



abergele



Cyngor Tref ABERGELE Town Council

Annual Report 2022/23

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Introduction

Welcome to the Abergele Town Council 6th Annual Report

I hope that this report will give you more of an insight to the work of the Council and the community that we serve.

This year the Council has experienced changes in staff and a return to normal working patterns with the commencement of Hybrid meetings.

Following the May 2022 elections I would like to thank the elected members and officers of the Town Council for their hard work this year.

I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of the community of Abergele.

Councillor Alan Hunter
Mayor of Abergele Town Council
October 2020 – Present day



The Mayor, Cllr Alan Hunter 2022/23

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Charlie McCoubrey 2022/23



The Town Council, Clerk & Sam Rowlands (AS) May 2022

About this Report

Wales, like many other countries, faces the challenge of learning to live with COVID-19 pandemic but with the knowledge that vaccines can help save life. The impact upon individual citizens, businesses, and the community has been profound and it is against this backcloth that Abergele Town Council continues to try and help its local community.

As the world has shown countries can work together to help find and share solutions. Although it may be cumbersome, mistakes made, and increased costs, there is a common purpose of promoting **environmental, community and individual well-being**. Every community continues to face a number of challenges both now and in the future including, living with COVID, climate change, poverty, health inequalities, jobs and growth.

This year the County faced a cost of living crisis, strikes and a rise in interest rates and heating costs. To tackle these, we need to work together and in partnership. In order to give current and future generations a good quality of life we also need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make today.

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 perform and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

This report describes how Abergele Town Council has contributed to the seven well-being goals for the community of Abergele that were drawn up pre-COVID pandemic but are of continuing significance. The report includes details of some of our key objectives for the future.

The Town Council is required to ensure that it complies with the Local Well-Being Plan 2018-2023. The priorities approved by the Public Service Board are:



The Public Service Board has also committed to four additional principles, which support the priorities -

- To address inequalities and treat everyone equally.
- To support and promote the Welsh Language.
- To support access to appropriate accommodation.
- To avoid duplication.

This report will highlight the identified areas above and demonstrate how we are delivering local community services to meet these requirements. The report covers the Municipal Year 2022/23.

Mrs. Mandy Evans BA (Hons)
Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer to Abergele Town Council

About Abergele Town Council

Abergele Town Council was formed in 1974 following the re-organisation of local government and the disbanding of Abergele Urban District Council. It is one of 33 Town and Community councils in Conwy. Conwy County Borough Council became the unitary authority after a re-organisation of local government in Wales in 1996.

Abergele has a population of 10,577 (Source: ONS 2011). For local government purposes the Town is divided into four electoral wards, Gele, Pentre Mawr, St. George and Pensarn, with Town Councillors representing each ward. Town Councillors elected in May 2022 will serve a five year term finishing in May 2027.

The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are elected each year by the Council at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in May each year. The Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman roles are also appointed at the AGM.

Town Councillors, excepting those that hold County Council cabinet roles, are entitled to receive an small statutory allowance to cover out of pocket expenses and meet certain running costs such as making telephone calls, printing etc. For 2022/23 the rate set out by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales was £150 per Councillor. This statutory legal allowance was introduced by central government to help ensure persons who served their community as a Town Councillor would not be out of pocket and be able to meet the financial costs of serving in such a role.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at www.abergelepensarn.co.uk. Notices of Meetings, Agendas, Correspondence and Minutes can also be viewed at this website, along with governance documents, information about the Council, future plans, and community activities.

Abergele Town Council's Aims

- To promote and represent the community's views and aspirations at local, county, regional and national levels
- To serve those who live in and work in Abergele and those who visit the town
- To enhance the historic and cultural heritage of Abergele and safeguard its

natural and built environment

- To 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 the community and to promote the town in an active and positive manner

To achieve these aims, Abergele Town Council has agreed the following objectives:-

- To consult with the community to establish its aspirations for the future (see Place Plan)
- To promote the vitality and viability of Abergele
- To encourage and participate in partnership and agency working with the public, private and voluntary sectors to achieve quality services in all areas for the betterment of Abergele and its residents and visitors
- To promote sustainable policies that strive to improve the environment to meet the needs of residents and visitors for both the present and future
- To help create a socially inclusive and caring community that embraces all residents, seeking to develop their well-being, knowledge, understanding and fostering mutual co-operation
- To strive for a pleasant, clean and safe environment
- To deliver quality services that provide value for money and to review those services on a regular basis
- To support local voluntary groups that seek to assist residents and visitors to Abergele

Funding

The Council derives almost all of its funds from its precept which forms part of your annual council tax bill. This is the smaller amount which is added to Conwy County Borough Council Tax bills and is based upon Abergele Town Council's estimated income and expenditure for the year. For the financial year 2022/23 the Council estimated that it would need to spend £378,389. Of this amount, £299,749 was made up from the precept and the remainder was funded from other sources of income, such as grants, hall hire income, and the Council's own reserves.

Abergele Town Council

Summary Annual Estimates 2022/23

	A	B	C	D
	Actual	Actual	Projected	Draft
	<u>Inc/Exp</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Inc/Exp</u>	<u>Budget</u>
	<u>2020/21</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>
	£	£	£	£
INCOME:				
1 Precept	290,238.00	297,249.00	297,249.00	299,749.00
2 Bank Interest	272.00	200.00	120.00	120.00
3 Hire Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4 Newsletter	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00
6 Donations / Grants	12,376.00	30,000.00	68,000.00	0.00
7 Other Income	499.00	0.00	36.00	0.00
8 From Reserves	0.00	38,000.00	0.00	78,520.00
9 Contra Entry (Mayor) Place Plan reimbursement CCBC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10 S106	6,533.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11 H & D Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	<u>309,918.00</u>	<u>365,449.00</u>	<u>365,555.00</u>	<u>378,389.00</u>

EXPENDITURE:				
1 Staff / Admin. Costs	122,267.00	176,512.00	150,367.00	187,382.00
2 Civic Expenses	3,182.00	3,550.00	3,446.00	4,050.00
3 Premises - Town Hall & Offices	15,804.00	23,900.00	21,872.00	24,320.00
4 Petty Cash (Postage)	369.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
5 Annual Subscriptions	2,785.00	3,155.00	3,103.00	3,555.00
6 Joint Burial Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7 General Maintenance	16,644.00	22,780.00	19,543.00	25,480.00
8 Elections	0.00	5,000.00	2,000.00	5,500.00
9 Capital / Community Schemes	60,747.00	106,252.00	116,489.00	92,252.00
10 Section 137	14,193.00	9,400.00	9,250.00	14,500.00
11 Other Grants	12,150.00	7,200.00	4,550.00	14,000.00
12 Additional (unspecified) Publicity (newsletter / website / guide)	107.00	2,500.00	1,100.00	2,500.00
13	2,109.00	4,500.00	4,700.00	4,500.00
14 Transfer to Earmarked Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	<u>250,357.00</u>	<u>365,099.00</u>	<u>336,770.00</u>	<u>378,389.00</u>

Further information regarding the Council's finances, including its annual accounts, can be found at www.abergelepensarn.co.uk. This report includes examples of many of the Council's services which are delivered to all age groups in a variety of forms. The report describes Abergele Town Council's role and provision of services, which all contribute to the community well-being of Abergele, Pensarn and St George.

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.

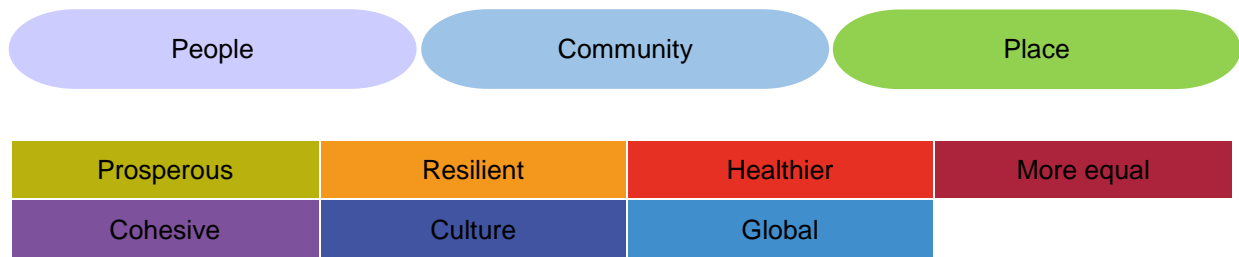
Prosperous (1)	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.
Resilient (2)	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).
Healthier (3)	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.
More equal (4)	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).
Cohesive communities (5)	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.
Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language (6)	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.
Globally responsible (7)	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 across themes

Some of the contributions of Abergele Town 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 issue might fit within the list of well-being goals.

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More Equal	Cohesive	Culture	Global
1	The Abergele Place Plan							
2	Town Council Funded Schemes							
3	Other Projects Funded by the Town Council							
4	Bio-Diversity							
5	Pentre Mawr Park							
6	Public Conveniences							
7	Playschemes							
8	Mental Health							
9	Public engagement							
10	Other supported events							
11	Celebrating Christmas							
12	Financial assistance							
13	Abergele & Fairtrade							
14	Welsh language							

The Abergele Place Plan



The Town Council’s Place Plan Committee continues to work towards enhancing the area for the community and aims to manage the use and development of land, and it links to the planning development policies set out by Conwy County Borough Council. Through collaboration with the local planning authority, it works with the local communities to develop community-led guidance/actions that help meet local aspirations and improve community well-being.

The Place Plan Committee are focused on three key themes:

1. Access and Infrastructure
2. Business, Tourism and Jobs
3. Community, Well-being and Culture

Waymarkers

The Town Council reviewed the condition of pathways around Abergele and created three themed circular routes with maps and points of cultural and historical interest. The Town Council is currently looking into potential funding sources and feasible options for this project.

Regeneration board

The Town Council attended meetings as part of the project officer’s board, provided community based updates, created links to projects on the ground and provided feedback on visual and sustainable elements of proposed Gateway development. The Town Council also requested regular updates on Traffic management scheme and attended a number of meetings with regards to the maintenance issues at Pensarn flats. The Town Council proposed a Play street initiative to address fly tipping issue.

Sea Defences

The Town Council attended and hosted meetings on the proposed Sea Defences scheme and provided feedback from Committee members. The Town Council has raised potential links with Green Infrastructure projects and Promenade Regeneration.

Football Club

The Town Council facilitated the inclusion of new football pitch onto Place Plan Priority list.

Active Travel Schemes

The Town Council reported on the progress of the scheme throughout the year and promoted the benefits of the project amongst community. The Town Council has incorporated elements of scheme into walking routes.

Improve shop fronts

The Town Council helped facilitate Business Forum in town and presented the Place Plan project to the forum. The Town Council suggested an alternative improvement scheme that links to biodiversity and tourism goals. The Town Council is currently awaiting funding and capacity to develop project further.

Allotments

The Town Council requested a report from CCBC into possible Allotment spaces. The Town Council consulted and reported on potential Abergele allotment association space and created an alternative Urban Allotments report which identifies potential growing spaces throughout Abergele. The Town Council worked with Transport for Wales to develop plans for a growing space as part of a community garden at the train station.

Cemetery

The Town Council requested a report from CCBC with regards to acquiring further burial ground space.

Green Gele

The Town Council provided support on how to link with Place Plan objectives, community contacts and community consultation. The Town Council engaged in 2 consultation events in Pentre Mawr Park and Park Gele, hosted regular meetings at Place plan to share designs and provided feedback on designs and links with other projects ongoing in the area.

Events space

The Town Council created a concept design for a multi-use/multi location events route that connects key features of Abergele. The Town Council has incorporated the concept into current projects to create a common factor throughout the town, helping to build unity and sustainability for future events. The Town Council encouraged the inclusion of events spaces in Green Gele project, Promenade regeneration, the gateway development and is currently seeking funding to develop project further.

TFW Friends of Abergele Train Station



The Town Council assisted with the creation of the Friends of Abergele Train Station and helped to install 8 planters. The Town Council provided guidance on pollinator friendly planting scheme and how to implement/maintain them.

Transport For Wales Green Corridors

The Town Council obtained funding to plant a corridor of trees along our nature walking route. This will highlight the route and add to its biodiversity. The project is been delivered with community groups including volunteers from the police, schools, Cartrefi Conwy and Youth Shed.



Incredible Edible

The Town Council provided guidance and on the ground support to rejuvenate the Pensarn roundabout barrier planters and also assisted with a planting day at Ysgol Glan Gele.

Abergele in Bloom

Place Plan received a request for assistance in creating an 'In Bloom' group. The Town Council is currently collating ideas for group projects and promoting them through social media channels.

St Michael's Church

The Town Council provided advice and concept designs on creating a low maintenance and wildlife friendly maintenance plan for the grounds whilst maintaining formal elements.

Town Team

The Town Council facilitated community links to help create events and attended meetings to present the Place Plan project and integrate ideas into the events planning.

Warm spaces

The Town Council helped host, collate and promote Warm Spaces in Abergele.

Place Plan sharing sessions

The Town Council hosted two full day consultation events at Dewi Sant Centre Craft Fair, presented at the Abergele garden society, and was as a guest presenter at the One Voice Wales Biodiversity online summit.

Business Forum

The Town Council attended the business forum meeting to discuss the Place Plan and how to facilitate the development of a strong business forum. The Town Council actioned the request for a collated online and physical promotion of Abergele events.

Vision document

The Town Council developed the Place Plan document to include an updated vision with further details. This is the first step of creating a Supplementary Planning Guidance Document which is the formal role Place Plan can take to affect change in major infrastructure projects.

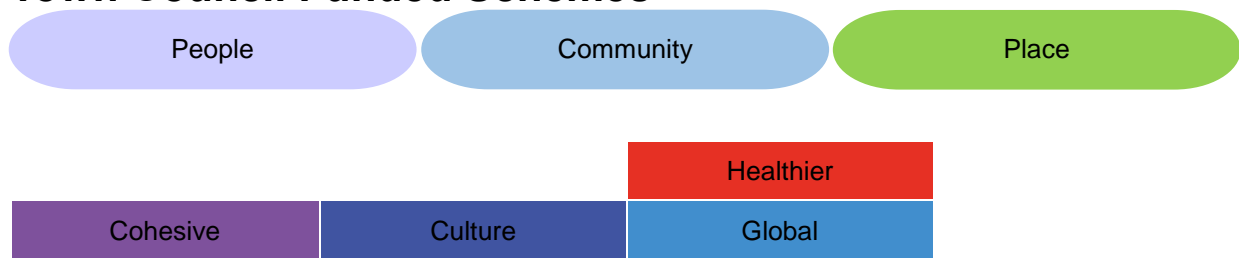


Abergele District Action Group

The Town Council attended a number of meetings and assisted with the hosting of a cultural event, Shakespeare in the Park.



Town Council Funded Schemes



Planters



Abergele Town Council are responsible for the maintenance of planters located around 11 sites throughout Abergele and Pensarn. The gateway signs and raised bed planters are showing signs of deterioration due to age and weather exposure. The Town Council are looking to replace the wooden planters with materials that are sustainable and durable so that it will last long term and reduce the Town's carbon footprint.

In the spring of 2022, the planter maintenance contract came to the end and unfortunately Abergele Town Council were unable to secure new contractors. This has provided the Council with an opportunity to look at planter maintenance long term and develop a scheme that is in line with its biodiversity targets. Abergele Town Council have agreed to move towards a planting scheme that is more environmentally friendly and sustainable. This means Abergele will be moving away from water hungry bedding plants to bulbs, perennials and shrubs.

Hanging Baskets

Abergele Town Council continued to fund 26 hanging baskets which were displayed on the hanging basket columns throughout the town.



Street Furniture

In 2020/21, Abergele Town Council installed eight public benches and eight picnic benches. These items were sourced locally and have a life span of around 10 years. A further three picnic benches are to be installed in Pentre Mawr Park. The

maintenance and responsibility of the street furniture remain the responsibility of Abergele Town Council.

Notice Boards

The Town Council continue to maintain five notice boards throughout Abergele and update the information within them. The Town Council were gifted by the Trade Association with a notice board. After investigating potential sites, costs and permissions, in February 2023 it was installed on Pensarn Promenade.

The Mount

The Mount is an important relic of the medieval landscape dating back to the 1300's. It is well preserved and of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive practices. Abergele Town Council is the custodian and is responsible for the maintenance and mowing of the Mount, which contributes greatly to a sense of 'place'.

The Town Council engaged with contractors and CADW to assess site issues. The Town Council reviewed the project and provided analysis on the feasibility of development.

Footpaths Maintenance

Since 2019 Town Council has linked with CCBC Footpaths Maintenance Scheme and it has nominated four significant footpaths (10, 19, 21 and 24) to receive timely maintenance for the benefit of the town's residents and outdoor walkers. This scheme has continued in 2022/23 and there are plans to further develop footpaths, themed heritage trails, and walking schemes, around town over course of next few years.

Abergele Lights

Abergele Town Council continued to fund and maintain the Pensarn Promenade lights in 2022/23.

Abergele Town Council continued to fund and maintain the flood lights on Gwyrch

Castle Turrets. The Council changed the filters to blue and yellow to mark respect for Ukraine. Other occasions were marked with various colours: pink and blue for baby loss awareness day on 15 October and red for Remembrance in November.

Bus Shelters

The Town Council are responsible for 12 bus shelters within Abergele and Pensarn and continue to fund their cleaning and maintenance.

Car Parks

Town Council continues to sponsor free carparks (owned by CCBC) to enable free car parking for up to 10 hours. This approach has been well received by community and the partnership arrangement will continue until March 2024.

Water St. Car Park - open 24 hours

Post code - LL22 7SH

Capacity 56 (no Coaches)
Long stay
Disabled spaces
Short walk to Town Centre and public toilets
Maximum 10 hours

Market Street Library Car Park - open 24 hours

Post Code - LL22 7AA

Capacity 30 (no Coaches)
Short stay
Disabled spaces
Town Centre
Maximum 3 hours

Pensarn Promenade

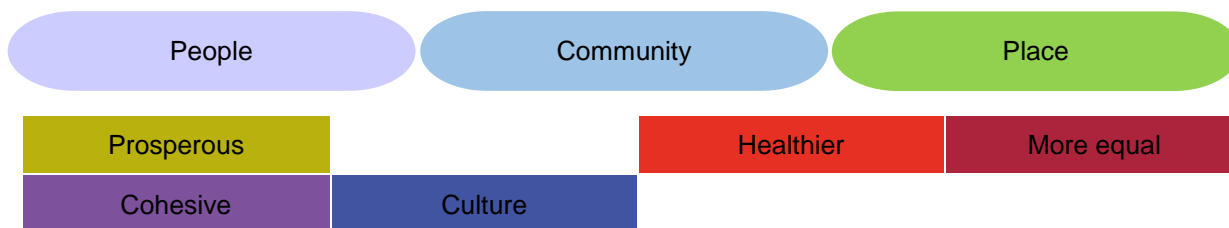
Post code - LL22 7PP

Capacity 100 (no Coaches)
Long stay Max 10 hrs
Disabled spaces
Beach location
Toilets



Overnight camping is prohibited at all CCBC car parks.

Other Projects Funded by Town Council



'I'm a Celebrity'



The ITV programme 'I'm a Celebrity' that had filmed Gwyrch Castle decided to return to Australia for 2022 as restrictions eased following the pandemic. As part of 'I'm a Celebrity' coming to the area, the Council had contributed to the purchase of large mannequins of bugs and ghosts

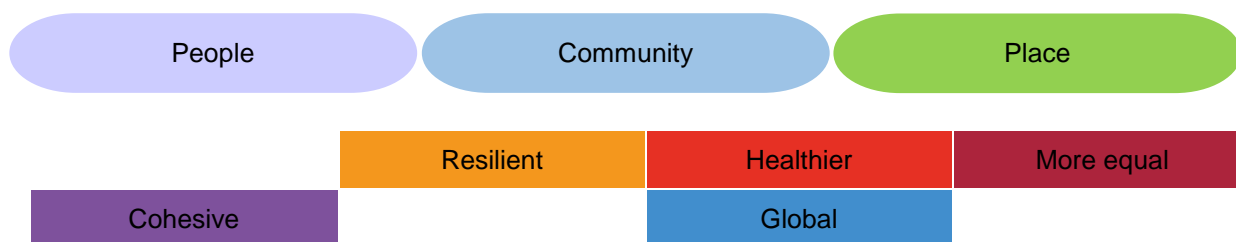
which were installed in the autumn of 2020. These models had been designed to be temporary installations. Following a cost assessment for planning permissions and safety inspection for the models, Abergele Town Council felt it was not financially viable to keep them in situ. The models had to be taken down and are currently in storage. Options for the future of the models are currently being investigated.

Town Hall Repairs & Improvements

Unfortunately the heating system, which was in place since the building was constructed in the 1950's, failed in February 2022. A few months later issues arose which resulted in the loss of hot water. As a result, major repair works were carried out from August onwards and a new heating and hot water system were installed.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 require Councils to allow meetings to take place via multi-locations. Abergele Town Council has been being trialling a video conferencing system which has enabled full council meetings to resume at the Town Hall. Councillors and members of the public can now attend meetings in person or online in what is termed as hybrid attendance. The trial is coming to an end and the Council are investigating options to replace the loaned equipment.

Environment



Section 6 Biodiversity

From December 2019, Town Councils have been required to prepare a triennial Biodiversity report under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The report must show what action the Council is taking to introduce measures to encourage and enhance biodiversity, how it is maintained and how it is encouraged in the wider community.

Abergele Town Council will endeavour to develop a bio-diversity policy, scrutinise its activities and look for ways to consider bio-diversity friendly actions in all of its projects. This can be achieved by encouraging and supporting community ideas which incorporate aims to protect the local wildlife, flora and fauna, and the environment.

Green Pledges

The Community Green Pledges consist of five Green Pledges that community groups and organisations can sign up to demonstrate and reduce their impact upon the environment. Each pledge includes suggestions, possible opportunities for funding of projects, and highlights difference to the Community's Well-Being both now and in the future.

Abergele Town Council participates in the Green Pledge scheme run by Conwy and Denbighshire and has currently achieved the bronze award status. Continuing to move forward in the Council's commitment to become greener, the Town Council secured the donation of two planters, via One Voice Wales, with pollinator friendly plants to increase the biodiversity at the Town Hall grounds. The Town Council also implemented and promoted 'No Mow May' to encourage wildflower development on site and maintains the installed bird feeder. To aid the Town Council push for the Gold award the Town Council has created a plan that includes designs for water harvesting, compost creation and a cycle rack.

Declaring a Climate Emergency

In 2020 the Town Council resolved to Declare a Climate Emergency, the Council will need to work towards ensuring that every element of its work will consider the climate, and impact upon the environment.

The items below follow the template set out by Conwy and Denbighshire Public Service Board.

Green Energy Assessments

Grant funding enabled independent energy assessments for community buildings in Abergele, Pensarn and St George to be carried out. These assessments are helping community groups to lower energy use in their buildings, which is both a financial and environmental positive.

The Town Council will review the report with a view to updating the building/Town Hall.

By reducing our impact on the environment, the Council can ensure that future generations have the same opportunities as today. Behaviour must change in order to achieve these goals.

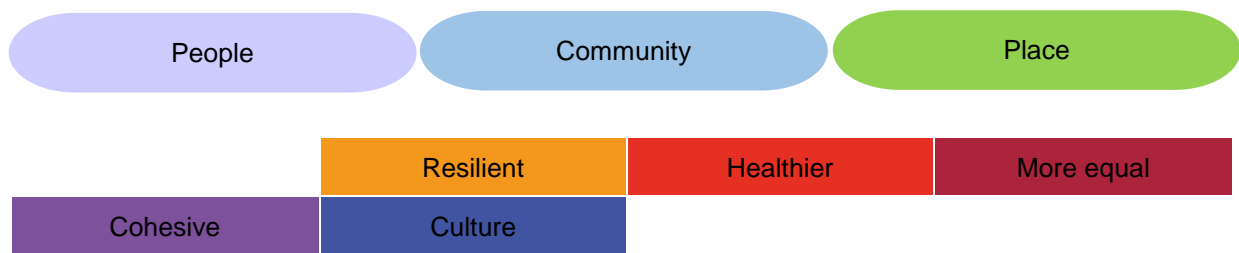
Green Pledges are grouped into five key areas:

1. Community Buildings & Facilities
2. Transport
3. Reduce/Reuse/ Recycle
4. Environment & Nature
5. Be spoke/ custom-made pledges

Town Council actions to date include:-

- Introduction of ipads for all Town Councillors which has considerably reduced use of paper and print.
- Council has significantly reduced printing of its regular Community Newsletter. The publication is now available electronically and can be sent directly to residents.
- Council has also stopped the use of single use cups and plastic at meetings.
- Council has funded a quad recycle bin in Pentre Mawr Park as a trial for a future project to enhance recycling.
- Review of town planters to increase sustainable planting and increase habitat biodiversity in 2022/23.

Pentre Mawr Park

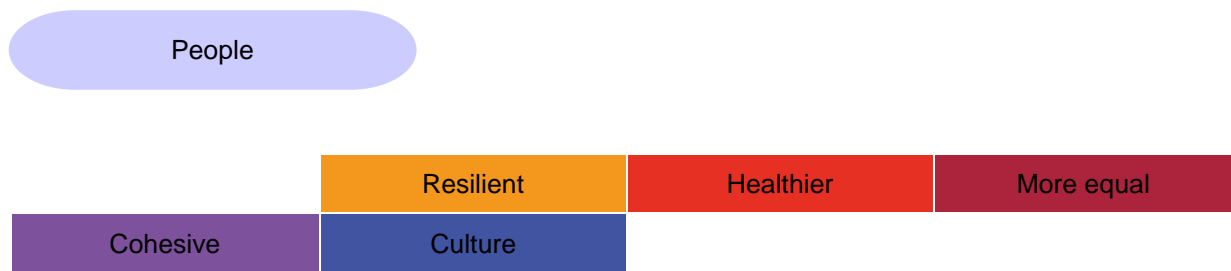


Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) embarked upon extensive upgrading works within Pentre Mawr Park and lighting was installed during 2022.

Within the park the Town Council currently funds the lighting for the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

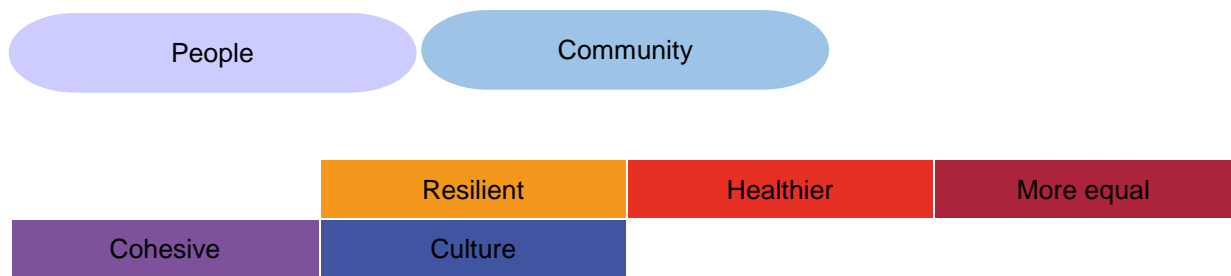


Public Conveniences



The Town Council is working in partnership with CCBC on the refurbishment scheme for the town’s Public Conveniences at Water Street, Pensarn Promenade, and Pentre Mawr Park. The refurbishment programme is ongoing and there are plans for transfer the ownership and running of the properties from CCBC to the Town Council once the work is completed.

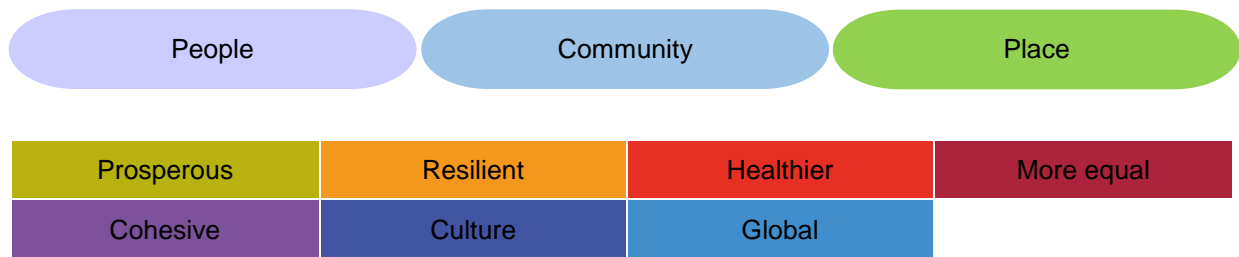
Playschemes



Each year Abergele Town Council has made funding available for the Abergele Playing out Scheme which is run by Conwy County Borough Council. The provision of free two hour play sessions, which alternate between Pentre Mawr Park and Parc Gele throughout the summer holidays, can help alleviate the pressure on parents to engage their children in activity, and also encourages young people to explore and play as individuals and in groups. Holding sessions in Parc Gele may also help raise local awareness of this often overlooked children’s play facility.

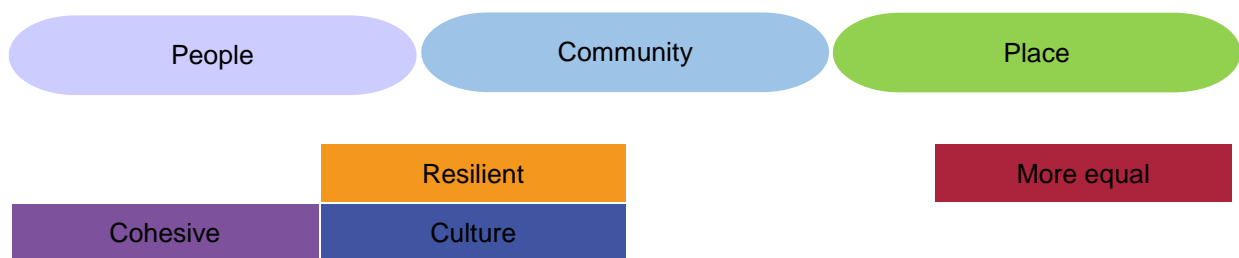
The Play scheme was able to recommence the summer of 2022 and February 2023.

Mental Health and Wellbeing



The Town Council aims to work with the various Community Groups, Schools and societies to ensure that the community of Abergele is treated equally, regardless of their age, colour, religion or disability. The Town Council aims to continue providing support in future years and is looking forward to finding additional ways of engaging and delivery of holistic community based well-being services and activity.

Public Engagement



Engagement with the Youth of Abergele

The Town Council have again continued to provide grant funding to the local primary schools for items that are not covered by the LEA budgets.

The Town Council hosted a few 'garden design and grow your own' sessions with St. George's School. The collaboration on the nature friendly garden design requires funding which is currently being sourced.

Town Hall Visitors

The easing of COVID restrictions occurred around March but the loss of heating and hot water in the Town Hall prevented visitors and the hiring out of the building.

In the summer of 2022, Youth Shedz were able to visit and provided the Mayor and Town Council with insightful perspectives on local matters in the area. It is hoped more visitors will come in 2023/24 now that the heating and hot water works have been completed.

Town Council Newsletter & Town Guide

In the past, Abergele Town Council provided local information for visitors and tourists, including history and annual events in the Town Guide. This was published biannually by a specialist company that relied on adverts as an income source to offset printing costs and distribution services. Due to COVID the publication date was deferred. Unfortunately, Abergele Town Guide's publisher went out of business along with many other companies who used to provide similar services. The Council investigated options regarding the production and distribution of a Town Guide in the future and discovered it was no longer feasible to do so.

Abergele Town Council continues to publish a community based Newsletter three times a year. The Newsletter is an inclusive publication which promotes articles from local clubs and society events in the area. It is also an important medium that allows Town Council to update the public regarding the work they are doing throughout the year.

Currently 1000 copies of the Newsletter are printed and distributed to local community hubs within the area for members of the public in want of a hard copy. The Newsletter is also distributed via email to those on the Newsletter subscription list and available as a download on the Town Council website.

The Town Council also produces walking leaflets, which shows local area walks of interest to the community and visitors.

Website and Social Media

A detailed analysis and report was presented to committee. Findings from the report were implemented within the social media channels to great success. Engagement with Town Council work has gone up by every measurable factor. As a result, the

public are more aware of the work ongoing and the simplified consulting method encourages feedback, engagement and increases support in the projects. The template can now be utilised to action changes to the website to create a more user friendly space that functions as an information hub for the town.

Dementia Friendly Community Status

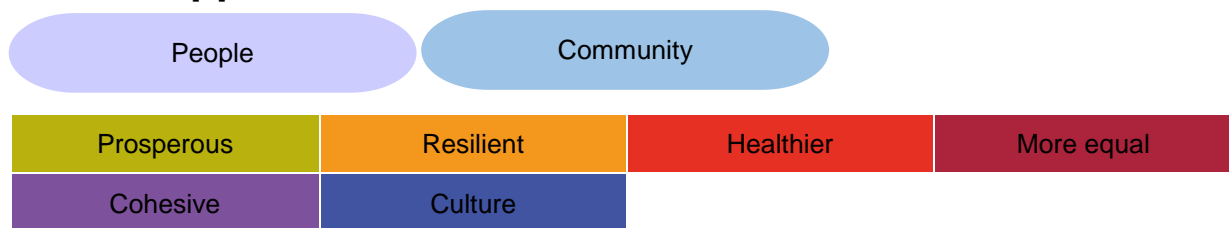
Abergele Dementia Friendly Steering Group was established in 2017 and Cllr. Shirley Jones-Roberts and Cllr. Alan Hunter are the current Town Council representatives on the group.



An Alzheimer’s Society survey revealed that 69% of people with dementia said that the main reason they stop going out is a lack of confidence. Abergele achieving Dementia Friendly status will help people living with dementia to remain part of the community, be more active in the local area and live better more fulfilled lives.

The Town Council has been accredited as working towards Dementia training. It will continue to work with all members and staff to ensure that all are offered/receive dementia training. It will also continue to raise public awareness of key community and individual health messages and promotion of well-being.

Other Supported Events



Abergele is looking to become a town with events and community activities at its heart. Whether that will be the Town Council assisting with organising an event, provide financial support, or undertake an enabling role to assist event organisers, the overall goal is to deliver a safe and successful events for the town.

Events can have many purposes and during planning stages it is useful to know purpose e.g. increasing footfall to business, raising awareness of town, community engagement, or delivering an important health and well-being message.

It is also important to recognise that Town Council staff may not always have skills, knowledge or capacity to take on such roles and that working with partners, specialist event coordinators, or event organisers will be a feature of this approach.

The following calendar of events were provided for the community of Abergele and then during 2022/23:

<i>Abergele Carnival</i>	<i>Cancelled.</i>
<i>Jubilee Beacon Lighting</i>	<i>Organized by Abergele Town Council</i>
<i>Town Fireworks</i>	<i>Organized by Abergele Roundtable</i>
<i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	<i>Organized by Abergele Town Council in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and St. Michael's Church. A face to face service was able to be held.</i>
<i>Christmas Lights</i>	<i>Organised, delivered and funded by Abergele Town Council.</i>
<i>Town Christmas Concert</i>	<i>Organised, delivered and funded by Abergele Town Council.</i>
<i>Tree of Lights Ceremony</i>	<i>Organized by St. Kentigern</i>

Falklands 40

On Tuesday, 14th of June, a service of remembrance was held at St. Michael's church to commemorate 40 years since the end of the Falklands Conflict in memory of the soldiers, sailors and aviators who fought to liberate the islands in June 1982. Mayor Cllr Hunter had the honour of placing the wreath at the cenotaph.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, Abergele Town Council were able to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a beacon lighting ceremony which took place at Pensarn Promenade on Thursday, 2nd June 2022. Hundreds of people turned up to watch

the lighting of the beacon, accompanied by a Piper, to mark the historical moment of her Majesty's 70 year reign.



The Town Council obtained grant funding for the planting of seven micro woodlands in Abergele to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee. The Town Council created designs with community groups for installation, collaborating with Green Gele, schools, Incredible Edible and Cartrefi Conwy. Unfortunately, due to permissions and maintenance issues the areas had to be reduced to three - Pentre Mawr Park, St. George School and Maes Canol.

Proclamation Service

Sadly HM Queen Elizabeth II passed away on 8th September 2022 making her the longest reigning monarch in British history. A proclamation service for the new sovereign, King Charles III, was held at Abergele Town Hall on Sunday 12th September 2022



Celebrating Christmas



The Christmas Lighting scheme



The Town Council funded a new Festive lighting scheme under the power to encourage visitors to the town (s. 144, the Local Government Act 1972). The Town Council has been bold in their approach to the new scheme and have opted for feature lighting with a difference. It is hoped that the new feature lighting will increase footfall to the area and also be enjoyed by the locals.

Abergele Town Council are also committed to lowering their carbon footprint and making more sustainable choices. As a result, the Council opted for lower wattage motifs and planted Christmas trees in three locations. It is anticipated that the Christmas trees will have a life span of 10 years before they will need cutting down.



Financial Assistance

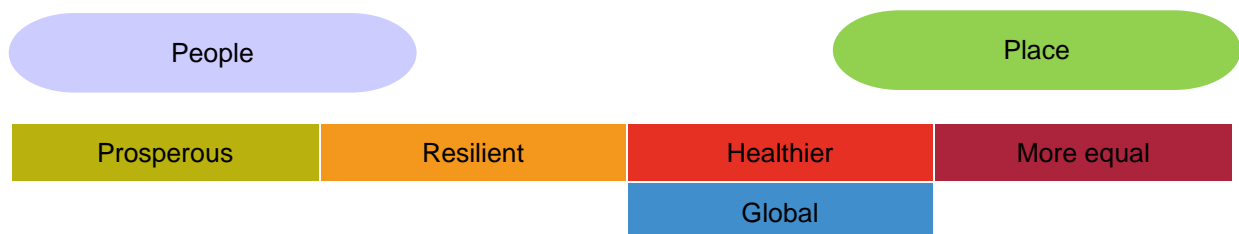


The Council supports organisations by funding grants which contribute to specific needs in Abergele. Through the Financial Assistance Grant Scheme, the Town Council awarded grants to voluntary or charitable groups based or working in Abergele in 2022/23. Such groups included:



Information about grants and a grant application form is available to download on the website: www.abergelepensarn.co.uk/grants

Abergele and Fairtrade



Abergele Town acquired Fairtrade status in 2010. In order to maintain the status, the Fairtrade steering group is required to convene and encourage the town to meet the five goals (as set by Fairtrade) and renew the status every two years. Meetings did not occur due to COVID and sadly the Fairtrade steering group no longer meets. As a result, Abergele is no longer a Fairtrade town.

The Town Council, keen to contribute to sustainable practices, sources Fairtrade and local goods where possible. The status will be up for renewal in 2023.

Welsh Language



The Town Council aims to help and support the Welsh language by the adoption of the Welsh Language Scheme which was approved by the Town Council in 2014.

The Town Council's area on the new town website www.abergelepensarn.co.uk is fully bilingual and based on the Green Scheme criteria. All static information will be available bilingually, other information such as notices and minutes will be available in Welsh upon request but in English only in the first instance.

The Town Council news published in the Newsletter is produced bilingually, but articles received from the community are published in the language in which they are received.

The Town Council has Welsh speakers and Councillors are taking Welsh lessons to improve their language skills.

Dysgu Cymraeg are currently running Welsh classes from the Town Hall.

Menter Iaith

The Abergele Place Plan agreed through S106 to fund Menter Iaith to host and encourage the Welsh language in the Abergele area – keep an eye out for Events on the Abergele website and social media. The Town Council also engaged with and promoted the work of Helo Blod to businesses around Abergele.

The Future

The Town Council plans for 2023/24 are as follows:

People

- The Town Council will strive to have a strong relationship with local residents and visitors. It will continue working closely with the schools, including Student representatives, competitions, school visits, aid and promote the Welsh language.
- Provide support and promote Family centres, Dementia friends, local community groups and societies.
- Award grant funding and other forms of support to Third Sector not for profit organisations, Clubs and Societies in the area. It will also help local groups to re-establish themselves after two years of lockdown and enforced closure due to the COVID pandemic.
- To continue to encourage and support the Welsh language/ support Menter Iaith and its Welsh Language Project.
- Support the Community through collaboration and protecting services

Community

The Town Council aims to:

- Support Civic and Community based events/activities that help to promote town, local business and local services.
- Support, develop and assist implementation of agreed community actions and projects either directly through Town Council or in partnership with other bodies and service providers through the Abergele Place Plan.
- Assist with the set-up of new/other groups to enhance community engagement.
- Promote Play and other targeted health and well-being schemes.
- Continue development of the community based website.

Place

Town Council aims to:

- Lead on the Abergele Place Plan.
- Provide public conveniences in Pentre Mawr Park.
- Continue to provide maintained bus shelters for the Community.
- Fund free car parking in the Town.
- Maintain the speed warning signs.
- To promote health and well-being plans and environmentally based green projects.
- To protect and enhance local culture.

Competent Council

These are changing times, politically, economically and socially. County Borough Councils are facing many cuts which impacts Community & Town Councils as they now face running services that would otherwise be lost. Abergele faces many new challenges and it is important that we are ready to embrace these challenges to be fit for the future.

The Town Council aims to avoid duplicating the work currently being carried out by other community groups. The Town Council has been reaching out to community groups and working in conjunction with them in order to deliver projects on behalf of the Community as a whole.

In January 2021 the Local Government (Wales) Act 2021 received royal assent. This Act includes a number of 'competency' tests to help Community Councils determine how well equipped they are to meet future challenges. The tests, for 'Powers of General Competency', are intended to bring more consistency to the sector, with higher standards of governance and financial management. The tests for the Powers of General Competency came into force in November 2021.

The General Competency tests include:

A democracy test: at least two thirds of Councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election;

A capability test: the Community Council must employ a Clerk with relevant professional qualifications, such as the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA);

A capacity test: the Council has a minimum annual budget of £200,000; and

A governance test: this means the auditor, after their checks, feel that Abergele Town Council has sound financial management and internal control systems. The Council must have two unqualified audits for two consecutive years from AGW (Auditor General for Wales).

If the Council passes all the competency tests, they are granted more powers to carry out commercial activities similar to that of a private business.

The Town Council is also subject to both internal and external audit.

Abergele Town Council undertook an audit during the year to see how it fared against these tests. Here are our findings:

- 11 Councillors have been declared elected.
- 5 have been co-opted.
- The Clerk is working towards attaining her CiLCA qualification.
- The town's annual budget is over £200,000
- The Town Council has sound management and financial systems. Its accounts are scrutinised in accordance with the Welsh Audit Office. Agendas, minutes, accounts and contact details can be viewed at www.abergelepensarn.co.uk.

The Community can e-mail the Clerk to the Council at info@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales

A Charter is in place to govern our relationship with Conwy County Borough Council.

Currently, Abergele Town Council does not have the Powers of General Competency.

Abergele Town Council Members 2022

Name and Address	Ward	Contact Details
Cllr Tracey Brennan Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Pensarn	Mobile: 07730 871364 Email: cllr.t.brennan@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Maria Davies 231 Pen Y Maes Abergele Conwy LL22 7NW	Pentre Mawr	Email: cllr.m.davies@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Mr D Fetherstonhaugh Plas Kimmel St George Abergele LL22 9SF	St. George	Tel: 01745 827540 Email: cllr.d.fetherstonhaugh@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Diane Green Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Pentre Mawr	Email: cllr.d.green@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr P Heap-Williams Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Gele	Tel: 01745 833242 Email: cllr.p.heap-williams@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Gwyn Hughes 2 Heol Bodran Abergele LL22 7UW	Pentre Mawr	Tel: 01745 822018 Mob: 07733 294740 Email: cllr.g.hughes@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr A Hunter Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Pensarn	Tel: 01745 833242 Mobile: 07393 761664 Email: cllr.alan.hunter@conwy.gov.uk
Cllr John Richard Jones Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Gele	Email: cllr.j.jones@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales

Cllr Shirley Jones-Roberts Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Pentre Mawr	Tel: 01745 833242 Email: cllr.s.jones-roberts@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Paul Edwin Luckock Rhiwlas High Street Abergele LL22 7AR	Pentre Mawr	Tel: 07554 122976 Email: cllr.paul.luckock@conwy.gov.uk
Cllr C McCoubrey Hen Wrych Farm Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 8EU	Pentre Mawr	Tel: 07545 597823 Email: cllr.charlie.mccoubrey@conwy.gov.uk
Cllr Nick Williams Pantri Bach Café The Promenade Pensarn LL22 7PP	Pensarn	Mobile: 07734735382 Email: cllr.n.williams@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Ann Williamson Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Pentre Mawr	Tel: 07824341946 Email: cllr.a.williamson@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales
Cllr Andrew Wood 18 Llwyn Onn ABERGELE LL22 7EG	Gele	Tel: 01745 822579 Mobile: 07774 834166 Email: cllr.andrew.wood@conwy.gov.uk
Cllr Keilah Yarwood Town Hall Llanddulas Road Abergele LL22 7BT	Gele	Mobile: 07891 853 575 Email: cllr.k.yarwood@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales



Meeting Dates 2023/24

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings will take place in the Town Hall at 6.45pm, members of the public are welcome to attend to observe the proceedings and also by Hybrid means. If you wish to attend a meeting remotely please email info@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales for details of how to join.

Date:	Meeting(s)
<u>2023</u>	
5 th January	Ordinary
12 th January	General Purposes & Planning
19 th January	Policy & Finance
26 th January	Placeplan
2 nd February	Ordinary
9 th February	General Purposes & Planning
16 th February	Policy & Finance
2 nd March	Ordinary
9 th March	General Purposes & Planning
16 th March	Policy & Finance
23 rd March	Placeplan
6 th April	Ordinary
13 th April	General Purposes & Planning
20 th April	Policy & Finance
15 th May	Annual Meeting
18 th May	Policy & Finance
25 th May	Placeplan
8 th June	General Purposes & Planning
12 th June	Ordinary
15 th June	Policy & Finance
22 nd June	Placeplan
13 th July	General Purposes & Planning
20 th July	Policy & Finance
24 th July	Ordinary
27 th July	Placeplan
August	No Meetings (Executive Committee)
4 th September	Ordinary
14 th September	General Purposes & Planning
21 st September	Policy & Finance
28 th September	Place Plan

12th October General Purposes & Planning
16th October Ordinary
19th October Policy & Finance
26th October Placeplan

9th November General Purposes & Planning
16th November Policy & Finance
23rd November Place Plan
27th November Ordinary

14th December General Purposes & Planning
21st December Policy & Finance

2024

8th January Ordinary
11th January General Purposes & Planning
18th January Policy & Finance
25th January Placeplan

8th February General Purposes & Planning
15th February Policy & Finance General
19th February Ordinary
22nd February Placeplan

14th March General Purposes & Planning
21st March Policy & Finance
28th March Placeplan

8th April Ordinary
11th April General Purposes & Planning
18th April Policy & Finance
25th April Placeplan

Representation on Outside Bodies 2022/23

Abergele Royal British Legion (Branch)	A Wood
Abergele Dementia Friends	A Hunter, S Jones-Roberts
Abergele Fairtrade Coalition	T Brennan
Abergele Regeneration Board	T Brennan
Canolfan Dewi Sant	A Hunter; N Williams; T Brennan
Conwy County Access Group	A Wood
Community Council Forum	The Mayor; A Wood
Charity of Robert Roberts	T Brennan; D Fetherstonhaugh; S Jones-Roberts; (3 ATC Members)
East Promenade Consultative Group	A Hunter; A Wood; N Williams
Joint Burial Committee	A Hunter; C McCoubrey; N Williams; A Wood (4 ATC Members)
Llandrillo College Council	D Green
Morfa Rhuddlan West Flood Partnership Group	A Hunter
North Wales Mid Wales Association of Town & Larger Community Councils	S Jones-Roberts; A Wood (3 ATC members) Vacancy
North Coast Transport Liaison Committee	A Wood
One Voice Wales	2 representatives
<u>SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES</u>	
St George	P Heap-Williams
Glan Gele	A Hunter
Glan Morfa	Vacancy – require Welsh speaker
St Elfod	S Jones-Roberts
St George Quarry Liaison	A Hunter
St George Village Hall Trust	A Wood
Menter Iaith	A Hunter

Contact Information



Abergele Town Council
Town Hall
Llanddulas Road
Abergele
Conwy
LL22 7BT

Website: www.abergelepensarn.co.uk

Telephone: 01745 833242

Email: info@abergeletowncouncil.gov.wales

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