

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24 TENBY TOWN COUNCIL



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@jessieannlewis



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OPENING STATEMENT

The Annual Report 2023-24 for Tenby Town Council covers its responsibilities, local issues and future plans going forward.

Tenby, with its picturesque harbour and medieval Town Walls is a small Town in south Pembrokeshire. Its Welsh name, Dinbych-y-pysgod reflects its history as a fishing town. Now one of the country's most popular seaside destinations, it is situated within the beautiful Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Tenby is a small but strong and active community. It has a vibrant Town Centre which is predominantly located within the medieval walls. The town centre is filled with a range of cafes, bars, restaurants and retailers including predominantly small independent shops. There is a small commercial and business area on the outskirts of the town, which includes trade retail and small business park units. Its many Churches, Sporting Clubs, Organisations and Societies provide endless opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

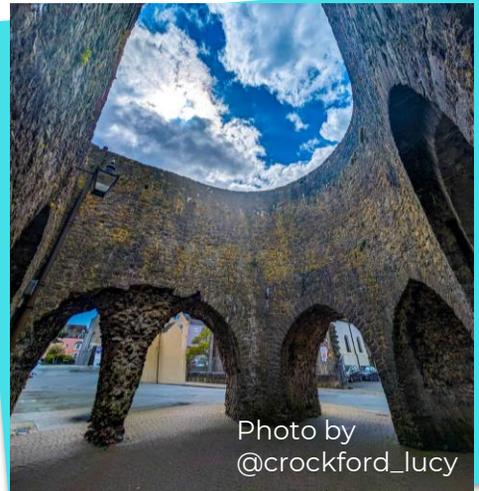


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BACKGROUND

OUR HISTORY

Tenby Town Council was created in 1974 following local government reorganisation under the Local Government Act 1972 which saw the abolition of Tenby Borough Council.

It is one of 735 Town and Community Council in Wales and 67 in Pembrokeshire.

Tenby is located within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and has the iconic footpath passing through it. Tenby is the only town located within the park.

Tenby is located within the local government area of Pembrokeshire and has 2 ward Councillors on the 60 strong Pembrokeshire County Council.

Once elected, and in order to act and carry out duties as a member of a community or town council, all persons are required to make a formal declaration of acceptance of office.

Following this declaration, members of community or town councils are then holders of elected office and occupy a role that is part of the Welsh local government structure.

YOUR COUNCIL

The Town Council is the grass roots voice of Local Government and is therefore closest to the people. It comprises 13 members with seven councillors representing the South Ward and six the North Ward.

Councillors are elected for a five-year term of office and together they serve a population of 4946 as at the 2011 Census.

Between February 2023 and May 2023 six councillors resigned. No by-elections were requested by members of the electorate so these vacant seats were filled via co-option procedures.

The Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are elected each year by the council at the annual meeting in May. Cllr Dai Morgan was elected as Mayor for 2023/24 supported by Cllr Charles Dale as Deputy Mayor.



YOUR COUNCIL

REMUNERATION

Individuals who have accepted office as a member of a community or town council are entitled to receive payments as determined by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. Whilst Councillors hold elected office and give their time voluntarily it is generally without remuneration, although certain expenses may be reclaimed.

The Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales determines allowances and mandates some allowances each year. A payment of £156 is mandated as a contribution to costs and expenses for members of all community and town councils and, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by 30th September following the end of the year to which the payment relates.

In 2023/24, 11 out of the 13 Councillors opted-out of receiving any payment and the resultant saving was put back into the budget for use on other projects.

This information is available on our website at www.tenbytowncouncil.co.uk.

MEETINGS

Councils conduct their business through meetings which are formal events with a clear purpose of making decisions following appropriate focused debate. As well as Full Council, where all members are required to attend, the Council, have previously, at their annual meeting, appointed Councillors to their main committees.

Following a review of ways of working, the Council have adopted changes to their operation with less committees, less full council meetings and a greater focus on action groups and working parties delivering on the decisions of Council.

From May 2023, there were 3 standing committees:

- Personnel
- Planning
- Policy and Finance

The membership of committees is determined by the AGM and, where appropriate, members can also be appointed from outside of the group of Councillors in a non-voting capacity.



YOUR COUNCIL

MEETINGS (continued)

In addition to the committees there will be a variety of subject and task specific action groups that will take forward decisions of Council with the RFO. These groups may “meet” in different ways to traditional meetings with use of new technology supported by equipping Councillors required with skills and resources as part of future training needs plan.

All meetings of the Town Council are open to the public unless excluded by a resolution of the meeting for a particular item which is of a confidential nature or prejudicial to public interest. Access to Full Council meetings is always available online and members and others can choose to join remotely.



THE COUNCILLORS

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Town Council aims to provide effective and efficient services that give value for money and improve the quality of life for the residents of the town. The Town Council represents the community it services at local, county and national levels to ensure that Tenby continues to be a desirable place to live, work, shop and visit. To achieve this, the Council will encourage and participate in partnership working with Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park community stakeholders and voluntary groups.

The Town Council strives to create a socially inclusive community and supports all voluntary groups who seek to develop the same and aims to encourage a more sustainable, safe, and clean environment. The Council has a specific commitment to expand community engagement and community participation at all levels of council functions and has recruited an officer to lead this work.

ELECTED MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

A Councillor has an active interest in their local community and plays a vital role in representing the interest of the community in which they serve by improving the quality of life and local environment.

Councillors must act within the law and must sign a declaration to say they agree to work within the Code of Conduct. They are able to suggest ideas, engage in constructive debate, represent constituents and respond to the needs and views of the local community.

Councillors are the voice of their local community and can work to influence other tiers of Local Government and help make collective decisions which form the policy of the Council.

Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by:

- Suggesting ideas
- Engaging in constructive debate
- Interacting with their electors
Behaving in an ethical way
- Voting – enabling the Council to make decisions



THE COUNCILLORS

ELECTED MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES (continued)

Councillors cannot make decisions/promises individually - not even the Mayor. This has to be done by the Council as a corporate body. Councillors actively and constructively contribute to good governance and encourage community participation and residents' involvement in the work of the council.

Details on how to contact a Tenby Town Councillor can be found on the Council's website:

www.tenbytowncouncil.co.uk



THE COUNCILLORS

ELECTED MEMBERS (2023-2024)

NORTH WARD

Cllr. Paul Rapi

1 Upper Frog Street, Tenby
No political affiliation

Cllr. Trevor Hallett

1 Cogmill Cottage, 22
The Green, Tenby

Cllr. Duncan Whitehurst

8 The Green, Tenby
Labour Party

Cllr. Laurence Blackhall

18 The Maudlins, Tenby
No political affiliation

Cllr. Joe Criddle

No political affiliations

Cllr. Tom Sloane

No political affiliations

SOUTH WARD

Cllr. Samantha Skyrme-
Blackhall

18 The Maudlins, Tenby
No political affiliation

Cllr. Dai Morgan
- Mayor

No political affiliation

Cllr. Charles Dale
- Deputy Mayor

No political affiliation

Cllr. James Phillips

No political affiliation

Cllr. Emma Lewis

No political affiliation

Cllr. Laura Crockford

No political affiliation

Cllr. Michelle Evans

No political affiliation



ATTENDANCE 2023/24

	Full Council	Planning	Policy
	Total 12	Total 9	Total 2
Cllr Dai Morgan	12 (100%)	9 (100%)	2 (100%)
Cllr Charles Dale	9 (75%)	7 (78%)	
Cllr Sam Skyrme-Blackhall	12 (100%)		
Cllr Laura Crockford	8 (67%)	6 (67%)	
Cllr Michelle Evans	5 (63%)	2 (67%)	
Cllr Trevor Hallett	6 (50%)	3 (33%)	
Cllr Emma Lewis	8 (67%)	5 (56%)	1 (50%)
Cllr Joe Criddle	6 (50%)	4 (44%)	
Cllr Paul Rapi	1 (8%)	1 (11%)	
Cllr Tom Sloan	6 (50%)		
Cllr Laurence Blackhall	12 (100%)	3	2 (100%)
Cllr James Phillips	8 (67%)	1 (100%)	2 (100%)
Cllr Duncan Whitehurst	12 (100%)		2 (100%)

 = did not attend



THE OFFICERS

OUR TEAM

Services provided by the Town Council are managed and delivered by a team of one full time and three part-time employees, comprising Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Community Engagement Officer, and a Handyman.

This small team, based at The De Valence Pavilion, is led by the Town Clerk who ensures that the correct procedures and policies are in place and followed to deliver services to a high standard.

THE CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Clerk, Andrew Davies, is the Council's Chief Officer employed under section 112 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

As the Proper Officer of the council in law, the Clerk is answerable to the Council as a whole. Individual members cannot give instructions to the Clerk.

The Council must also appoint a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to manage its finances and at Tenby Town Council the Clerk and RFO is the same person.

The Clerk can have delegated powers of the Council to act on its behalf under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 101 (Discharge of Functions).

Whilst it is good practice for the Clerk to consult on the content of an agenda with the Chair, the Clerk has the final say as Proper Officer and the legal signatory.

The role of the Clerk and RFO, includes:

- Advising the Council on legal matters, independently and objectively whilst recognising that the Council as a whole is responsible for its decisions
- Organising the Council's procedures
- Gathering information to help the Council make an informed decision
- Leading and supporting the team to carry out the decisions of the Council
- Implementing the Council's decisions
- Providing administrative support
- Personnel management
- Project management
- Health and safety management
- Management of Council's finances



RESPONSIBILITIES

WHO DOES WHAT

It can sometimes be difficult for members of the public to know which authority to contact for various queries relating to Tenby.

The Town and County Council have different areas or responsibility which are highlighted below.

The Town Council is responsible for the management of:

1. Tenby New Cemetery
2. Commonwealth War Graves
3. The Augustus Place Community Centre
4. The Jubilee Play Area and Skate Park

As well as management of the above the Council is responsible for and/or provides:

1. Certain Benches around the town (responsibility for some rests with County Council)
2. The South Parade Noticeboard
3. Community grant funding to local bodies and organisations
4. Making observations to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park on all planning applications in the community
5. The Annual Remembrance Day Parade
6. Christmas trees and lighting displays (including the annual Christmas Light's switch-on event)
7. Summer floral displays and watering

The Town Council also owns the De Valence Pavilion, a premier venue that is able to host a wide variety of events, concerts, community activities and social occasions. This is managed on a day-to-day basis by a community interest company, De Valence Pavilion Tenby CIC, to which the town council appoints a representative. Through agreements and grant funding, the Council is able to work in partnership with the De Valence to deliver certain activities and events.

The Council is also involved in organising and managing a variety of community events and activities that support community participation and engagement. In addition, the Town Council assists other organisations in obtaining grant funding for a range of their activities.



RESPONSIBILITIES

WHO DOES WHAT (continued)

The Town Council also assists Pembrokeshire County Council in:

- Supply of PCC seagull proof sacks; food waste recycling bags; replacement food caddies (indoor and outdoor) and replacement kerbside glass recycling boxes
- Supply of PCC trade waste sacks (trade waste customer must have already contacted PCC to arrange for payment prior to collection)

Pembrokeshire County Council has responsibility for:

- Education
- Highways
- Footpaths
- Libraries
- Social Services
- Bus Passes
- Street Lighting
- Recycling and rubbish collection
- Trading Standards
- Street cleaning
- Housing
- Environmental Health
- Licensing
- Car Parks
- Council tax and benefits
- Playgrounds (other than the Jubilee Play area)
- Furniture and large household collections
- Fly tipping
- Public Gardens

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority has responsibility for:

- Planning and enforcement



FINANCE

Tenby Town Council is funded by a precept which is an additional amount added to the Council Tax for Pembrokeshire County Council based on the requirements of the Town Council.

In December the council calculates the money it needs to raise in order to provide for its services and fund any projects planned. It then deducts any income that it expects to receive leaving a net amount known as the precept.

The precept for 2023/24 was £225,143.12 costing the average Band D council tax payer £74.15.

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require town and community councils to have adequate and effective arrangements in place for an internal audit of their accounting records and their systems of internal control. This is carried out on a yearly basis by an independent internal auditor.

The internal auditor is an independent and competent person appointed by the Council to carry out checks on its systems of control. The auditor carries out tests focussing on area of risk to public money, reports to the Council and signs a report on the annual return to confirm that the Council's systems of controls are in place and operating.

Members and officers are responsible for the spending of public money and are subject to the Council's Financial Regulations and are conscious of its responsibility towards maintaining services and ensuring best value for its precept payers.

Accountability and transparency are key to members and officers for the spending of public money. Being financially responsible as a public body is essential and the Town Council is governed by rules set out by Government to ensure that it takes no unacceptable risks.

The Council has established a robust risk management scheme which highlights every significant risk in terms of its activities and makes clear how such risks will be managed.

Any further information detailing this, including the annual accounts can be found at www.tenbytowncouncil.co.uk.



FINANCE

A rough breakdown of areas of main spending for 2023/24 is as follows:

- **44%** on staffing costs which includes national insurance, pension contributions, and HR; and administration costs, which includes answering public enquiries, managing and facilitating the Council projects and resources, responding to consultations, servicing and administering of Council Meetings, training, member remuneration, office costs, and H&S services.

NB: Consideration will be given in the coming year to see how we give a clearer distinction to staffing, project, and servicing costs.

- **17%** on servicing and maintaining the Jubilee Play Area, Summer Floral displays etc.
- **13%** on Community Grants incl. The De Valence Pavilion.
- **11%** on tourism and regeneration
- **10%** on Christmas Lighting
- **3%** on Civic Events and Mayoralty
- **1%** on net operational costs of Tenby New Cemetery and maintenance of Commonwealth War Graves

- **1%** on net premise running and maintenance costs for Augustus Place Community Centre inc. heating, water & water & business rates



WELL-BEING PLAN FOR PEMBROKESHIRE

WELL-BEING PLAN

One of the key statutory functions of the Pembrokeshire Public Service Board (PSB) under the Well-being of Future Generations Act is to produce a Well-being plan.

The Well-being Plan sets out how the PSB will work together to improve the well-being of people and communities in Pembrokeshire, now and in the future.

The Well-being Plan represents the additional value that can be delivered through working innovatively and collaboratively as partners.

The PSB has identified two overarching well-being objectives as the framework for the Plan.

These are:

- Who we are: We want to help our people, communities, and organisations so that we can support ourselves and each other
- Where we live: We want to protect and enhance our natural assets whilst optimising economic prospects, accessibility, and health for all
- 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)

The Well-being plan is a live document updated regularly to reflect changing long and short-term needs.

PREVENTION

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

Mitigating risk and advising other public bodies of any matters that arise.

INTERGRATION

(Considering how the well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives or on the objectives of other public bodies)

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

COLLABORATION

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

Tenby 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)

Tenby 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.



WELL-BEING PLAN FOR PEMBROKESHIRE

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. HELP OUR PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONS** SO THAT WE CAN SUPPORT OURSELVES AND EACH OTHER
- 2. PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ASSETS** WHILST **OPTIMISING ECONOMIC PROSPECTS, ACCESSIBILITY AND HEALTH FOR ALL**



NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

A PROSPEROUS WALES

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.

- Tenby Town Council allocates a specific proportion of its annual budget to well-being and activities range from provision of access to open spaces and play equipment through to support for local groups and organisations, including provision of facilities for meetings.
- Tenby Town Council is committed to working actively with partners to encourage and promote the town.
- Tenby Town Council has developed a website and set up a Facebook page. The website provides key contact information and responsibilities of the Council. Social media is used to promote the activities of local voluntary groups and organisations while also being used to inform and communicate with local residents, publicise meeting information and events and signpost to other service providers.
- The Town Council financially

supports a number of events and activities within the town through grants and as part of an agreed budget. These include the De Valence Pavilion, Ironman, Christmas Lighting and visit of Father Christmas, youth groups, Senior Citizens Christmas dinner, Civic ceremony, Remembrance Day Parade.

- Town Council grants are available for local groups and organisations.
- Tenby Town Council makes budgetary provision for community improvement schemes



NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

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.

- Tenby 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, but has developed excellent working relationships with the responsible authority, Pembrokeshire County Council.
- Street Cleaning, litter collection, refuse and recycling are the responsibility of Pembrokeshire County Council. However, in supporting these services and engaging with colleagues at the County Council, the Town Council can assist in addressing areas of concern.
- Works around gardens support these aims and as does support of the Old Cemetery as part of a God's Acre' project to preserve the flora and fauna in one of Pembrokeshire's last remaining hay meadows.
- Tenby Town Council's Community Engagement Officer actively works with various volunteer groups who assist in promoting, protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

- Tenby Town Council has established an open dialogue group with Dwr Cymru and NRW where matters impacting the social, economic and ecological resilience of the town can be raised (e.g. bathing water quality)

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 and understanding:

- The Town Council actively supports well-being through the use of town council buildings for groups and organisations within the community such as AA, Over 50s Friendship Group, U3A, MenShed, Hafal, The Tenby Project (which works with adults with learning difficulties and the wider community).
- The Town Council actively supports various public participation sporting events e.g., Ironman, IronKids, Long Course Weekend, CARTEN which encourage physical well-being.
- Management of the Jubilee Park which includes a children's play area and a skate park facility.



NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

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 and understanding

- The Town Council actively supports well-being through the use of town council buildings for groups and organisations within the community such as AA, Over 50s Friendship Group, U3A, MenShed, Hafal, The Tenby Project (which works with adults with learning difficulties and the wider community), Macular Society, Mother and Toddler Yoga.
- The Town Council provided financial support to Ysgol Greenhill School PTA for the provision of an outdoor gym which is also available to members of the public.
- The Town Council actively supports various public participation sporting events e.g., Ironman, IronKids, Long Course Weekend, TenFoot Swim and CARTEN which encourage physical well-being.
- Management of the Jubilee Park which includes a children's play area and a skate park facility.

A MORE EQUAL WALES

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

- The Council offices are on the ground floor of a centrally located building within the town to ensure that services are accessible.
- The Council makes its buildings available, and provides grants, to groups and organisations which enable a wide range of people to enhance their skills and fulfil their potential through taking part in activities.
- The Council has set accessibility as one of their aims as part of the Accessible Tenby Project.

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

- To continue to work with Dyfed-Powys Police in providing a safe town
- To continue to work with the Parochial Church Council on provision of CCTV overlooking the Jubilee Park
- The Town Council manages Tenby New Cemetery and works with local funeral directors to provide a considerate and respectable service to residents.



NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

- To continue to work with partners to create an attractive, viable, safe and well-connected community.
- To establish more routes in which the community can engage with the council e.g. hybrid community forums.

A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

Where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh.

- The Town Council supports a number of events throughout the town during the year which ensure vibrant surroundings.
- Tenby Town Council annually supplies the Christmas Lights for the town and organises and financially supports the Christmas Lights switch-on and arrival of Father Christmas.
- In 2023-24 the Town Council worked with other community groups and artistes to establish a week-long St David's Festival in March to celebrate the language and culture of Wales.

A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES

Where we look after the environment and think about other people around the world.

- To continue the close links with Plastic Free Tenby and our support and promotion of the Edible Tenby Community Garden, Fairtrade Tenby and Community Fridge initiatives.
- Support the 'God's Acre' project at Tenby Old Cemetery to preserve the flora and fauna in one of Pembrokeshire's last remaining hay meadows
- To continue to establish wildlife gardens around the town
- To continue to think of alternative ways in which to go about our business and ensuring that energy is not unnecessarily used.



ACTIVITIES 2023/24

COST OF LIVING CRISIS

The Council has continued with providing support to people with particular needs during the continued cost-of-living crisis. Staff have continued to work with volunteers to get support direct to those that need it.

Our Community Engagement Officer has secured funding to continue to support the on-going work of the Old Chapel, Lower Frog Street as our premier warm room facility in the town and continues to support the Tenby Connects Friday Well-Being for Carers sessions.

She continues to provide support for the Community Fridge facility at the Old Chapel and towards the end of the year began setting up a satellite facility at Ysgol Greenhill School.

In addition, a Hygiene Bank was established with five drop off points located around the town and a Repair Café was set up operating on a monthly basis at Augustus Place Community Centre as part of a Sustainable Saturdays initiative.

This year the Council has again provided financial support to organisations who continue to have been restricted in their ability to generate income during the pandemic. This has enabled the Council to support a number of initiatives including the provision of the Tenby Round Table Senior Citizens Christmas dinner together

with the help of local businesses; assisting Ysgol Greenhill School PTA with the provision of an outdoor gym at the secondary school for use by students and members of the general public and helping to provide new equipment for Tenby Sea Cadets.

DE VALENCE

Council support has continued to ensure that the De Valence has been in a position to compete, thrive and continue with its excellent programme of events and activities during a difficult operating period for entertainment venues.



ACTIVITIES 2023/24

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Through grants, provision of buildings, working with organisations and through sending representatives to be part of groups, the Town Council supports a range of community-based activities. Future plans to allow greater involvement in Council Action Groups is part of a plan to widen participation and to support community involvement.

During the year Cllrs. Blackhall and Whitehurst continued to be actively involved in re-establishing the South East Pembrokeshire Community Health Network which facilitates productive liaison meetings between health care providers, including the Hywel Dda University Health Board, and the local community.

The Accessible Tenby project is about recognising that both physically, as a medieval town, and operationally as with all places, there are barriers created for people with seen and unseen disabilities. There are also barriers created for people with young children. There are many ways in which accessibility is restricted. The Council has also supported the development of Dementia Friendly Tenby. The aim of the project is to support all aspects of access to services and places.

GARDENS

Investment in our wonderful gardens has continued. The gardens of Tenby offer a rich variety of settings for residents and visitors alike. Support continues for the “edible-garden” and related project activity. In addition, another 2 gardens have been “taken-on” by members of the public who are caring and maintaining the sites.

Through Enhancing Pembrokeshire funding, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority support and its own resources, the town council has also looked to adapt certain gardens to make them easier to maintain while also introducing pollinator plants in key areas.



ACTIVITIES 2023/24

ENVIRONMENT/PLASTIC-FREE

The Council has reaffirmed its support of Plastic Free Tenby, continued to assist local groups wishing to undertake litter picks and has made progress in increasing biodiversity when considering planting projects in public gardens including accessing grants for 'Bee Friendly' gardens in several locations.

During the year the Council offices became a Keep Wales Tidy litter hub where members of the public can borrow litter picking equipment.

The Council has committed to sustainable planting and continues to look to the upgrading some of the gardens to reduce the amount of water that is used and to provide a more sustainable approach whilst still creating vibrant displays.

SECURING FUNDING

Unlike 2022/23, where the council secured a major grant of £100,000 towards a £130,000 a scheme to undertake works in gardens, repair railings etc, the council has worked on accessing and securing smaller grants in 2023/24 enabling it to facilitate a wider range of projects.

Some of these include: establishing a Repair Café, expansion of the Community Fridge; provision of

homeless advice outreach services; setting up 'Time-out for Carers' wellbeing sessions, facilitating the TRI Mental Health café and the provision of a Sensory Tent as part of a Mencap 'Our Community' project.

Much of this work will be continuing in the year ahead.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The traditional Christmas Tree light switch-on and town decorations continued.

This year, in conjunction with Tenby District Lions, the light switch-on event included a charity market which attracted more people into the town and raised over £700 to support the work of the Old Chapel. This will be developed further in 2024.

There was also a repeat of the popular Santa-Drive-Thru ("Santa Cruise") with the Mayor and Father Christmas visiting every street in the town.



ACTIVITIES 2023/24

HOUSING CRISIS

Since the pandemic Tenby has seen an explosion in house prices and has seen property bought very quickly when it has gone on the market. Some property owners have switched to holiday lettings and Air B&B operations because of the lucrative reward as compared to private rental market. The Council has recognised the scale of the crisis as is continuing to work with Pembrokeshire County Council and National Parks to highlight these issues. Further works around this feature in the Council's business plan for the coming year.



FUTURE PLANS

Within the context of the Wellbeing Act, the community cohesion, healthiness, and prosperity of the town is intrinsically linked to these three areas of focus.

The Council has plans for the coming year including the maintenance and development of existing areas of work, together with extension of services that contribute to its overall aims.

The Council will maintain its Office base, advice and information outreach and provision of guidance to individual residents, organisations, businesses, and visitors. Maintenance and development of website and social media activity will complement the front facing 'office'.

The Council is keen to continue its progress in being more outward facing and in meeting the needs of the local community. As part of this plan, the Council has been progressing plans to make its own offices more accessible by relocating within the existing building and creating a welcoming community hub. The Council has also been working on plans to develop the Mayor's Parlour area to ensure greater use of the area.

The ongoing investment in the De Valence Pavilion will continue. As previously stated, the Council is rightly proud of the service that this provides and in partnership with the De Valence, the Council will continue to see how investment can help meet shared aims.

THREE AREAS OF FOCUS

1. To meet the needs of residents living full time in the town
2. Supporting businesses and those who are employed in Tenby
3. Providing a welcome to visitors.

Similarly, our investment in Augustus Place will continue and we have added new wi-fi and associated technology to that building and the Mayor's Parlour, which will be useable as a tech-enabled meeting space.



FUTURE PLANS

The Council has a long-term investment in our Gardens and our existing work in partnership with Pembrokeshire County Council and Tenby in Bloom will continue. With the support of grant funding and additional investment from the Council, we were able to expand this work further over the year with refurbishment and enhancement of key gardens. This is part of a long-term plan to enhance all of our key gardens. Coupled with this is the aim of getting more local people and groups involved with the gardens and the Council will continue to bring people together to develop longer term plans for all of the gardens in the Town, regardless of ownership or management. The Council is supporting the development of the Gardens of Tenby Group that will bring together all of the individuals and organisations that have an interest in our gardens.

The Council will also continue to look at ways they can increase bio-diversity and sustainability within the public gardens with the continued introduction of pollinator and perennial plants.

The Council will continue to work with the County Council to address litter issues within the town.

The Council, in partnership with PCC, will also look to review other play areas in the town and to develop a long-term plan for their management and upgrade where required.

The Town Council is committed to a project called Accessible Tenby, that seeks to improve accessibility to Tenby in a variety of ways. Beach wheelchairs and Wheelchair friendly benches and tables have already been provided and work is continuing to become a Dementia Friendly Town. The work on improving access for both seen and unseen disabilities will continue.

Future bids for funding will look at walkways and routes around the Town with the aim of improving access. In particular, plans to improve the walkway along St. Florence Parade and creating a better pedestrian link to the Esplanade, while sadly delayed, continue to be being developed to hopefully be implemented in 2024/25.

The Council is open to Community Asset transfers that will protect services for local people and support employment. However, the Council is also determined not to take on long term liabilities and any asset transfer has to be cost neutral. Further work will happen on a case-by-case basis as opportunity arises. The Council believes that local management of services is beneficial and will work with Pembrokeshire County Council as partners where appropriate.



FUTURE PLANS

The Council will examine the training needs of Councillors and its Staff and will produce an annual training plan. As a matter of course, all Councillors will continue to receive training relating to the Code of Conduct as they have this year. Training on planning issues has been undertaken by a number of Councillors in the last 12 months and future sessions will be offered during the year.

We will continue to support local organisations, in particular those who assist with health and welfare related matters, and therefore improve health and well-being.

Our Community Engagement Officer will continue to play a key role engaging with local community groups and in developing and delivering on-going and new projects. This is a vital part of the Council's ongoing plan to be more community focused and to place the needs of the people living in the town as our greatest priority. To support this work the council has budgeted for a £40,000 open grant fund which can be accessed by local organisations and projects within the town.

Council is committed to supporting the development of housing at Brynhir and contributing constructively to Pembrokeshire County Council's ongoing consultation process. This commitment is on the basis of the amount of social housing being created and conditional on a strict and tight local allocations policy that also allows people to return who have been moved out as a result of the current housing crisis.

We will work in partnership with local transportation groups to ensure local community benefits around the train station and bus services. We hope to help local train user groups build on the successful work that they have done over the last few years.

The Council is committed to continuing its new approach on having less meetings and more activity-based action groups with the aim of a greater focus on delivery. The Council will monitor its effectiveness and encourage the use of technology and other means as part of this.