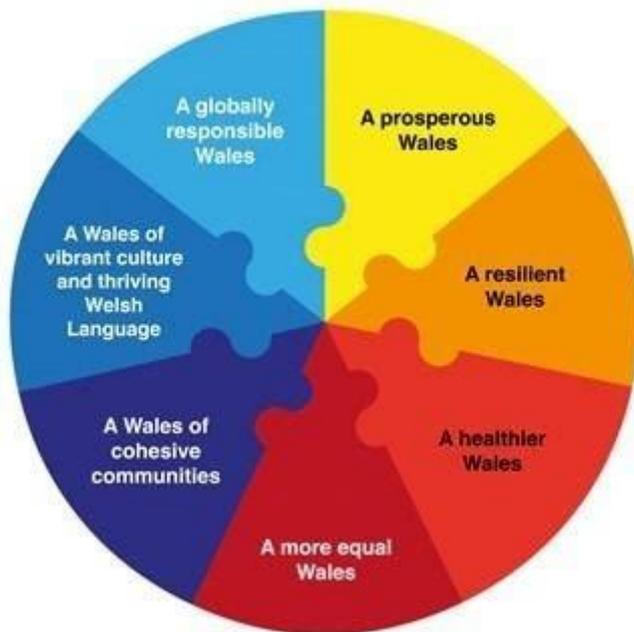




## Annual report on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 for 2020-21



### About this report

Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives a legally binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

This report describes how OFFA Community Council has contributed to the seven well-being goals for the community.

## **Wrexham Public Service Board (PSB) ([www.wrexhampsb.org](http://www.wrexhampsb.org) )**

The Community Council, because it is a larger community council, is also required to ensure that it complies with and contributes to the objectives of the Local Well-Being Plan 2018-2023 as produced by the Wrexham Public Services Board. The Public Service Board (PSB) published its first annual report in June 2019 detailing progress on its determined objectives. The PSB have agreed 15 objectives but for 2019-20 have focussed on the main objective of Community Resilience incorporating climate change and environmental resilience.

The challenge for the Community Council is to demonstrate how it can make a positive contribution given that these objectives are strategically determined and of more relevance to the staffed larger statutory bodies who can more effectively influence their progress. All community councils have their own local priorities which are important to their communities as well as having to manage within an agreed budget. Budgetary pressures, which are exacerbated by the cost of devolved functions previously funded by the principal authority, can create tensions and limit what a community council can be realistically expected to provide. Additionally, to date, there has been no clear communication with the community council sector from the PSB or advice on how the sector can meaningfully contribute to the objectives.

The Community Council has therefore focussed on contributing to some of the 15 objectives in the PSB plan whilst “mapping” its activities within the seven well-being goals. The other 10 objectives within the five-year plan are:

1. The town is vibrant and welcoming
2. There are good employment opportunities in Wrexham
3. There is a range of things for people to do in their spare time
4. The economy in rural areas is well supported and can thrive
5. All people have access to good quality, appropriate homes throughout their lives
6. People can travel easily around the county and beyond
7. The Welsh language is thriving
8. Tourism supports the local economy
- 9. The county borough is a safe place to live**
10. Our communities are prepared for the future.

## The seven well-being goals for Wales

The well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines seven well-being goals which need to be considered when drawing up local objectives. A description of each well-being goal and the issues identified within that theme is provided below. All of the issues identified in this needs analysis are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being.

<b>Prosperous (1)</b>	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
<b>Resilient (2)</b>	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with health functioning eco systems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)
<b>Healthier (3)</b>	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood
<b>More equal (4)</b>	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)
<b>Cohesive communities (5)</b>	Attractive, viable safe and well-connected communities
<b>Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language (6)</b>	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts and sports and recreation.
<b>Globally responsive (7)</b>	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being

## Matrix showing cross-cutting themes

Some of the activities of Offa Community Council towards the well-being goals are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being. The grids below give an interpretation of how each contribution might fit within the list of well-being goals.

Prosperous (1)	Resilient (2)	Healthier (3)	More equal (4)	Cohesive (5)	Culture (6)	Globally responsive (7)
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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1.	The Offa Advice Service						
2.	Term time play provision						
3.	Luke O Connor House Resource Centre						
4.	School crossing patrols						
5.	Maintenance and repair of public play facilities						
6.	Youth outreach work						
7.	Bi-annual newsletter						
8.	Community Events						
9.	Climate change / biodiversity /LV Conservation						
10.	Financial assistance						
11.	Maesgwyn and Parciau Community Centres						
12.	Crime prevention and reduction						
13.	Community Agent						
14.	Competent Council						

### 1. Offa Advice Service

The Community Council invests in providing a free advice service for all residents of Offa via a service level agreement with Caia Park Community Council. There are 2 sessions per week operated normally from the Parciau Community Centre and Luke O Connor House Resource Centre. However during the pandemic these face to face meetings have been substituted by Zoom and telephone calls.

Advice offered can cover any benefit related or debt issue as well as more generalist advice on any number or range of topics. It is an open-door service with the sessions run on a "first come first served basis". It is also authorised to issue food bank vouchers to eligible residents and complete debt relief orders. The cost of providing the service £6,500 is met entirely by the Community Council.

## **2. Term Time Play Provision**

In 2020-21 the Community Council have funded play sessions located at Bellevue Park and Bryn Offa (Brynyffynnon Ward) and at the Brynycabanau play area and Luke O Connor House Resource Centre(Hermitage Ward) as these are all established play settings. The sessions amount to 4 per week with one at each location during the school holidays and a weekly additional one during term time at the Brynycabanau play area.

The service at all sites is provided by Wrexham Play Development Team and reports confirm that the provision is well used and valued by both children and parents. The cost of play provision is in the region of £7,500 annually .

## **3. Luke O Connor House Resource Centre**

Luke O'Connor House is Offa Community Council's community resource centre located on Hightown's Barracks Field estate. Formerly the Wrexham office of Wales and West Housing Association, the Community Council took over the running of Luke O'Connor House when it became vacant in early 2001 with the aid of a £33,000 Sustainable Communities grant from the National Assembly for Wales. This helped finance internal renovation, a Community Development Worker and various equipment including a computer suite for providing free IT classes. In 2004 when the original 3 year lease expired Offa Community Council took the decision to purchase the centre with the aid of a PWLB loan.

Office space is leased to various organisations which include HAFAL, a mental health charity, which runs the Wrexham Outreach Tenancy Support (WOTS) supporting tenants with basic skills in tenancy maintenance, help with social living skills and integration into the larger community.

There are various courses and groups that run at Luke O'Connor House which are funded in different ways including computer classes, art and craft classes, music groups and a youth club.

The centre has been very successful and is a well-used facility. Operational costs currently stand at around £15,000 per annum.

## **4. School crossing patrols**

In 2013, Wrexham County Borough Council decided to withdraw funding for the school crossing patrols based in the community as the volume of traffic and perceived risk did not meet their criteria. Accordingly, they invited the Community Council to fund the provision.

At the time, there were three manned school crossings in Offa which Offa Community Council agreed to fund:

Fairy Rd (St Josephs School)

Penybryn (St Marys School)

Poplar Rd (St Giles School).

Recently Penybryn has had a pedestrian controlled traffic light crossing installed and it was decided to discontinue that service.

Given that there are a number of children of primary school age who make their journey to and from school unaccompanied, the Community Council have always felt that this service is important for health and safety reasons. This service costs the Community Council approximately £9,500 annually.

The Community Council is committed to ensuring the safety of its school children and has recently purchased large bi-lingual signs asking parents to park responsibly outside the school gates and observe the restrictions. These signs have been presented to each of the 5 primary schools in the community.



## 5. Maintenance and Repair of public play facilities

In 2013, Wrexham County Borough Council decided to withdraw funding for the future maintenance, inspection and repair of equipped playgrounds within the community and offered these via a service level agreement to the Community Council or the facilities would close and any equipment removed.

There are six equipped play areas:

Brynycabanau	Howards Field	Court Rd
Bryn Offa	Maesgwyn	Bellevue Park Infants and Juniors

Adult fitness trail at Bellevue Park

These cost approximately £15,000 per annum to maintain. In addition during 2020/21, the Community Council has spent £7000 on replacement play equipment in Bellevue Park. The Council actively seek financial opportunities to upgrade or enhance these facilities.

## 6. Youth Outreach Work

The Community Council fund the provision of three youth work sessions per week (2020-21) through an SLA agreement with the Caia Park Partnership. Two sessions are centre based youth clubs and one session of detached youth work. The outreach workers travel around the four community

wards engaging with young people offering support and guidance as well as acting as a deterrent for anti-social behaviour.

The Community Council also funds weekly football sessions for Offa young people and children run by the Brickfield FC in various locations in the community.

The total costs for providing both the youth service and football training sessions, excluding any one-off grant payments, represents almost 20% of the Council's income.

## **7. Newsletter**

Twice a year the Community Council publishes a 24 page A5 full colour newsletter which is distributed to every household in the community, an approximate distribution of 4,500 copies. This newsletter enables the Community Council to publicise its activities and inform residents of the opportunities available to them within the community. It contains no advertising and is packed with interesting articles relevant to Offa residents. It also gives the opportunity for the Community Council to consult with residents on various topics so Councillors are aware of the public's priorities on public spending. The newsletter costs £1,200 per publication.

## **8. Community Events**

The Community Council arranges several free events throughout the year for its residents:

An annual Offa carnival is held in Bellevue park funded and organised by Offa Community Council. The event also includes a dog show with all proceeds going to the PDSA charity. This event has been held continually every year since 1998, until the Covid pandemic lockdown restrictions in 2020/21 and has grown in attendees and attractions into one of the biggest events in Wrexham. It is planned to restart the carnival in 2022. The event is staffed on the day by volunteers from the Community Council both Councillors and staff. Annual cost £3,500 plus donations.



Annual Pensioners Xmas Party – The Community Council hold a special Xmas party every year in the Parciau Community Centre for its senior citizens. This is a free event funded by Offa CC who provide a 3 course traditional Xmas lunch and a small gift presented by Santa. Games/ raffles and a local choir singing carols provide the festive atmosphere. Annual cost £750 plus donations.



Santa float – for the first time in 2020-21 the Community Council staged a santa float which travelled around the area. This event proved to be such a success it has been agreed to make it an annual event. Annual cost £200



Xmas Lights Switch on event (2021-22) Offa Community Council is proposing to stage a Xmas Lights switch on event in Bellevue Park. The bandstand and 4 avenues of trees will be lit up and the event will feature a snow machine, festive band, santas grotto, festive food and arts and crafts stalls in the community centre. First year cost £10,000 (purchasing the lights and erection)

Offa Citizen of the Year Award – each year the Community Council present an award to one of its residents in recognition of their voluntary work in the community.

## 9. Climate change/ biodiversity

The Council is conscious of the need to act responsibly and to try and influence the wider community. It has recently signed up to the 'Plastic Free Wrexham' initiative and is working on an action plan to encourage residents via articles in its newsletter and on social media to remove the use of single use plastics.

The Council owns a parcel of land called Little Vawnog which it has developed into a Conservation Area with 3 distinct habitats meadow, woodland and river bank. It has recently entered into a partnership SLA with Woodwork CIC to manage the woodland area. WoodsWork is a community interest company, a non profit organisation which aims to work in the best interests of the community. They are aiming to manage the area in a way that protects the wildlife and environment whilst also making it a safe, accessible and appealing place for the community to enjoy.

The Council regularly arranges litter picks with Keep Wales Tidy and the Probation Team. It also periodically hires large skips which are located in various parts of the community to enable the more isolated and vulnerable members of the community to dispose of large unwanted items which are either recycled or transported to landfill free of charge.

## 10. Financial Assistance

The Council support local organisations and charities which provide a service to the Offa Community. Through the Offa Grant Scheme the Council awarded grants to voluntary or charitable groups primarily based or working in the community. In 2020/21 these groups included:

Cylch Meithrin Bodhyfryd	£75
Cylch Meithrin Brynycabanau	£75
Bellevue Playgroup	£75
Clwb Gwyliau Maelor	£75
Hermitage Evergreen Club	£120
Brickfield Rangers FC	£450
Victoria Park Residents Assoc	£75
Parciau Indoor Bowling Club	£125
Illusion Morris Dancers	£125
Advance Brighter Futures	£100
Theatre Train	£125
LOCH Management Committee	£2,000
Nightingale House	£200

Wales Air Ambulance	£200
Hope House Hospice	£200
Friends of Hightown Community Resource Centre	£250
Parciau Community Centre	£250
Maesgwyn Community Centre	£250
Parciau Bowling Club	£2,000

### **11. Maesgwyn and Parciau Community Centre**

In 2013 the Community Council were approached by Wrexham CBC to see if it would be interested in taking on the funding and management of the two community centres as it was the intention of WCBC to close the centres following a review of their discretionary services.

Both centres were well used facilities and the Community Council took the decision to undertake the future funding in order for the 2 centres to remain open. In 2019 the Maesgwyn Community Centre was leased to the Community Council. The lease for the Parciau Community Centre is still under negotiation. A Bookings officer was employed by the CC to run the 2 centres. Bookings increased and in 2019 the centre income almost covered the annual running costs. However during the pandemic the centres were closed during lockdowns so the income stream was lost for 12 months.

### **12. Crime prevention and reduction**

The Community Council has a close working partnership with its policing team who produce monthly crime reports and regularly attend Council meetings. Members periodically accompany the local policing team out on patrol in the community to see for themselves the issues and problems being faced.

The Community Council has also invested in mobile CCTV cameras and now has a total of 8 cameras funded and maintained by the CC.

A quarterly liaison meeting is arranged by the Town Inspector for all four town councils to get together to discuss issues and current crime trends.

### **13. Community Agent Scheme**

The Community Council employs a part-time Community Agent for 16 hrs per week. The post is funded by Wrexham County Borough Council via a grant they receive direct from Welsh Government. The Community agent works with those aged over 50 in the community who are isolated, vulnerable or in need of support and guidance. Referrals are made by GP practices and adult social care and the agent is responsible for signposting clients to the relevant agency.

### **14. Competent Council**

Finally, these are challenging times for community councils. The Council faces many new challenges and opportunities and it is important to be ready to be fit for the future.

A number of competency tests are emerging to help community councils determine how well equipped they are to meet the challenges ahead. These might include:

- A democracy test - % of councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or bi-election
- A capability test – the Community Council may be required to employ a clerk with relevant professional qualifications
- A capacity test such as a minimum income of £200k
- A governance test – the Council has sound financial management (including internal and external audit), be contactable by email and have a suitable website.

In 2020-21:

- Thirteen councillors have been declared elected with 5 co-options.
- The current Clerk has the recommended 'ILCA' and 'CILCA' professional qualifications and was the first Clerk in North Wales to obtain the CILCA qualification.
- The Council's expenditure/income is in excess of £200k
- The Council has sound management and financial systems. Its internal audit is undertaken by JDH Business Services of Mold and the Council has received an unqualified (no matters to raise) external audit report since introduced in 2001. Agendas, minutes, accounts and contact details can be found at [www.offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk) . The community can email the Clerk at [clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

### INCOME 2020/21

Precept	£186,000.00
Interest Received	£506.01
Booking Fees/Rent	£6,264.65
Grants	£18,484.00
Other	£1,569.86
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£212,824</b>

### EXPENDITURE 2020/21

Administration	£5,874.84
Office Equipment	£112.49
Section 137 Payments (grants)	£7,345.00
Service Level Agreement (youth)	£27,527.00
Wages and Salaries	£52,659.11
Insurance	£3,638.92
Members Expenses	£300.00
Subscription	£244.00
Street Furniture	£754.90
Covid 19/Community Safety	£775.00
Community Centres SLA	£21,268.23
School Crossings SLA	£9,542.00
Environmental Improvements	£2,963.17
Advice Service SLA	£7,941.00
Play Areas SLA	£20,601.14
Church Lights	£1,350.00
Contingency	£5,977.14
Luke O Connor House Resource Ctr	£13,369.36
Xmas hampers nursing homes	£879.89
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£183,123</b>

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**BRYNYFFYNNON WARD**

Phillip Wynn 6 Court Rd, LL13 7RH

Barbara Anne Lloyd 22 Alexandra Rd LL13 7SH

Sarah Roberts 43 The Homestead, LL14 4HQ

Elane Roberts Lane End, Bersham Rd LL14 4HD

Christine Griffiths, 25 Dolydd Rd, LL13 7TE

**ERDDIG WARD**

David Jones 1 Green Pk, LL13 7YE

Keith Williams 2 Jarman Ave, LL13 7AT

Alex Jones 20 Dol Isaf, LL11 3DX

Susan Jones 6 Huntroyde Avenue, LL13 7HA

**HERMITAGE WARD**

John Williams 16 Monger Rd, LL13 8QY

Linda Subacchi 2 Ffordd Gerwyn, LL13 7DX

Graham Wynn 29 Nelson Street, LL13 7YD

Graham Rogers 7 Bell Court, Hightown, LL13 8QP

Caroline Dawson 7 Norman Rd, LL13 7BG

**OFFA WARD**

R Alun Jenkins 1 Maes Glas, Court Rd, LL13 7SN

Kevin Hughes 5 Court Rd, Wrexham, LL13 7SN

Steven Vale 18 Court Rd, LL13 7RH

Jim Steele 1 Greenbank St, Hightown, LL13 8NY

Contact Councillors via the Clerk to the Council Mrs Karen Benfield at:

COUNCIL OFFICE Parciau Community Centre, Bellevue Rd, Wrexham, L113 7NH

Tel: 01978 291562 Clerk's mobile: 07754377663

Email: [clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@offacommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

## Appendix 3

### Partner Agencies

- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Offa Policing Team & NW Police
- Caia Park Partnership Ltd
- Woodwork CIC
- Plastic Free Wrexham
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Wrexham Play Development Team
- Wrexham Probation Service
- National Trust team at Erddig
- Bodhyfryd School
- St Giles School
- Victoria School
- St Marys RC School
- St Christophers School
- St Josephs High School
- Ysgol Clywedog
- Friends of Bellevue Park
- Friends of Wrexham Cemetery



