



ANNUAL REPORT 2024 / 25

**REVIEWED, APPROVED & ADOPTED
BY FLINT TOWN COUNCIL
ON 21st JULY 2025**

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 2024 to April 2025. 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 2024/25 were as follows:

Councillor	Ward	Political Party
Melanie Buckley	Oakenholt	Labour
Damien Challenger	Trelawny	Labour
Paul Cunningham	Trelawny	Labour
Norma Davies	Coleshill	Labour
Russell Davies	Coleshill	Labour
Ben Goldsborough (resigned August 2024)	Coleshill	Labour
Margaret Hanson (co-opted October 2024)	Coleshill	Labour
Carol Griffiths	Coleshill	Independent
Diane Jones (co-opted October 2024)	Castle	Labour
Elaine Jones	Trelawny	Independent
Lynda Leigh (resigned August 2024)	Castle	Labour
Michael Moore	Oakenholt	Independent
Vicky Perfect	Castle	Labour
Michelle Perfect	Coleshill	Labour
Ian Roberts	Castle	Labour
Joe Stoneley	Oakenholt	Labour
Michael Whittaker	Trelawny	Labour & Cooperative

At the head of the Council is the Mayor, who is elected annually. The current Mayor is Councillor M.Buckley. The current Deputy Mayor is Councillor R. Davies.

The Council Leader is Councillor M. Perfect.

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 V. Perfect

General Purposes Committee

Chair: Councillor N. Davies

Finance & Policy Committee

Chair: Councillor B. Goldsborough (*up to August 2024*) / D. Challenger (*from August 2024*)

Staff

Our team of professional staff members plays a crucial role in supporting the Council's operations and ensuring efficient delivery of services to residents. Details of staff members and their roles are provided in the report for your reference.

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 2024/25 for the Town Council was £281,175.00.

The estimated Town Hall Income totalled £23,700.00.

The precept requirement was for 2024/25 was ££257,475.

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

Streetscene and Transportation Matters

The Council collaborates with Flintshire County Council to address Streetscene and Transportation matters. The focus areas are Litter, recycling, and other environmental concerns.

CCTV Provision and Maintenance

A formal agreement with Flintshire County Council ensures the provision and maintenance of CCTV cameras within the Town.

The Council funds the provision and upkeep of several CCTV cameras which are strategically placed in and around the town centre to enhance security and surveillance.

Community Safety and Collaboration

The Council maintains regular involvement with North Wales Police to discuss and address issues impacting the area, ensuring a collaborative approach to community safety.

Regional Representation

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 N. Davies*.

Community Events

The Council plays a significant role in organising the annual Remembrance Day Services and Parade and the Armed Forces Day in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. These events honour the sacrifices of veterans and service members, fostering community spirit and remembrance.

The Town Council is actively involved in raising awareness for various charitable causes through illuminating the Town Hall in the charity's colour, drawing attention and prompting community engagement. This approach not only highlights important causes but also reinforces the Town Council's commitment to supporting and promoting charitable efforts.

In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell, The Light Up a Life event is a poignant and successful community gathering that combines remembrance, festive celebration, and charitable giving.

Achievements 2024/25

Upgrade of Albert Avenue Play Area

The Council has successfully participated in the annual match fund scheme in collaboration with Flintshire County Council and Aura to upgrade local play areas, focusing on those most in need of development. The Albert Avenue play area was identified as a priority for this year's improvements and the Council committed £10,000 to the scheme.

The upgrade of the Albert Avenue play area represents a significant investment in the community's recreational infrastructure. This development underscores the Council's commitment to providing safe and enjoyable play spaces for local children, promoting well-being, and enhancing community spirit.

Flint Festival

The first two weeks of July saw a vibrant and engaging 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.

The Flint Festival was a notable success, which demonstrated strong community spirit within the Town.

Summer Play Scheme

The Town Council continues its annual support for the Summer Play Schemes within the town, demonstrating a strong commitment to providing recreational and developmental opportunities for children during the summer months.

The Town Council's continued funding and support of the Summer Play Scheme, managed by Flintshire County Council, play a crucial role in enriching the lives of the town's children. This initiative not only fosters child development and well-being but also supports community engagement and provides valuable support to families during the summer holidays.

Halloween Spooktacular Event

In October 2024, the Council organised and fully funded a successful Halloween Spooktacular Cinema event at the Town Hall. This event was free for all attendees, providing a fun and festive experience for the community.

The event was a resounding success, highlighting the Council's commitment to providing enjoyable and inclusive events for the community, fostering community spirit.

Christmas Events

In November 2024, 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 made a special appearance to meet all the children. The Mayor and Flint Town United Ladies switched on the wonderful Christmas light display which was followed by a spectacular firework display over the castle.

In December, additional Christmas events also took place, these included the Festival of Lights Truck convoy through the Town, all monies raised were donated to charity, then the Santa Dash on the coastal path, which was very well attended and we also had our four legged friends involved.

In association with the Rotary Club of Flint and Holywell, we held a Light Up a Life event outside St. Mary's and St. David's Church, for residents and all schools to join in and decorate a star to hang on the Christmas Tree in memory of their loved ones. Led by the Reverend, we sang Carols around the Christmas Tree and enjoyed mince pies. Father Christmas kindly made another appearance. All monies raised were donated to St. Kentigern Hospice.

Overall, the series of Christmas events in November and December 2024 were a resounding success, fostering community spirit, raising funds for charity, and providing joyous experiences for all participants.

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 £3350.00.

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. Financial support strengthens community ties and encourages active participation in local initiatives.

Mayor's Charitable Donations

Throughout the year, the Mayor's charitable events and initiatives successfully raised a total of £ 4,015.86. This amount has been distributed among the Mayor's chosen charities. The fundraising efforts reflect the community's support and participation in charitable activities.

Hanging Baskets

The Council funds and manages the installation of floral hanging baskets throughout various locations in the Town. This initiative enhances the Town's aesthetic appeal and contributes positively to its overall environment.

The Council's investment in floral hanging baskets enhances the Town's urban landscape and improve the quality of life for its residents. It also reinforces the Council's commitment to creating a vibrant and attractive environment for all who live in and visit the Town.

Community Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday morning, the Town Hall hosts a Community Coffee Morning, providing a welcoming space for residents to socialise, enjoy complimentary refreshments. We regularly invite local organisations to attend to share information and advice to our guests.

This initiative aims to combat isolation and foster community spirit among residents. By offering a welcoming and supportive environment, the Council enhances community well-being and strengthens local connections.

Age & Dementia Friendly Coffee Morning

Every Thursday morning, the Town Hall hosts an Age & Dementia Friendly Coffee Morning, offering free refreshments in a warm, welcoming, and supportive environment. These sessions provide an opportunity for older residents, including those living with dementia and their carers, to connect with others, share experiences, and enjoy a relaxed, inclusive atmosphere.

This initiative reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to creating an age-friendly community, reducing social isolation, and promoting well-being for all residents.

Well Fed Meals on Wheels

In December 2023, the Town Hall launched a partnership with Well Fed at Home, offering Ready Meals on Wheels. This initiative provides residents with access to nutritious and affordable meals. Moving forward, continued support and promotion of this initiative will contribute to the Council's goal of ensuring all residents have access to essential services that promote health and quality of life.

Repair Café

In January 2024, the Town Hall launched a monthly Repair Café initiative aimed at promoting sustainability, reducing waste, and fostering community engagement through repair and reuse activities.

The initiative exemplifies the Council's commitment to sustainability and community empowerment. By providing a platform for residents to repair and reuse items, the Council promotes environmental responsibility while fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. Continued support and promotion of the Repair Café will contribute to a more resilient and sustainable community.

Flint Job & Apprenticeship Fair

In February, Flint Town Council hosted the Flint Job and Apprenticeship Fair at the Town Hall – an outstanding success that demonstrated our commitment to supporting local employment, education, and skills development. The event welcomed a wide range of attendees, including Year 11 students exploring their next steps, individuals seeking a career change, and those looking to better understand the opportunities available in the area.

With over 25 employers in attendance, along with local colleges and universities, the fair provided a valuable platform for residents to engage directly with businesses, learn about apprenticeship programmes, and explore further education and training options. The positive response from both exhibitors and visitors highlighted the importance of creating accessible, community-based events that connect people with real opportunities.

The success of the event reflects the Council's ongoing efforts to promote career development, community engagement, and economic resilience in Flint.

Wedding Fayre

In March, the Town Hall hosted its fourth Wedding Fayre, serving as a platform to showcase local businesses and promote the Town Hall as an approved venue for weddings, vow renewals, and baby naming ceremonies.

The event contributed to local economic development and showcased the Town Hall as a versatile and attractive venue for celebratory occasions. Continued promotion and support of such events will further enhance the Town Hall's reputation as a community hub.

Increased Town Hall Income

The Council has successfully increased income through the hire of Town Hall rooms, contributing to the overall financial sustainability of the Council. This has also enabled the Town Hall to become a more vibrant and inclusive hub for the community. A wider range of clubs and groups are now able to meet regularly, offering residents increased opportunities for social, recreational, and educational activities.

In addition, the Council has supported the use of its facilities for counselling sessions, business meetings, workshops, and other community support services, ensuring the space continues to meet the diverse needs of local people.

Engaging Young People in Local Democracy

As part of the Council's commitment to engaging with young people and promoting civic awareness, local school councils were welcomed into the Council Chamber to meet the Mayor and learn about the role and functions of the Town Council. These visits provided pupils with a valuable introduction to local democracy, the decision-making process, and the importance of community leadership. In addition to learning

about governance, students also had the opportunity to explore the historic Town Hall building, gaining insight into its heritage and the town's rich history.

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 Council continues to support biodiversity through the maintenance and expansion of floral displays such as hanging baskets and pots, which help provide nectar for pollinators.

The Town Clerk has successfully worked 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 for the Forthcoming Year

The Town Council remains committed to serving the residents of Flint with integrity, transparency, and dedication. In the coming year, the Council aspires to:

- Continue delivering high-quality services that reflect the needs and priorities of the local community.
- Strengthen community engagement by encouraging greater public participation in council meetings, consultations, and events.
- Maintain strong governance by regularly reviewing and updating policies, procedures, and statutory documents to ensure legal compliance and good practice.
- Continue to expand the use of Town Hall facilities by supporting a greater variety of community groups, social activities, and services that promote wellbeing and inclusion.
- Explore opportunities for environmental improvements and sustainable practices across council operations and community spaces.
- Foster stronger partnerships with local organisations, schools, and voluntary groups to deliver projects that benefit the town as a whole.

- Launch regular business breakfast meetings in 2025/26 to create a platform for local businesses to connect, share ideas, and strengthen their relationship with the Council and the wider community.

Contact Information

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Support Officer: N. Thornton