



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 / 23

**REVIEWED, APPROVED & ADOPTED
BY FLINT TOWN COUNCIL
ON 17th JULY 2023**

Introduction

Welcome to Flint Town Council's Annual Report. This annual report sets out to inform the residents of Flint of the activities undertaken by the Town Council during the period May 2022 to April 2023. This report will contain a brief outline of the structure of the Council, an overview of the Council's activities and a financial summary. The report also includes details of all the Town Councillors, members of staff and how to contact the Council.

Flint Town Council

Flint Town Council was created in 1974 following the re-organisation of local government and the disbanding of Flint Borough Council. It is one of 34 Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

Flint Town Council has a number of broad ranging responsibilities and powers which, dependent on finance and other resources, enable the development and improvement of facilities and services to residents and also visitors to the community.

The Council's aims:

- To promote and represent the Town's views and aspirations at local, county, regional and national levels.
- To serve those who live in and work in Flint and those who visit the Town.
- To promote Flint as a place to live, work, shop and invest in and a place to visit.
- To provide effective and efficient services that give value for money and to improve those services as needed.
- To strive to improve the quality of life for all residents of Flint.

The Council works in partnership with a number of other organisations, groups and the community to try to ensure the best for Flint residents and the maintenance of services.

The Council also works on behalf of local people to request that Flintshire County Council and other statutory bodies meet their duties and responsibilities in a way which satisfies the needs of Flint residents.

The Council considers and responds to planning applications and considers and responds to a number of consultations by statutory bodies on a national and local level and always considers how decisions affect people in the area.

Membership

There are 15 members on Flint Town Council. Councillors are office holders who sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office upon their election or appointment - they are

therefore part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers.

Your Town Councillors for the Year 2022/23 were as follows:

Councillor	Ward	Political Party
Ms. Melanie Buckley	Oakenholt	Labour
Mr. Damien Challenger	Trelawny	Labour
Mr. Paul Cunningham	Trelawny	Labour
Mrs. Norma Davies	Coleshill	Labour
Mr. Russell Davies	Coleshill	Labour
Mr. Ben Goldsborough	Coleshill	Labour
Mrs. Carol Griffiths	Coleshill	Independent
Mrs. Elaine Jones	Trelawny	Independent
Mrs. Lynda Leigh	Castle	Labour
Mr. Michael Moore	Oakenholt	Independent
Mrs. Vicky Perfect	Castle	Labour
Mrs. Michelle Perfect	Coleshill	Labour
Mr. Ian Roberts	Castle	Labour
Mr. Joe Stoneley	Oakenholt	Labour
Mr. Michael Whittaker	Trelawny	Labour & Cooperative

At the head of the Council is the Mayor, who is elected annually. The current Mayor is Councillor Mrs. M. Perfect. The current Deputy Mayor is Councillor B. Goldsborough.

The Council Leader is Councillor P. Cunningham.

Meetings

The Council meet on the third Monday of every month for Council and Committee Meetings. There are no meetings held in August and December. The Annual Meeting is held in May. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees.

Following Government legislation, the Council operates hybrid meetings.

Committees:

Town Planning Committee

Chair: Councillor R. Davies

Town Hall Management Committee

Chair: Councillor Ms. M. Buckley

General Purposes Committee

Chair: Councillor Mrs. V. Perfect

Finance & Policy Committee

Chair: Councillor B. Goldsborough

Staff:

The Town Council employs five members of staff:

Mrs. L. Wood - Town Clerk

Mrs. N. Thornton - Support Officer

Mrs. S. Flynn - Town Hall Caretaker & Cleaner

Mr. D. Williams - Town Caretaker

Mr. B. Gittins - Key Holder

The Town Council Offices are located at Flint Town Hall. The offices are open to the public between 9.30am and 1.00pm Monday and a Friday and between 9.30am and 3.30pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Website

Information about the Community Council including the agenda for meetings, policies and minutes are available on the Council's website:

<http://www.flinttowncouncil.gov.wales>

Budget/Precept

The process of deciding on the level of precept by Flint Town Council includes the preparation of a draft budget on the basis of the financial situation of the Town Council by considering the likely costs, plans for projects, setting an amount for contributions - within the guidelines published annually - and any other financial matters.

The total forecast expenditure for 2022/23 for the Town Council was £261,360.00.

The estimated Town Hall Income totalled £8,010.00.

The precept requirement was for 2022/23 was £243,350.00.

The precept which is set annually and presented to Flintshire County Council in January for the following financial year.

Accountability

The Town Council has adopted a member's code of conduct and a register of interests is kept. Each Councillor must declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of each meeting and these are noted in the minutes.

Each year an Internal and External Audit is undertaken. The Internal Audit was completed by JDH Business Services Ltd and the External Audit undertaken by Audit Wales.

Partnership Working

The Council works in partnership with Flintshire County Council with regard to Streetscene and Transportation matters, litter, recycling, and other environmental matters.

The Council have a service level agreement with Flintshire County Council and funds the provision and maintenance of several CCTV cameras in and around the town centre.

The Council has regular involvement with North Wales Police to discuss issues that impact on the area.

The Council annually appoints a representative(s) on the North and Mid Wales Association of Local Councils. The Council representative for this year is: Councillor Mrs. N. Davies.

The Council contributes to the organising of the annual Remembrance Sunday services and parades through the town.

Achievements 2022/23

Upgrade of Cornist Park Play Area

The Council participated in the annual match fund scheme with Flintshire County Council and Aura to upgrade the local play areas most in need of development. Cornist Park play area was the identified play area and the Council committed £10,000 to the scheme.

Flint Festival

The first two weeks of July saw a programme of events held around the Town which included a Family Fun Day, Food & Drink festival, Pop up Restaurant, Murder Mystery Evening and concluded with a three day 'Rock the Castle' music event. A total of £3,600 was donated to a number of local groups and charities within the Town.

Summer Play Scheme

The Town Council annually supports a number of Summer Play Schemes within the town. The scheme is professionally run by Flintshire County Council and the Town Council provides funding to the County Council on an annual basis so that the scheme can run each year.

Halloween Spooktacular Event

In October 2022, a successful Halloween Spooktacular Cinema event was held at the Gaumont Plaza. The event was free and fully funded by the Council.

Christmas Light Switch on Event

In November 2022, another successful Christmas Light Switch on Event took place in Church Street. The event started at 11am with a Market, later on, fair rides opened, we had performances from local children's Schools, the Flint Male Voice Choir and the Flint Ladies Choir. Then Father Christmas and his Reindeers made a special appearance to meet all the children. The Mayor and Mrs. P. Hyndman switched on the wonderful Christmas light display which was followed by a spectacular firework display over the castle. The evening was concluded with the Festival of Lights Truck convoy through the Town. The event was free and fully funded by the Council.

Financial Assistance

The Council sets a budget annually to be able to offer financial assistance to local groups and organisations. This year we donated a total sum of £8650.00.

In the main, financial support is confined to local organisations etc. Financial support to outside organisations and events etc., shall be considered when residents of the Council's area are participating or there is direct benefit to the community.

Mayor's Charitable Donations

The total raised from Mayoral events and donations for this year was £550.00. This amount was divided between the Mayor's chosen charities.

Hanging Baskets

The Council funds the Town's floral hanging baskets, that can be found in various locations. These are a positive and welcome addition to the Town's environment.

Community Coffee morning

In March, the Town Hall was opened on a Thursday morning as a Community Coffee morning, all refreshments are provided free of charge for residents who may feeling isolated and want to meet new friends.

Wedding Fayre

In March, the Town Hall hosted its second Wedding Fayre, showcasing local businesses and prompting the Town Hall as an Approved premises for Wedding, Vow Renewals and Baby Naming Ceremonies.

History of Flint Town Hall Day

The Town Hall opened its doors in March for a dedicated 'History of the Town Hall' day, where the public could have a tour of the building and Councillors and Staff were in attendance to answer questions and talk about the history of the hall, its portraits and memorabilia.

Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

The Council has a limited scope in some of these priorities, but it has provided demonstrable evidence of its intentions to work towards a number of initiatives, events and partnerships which clearly contribute to community wellbeing, and have a positive impact on the lives of local residents.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 defines sustainable development as the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the wellbeing goals.

The Act lists seven wellbeing goals:

- 1) A Prosperous Wales
- 2) A Resilient Wales
- 3) A Healthier Wales
- 4) A More Equal Wales
- 5) A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- 6) A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language
- 7) A Globally Responsive Wales

The Council supports these wellbeing goals and will consider them when making future decisions that affect peoples lives withing the local community.

Priorities of the Flintshire Well Being Plan

- Community Safety

- Economy and Skills
- Environment
- Healthy and Independent Living
- Resilient Communities

1) Community Safety

Liaison with North Wales Police, CCTV coverage in the town centre, Deployment of mobile CCTV cameras at targeted community hot spots, Councillor representative on Community Liaison Meetings, funding of summer play schemes.

2) Economy and Skills

Raising awareness of the importance of volunteering and we actively encourage and welcome volunteers to assist with the many events organised in the Town. The volunteers have the opportunity to build their skill set and gain experience within a working environment.

We aim where possible to contract local contractors to provide our public services such as the maintenance of our hanging baskets, works at the Town Hall, installation and maintenance of the Christmas lighting.

Building on the success of the Town Council's website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Flint one of the six SMART towns and there are currently three devices located within the town. A SMART Town uses digital equipment to offer services and data to make their town more efficient and to improve the services and operations in the town through the capture of live footfall data. Insights gained from that data are used to manage assets, resources, and services efficiently; in return, that data is used to improve the operations and future prosperity across the town.

3) Environment

Hanging basket displays in the Town Centre; establishment of wildflower verges; support local community litter picks; annual participation in the match fund scheme to upgrade existing play areas within the Town.

4) Healthy and Independent Living

Contributions to the Mayoral Charities and contributions to community groups within the Town.

5) Resilient Communities

Remembrance Sunday Service and parade, Christmas Lights Switch On event, Flint Festival events.

The Council has a limited scope in some of these priorities, but it has provided demonstrable evidence of its intentions to work towards a number of initiatives, events and partnerships which clearly contribute to community wellbeing, and have a positive impact on the lives of local residents.

The Council will always operate with sound governance and probity in an open, transparent, and democratic manner complying with legislation and within the council's powers.

The Council ensures Council decisions are taken legally and reviews all its policies including Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Bio-Diversity

The Town Council has attempted to invest in more efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy sources which has resulted in a reduced carbon footprint and energy costs.

The Town Clerk is working towards a paperless office transferring files from paper to electronic, where possible, and archiving older documents via the Records Office.

The use of email as a form of communication has greatly increased and agendas and documents are circulated via email rather than in paper copy.

The Town Council has a water meter which reduced costs and the Council continues to recycle its own waste.

Aspirations over the Forthcoming Year

- Continue to serve the local community and its residents.
- Operate with sound governance and probity in an open, transparent, and democratic manner complying with legislation and within the Council's powers.
- Ensure council decisions are taken legally and review all policies including code of conduct, standing orders and financial regulations.
- To actively encourage the community to use the Town Hall facilities and to provide interest groups and activities for residents to enjoy.

Contact Information

Flint Town Council
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CH6 5NW

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Town Clerk and Finance Officer: Mrs. L. Wood

Support Officer: Mrs. N. Thornton