

YSTRADGYNLAIS TOWN COUNCIL



WELL-BEING REPORT

2020-2021

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The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Well-being Report 2020-2021

1. Introduction

Ystradgynlais, the southern most town in Powys, developed because of the coal and iron industries of the 19th century. These have now been replaced by small industrial units throughout the district. The town is close to the northern terminus of the former 16 mile long Swansea Canal and the southern terminus of the 20 mile long former Brecon Forest Tramroad together forming a commercial artery from the sea to the heartland of Brecknock and provided local employment opportunities in the area. Their route is today broadly followed by the A4067 from Swansea to Sennybridge.

Ystradgynlais provides a gateway to the Brecon Beacons National Park making the surrounding area a popular venue for outdoor enthusiasts. The town is the area's business, transport and cultural centre with a busy shopping centre where the Welsh language is in common use.

The Town Council has 16 elected councillors with two part time members of staff representing approx.6,500 electors. The Council is divided into four wards:- Abercraf, Cwmtwrch, Ynyscedwyn and Ystradgynlais and has a current precept raised from Powys County Council of £304,000 (2021). The Chairman and Vice Chairman are elected annually in May.

2. Council's Current Responsibilities

The Council is responsible

- to the local electorate for delivering a range of services.
- for the provision and upkeep of local amenities.
- for representing the interests of individual members of the public and the wider community.
- for supporting/encouraging members of the community to improve the local environment and services within the community.
- for maintaining and enhancing the area's biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.

The Town Council vision as the closest level of government to the Community is to provide a voice for the Community, representing the area at County and National level. The Council works closely with the Local County Council Ward Members to ensure that County Council, Police, Welsh Government and other authorities take account of the needs of the Community when making decisions that affect local residents.

The Council uses the powers and resources available to it to proactively react to the needs of the Community and provide appropriate levels of relevant services to the community of Ystradgynlais.

3. What are the requirements of the Well-being Act ?

The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term; work better with people and communities and each other; look to prevent problems; and take a more joined-up approach. This will help to create the Wales that people want to live in, now and in the future.

4. What are the Requirements of the Town Council ?

The Act places a duty on community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the local well-being plan that has effect in their areas.

A community or town council is subject to that duty only if its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the year in which the local well-being plan is published.

If a community or town council is subject to the duty, it must publish a report annually detailing its progress in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan.

The Act requires public services boards (**PSBs**) to involve community and town councils in the process of improving the well-being of their areas, regardless of whether the duty in section 40(1) of the Act applies to those councils. All community and town councils are classed as “other partners” of public services boards and must be consulted by those boards on the assessment of local well-being and subsequently on the local well-being plan. They will also have the opportunity of engaging with the public services board when invited to do so. The **Powys Public Service Board’s Well-being Plan** concentrates on four areas: *Social, Economy, Environment and Culture*.

Community and town councils which are subject to the duty will need to liaise closely with the public services board (PSB) for their area i.e. the Powys PSB on the setting of objectives in the local well-being plan, given that they are required to take all reasonable steps in their areas towards meeting these objectives.

It should be noted that during the year 2020-2021 the work of Ystradgynlais Town Council (along with all other Councils) has been severely curtailed due to the lockdown arrangements imposed by the Wales and National Governments during the COVID pandemic.

5. The Act sets seven well-being goals and gives a description of each of them.

Well-being goal	Description
A more prosperous Wales	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.
A resilient Wales	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).
A healthier Wales	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.
A more equal Wales	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).
A Wales of cohesive communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	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.
A globally responsible Wales	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.

6. The Council's response to the seven Requirements/Goals

Powys PSB Plan

y = completed

O = ongoing

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment.	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
A more prosperous Wales	<p>The Town Council makes budget provision for Community improvement activities such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festive Christmas lights in each of the four council wards Provision of bunting for use by local groups and decoration of the town centre and satellite villages. <p>The Town Council is in the process of upgrading its current web site.</p> <p>The Town Council has representatives on the Governing bodies of local Primary schools.</p>	O	O			O	O
		O	O			O	O
		O	O	O	O	O	O
		O			O	O	O
A resilient Wales	<p>The Town Council has responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorof Cemetery. Grass is mown following a regular programme. Hedges surrounding the cemetery are maintained in good order. Timber and pruned branches from surrounding trees are stacked in the cemetery's expansion plot providing natural habitats for birds and small mammals found in the area. The use of pesticides/herbicides is not encouraged except on invasive species such as knotweed. Drainage work has been implemented at the cemetery to prevent flooding onto neighbouring land. Works completed in the Garden of Remembrance (Ashes area) to maximise space available, improve aesthetics and uniformity of standard. Regulations have been imposed to prevent non-biodegradable items being left in the cemetery. Children's Playground at Swn y Nant, Cwmtwrch , Playground at Caerbont, Playground at Abercraf and a Skateboarding Park at Penrhos. 						
				O		O	O
				Y		O	O
		Y		Y		Y	O
		O				O	

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'men	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
	<p>There is a regular maintenance programme of grass cutting and tree maintenance during late spring and summer only allowing natural plant, birds and insect life to develop during the remainder of the year.</p> <p>The Town Council will always consider biodiversity and associated environmental issues in its projects and annual maintenance programmes.</p>	O		O		O	O
A healthier Wales	<p>The Town Council owns and maintains four Parks/Open spaces near the town centre. These areas are well used by visitors and members of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coronation Park covering an area of approx. 32 hectares. The development of this Park commenced in 1980s and is ongoing. The grass and hedges are maintained following a regular programme. • District War Memorial at Gorsedd Park. Working in partnership with the local branch of the Royal British Legion, Powys C.C. and <i>Ystradgynlais Heritage & Language Society</i> two memorial benches were installed adjacent to the memorial in 2019-2020 and planting of appropriate shrubs/flowers in the immediate area. Refurbishment work was completed in 2017 and additional work in providing floodlighting of the memorial in 2020-21. 	O		O		O	O

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Cullture	2020-21	2021-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Diamond Park covering an area of approx. 14 hectares. Development of this Park on former colliery sites began in 2005.</p> <p>Its facilities have been regularly enhanced. In 2020-21 a commemorative bench, based on the mining theme, has been installed alongside one of its many footpaths.</p> <p>Environmental work undertaken to shore up the bank of Nant Gylrais with tree trunk sections.</p> <p>A footpath improvement scheme has commenced in the park.</p> <p>Daniel Protheroe Memorial Park covering an area of approx. 0.125 hectares. Refurbished the hard landscape as a joint project with the <i>Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society</i> in 2017.</p> <p>Appropriate shrubs and planting have been completed and maintained by <i>Blodau</i> a local volunteer group.</p> <p>The Town Council maintains these open spaces to a high standard and they provide quiet, contemplating areas close to the town centre and have been appreciated and well used by the members of the community during the period of the Covid Pandemic.</p> <p>The Town Council provides and maintains a number of benches in and around the town</p> <p>Public footpaths. The Town Council maintains to a high standard a network of public footpaths in the area which are well used and appreciated by the members of the community. Two of which have been refurbished in 2019-2020.</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p> <p>Y</p>		<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p>	<p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p> <p>Y</p> <p>Y</p> <p>O</p>	<p></p> <p>O</p> <p>O</p> <p>O</p> <p>O</p> <p>O</p>

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
	<p>Council's response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Footpath linking Wind Road, Glanrhyd and the National Cycle Route 43 (Systrans route) near Gorof Road. This has been resurfaced, landscaped, public seating provided. Planting of appropriate shrubs and flowers. This footpath is wide enough to accommodate cyclists. Footpath linking Ynyscedwyn Road and Gorof Road following the line of a feeder canal off the former Swansea Canal to what is now the former site of the Ynyscedwyn Ironworks . This has been resurfaced and shrubbery alongside the path cleared. This footpath is wide enough to accommodate cyclists <p>Sports facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Council owns the Tick Tock Bowls club which is available for use by members of the community. The lease for which has been extend for a period of 25 years. The Town Council grants an annual payment of £5k to the Bowls Committee covering maintenance costs etc. Recreation Ground. The Town Council along with Powys County Council and representatives of local sports clubs are negotiating an extension of the lease on this sports field for the benefit of the community. The Town Council has agreed in principle to make a major financial contribution towards a new 50 year lease for this area of land. Charitable status has been obtained for the Group tasked to manage the Recreational Grounds. 	Y		Y	O	Y	O
A more equal Wales	<p>The Town Council has representatives on the following local organisations promoting well-being and volunteering opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ystradgynlais Volunteer Centre Nant Helen Liaison Committee Welfare Fund. Brecknock Disabled Access Group One Voice Wales 	O	O		O	O	O

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystradgynlais Welfare & Community Hall • Tick Tock Community Bowls • Open Cast Liaison Committee • Ystradgynlais Focus on Health Committee • Discover Ystradgynlais • Recreation Grounds Steering Committee • Nant Helen OCCS Restoration Committee • Abercrave Welfare Hall • Cwmtwrch Wefare Hall • Ystradgynlais Task & finish Group 	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
A Wales of cohesive communities	<p>The Town Council supports the enhancement of the town centre and satellite communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financially supporting the work of volunteer groups by contributing finance to provide floral displays along kerbside and strategic areas in the community and bilingual interpretation panels outlining the area's rich cultural and industrial heritage. <p>Regular liaison with Dyfed Powys Police</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV cameras. Cameras are being located in various parts of the town centre responding to reports of antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of the camera locations. • Speed restrictions. Regular consultations with the police service regarding reported speeding incidents through Cwmtwrch along the A4068. <p>Town Centre toilets. A grant is paid to the Town Amenities Society to maintain the town centre toilets closed by Powys C.C.</p>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	 <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.	<p>The Town Council generously supports financially the activities at three Welfare Halls:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall which it owns • Abercraf Welfare Hall and Cwmtwrch Welfare Hall by providing operational grants to the Management Committees 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'men	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
	<p>Regrettably, few activities have taken part during the lockdown period imposed by Government Covid Regulations.</p> <p>The Town Council is supportive of the work of local volunteer groups which provide cultural events, exhibitions and enhancement features to the community. Financial assistance has been provided to the following groups :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ystradgynlais District Heritage & Language Society</i> to provide bilingual interpretation panels alongside public footpaths to illustrate the area's local heritage and provision of associated bilingual information pamphlets. • <i>Blodau Ystradgynlais</i> to provide floral decoration in the town centre and surrounding areas of the town centre. • <i>Abercraf Regeneration Group</i> which as one of its activities has planted flowers along the Abercraf By-pass and placed flower troughs at various points in the Abercraf Ward. • <i>Cwmtwrch Regeneration Group</i> where flower containers have been placed at various points along the A4068 passing through the Cwmtwrch Ward. • Josef Herman Foundation which provides educational art experiences for local schools. • Working in partnership with the Heritage Society and Blodau to produce a bilingual A3 <i>Welcome to Ystradgynlais District</i> pamphlet distributed free of charge to local businesses, restaurants, cafes and holiday accommodation facilities. 	O	O	O	O	O	O
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Well-being goal	Council's response	Social	Economy	Env'ment	Culture	2020-21	2021-22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Discover Ystradgynlais.</i> The group of volunteers is funded to provide summer and winter events in the town centre, Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall and the Gorsedd Park. Electric power has been provided in the Gorsedd Park to illuminate the Christmas Decorations, Community Christmas tree etc. in the park. Bunting for decoration of the town has also been provided. <p>The Town Council maintains the town clock located in the town centre.</p> <p>The Town Council supports local community groups and organisation by providing an annual grants programme to support the organisations' activities. Grant recipients are listed in Appendix 1</p>	○	○		○	○	○
		○		○		○	○
A globally responsible Wales	<p>Cultural activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Town Council supports the work of the Welfare, Ystradgynlais as a cultural centre for performances by international arts and cultural collaboration groups. The Town Council contributes grant aid to local choirs and youth groups that have organised overseas concert/ educational visits. The Town Council is associated with its sister community at Clark's Summit, Pennsylvania U.S.A. 	○			○	○	○
		○			○	○	○
		○			○	○	○

APPENDIX 1 Grant Recipients awarded to local Organizations & Societies

Abercraf RFC – Sporting Group
Cwmtwrch RFC – Sporting Group
Penrhos AFC Juniors – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais RFC – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais AFC – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais Ladies Bowling Club – Sporting Group
Ystradgynlais Welfare Sports Ground

Ainon Chapel Sisterhood -
Bethania Chapel
Beulah Chapel
St Cynogs Church
St Cynogs Church Hall
Eglwys Annibynol Sardis

Abercrave Senior Citizens
Abercraf Regeneration Group
Blodau – Community Action Group
Cwmtwrch Regeneration Group
Heritage Book publication
Citizens Advice Powys – Not sure this award was drawn on due to the Welfare being closed
Cor Dathlu Male Choir
Cor y Gyrlais
Discover ystradgynlais
Stitching for Superheroes – Covid Community Group
Penrhos Allotment Association
Ystradgynlais Senior Citizens

1st Swansea Valley Scout Group
1st Ynyscedwyn Scout Group
Ystradgynlais District Heritage and Language Society
Ystradgynlais Foodbank
Ystradgynlais Public Band

Ystradgynlais Community Car Scheme
Ystradgynlais Community car scheme
Ystradgynlais Summer Playscheme
Cwmtwrch Summer Playscheme
Ystradgynlais Volunteer Service