



DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL

WELLBEING PLAN

2020-2021

INTRODUCTION

This report sets out to inform the Residents of Denbigh about the activities undertaken by the Town Council during the period of 2020-2021. This year has been different for all of us with Covid 19 changing all of our priorities. Most of the Town Council events have been cancelled or postponed and with working from home being the new normal we have adapted but still available to the public via telephone and email.

DENBIGH TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council is made up of 15 councillors representing three wards of the town: Upper, Central and Lower. 5 councillors represent the Upper Ward, 3 the Central Ward and 7 the Lower Ward. The 2019 Denbighshire County Council electorate report gave the population of Denbigh as 6,591 divided between the wards as follows:

Upper – 1,613
Central – 1,474
Lower – 3,504

Five county councillors are elected to represent Denbigh on Denbighshire County Council – 2 for the Upper Ward (which also includes the community of Henllan), 1 for the Central Ward and 2 for the Lower Ward. Two county councillors are also members of the Town Council.

The Town Council is administered by the Town Clerk who is also the Financial Officer with an office located at the Town Hall along with the Civic and Events Officer.

The Council operates on a Committee basis – Planning, Environment and Finance and Full Council.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Town Council is committed to improving quality of life for all its residents. The Town Council recognises its duty to be responsive to the needs of all who live and work in the town and to do so in a way which respects cultural identity and equality of opportunity.

The Town Council will work in partnership with all other bodies, whether statutory, public, private, voluntary or community in order to improve the quality of life and well-being of its community and to promote the town in an active and positive manner.

The Town Council usually meets in the council chamber located at the Town Hall three times a month with the exception of August. In addition, there are a number of sub committees and working groups that meet as and when required however the Council has met once a month via Zoom for the last 12 months due to the pandemic.

COUNCIL'S MAIN DUTIES

- Providing financial and administrative support in respect of all services delivered by the Town Council.
- Management of numerous annual events that take place throughout the year in Denbigh including the Fireworks at Denbigh Castle
- Installation of the Christmas lights in the town each year.
- Maintenance of some of the bus shelters
- Maintenance of Dr Evan Pierce Gardens
- Management of Tour Guide Diary
- Heritage Lectures

THE SEVEN 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 (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

A resilient Wales.

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

A healthier Wales.

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

A more equal Wales.

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

A Wales of cohesive communities.

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

A globally responsible Wales.

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

A PROSPEROUS WALES

The town of Denbigh is an historic market town and centre for retail and professional services such as solicitors, accountants and estate agencies. There is a total of 110 units within the town centre with just 18 being vacant in 2019. Additional retail units and new employment opportunities have been created just below the town centre at the Station Yard development with all units now being occupied.

Denbigh's Colomendy industrial estate is a key asset with 115 units offering accommodation to a range of enterprises including construction, manufacturing, telecommunications, food, storage, PR, training, health and housing sectors. The town also has significant public sector employment too, with local government offices, Denbigh High School and leisure centre, St Brigid's School, primary schools, Denbigh Library, and Denbigh Community Hospital.

A significant development by the housing association Grŵp Cynefin is the HWB Dinbych that provides a range of support services for local people from in and around the Denbigh area. The primary aim of HWB Dinbych is to increase training and employment opportunities locally, achieved by working closely with local businesses, setting up self-employment initiatives, developing local enterprise opportunities and supporting young people into further learning.

Denbigh will be seeing economy growth from the recent 2 Brookhouse developments and also planning going ahead at the old hospital site.

Denbigh Town Council has representatives on numerous bodies which aim to deliver future plans to grow the Town's economy, to name a few -

- North Wales Walled Towns Friendship Circle
- Twinned with Biebertal
- Town Hall futures group
- HWB Dinbych
- Denbigh Liaison Committee
- Denbigh Youth Project
- Fairtrade

A RESILIENT WALES

Denbigh Town council is committed to maintaining and improving the natural and built environment for our residents and others. We will always endeavour to comply with Section 6 (public authorities that exercise their functions in relation to Wales have a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. ... It is about changing the way we think about acting for biodiversity) in all matters that are consistent with the exercise of our functions as a

council. We will commit to good environmental practice in all matters and on all properties over which we have ownership or control.

We will also provide support and guidance to our partners in order to raise awareness about the need for sustainability and biodiversity.

1. As a council we are already committed to reducing our use of single-use plastics.
2. In grant applications forms we will ask that organisations seeking grant aid from the council are expected to indicate how they intend to reduce their use of single-use plastics, to produce as little non-recyclable waste as possible and provide recycling facilities for the public and exhibitors at all events. They will be asked to advise how they aim to be environmentally friendly.
3. The council will move to electronic methods of communication as the norm for all councillors unless a individual councillor asks for paper copies of council business.
4. Partner organisations such as Denbigh in Bloom and Bodfari Environmental will be informed that the council expects that no un-necessary herbicides or insecticides will be used on council owned or managed land or on projects funded by the council.
5. The council will continue to work with local schools to inform them about environmental initiatives. Town councillors who are also school governors will play an important role in communication between school councils and the Town Council.
6. Where the council is responsible for grass cutting the possibility of wild flower verges will be considered in order to encourage pollinators.
7. Examples of what the council will expect. Peat-free compost should be used. Planting should be pollinator friendly. Non-recyclable wrapping paper should not be used. Council funded events should produce as little non-recyclable waste as possible and recycling facilities should be provided for the public and for exhibitors and stall-holders.
8. The council will encourage local businesses to become aware of the need to adopt environmentally friendly practices.
9. Pension Provider invests in environmental companies – Solar Power

A HEALTHIER WALES

Recent investment in leisure facilities in the area included extension of the fitness suite at Denbigh Leisure Centre to cater for demand as the existing facility was often full at peak times. The additional space will allow membership to grow from 650 to over 800. This investment follows the provision of a new exercise studio and updated swimming pool changing rooms were completed late 2016. In addition to the general membership these facilities support many clubs and societies and the successful exercise referral programme.

Denbigh Community Hospital with its emphasis on care for older people, reablement and maternity care is a key facility in the local area.

Denbigh Town Council manage the Tours of Denbigh which run on a Saturday and Sunday morning from May until September every year. A range of tour guides with varied knowledge are available to guide both local people and visitors around Denbigh. Sadly due to the pandemic these have not been able to run in 2020 or 2021.

Denbigh Town Council in conjunction with Grwp Cynefin maintain the Skate Park in Lower Park.

Denbigh Town council is committed to supporting groups who encourage wellbeing and healthier living. Clubs that have benefited this year include –

- Denbigh Football Club
- Denbigh Rugby Club
- Carnival Group – Children and Adult craft Bags
- Forget me not group
- Carnival Group – School Uniform Exchange
- Theatr Bara Caws

A MORE EQUAL WALES

The town of Denbigh has similar rates of older people (over 65) as the county as a whole with some parts (notably Upper Denbigh) with a younger profile.

Denbigh has slightly higher proportions of the population from a white (other than British, Welsh, English Scottish, or Northern Irish), Asian or British Asian (particularly Chinese) background compared to other parts of the county. These are not high when compared to areas in England.

The Council is a key supporter of the Citizens Advice Denbighshire based in Denbigh giving them an annual grant and also supporting the annual Denbighshire School Uniform Recycle in support of Denbigh Residents.

A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

Denbigh Town Council is at the heart of very many diverse community events and activities that promote community spirit and enhance social cohesion. During the year the Mayor is privileged to attend local events run by numerous different organisations that clearly take great pleasure from having the civic leader of the Town Council visiting and supporting them.

Groups such as the primary school councils, guides etc visit the Council Chamber to try and encourage Councillors of the future. We will hopefully be able to accommodate these again in the coming year.

- Bunting goes up May-September to add colour to the streets
- Mid Summer Festival
- Denbigh Carnival
- Denbigh Floral Art
- Mayor's Civic Sunday
- Denbigh and Flint Show
- Denbigh Show
- Open Doors
- Beer Festival
- Plum Festival
- Fireworks Event
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas Lights
- Roll the Barrell
- Support St David's Day Events
- Denbigh in Bloom
- Menter Iaith Events
- Twinning (Biannual)
- Walled Towns, Car rally, Golf and Boules Tournament

Sadly, the majority were cancelled in 2020, some were held online but for some this was not practical.

A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

The Denbigh area has a range of significant heritage assets including the CADW managed sites, Denbigh Castle, Denbigh Friary and Town walls as well as the historic architecture of Denbigh Town, which can be visited as part of the successful open-doors scheme. There is a wealth of Historical Buildings in Denbigh with a total of approx. 220 of them listed. Denbigh is also a key cultural centre for the agricultural community playing host to the Denbigh and Flint agricultural show and the Denbigh Show.

There is 2775 Welsh Speakers over the age of 3 in Denbigh, the town has more than twice the national average of welsh speakers in its resident population.

In 2014 Ysgol Twm o'r Nant extended its provision to cater for more primary children through the medium of Welsh. Denbigh also host the Welsh language provision for 'late comers' to the language offering an immersive education for primary age children to give them a start in the language. Denbigh Town Council have adopted the Welsh Language act and have a translator available at all meetings with all Agendas, minutes and other documents being translated to the medium of Welsh. The Denbigh Town Council website is also available bilingually.

A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES

The range of heritage, cultural and environmental assets and developments provides Denbigh's contribution to a Globally Responsible Wales. Sustainability principles will be implemented through the Wellbeing Plan, Local Development and Regeneration Plans, biodiversity and conservation work.

Denbigh Town Council also host a series of Heritage Lectures every year which are free of charge and open to the general public. These were also cancelled but hopefully 2022 will see them back.