

BRECON TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26



Cyngor Tref
Aberhonddu

Brecon
Town Council

FOREWORD

This is Brecon Town Council's Annual report detailing its work carried out in 2025-26 and illustrating the well-being objectives contributed to this year, as well as providing some general information about the Council.

THE COUNCIL

Brecon has 15 Town Councillors in 4 wards:

St David Ward:	Councillor Steve Morgans Councillor David Meredith Councillor Sian Drinan
St Mary Ward:	Councillor Charlotte Walton Councillor Trish Fretten Councillor Mark Perry Councillor Liz Rijnenberg Councillor Mahadev Thapa
St John Ward East:	Councillor Neil Stone Councillor Chris Walsh Councillor John Powell
St John Ward West:	Councillor Marie Matthews Councillor Rob Thomas Councillor Matthew Dorrance Councillor Michaela Davies

Contact details for Councillors can be found on Brecon Town Council's website at <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/councillors/>

COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Brecon Town Council has three Committees as follows:

Planning, Guildhall, and Staffing Committee

This Committee plays a key role in shaping Brecon's future by reviewing planning applications within the town boundary, as received from the National Park Authority. It also oversees the management of the historic Guildhall and handles all employment matters relating to Brecon Town Council staff. Additionally, it is responsible for maintaining Civic traditions, including the Mayoral robes, Regalia, and Twin Town relationships.

Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee

Focused on financial oversight, this Committee administers Brecon Town Council's grant scheme, ensuring appropriate funding allocations. It also manages the

procurement and review of all contracts and commissioned services, ensuring best value and quality control. Another key responsibility is overseeing all matters related to Visit Brecon (excluding staffing), supporting tourism and local engagement.

Environment and Events Committee

Dedicated to maintaining and enhancing Brecon’s green spaces, this Committee manages Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, Beacons Park open space, and Maendu Well, along with the town centre planters. It collaborates with other organisations on environmental initiatives to keep Brecon a beautiful and sustainable place to live and visit.

In addition to environmental stewardship, this Committee organises and oversees major town events, including:

- **Brecon with Bells On**
- **Remembrance Sunday**
- **Annual Commemorative events**
- **Civic events**, such as the ceremonial **AGM**, the **Mayor’s Civic Sunday**, and the annual **Gurkha Parade**

Furthermore, it manages fishing rights on the River Usk between Llanfaes Bridge and Gwennies Lane, ensuring responsible use and conservation.

To support its work, the Committee benefits from the expertise of a **co-opted volunteer member of the public**, who brings valuable skills and knowledge to its initiatives.

Committee Membership 2025/26:

Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee	Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee	Environment and Events Committee
Councillor C Walsh Councillor D Meredith Councillor R Thomas - Chair Councillor C Walton – Vice Chair Councillor M Matthews Councillor S Drinan Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Perry Councillor N Stone Councillor T Fretten	Councillor M Thapa Councillor T Fretten Councillor M Dorrance Councillor M Davies Councillor S Morgans Councillor N Stone Councillor C Walsh - Chair Councillor D Meredith Councillor J Powell – Vice Chair Councillor M Perry	Councillor C Walton Councillor M Matthews - Chair Councillor M Dorrance Councillor S Drinan Councillor J Powell Councillor R Thomas Councillor S Morgans Councillor L Rijnenberg Councillor M Davies – Vice Chair Councillor M Thapa

THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk is appointed by the Council under section 112 Local Government Act 1972 and is the Proper Officer of the Council. The Town Clerk carries out a varied role, duties of which include legal and financial guidance and record keeping; project management; research; implementation of Council's decisions; staff management and administration. The Town Clerk is also responsible for the internal management and organisation of the Council.

Brecon's Town Clerk, Mrs Fiona Williams, was appointed in 2014, lives in Brecon with her family, and enjoys travel and keeping active.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES

Brecon Town Council appoints up to two individuals to be Community Youth Representatives who are over the age of 11 but under the age of 18, and are considered by the Council to be suitable to represent the interests of those individuals under the age of 18 who live, work or receive education or training in the Brecon Town Council area.

Over the past year, Rhys Gillard continued to demonstrate exceptional commitment, creativity, and leadership in his role as Youth Representative. Importantly, Rhys undertook this work without the support of a second youth representative, and despite this, he has grown significantly in confidence and developed into a highly respected member of the Council. His views are consistently valued, considered, and acted upon, and he is now firmly recognised as a trusted youth voice within our decision-making processes.

We also extend our sincere thanks to Rhys's mum for her ongoing support, which has played a key role in enabling Rhys to fully participate in Council activities.

Following his successful appointment for a second term, we look forward to continuing this positive working relationship with Rhys. In the coming year, he will be joined by Rosie, whom the Council is eager to meet and support as she begins her role.

Key Work and Achievements of Youth Representatives During the Past Year:

- **Continued Support for Pokémon Events**

Rhys remained actively involved in promoting and supporting local Pokémon-themed community events through to its conclusion, helping engage younger residents in inclusive and enjoyable activities.

- **Pump Track Project – Consultation & Development**

Working closely with Cllr Walton and Cllr Chris, Rhys has:

- Carried out a comprehensive consultation with local school pupils, gathering wide-ranging views and ideas to ensure the project reflects young people’s needs.
- Taken a leading role in shaping next steps and is enthusiastic about continuing as an integral part of the project team.
- Is committed to a field visit to established pump tracks within the local authority for research and design purposes.

- Civic Sunday

Rhys contributed to this important annual event by completing a reading at Brecon Cathedral, representing the voice of young people at a key civic occasion.

- VE Day Celebrations and Family Sports Day

Rhys designed and built a remote-controlled tank, which he showcased and operated during the event—bringing creativity, innovation, and fun to the celebrations.

- Best of Brecon Awards 2025

He took part both as a judge and active participant, helping to recognise and celebrate inspiring individuals across the community.

- Mayor’s Proclamation on VE Day

Rhys attended this civic event, continuing to represent local young people at official ceremonies and public gatherings.

Rhys’s Priorities and Ideas for His Second Term:

Looking ahead, Rhys is keen to build on his achievements and expand the range of opportunities available to young people. His aspirations for the next term include:

- Establishing a Coding Club
- Exploring street art initiatives to support positive creative expression
- Developing the Council’s social media presence to better reach and engage young people

FINANCES

In 2025/26 Brecon Town Council’s income was £707,983 including the precept of £634,635.61. The expenditure for the year was £727,838. Further details can be found about the Council’s finances at www.brecontowncouncil.org.uk

LOCAL WELLBEING PLAN

Section 40 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on certain Town Councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan that has effect in their area.

Powys has developed a wellbeing plan which can be accessed at <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/5789/Towards-2040---the-Powys-Well-being-Plan> and identifies four local objectives:

- People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy (“economy”)
- People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment (“environment”)
- People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible (“healthy”)
- People in Powys will be connected by strong communities and a vibrant culture (“communities”)

Each of Brecon Town Council’s Committee Chairs have prepared an annual report on behalf of that Committee, as set out below, and the Committee’s work has been colour coded illustrating where each of the above four local objectives has been contributed to.

ENVIRONMENT AND EVENTS COMMITTEE

Overview

The Environment and Events Committee has continued to deliver a wide range of responsibilities throughout 2025/26, overseeing the Council’s parks and open spaces, progressing environmental improvement projects, and supporting a full programme of civic and community events. The Committee has worked closely with Powys County Council, local organisations, volunteers, Youth Representatives, and businesses to ensure that Brecon’s environment, community wellbeing, and local economy remain strong and resilient.

Fishing

- The audited Fishing Accounts for the season were received and approved.
- The Lone Outside Workers Risk Assessment relating to fishing was reviewed and approved.
- The Committee approved arrangements for online banking for the fishing account and agreed to move the account to NatWest to avoid monthly charges.
- The fishing platform, closed since 2020 due to non-compliance, remains an outstanding project. The Committee agreed to re-engage with Brecon Showground regarding consent for works to proceed.
- Meetings were held in relation to the River Usk erosion workstream, and reports are awaited from Dwr Cymru.

(“environment”) (“communities”)(“economy”)

Events

The Committee delivered a successful programme of events in 2025 and approved the following events for 2026, noting that town centre improvement works may affect some arrangements:

- **St David's Day Event – 2 March 2026**
- **Best of Brecon Awards – 2 July 2026**
- **Annual General Meeting – 11 May 2026**
- **Gurkha Parade – 7 June 2026**
- **Remembrance Events – 8 and 11 November 2026**
- **Brecon With Bells On – 29 November 2026**

Powers were delegated to the Town Clerk to organise these events in consultation with relevant working groups where appropriate, within the allocated budget.

("communities")("economy")

Additional Workstreams

- The Dog Bag Sponsorship Scheme was successful in 2025, and sponsorship opportunities for 2026 will be offered again.
- There were contributions made to the VJ Day 80th Anniversary celebrations organised by the Royal Welsh Regimental Museum.
- The busking project will continue in 2026 on the same basis as 2024 and 2025, subject to external scheduling arrangements.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Town Centre & Business Support

- Parasols were loaned to businesses in 2025 and expressions of interest will once again be sought from businesses wishing to use parasols in 2026.
- The Committee reviewed correspondence regarding town centre bunting and agreed that:
 - Existing bunting will be removed when Christmas lights are installed.
 - New bunting will be installed for St David's Day 2026.
 - Grant options will be explored for additional installation costs.
- Concerns about fly posting, including damage to the new bus stop, were reported to Powys County Council.
- The Committee received an update on local bus timetable changes and agreed that the Town Clerk will write to Powys County Council requesting improved integration of the Brecon–Merthyr service with onward travel to Cardiff, ideally with a single through-ticket.

("environment") ("communities")("economy")

Environment

River Usk & Island Fields

- A detailed update report on erosion concerns on the River Usk was received.
- An update report on Island Fields was received. Tree works have been completed, and work on the five-year plan commenced. The results of the public consultation were published on the Town Council website.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Parks, Open Spaces & Risk Assessments

- RoSPA reports for Camden Road Park, Llanfaes Park, and the Skate Park were received. Vandalism over Christmas resulted in damage requiring replacement which the Committee approved.
- Updated Risk Assessments for Llanfaes Park, Camden Road Park, Island Fields, Beacons Park, and Maendu Well were reviewed and approved.
- Gravel accumulation in the Maendu Well pond was addressed through collaborative working with the Nature Recovery Partnership. The Committee approved the Woodland and Pond Maintenance Plan for Maendu Well, and noted the successful grant award for pond clearance. The stone plinth on site was re-purposed as an information board about wildlife in the vicinity.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")

Biodiversity & Climate Action

- The draft Biodiversity Action Plan (June 2025) was approved for publication, supplementing the existing biodiversity report.
- The Climate Action Plan was reviewed, approved, and published.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Planting & Floral Displays

- New hanging basket brackets were installed on the Guildhall.
- A budget was confirmed for plants for hanging baskets and planters.

("environment") ("communities")("economy")

Recreation & Facilities

- The Committee approved the purchase of recycled plastic benches for Belle Vue Road and Uplands, with VE/VJ 80th anniversary etchings.
- The Committee considered the On Your Bike / Green Gym project and resolved that the funding allocated to it be redirected to the MUGA project.
- Funds were included in the draft 2026/27 budget for the skatepark, and a new working group has been formed to progress both the skatepark and pump track projects.
- A new cycle rack was installed near to Cotswolds.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities")("economy")

Penlan Ponds

- The Committee noted that three ponds required attention and agreed to write to Powys County Council requesting the Management Plan, and to Natural Resources Wales for advice.

("environment")

Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

- BT has confirmed that kiosks are available for adoption in Brecon. A consultation is underway to establish preferred uses and whether any local groups are interested in taking responsibility for a kiosk.

("environment") ("communities")("economy")

Co-opted Members of the Public

- The Committee noted the resignation of Ms F. Bell, a co-opted member of the public, and expressed thanks for her contribution.
- A working group was established to review the role of co-opted members generally.

Conclusion

The past year has seen significant progress across a wide range of environmental, recreational, and community priorities. From advancing long-term projects such as the River Usk erosion work and Island Fields plan, to delivering a full calendar of events, the Committee remains committed to ensuring that Brecon's parks, public spaces, and community activities are safe, inclusive, and well managed. The Committee looks forward to building on this work in the year ahead.

Fiona Williams, Town Clerk

18th May 2026

PLANNING GUILDHALL AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Planning, Guildhall and Staffing Committee (PGSC) considers planning applications received by the National Park Authority and is responsible for the upkeep of the Guildhall and all members of staff working for Brecon Town Council. It also has responsibilities in relation to certain public monuments in the town such as the cenotaph in St Mary's Church and the Duke of Wellington Statue.

During 2025-26 the PGSC continued to conduct all scheduled meetings and business via Zoom. Minutes of all meetings are published on the Brecon Town Council (BTC) website which contains details of how members of the public can access minutes or join a meeting.

Planning Applications and Decisions of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA)

The Committee considered Planning Applications throughout the year with the opportunity to submit comments to BBNPA.

- The Committee made representations to BBNPA on issues such as the change in maximum speed limits on the section of the dual carriageway to the east of the Brynich roundabout on the A40 to the east of the town. (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

Training

Councillors and Staff are regularly offered training from a suite of events organised by One Voice Wales. Staff continue to receive training when appropriate. Training for Councillors in order to comply with the regulations concerning extra financial powers has been undertaken.

The Town Clerk holds an up to date training record on all Staff and Councillors.

Annual Appraisals

All staff have been offered appraisal meetings by the Town Clerk. This includes the Mayor and the Chair of PGSC using the same process. Owing to extra workload pressures on our Clerk, this process has been streamlined in 2026. Training and development opportunities are always discussed with all staff.

Staffing/Recruitment

There were no new recruitments during this Council year. Money was set aside in the precept for 2025/2026 for similar contracts to be let when the need arises. No such opportunities were identified in this Council year.

Health and Safety

An annual legionella risk assessment was undertaken at the Guildhall and public conveniences with a satisfactory conclusion. The Health and Safety Policy has been reviewed and following referral to the full Council has been approved. Also, an inspection of the safety of the seating arrangements in the theatre concluded that these were of a suitable standard. Some minor work was undertaken in the Guildhall on fire prevention and remediation measures. This followed the extensive report prepared by the Fire and Rescue authority in the preceding year.

An inspection of the buildings including the Guildhall, for the possible presence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete was carried out. This did not reveal the presence of any such materials

(“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

Repairs and Refurbishment

Remedial cosmetic work on the interior of the walls in the Guildhall has been completed following work early in 2025. This included the replacement of a window on one of the upper floors.

Work was also undertaken in the cellar of the Guildhall to attempt to resolve a damp problem. This involved replastering, as well as providing extra ventilation. A contractor was employed to do the bulk of the work but the ventilation solution was provided by our park keeper.

After some further delays another repair to the external clock at the Guildhall was undertaken. Following the previous difficulties with regard to these repairs it now appears that the clock is working efficiently.

(“communities”)(“economy”)

Vehicle

In the previous year the Committee identified a future need for a vehicle to carry tools and other essential equipment when it no longer becomes possible for the parkkeeper to use his own vehicle. Contact was made with the County Council to enquire whether we could lease one of their vehicles and money had been set aside in the precept. These approaches were unsuccessful, so in the Autumn of 2025, it was agreed by the Council to search for an appropriate second hand vehicle to buy, which would then be used by the parkkeeper for Town Council duties. In March 2026, a suitable vehicle was identified and the Full Council authorised the purchase of that vehicle.

(“environment”) (“communities”)(“economy”)

Cenotaph and Duke of Wellington Statue

After ensuring that a suitably qualified firm was employed, extensive cleaning and repair work was carried out on the Duke of Wellington Statue in the centre of town. This work was completed at the end of 2025.

Prior to this, the Council discussed in detail the issue of the Picton memorial on the plinth of the Wellington Statue. It was decided that a small plaque would be fixed to one of the benches underneath the statue, providing a QR code, giving more detail of this early nineteenth century military officer’s slave “ownership”.

(“communities”)(“economy”)

Policy Review

A substantial number of policies have been reviewed by the Town Clerk with assistance from Councillors and the reviews have been approved by the PGSC. This included another review of some of our policies to contribute towards the Council’s White Ribbon accreditation.

Visit Brecon (VB) - Staffing Element

It is pleasing to note that both of the paid staff who work at VB remain in post. They have led on projects which co-operated with organisations such as Brecon Story. During last year, both staff qualified to lead guided walks around Brecon town under the “White

Badge” scheme. This work continues. Also there is ongoing work on developing Visit Brecon’s social media platforms.

We have a hard working and talented group of volunteers who are essential to the running of VB and once again they are thanked for the service they provide mainly to the visitors to our town, but also to some residents. BTC has continued to host open events for volunteers in the Guildhall. They have been addressed by outside agencies who offer services to visitors. Also these meetings provide the chance for volunteers to comment on ways of improving the service we offer.

(“communities”)(“economy”)

Smart Money Cymru

During 2025 this social enterprise credit company asked permission to use the Guildhall as a venue to give appointments to its customers. Permission was granted, but after just a few months of their presence, they withdrew because of a very low usage of the facility.

Cross Committee Activity

Members from all BTC committees have again worked together on some key projects during 2025-26. Some examples are specified below

- White Ribbon Accreditation
- Brecon’s Pride event saw the successful handover of the organisation of this event to local volunteers

The Town Clerk has once again managed a range of projects which bring substantial benefits to the town; in addition to the day to day functioning and maintenance of the Guildhall. Such events include Brecon with Bells On and the Best of Brecon Awards. A noticeable addition to these occasions was the organisation of an event in the Market Hall to celebrate St David’s Day, which was secured after an application for a Welsh Government grant. This event provided bilingual entertainment for the schoolchildren of Brecon and Sennybridge lasting for four hours. Organisation and planning of this event was carried out by the Town Clerk. Councillors assisted with this work, including stewarding on the day. Representatives from Brecon schools also joined the working party and supervised the schoolchildren on the day. The Committee is grateful for the dedication brought to all the Town Clerk’s work. She has also, as ever, ensured that all legal, financial and statutory requirements of BTC are met. As a Committee we also wish to recognise the important work carried out by all our Guildhall and Visit Brecon Staff.

FINANCE AND COMMISSIONING OF CONTRACTS COMMITTEE

Introduction

The annual precept for Brecon Town Council was set at **£634,645**. This budget is managed through the Council’s Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee and the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) / Town Clerk .

The Committee membership for 2025/26 is detailed on page 3 of this report.

The Committee meets on a monthly basis (with the exception of August and December) to review and scrutinise the Council’s financial activities. This also includes the development of the Council’s annual budget in conjunction with the RFO. See workplan – objective 2.

The accounts are inspected by an internal auditor and externally audited via the Welsh Audit Office. The Committee and the Council were delighted to receive confirmation from the Welsh Audit Office that the accounts had received a further unqualified audit for 2024/25. This means that Brecon Town Council can continue its arrangements to implement the General Power of Competency.¹ Members of the Council and the Committee are asked to review documents and pose question via the RFO or via the Chair of the Committee prior to the external audit.

Work Programme & Objectives

The Committee has undertaken a range of activities during the year, including consideration and awarding of a range of financial grants, along with reviewing various service contract awards. In last year’s report a draft outline work programme was identified for the current year. See 2024/25 Annual Report pages 6-7.

These objectives are shown in figure 1 on pages 16-17 along with supporting commentary on progress made. A traffic light rating is also given to visually show progress to date.

Financial Grants Awards

The Committee Members have reviewed and scrutinised various grant applications during the 2025/26 municipal year. This year the Committee has awarded **£84,245** representing a 50% increase from 2024/25.

Groups and organisations provided with grant aid included:

• Wales Air Ambulance	• Brecon Corries
• Theatr Brycheiniog	• Brecon Little Theatre
• Brecon Advice Centre	• South Powys Youth Music
• Brecon Jazz	• Brecon Athletic Club
• Brecon Festival Ballet	• Brecon Mountain Rescue

(“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

¹ General Power of Competency (GPoC) is a power introduced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, and allows qualifying Welsh local authorities and eligible community councils to act in their community's best interests by doing anything an individual can legally do, provided it is not specifically prohibited.

Toilet Cleaning Contract

The Town Council's toilet cleaning contract is currently being provided by City 2 City. This contract is due for renewal in 2026.

Feedback from residents and visitors has been mixed with some highlighting concerns particularly at the promenade. See objective 5 on page 17. Additionally there has been a few incidents of vandalism during the year including broken locks. These have been reported to the Neighbourhood Policing Team to ascertain those responsible.

The Committee would like to report to residents that during the last year **£7347** (which was around an 8% decrease from 2024/25) was generated from the toilet coin meter boxes. This income is used to support cleaning contract costs.

("environment") ("healthy") ("communities") ("economy")

Street Cleaning Contract

The Committee has also provided scrutiny to the street cleaning contract with Powys County Council, receiving presentations from the Head of Service. The Committee has been waiting to receive the monthly street cleaning reports. This aspect of the contract remains a concern and has been escalated with Powys County Council.

Members of the Committee made requests for the smaller sweeper to be utilised within the town and other ward areas as our Park Keeper was trained to use the small sweeper. Emphasis was requested around the cleaning of pavements. It has been acknowledged by Members and the community that this has made a notable difference with a cleaner environment.

("environment") ("communities") ("economy") ("healthy")

Visitor & Information Service from Visit Brecon Team

The Committee is extremely appreciative of the hard work and service our Staff and Volunteers offer at Visit Brecon to residents, businesses and visitors.

It is also pleasing to see visitor numbers increasing in 2025 to 8,538. The Staff and Volunteers work hard offering a first class service to those looking for key information around events and localised activities within Brecon and the surrounding area.

The team have had visitors from Germany, USA, France, Holland, New Zealand and Australia.

Visitors often leave feedback and some of their comments are shown below:

- Super-helpful – very helpful information on our first trip to Brecon – so impressed with how much this town has to offer. The staff gave us lots of options for our stay, which now seems too short! (*Kent, 8/4/25*)
- Great support in planning our hiking trips and stay in Brecon. Thank you so much for your help (*Aachen and Dresden, Germany 28/6/25*)

- Amazingly helpful. Best information centre we have been to (*The Wirral 8/7/25*)
- Your help was amazing! Trying to navigate without a car is stressful, so I so appreciate the time you took to explain bus routes and walking paths! (*Rochester, NY 11/7/25*)
- In 17 years of round the world travel this has been the most useful informative tourist office visit ever, 10/10+! (*'Old-fashioned Pilgrim' 17/7/25*)
- Excellent TIC, full of local knowledge and lovely staff. One of the best places in town! (*London 15/10/25*)

These comments demonstrate the how hard our Staff and Volunteers work to offer a first class service.

(“communities”)(“economy”)

New offer – Tours of Brecon

During 2025 our two employees had training to achieve the White Badge tour guide standard enabling them to offer and undertake town walks. Over 100 people took up this offer to experience the tales of Brecon. Feedback is again attached which is extremally positive.

- ‘I thought it was a great tour, full of fascinating tales and interesting insights into the history of our amazing town – all brought to life by Emma’s excellent storytelling. The perfect morning out’
- ‘Dylan was an excellent tour guide. Thoroughly enjoyable and informative’
- ‘It was everything I expected – and more! Definitely wish to return for another. Too much for one tour alone!’
- Dear Visit Brecon Team, Just a big thank you for our excellent tour today by Emma. We all felt amazed by the depth of knowledge and enthusiasm for the history and characters of Brecon. We will get busy recommending the tour to friends and visitors! David couldn’t have been happier with his birthday present’

Throughout the year the visit Brecon team have generated income with sales of maps, local books and the guided walks. The income achieved for 2025/26 was **£4,591**.

(“communities”)(“economy”)

New Website & Event Calendar

A new Visit Brecon website has been designed with input from the team. The website is available at <https://www.visitbrecon.org/> and has an engaging events calendar with other key information such as localised walks. The team are actively involved with social media on Facebook and Instagram.

("communities")("economy")

Committee Objectives

The objectives for 2025/26 are noted in the previous annual report and are also shown in the table below (figure 1). This table aims to report progress made within the last year with commentary and a traffic light rating to visualise progress made.

Key

Red =	Limited / no progress	
Amber =	Some progress made but elements outstanding	
Green =	Significant progress made / completed	

Objective	Action	Progress
1	Adoption of the General Power of Competency Monitor the implications of General Power of Competency	The general power of Competency was agreed at the Annual General Meeting in May 2025. The Town Council also required all council members to have completed several key training courses. – Completed The Town Council has agreed to adopt the General Power of Competency subject to fulfilling the required criteria of RFO holding required qualification ; 75 % of members being elected and has been awarded an unqualified audit for the past three years. Report and record when and how the GPOC is used.
2	A new precept and budget for 2026/27 is prepared and agreed by members.	The precept for 26/27 was presented to members at the November 25 meeting with an increase of 3.1% set. BTC received another unqualified audit from Welsh Audit for 2024/25. This is a key requirement for GPOC requirements.

3	<p>Free WIFI</p> <p>Monitor uptake and implementation of free Wi-Fi rollout</p>	<p>This project has been a challenge and is behind schedule. The three final routers haven't been installed, therefore key data around footfall, dwell time and visitor numbers is omitted.</p> <p>Action has been taken to escalate this matter with PCC.</p> <p>Opportunity for visitors and users of the free wifi system to sign up for a quarterly events newsletter.</p> <p>Splash / landing page for visitors will be linked to the Visit Brecon website.</p>
4	<p>Review of grant funding for long term projects / awards</p> <p>Grant aid form and supporting information to be reconsider for revision as required.</p>	<p>Grant aid form and supporting document reviewed and accepted March 2026.</p>
5.	<p>Source funding for toilet upgrade</p> <p>Throughout this year further work has been undertaken regarding costing, outline plans and submission for planning permission. Further work is required to confirm funding arrangements with grant awards and adult changing facilities.</p>	<p>BTC has an earmarked reserve to contribute to the refurbishment of the toilet block.</p> <p>Additional funding sources required / to be sought.</p> <p>Planning permission granted by BBNPA – Nov 25</p> <p>Expanded Working group established</p>

Cllr Chris Walsh..... Date 15th April 2025

Chair of Finance and Commissioning of Contracts Committee

OTHER PROJECTS

As well as the work streams mentioned in the Committee reports above, the Council as a whole has been busy this year on other work and projects, including:

- For the first time the General Power of Competency was adopted (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Appointment of Members to outside bodies (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding of crossing patrol facilities at Priory School and the Struet (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Free parking initiatives (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Funding arrangements for Y Gaer (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Engagement and work streams with Youth Representatives (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Continuing work on a White Ribbon Action Plan as part of the White Ribbon Accreditation (“communities”)
- Internal audit responsibilities, financial assessments and budgeting (“economy”)
- Reviewing policies
- Street cleaning arrangements via collaboration with Powys County Council and in-house (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Commenced work towards signing the Armed Forces Covenant (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Provided a website and Facebook presence (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Continued working with Stakeholders to enable improvements at Captains Walk (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Considered the ‘Adopt a Kiosk’ Scheme and undertook consultation about Brecon’s disused kiosks (“communities”)
- Contributed to the work of Antur Cymru in improvements at Brecon Market (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Organised an information event about and enabled the Shop Front Scheme to run in Brecon (work ongoing) (“environment”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Carried out research, planning and work at Island Fields (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Reviewed the flying of flags at the Guildhall (“communities”)
- Promoted the Tryda Ni Community Car Scheme (“environment”) (“communities”)
- Provided a reception at the market hall for Brecon Jazz (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Installed new play equipment at King George playing field (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Installed a new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) at the Promenade (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)
- Considered the new Brecon Place Plan (“environment”) (“healthy”) (“communities”) (“economy”)

BRECKNOCK WELFARE TRUST

The Brecknock Welfare Trust is a Charity that is run by appointed Members of Brecon Town Council and Chaired by the Mayor in Office. The object of the Trust is to relieve

either generally or individually persons resident in Brecon who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress. The Charity has small, limited funds, and has seen a sharp increase in applications during and since the Covid-19 Pandemic took hold. It is possible for its work to be within any of the four local wellbeing objectives, but most likely to meet the (“healthy”) objectives and criteria.

In 2025 the Trust’s investment enabled much needed local financial support, and the sum of **£4,391** was spent supporting those in need.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL WELL BEING GOALS

The National Well Being Goals are:

1. A prosperous Wales
2. A resilient Wales
3. A healthier Wales
4. A more equal Wales
5. A Wales of cohesive communities
6. A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language
7. A globally responsible Wales

Below is an illustration of how some of the projects and workstreams for 2024-25 are contributing to the National Well Being goals.

Contribution Matrix (✓ = Contributes to this goal)

Project/Workstream	Prosperous (1)	Resilient (2)	Healthier (3)	Equal (4)	Cohesive (5)	Culture & Language (6)	Globally Responsible (7)
Financial support for Y Gaer	✓	✓				✓	
Free Parking Initiatives	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Street Scene Projects/Repairs/Improvements/Greening	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provision of dog poo bags		✓	✓				✓
Parks & Green Spaces	✓		✓		✓		✓
Public Events	✓		✓		✓	✓	

Project/Workstream	Prosperous (1)	Resilient (2)	Healthier (3)	Equal (4)	Cohesive (5)	Culture & Language (6)	Globally Responsible (7)
Civic Events	✓				✓	✓	
Management of Guildhall	✓				✓	✓	
Considering Planning Applications	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Christmas Lights	✓				✓		
Issuing of Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provision of Public Toilets	✓		✓				✓
Visit Brecon Tourist Information Office	✓				✓	✓	✓
Street Cleaning	✓	✓	✓				✓
Youth Representative Scheme					✓	✓	✓
Shop Front Scheme	✓				✓		✓

CONTRIBUTION TO POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL'S 12 WELL BEING STEPS

Powys County Council has four objectives which set out the goals it is aiming for in the longer-term, described earlier in this report. To help it reach these goals Powys County Council agreed an initial 12 Well-being Steps to focus on delivering in the shorter term. These are collective steps, where it is necessary for various organisations to work together and enhance the work they're doing as individual organisations and communities. None of these steps can be delivered in isolation and each will have an impact on the others. The 12 steps are detailed below along with indications about some of the work that Brecon Town Council is doing which contributes to each of these steps:

Well-being Step 1: Actively engage with residents, communities and key stakeholders to promote, shape and deliver our vision for 2040

- ✓ Preparation and publication of an Annual Report detailing the work of Brecon Town Council and how it is contributing to the National and Local Well Being goals
- ✓ Consulting with residents about new projects being undertaken e.g. views about disused phone kiosks
- ✓ Regular news updates via social media and posters
- ✓ Working with Youth Representatives

Well-being Step 2: Establish a simple and effective performance management framework to monitor progress in delivering the well-being steps and achieving the vision

- ✓ Regular monitoring and evaluation of contracts
- ✓ Robust system of internal financial audit
- ✓ Listen to and take note of feedback

Well-being Step 3: Work with and influence others to improve our transport infrastructure, our existing transport links and develop a sustainable and integrated approach for planning and delivery

- ✓ Consideration given to active travel when planning and making decisions and when responding to planning applications
- ✓ Contributing to travel consultations
- ✓ Funding for street cleaning and contribution towards cleanliness of roads, pavements and carparks
- ✓ Contributing to the review of the Brecon Town Plan

Well-being Step 4: Work with and influence others to improve digital infrastructure

- ✓ Participation in Brecon becoming a ‘Smart Town’ including training for Staff and Councillors and developing a Smart Town Action Plan
- ✓ Seeking opportunities to enable Lorawan sensor installation in town centre

Well-being Step 5: Develop a joint approach to community resilience by co-ordinating existing support and building the skills and capacity within communities helping them do the things they can’t do for themselves

- ✓ Recruit and support volunteers at Visit Brecon
- ✓ Management of ‘Brecknock Welfare Trust’
- ✓ Issue of grants
- ✓ Development/enablement of new events for future delivery by others

Well-being Step 6: Develop a holistic approach to skills and lifelong learning which offers a range of formal and informal opportunities, including apprenticeships and traineeships

- ✓ Training and development opportunities for all Staff, Councillors and Volunteers
- ✓ Volunteering opportunities provided at Visit Brecon and events throughout the year
- ✓ Working with Youth Representatives

Well-being Step 7: Develop a carbon positive energy strategy that maximises green energy production

- ✓ Creation of a Climate Emergency Action Plan

- ✓ Implementation of short and medium term measures within the Climate Emergency Action Plan as well as developing plans for longer term actions
- ✓ Robust recycling at Brecon Town Council's park, properties and events
- ✓ Ambition for green and biodiverse measures to be incorporated into all possible projects and workstreams
- ✓ Development of Climate Action web page

Well-being Step 8: Develop a sustainable environment strategy: by strengthening activity to deliver the sustainable management of Powys' natural resources through coordinated conservation work and actions underpinning the Nature Recovery Plan and Natural Resources Wales Area Statement(s)

- ✓ Publication of Environment Act Report <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016/> and Action Plan <https://brecontowncouncil.org.uk/environment-wales-act-2016-section-6-action-plan/> and works undertaken as detailed therein
- ✓ Leading the co-ordination of meetings to address erosion concerns on the River Usk
- ✓ Entering into a lease agreement for Island Fields and working with experts to build an appropriate conservation and biodiversity management plan
- ✓ Carrying out pond improvements at Maendu Well

Well-being Step 9: Undertake market research and establish an effective infrastructure to support active enjoyment of the environment and adventure tourism

- ✓ Provision of Visit Brecon service
- ✓ Provision of street cleaning and public convenience facilities
- ✓ Organising of events
- ✓ Collaboration with other local tourism providers and local community groups and organisations
- ✓ Supporting Town Centre and Market Hall improvement initiatives

Well-being Step 10: Develop a strong brand to promote and attract inward investment into Powys

- ✓ Providing branded parasols for businesses in visible locations
- ✓ Organising of events
- ✓ Collaborative working with tourism and grant providing colleagues
- ✓ Support of Twinning organisations

Well-being Step 11: Implement more effective structures and processes that enable multiagency community focused response to wellbeing, early help and support

- ✓ Inviting relevant stakeholders and organisations to contribute to project working groups and seeking specialist stakeholder advice in project development stage e.g. local accessibility groups
- ✓ Undertaking consultation exercises for events and proposed projects
- ✓ Support for y Gaer

Well-being Step 12: Develop our organisations' capacity to improve emotional health and well-being within all our communities

- ✓ Grant support for organisations supporting health and well being
- ✓ Relevant training and support available for Councillors, Staff and Volunteers

Fiona Williams, Town Clerk
March 2026

Annual Report approved by Brecon Town Council
May 2026