through availability of increased facilities on the playing fields. • Providing financial support for the operation of summer play schemes, ensuring that a facility is available for children to develop and enhance skills.
<p>Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldicot Town Council is responsible for the delivery of a number of services and amenities. • Town Council manage Dewstow Cemetery and work with local funeral directors to provide a considerate and respectable service to residents. • Through devolution of services, the Town Council now manage the public toilets, taken on from Monmouthshire County Council. In addition, the Town Council provide bus shelters and dog waste bins. • The Town Council support services, operated by Monmouthshire County Council, these include provision of CCTV, street cleaning, Caldicot Castle events. • Caldicot Town Council is committed to working with partners to create an attractive, viable, safe and well-connected community.
<p>Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town Council support a number of events throughout the town, which ensure vibrant surroundings. • Caldicot Town Council annually supply Christmas lights for the town centre, as well as financially supporting the event. • Heritage within the town is paramount and the Town Council have contributed and supported events at Caldicot Castle, this includes the Eisteddfod proclamation ceremony. • Caldicot Town Council operates in accordance with the Welsh language policy and adheres to legislative requirements
<p>Globally Responsible: where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caldicot Town Council has responded to a number of surveys, primarily from Welsh Government, which demonstrates a commitment to global well-being and the capacity to adapt to change. • Caldicot Town Council are concerned with energy consumption at all premises and ensure that the best value for money is obtained when renewing utility contracts and undertaking procedures to ensure that energy is not unnecessarily used.



'Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life'



'Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change'



'Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change'



'Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county'

WHAT HAS THE COUNCIL DONE?

2020/2021

Caldicot Town Council and staff have worked through a particularly difficult time during the pandemic. The Council has continued to provide services and support the community:

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- Collaborated with MCC to share 'school boxes' – craft equipment for children during lockdown
- Hosted venue and promoted 'pre-loved' school uniform exchange

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- Putting those in need, in contact with volunteers or organisations for support
- Hosting support groups to improve and promote health and wellbeing
- Provision of defibrillator at Caldicot Castle AFC
- Floral bouquet presentations – 60th Wedding Anniversary and 100th Birthday

ENVIRONMENT

- Collaborative working with Mon CC, Town Centre developments and funding for new planters
- Litter hub – spring clean Wales, in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy

ECONOMY

- Providing hi-viz vests for volunteers
- Provision and maintenance of hand sanitizer units across Caldicot
- Financial support to CAB, Youth Service, Events and local charities



ENVIRONMENT WALES ACT 2016

Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced a duty under s6 which requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'. The s6 duty is about taking steps to protect nature in our towns, cities, public places and wider landscape, both through practical action on the ground, and in the way all public functions are carried out.

Caldicot Town Council demonstrates how it contributes positively to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, whether through procurement, sustainability policies, awareness raising, training, cascading funding criteria to others, or acting in partnership with others.

Town and Community Councils have potential, through their range of functions and coverage of Wales, to contribute to improving conditions for biodiversity.

Nature is in decline, and with it, the services it provides to all of us in terms of benefits for our health, economy and culture. We must all now urgently take action for biodiversity at every opportunity to reverse its decline in Wales and globally - for its intrinsic value, and to secure our own well-being.

Small, every day, local scale actions can make a difference and can contribute to helping biodiversity. Town Council decision making can affect biodiversity, for example through funding decisions and conditions.

To comply with the duty public authorities must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience.

Caldicot Town Council reported at the end of 2019, this will be reviewed every 3 years.

Reporting

The 6 objectives to maintain and enhance biodiversity are:

- **Objective 1:** **Engage and support participation and understanding** to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels
- **Objective 2:** **Safeguard species and habitats** of principal importance and improve their management
- **Objective 3:** **Increase the resilience of our natural environment** by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- **Objective 4:** **Tackle key pressures** on species and habitats
- **Objective 5:** **Improve our** evidence, understanding and monitoring
- **Objective 6:** **Put in place a framework of** governance and support for delivery.

Caldicot Town Council
Environment Wales Act 2016 – Maintaining and Enhancing Biodiversity

Caldicot Town Council is located in the South of Monmouthshire, with approximately 12,000 residents, surrounded by the smaller communities of Rogiet, Portskewett and Caerwent.

Caldicot Town Council serves the residents of Caldicot and is responsible for a number of green spaces, which include Dewstow Cemetery, King George V Playing Fields and 3 allotment sites.

The Town Council was awarded Green Flag status in 2019, for Dewstow Cemetery and King George V Playing Fields.

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
- Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels	Work to raise awareness across the organisation, particularly in relation to decision making and recommendations on planning applications.	Council
- Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management	Aim to engage services of expertise in relation to Town Council projects (i.e. ecologist-cemetery extension), in order to safeguard protected species and restore habitats.	Council
- Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation	Endeavor to support the creation of new habitats, wildflower areas and bee friendly planting (i.e. Living Levels – facilitating community life) Managing land and green spaces, committing to biodiversity (i.e. Green Flag)	Council
- Tackle key pressures on species and habitats	Strive to encourage biodiversity in all areas e.g. within horticultural maintenance, planting areas, hedges/wildflowers.	Council
- Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring	Making decisions and plans based on the best available evidence, and contributing to our body of knowledge where possible, for example supporting community initiatives.	Council
- Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery.	Responsibilities towards the duty of s6 will be reported in the Town Council Annual report.	Council
Key outcomes: use narrative and metrics where possible	Providing support, involvement and/or funding for partnerships and collaboration for local and community-based biodiversity action	
Review points, for e.g. enablers and barriers to action, improvements to forward plan	Consider opportunities which provide support, involvement and/or funding for partnerships and collaboration for local and community-based biodiversity action.	
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	Town Council will continue to contribute to action for biodiversity and actions will be reviewed to ensure fit for purpose under the S6 duty. <i>3 year review period</i>	

A year in pictures



Clr D Evans - Mayor 2020/21
Clr RJ Higginson – Mayor 2021/22



WHAT'S NEXT

The Council is aware that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in reduced community events and there was a big effect on the economy.

Caldicot Town Council is committed to continuing with developments, which have been delayed due to the pandemic and implementing further tasks which will benefit the community.

What do you want from your local Council?

Ideas for the future include:

- Best Kept Garden/Citizen/Business awards
- 'Community Thank you' event for residents
- MUGA project – King George V Playing Field
- Access for community groups to use Council building
- Civic attendance at events
- Continued partnership working with organisations
- Cemetery development and access to online burial records
- Additional defibrillators around Caldicot

