



# Monmouth Town Council Annual Report 2024-25



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# 1. WELCOME FROM MAYOR

As I look back at the last year, it is with a sense of satisfaction that as Chair of the Town Council I was also honoured and privileged to have served as Mayor of Monmouth. I have really enjoyed my time representing and promoting Monmouth as a great Town to live, work, play and visit. There are many facets to life here but for this Mayoral Year I tried to focus attention on those who serve our community whether paid or as volunteers. A simple 'Thank you' will never seem enough, but I am extremely proud of our town and its community, the people within it and the care that has been shown by them.

Looking back at the Mayoral year there have been highs and lows; a significant low point was the turbulence caused by the renewal of the drinking water supply was hugely disruptive particularly to our businesses. Fortunately, the majority weathered the disruption and it has been a particular pleasure to attend the opening of new businesses and thank them for their investment and confidence in Monmouth.

There are so many things that this council have achieved either on our own or in partnership with other agencies. Take a virtual tour of the town starting at St Thomas Garden with its new paving, benches, planters and planting. On Blestium Street we have the improved green area with added benches, picnic tables, fencing, railing, paths, trees and shrubs. Moving up Monnow Street, businesses have hanging baskets provided by this Council. Responsibility for the planters has been taken by the Council and our floral contractor has planted them up with a wide variety of colourful, bee-friendly plants. Church Street and White Swan Court have seen an investment to add seating, signage and new planters with work still continuing on this area. The railings around the War Memorial in St James Square are now a gleaming black with gold finials. Finally, there is the amazing artwork in the subway that has turned an unpleasant area into one that attracts visitors.

There are also the events that this Town Council has supported. We have had an inaugural Pride event. The Carnival was a great success as was the Medieval Festival. The Christmas Lantern Parade was as good as ever despite being postponed by a week due to the awful weather. This month saw a great celebration of VE-80. Each of these events has seen Councillors rolling up their sleeves and getting stuck in alongside members of our community.

As I said earlier, during this past year I have tried to focus my attention on those who serve our community whether paid or as volunteers by visiting many of the fantastic organisations in Monmouth. And so, I will end by thanking a very important group of unpaid volunteers and that is my fellow Councillors whose work is often unseen.

Cllr David Evans  
Mayor of Monmouth  
2024-25



# 2. ABOUT MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## **Background**

Monmouth Town Council is the tier of local government closest to the community and represents the views and interests of the people of Monmouth to other authorities including Monmouthshire County Council, the Police, the Welsh Government and others. There are seats for 19 Councillors that cover the 5 wards of Monmouth; Drybridge, Overmonnow, Osbaston, Wyesham and Town. A full list of Councillors can be found at Appendix 1 of this report.

The Councillors serve a population of 10,508 (2011 census).

The Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor are elected each year by the council at the annual meeting, usually held in May.

## **Changing Faces**

2024-25 saw two new Council representatives. There was 1 contested election for the Town Ward and one uncontested election for the Overmonnow Ward with Cllr Martin Newell and Cllr Sarah James joining the Council.

## **Committees**

All Councils conduct their business through meetings which are formal, agenda-led events with a clear purpose of making democratic decisions for the benefit of the town. As well as Full Council, which includes all elected members, the Council has 3 committees that meet on a regular basis. These are:

- Finance and Policy, which meets 4 times a year.
- People and Places, which meets once a month.
- Planning, which meets twice a month.

All meetings are open to the public and normally take place at the Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth as well as being available via Zoom Conferencing. Planning, however, takes place at Bridges Community Centre and is also available on Zoom.

Every agenda provides members of the public with an opportunity to address the committee or Council during a designated “Public Participation” item. This ensures there is opportunity for members of the community to be involved in the decision-making process. Meetings sometimes include invited guests to speak on particular agenda items, too.

Councillors have a duty to attend all meetings and must provide a reason for absence. The reason needs to be accepted by Council and a resolution will be made at the relevant meeting. A record of attendance at meetings for all Councillors can be found at Appendix 2 of this report.

## **Responsibilities**

Monmouth Town Council and Monmouthshire County Council are completely separate authorities with different responsibilities, however, both authorities work closely together on matters affecting Monmouth and its residents.

Monmouth Town Council has a number of assets in the town including the war memorial in St James Square, the public toilets at Agincourt Street, 40 dog waste bins, 4 drinking water fountains, Drybridge Play Park, the Town Field and a number of planters located both within the town and in residential areas. The Town Council also has the responsibility of the maintenance of the wooden planters in Monnow Street introduced as part of the COVID-19 measures installed by Monmouthshire County Council.

Monmouth Town Council also provides the Christmas trees, street decorations such as Christmas lights and bunting and the history banners displayed on Monnow Street.

In addition, Monmouth Town Council contributes to a number of services provided by Monmouthshire County Council such as CCTV, the cleaning and maintenance of Blestium Street public toilets, street cleaning and summer playschemes for local children to attend. A contribution was made in 2024-25 by Monmouth Town Council to purchase additional cameras for the CCTV infrastructure.

As part of our responsibilities, the Town Council hosts and/or financially supports public events in the town such as Freedom Parades for the military, the Monmouth Carnival and the Christmas Lantern Parade to name just a few.

The Town Council also financially supports a number of local organisations that provide benefit to the local community through grant funding or partnership agreements.

## **Finance**

The Town Council is required to set an annual budget each year. The budget for 2025-26 is £588,040. From this, MTC determines how much to request from Monmouthshire County Council which collects the funds via Council Tax. This is known as a precept demand. Council agreed to fund £19,520 of the budget using its own reserves which meant that the precept request for 2025-26 was reduced to £568,520 which represents an increase of 4% on the precept for 2024-25.

A financial statement for the year end is included at Appendix 3

# 3. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

“The Well-being of Future Generations Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.” (Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) Monmouth Town Council is one of the public bodies that is governed by this legislation. The legislation sets out 7 wellbeing goals that we should strive to achieve which are shown below.



It is imperative that, as a council, all decisions have consideration of the wellbeing goals for the benefit of the future generations of Monmouth but also the Wellbeing Plan that Monmouthshire County Council set for the whole County as a result of the 2015 Act.

The Wellbeing Plan for Monmouthshire has the following 4 objectives:

1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life.
2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change.
3. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change.
4. Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

# 4. WHAT MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL HAS BEEN DOING IN 2024-25

This year Councillors have continued to grow in knowledge and confidence and, as a result, established events and services have continued alongside other new projects. Some of the key achievements for the Council are as follows:

## a. Partnership Agreements

This year saw the Town Council continue their partnership agreement with established partner Mind in Gwent (Mind Monmouthshire) and renew agreements with other established partners, The Savoy Cinema Kids Club, Monmouth Carnival and Rotary Monmouth. Having successfully undertaken a one year partnership with the Lantern Parade in 2023-24, a further three year partnership was agreed from 2024-25 onwards.

The agreement with ACE Monmouth entered into its final year in 2024-25 and following a revision of terms a new two year agreement was agreed from 2025-26 onwards.

The Council resolved to create a new one year partnership agreement with the Wye Valley River Festival, to enable them to organise a Pride Event for 2025.

The agreements that are in place ensure that services, events and activities remain in the town for the benefit of all residents.

.National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:

A Wales of Cohesive Communities

A Prosperous Wales

A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Local Wellbeing Objectives:

1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
3. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

## b. Community Events

Monmouth Town Council was able to support and/ or host the following events in 2024-25:

### ➤ Medieval Festival 2024

Monmouth Medieval Festival took place on 10 & 11 August 2024 and built on the success of Henry Fest 2023, celebrating the wealth of history that is in Monmouth. The festival was largely a Vauxhall Fields based event with some satellite locations around the town centre which highlighted Monmouth's cultural heritage for the community whilst also promoting tourism. Town Councillors and community volunteers, led by Cllr Martin Sweeney, organised a re-enactment medieval camp and market with medieval surgeon and swordsmanship presentations and Falconry displays.



National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:

- A Wales of Cohesive Communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A Globally Responsible Wales
- A Healthier Wales
- A Prosperous Wales

## Local Wellbeing Objectives Achieved:

1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
3. Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

### ➤ 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day

The final event for the 2024-25 Mayoral Year was the commemoration and celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day. The Town Council wanted to ensure a full schedule of events was arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and the weekend following which included all generations. On the day of the anniversary, the Town Council organised a flag raising at the Castle, a wreath laying service at St James' Square, a tree planting in the Town Field and a public service held at Great Castle House that was supported by local cadet groups, schools and veterans. The day finished with a Quarter Peal at St Mary's Church and the illumination display at the Haberdashers School whilst Monmouth Male Voice Choir and residents sang I Vow to Thee My Country. On 11<sup>th</sup> May 2025, the Town Council organised a street party in Church Street with food boxes for children, entertainment from the Royal British Legion Band of Wales and the Sugar Shop Singers. The whole occasion was deemed a great success.



National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:

A Wales of Cohesive Communities
A More Equal Wales
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
A Globally Responsible Wales
A Prosperous Wales

Local Wellbeing Objectives Achieved:

1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
4. Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

**c. Community Grants**

2024-25 saw Monmouth Town Council commit nearly £25,000.00 to local community projects that will benefit residents of Monmouth. Community grants were approved for:

Name of Organisation	Project Name	Grant Awarded
Building Bridges	Life in Transition	£2015.00
Friends of Monmouth Library	Purchase of Lego for Monmouth Hub Lego Club	£170.00
Inside Out Cymru	Art for Wellbeing	£1030.00
Make Monmouth	Make Monmouth Makerspace	£1000.00
Monmouth Girlguiding	Duke of Edinburgh Award operation 2024-25	£1537.60
Monmouth Lions	Message in a Bottle 2	£268.30
Questbusters	Danceability Movement Classes	£552.00
Savoy Youth Theatre	SYT maintenance to continue the ongoing work we already do - and a half term workshop open to all young people (7-14) in	£2000.00

	Monmouth, involving a cultural exchange	
St James Community Hall	Replacement of kitchen equipment and update toilets	£644.95
Wye Valley River Festival	Monmouth Pride Picnic	£ 2183.00
Empty Space CIC	Living Windows	£2000.00
Monmouth Sports Association	Create a welcoming & functional space	£1,500.00
Monmouth Rock Up & Run	Run Leader (LIRF) Training & First Aid Training	£600.00
Transition Monmouth	Green Grow	£2,200.00
Monmouth Town Football Club Juniors	Winter training pitches	£2,200.00
Rockfield Park Community Centre	Refurbishment and Accessibility	£2,000.00
Wyesham Christian Fellowship	Bathroom improvement	£1,000.00
Monmouth Male Voice Choir	Safety project	£2,000.00

As part of the Community Grant process, applicants are asked to set out how the project adheres to the Wellbeing Goals imposed by the 2015 Act. As part of the analysis of the applications received, the projects' ability to satisfy some or all of the goals is considered and is a strong determining factor.

For more information on the Council's grant funding scheme, please visit [www.monmouth.gov.uk](http://www.monmouth.gov.uk).

National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:

A Prosperous Wales
A More Equal Wales
A Healthier Wales
A Wales of Cohesive Communities
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
A Globally Responsible Wales

Local Wellbeing Objectives Achieved:

1. Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life
2. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
3. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change
4. Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.

#### d. ACE Monmouth Action Plan

The Council continued to work with ACE Monmouth to implement the Action Plan prepared by the group for the Town Council and the primary focus for 2024-25 continued to be the improvement of the biodiversity of the Town Field (next to the Rowing Club). January 2025 saw a group of volunteers from Transition Monmouth, ACE Monmouth and Town Councillors make improvements to the hedgerow that was established next to the Rowing Club storage. This was done by firstly coppicing the hedgerow and then replanting native hedging trees such as Field Maple, Hazel and Beech. It is hoped that an improved hedgerow will create an environment that can be used as habitat and a green corridor for local wildlife.



In addition to the Town Field work, the Council also investigated the potential transfer of banking arrangements to a more ethical bank that would support the declaration of a Climate Emergency made by the Town Council in 2019 but would still offer the level of protection needed when handling public money. At the Full Council meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the Council agreed to open accounts with the Unity Trust bank and Gateway Credit Union as recognised institutions of ethical banking.

National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:

A Healthier Wales

A Globally Responsible  
Wales

Local Wellbeing Objectives Achieved:

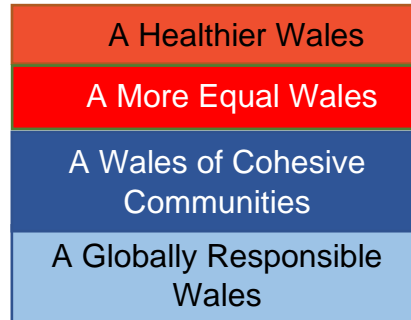
1. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

## e. Asset Acquisition

### ➤ Allotments

In September 2024 an Allotments Management Agreement was signed between Monmouth Town Council and Monmouthshire County Council. The agreement states that the Town Council will manage the allocation of allotments and take responsibility to maintain the site whilst working closely with the Monmouth Allotment Association.

National Wellbeing Goals Achieved:



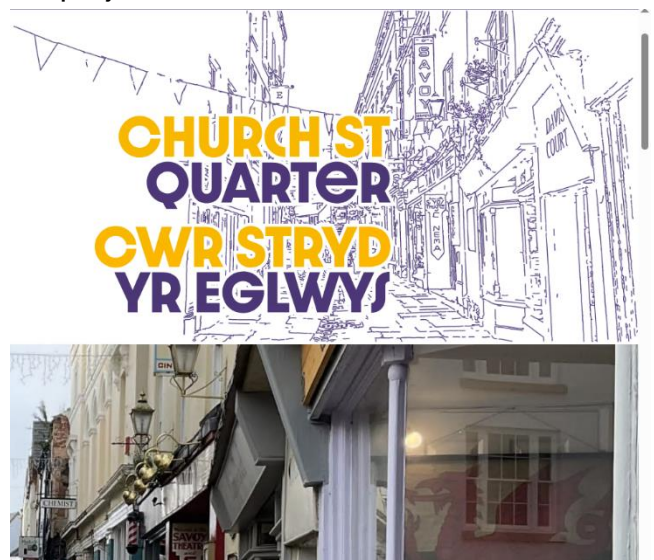
Local Wellbeing Objectives Achieved:

1. Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change
2. Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change

## f. Projects

### ➤ Church Street Quarter

In March 2024, the Town Council secured £75,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to support a significant project in Church Street and White Swan Court that required implementation and installation by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The project saw the Town Council install a ceiling of lights in Church Street, instruct a marketing company to design and promote a new website and social media campaign for Church Street Quarter, have historical information boards relating to the area installed as well as the design and construction of new welcome arches that are due to be installed in Autumn 2025. In



addition, events were organised for school holidays and Christmas that promoted the area. The project was an opportunity for the Town Council to work closely with the business community within Church Street Quarter in the hope that it would improve footfall.



➤ St Thomas Garden

The Town Council was also able to secure funding from the Welsh Assembly Government Transforming Towns Fund to improve the seating area by Monnow Bridge and named it St Thomas Garden. The project removed and replaced the paving slabs, improved the seating and recycling facilities and also added new planters, historical information and bin stores for local businesses. The Town Council recognised the importance of this area due to its proximity to the Monnow Bridge and St Thomas' Church but also the need to improve the aesthetic of the area for the local businesses.



➤ War Memorial Railings

The Town Council funded the full renovation of the St James Square War Memorial railings after recognising their deterioration over the years. Central to the Remembrance Sunday commemorations and mindful that 2025 would see the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day, the Council agreed to have the railings removed, stripped, galvanised and repainted.





National Wellbeing Goal	Local Activity
<p><b>Prosperous:</b> An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouth Town Council is committed to working actively with partners to encourage and promote the town.</li> <li>• Monmouth Town Council continues to develop the website and increase use of our social media (Facebook and Instagram). The website provides key contact information and responsibilities of the Council. Both the website and our social media are used to inform and communicate with residents, publicising meeting information, events and signposting to other service providers.</li> <li>• The continued use of Modern.Gov and incorporating the same with our website, reduces the workload of Officers and ensures that correct and accurate information is distributed efficiently and effectively to all Councillors, stakeholders and members of the public.</li> <li>• The Town Council financially supports a number of events and activities within Monmouth through the Community Grants process and as part of the agreed budget, which include Christmas Lighting, the Carnival, MCC Playscheme, Civic Ceremony, and Remembrance Sunday parade.</li> <li>• The Town Council is committed to development of young people in the area and supports the local library by providing funding for the free newspapers as well as working closely with local schools for civic events.</li> <li>• Town Council Community Grants are available for local groups and organisations.</li> <li>• The Town Council is committed to supporting the local business community through projects such as Church Street Quarter and maintaining a strong partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Resilient:</b> 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouth Town Council is committed to ensuring that the town and its historical sites remain a pleasant clean and safe environment. The Town Council is not responsible for any highways or street cleaning, however, has developed excellent working relationships with the responsible authority, Monmouthshire County Council and supports them by funding the street cleaner position and cleaning of the toilet blocks.</li> <li>• Monmouth Town Council provides 40 dog waste bins and funds the emptying of a number of litter bins in and around the town that promotes the ongoing care that is necessary with our wider environment.</li> <li>• The Council contributes to street cleaning and CCTV in the town.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council acts as consultee on planning matters and recommendations are made to the Local Planning Authority which includes any issues which are determined to be a detriment to the town with an increasing focus on preserving the local biodiversity.</li> <li>• The partnership with ACE Monmouth (Action on Climate Emergency) will ensure that the Council and the residents of Monmouth will be able to make educated and sound decisions regarding the Climate and Nature Emergencies in Monmouth which will maintain and enhance our local biodiversity in and around the town. This will be further enhanced by the outcome-led Action Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthier:</b> 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council actively promotes a society in which health is key by supporting mental health services in Monmouth such as Mind Monmouth and Citizen's Advice as well as providing funding to support groups through the Community Grants process.</li> <li>• The Town Council supports the Sports Association and its associated clubs through the Community Grants scheme.</li> <li>• The mental wellbeing of children is supported through the Monmouth summer playscheme that is part-funded by the Town Council.</li> </ul>
<p><b>More Equal:</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council uses hybrid meetings via Zoom Video Conferencing which enables all elected members and members of public to attend the meeting either in person or remotely.</li> <li>• Monmouth Town Council supports the summer playscheme for children in Monmouth, which includes those who receive free school meals as well as a playscheme for children who are neuro-diverse or have physical disabilities.</li> <li>• The community grant scheme in 2024-25 supported groups across a wide spectrum, ensuring that activities, services and opportunities remain available to all residents of Monmouth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cohesive Communities:</b> Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouth Town Council is responsible for the delivery of a number of services and amenities.</li> <li>• Through devolution of services, the Town Council now manage the public toilets, taken on from Monmouthshire County Council, 40 dog waste bins, street decorations and local planters.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council support services, operated by Monmouthshire County Council, which include provision of CCTV, street cleaning and local parks.</li> <li>• Monmouth Town Council is committed to working with partners and community groups to create an attractive, viable, safe and well-connected community.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee consider the impact of any development on the community and local businesses to ensure that a cohesive community is encouraged.</li> <li>• The Council engages with the Monmouth Chamber of Commerce as well as Monmouthshire County Council to support an attractive and viable high street that remains available to residents, tourists and business owners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language:</b>  where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Council organises or supports a number of cultural events including the Christmas Lantern Parade and Monmouth Pride.</li> <li>• Monmouth Town Council continues to fund the cleaning of the Old Monnow Bridge and its pathways which removes the bird waste, debris and foliage that was damaging a historic site.</li> <li>• The Town Council tries to ensure that publicity of events is done bilingually.</li> <li>• The Town Council organised the second Medieval Festival event that highlighted the importance of Welsh history and culture in Medieval times with a focus on Monmouth’s historical assets such as the Monnow Bridge and Castle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Globally Responsible:</b>  where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monmouth Town Council’s partnership with globally responsible groups within the community continues to ensure that events that focus on the Climate and Nature Emergencies can continue, including the Bee Festival and the River Festival.</li> <li>• 2024 marked the 4th anniversary of Monmouth being declared a Bee Friendly Town which has seen the planting of perennial plants in the local planters, reduced mowing and more natural environments in the town.</li> <li>• The Town Council continues to support the Nature Isn’t Neat initiative.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee includes the sustainability and ecological impact a development may have on the area when considering applications.</li> <li>• The Litter Working Group has been working closely with Monmouth Comprehensive School students to promote their campaign “Love Monmouth, Hate Litter”. This campaign has included litter picks in Monmouth as well as in school competitions that deter students from creating litter and taking responsibility for their waste.</li> </ul>



Local Wellbeing Objectives	Local Action
Provide children and young people with the best possible start in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillors are appointed as Governors on 2 primary schools in Monmouth as well as Haberdashers Schools.</li> <li>• Working with Monmouth Comprehensive School to promote their anti-litter campaign “Love Monmouth, Hate Litter” through the Litter Group.</li> <li>• Financial support of the Summer Playscheme provided by Monmouthshire County Council.</li> <li>• Continuing the Kids Club Cinema scheme in partnership with the Monmouth Savoy Theatre.</li> <li>• The Community Grants Scheme has provided funding to groups and charities that focus on the wellbeing of young people such as Monmouth GirlGuiding and Friends of Monmouth Library Lego group.</li> </ul>
Respond to the challenges associated with demographic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing a working partnership with Mind Monmouthshire to ensure the long-term provision of mental health support for Monmouth residents.</li> <li>• Responding as a consultee to Monmouthshire County Council to ensure the viewpoints of all residents are taken into consideration.</li> <li>• Supporting local groups that focus on reducing loneliness and isolation and encouraging community engagement through the community grant scheme.</li> <li>• Supporting the Citizens Advice which in turn provides support to the community on a range of issues.</li> <li>• Working with local police officers to ensure an understanding of how demographic change has an impact on crime in Monmouth.</li> </ul>
Protect and enhance the resilience of our natural environment whilst mitigating and adapting to the impact of climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the project work required for Nature Isn't Neat.</li> <li>• Supporting Monmouth as a Bee Town initiative by maintaining the planting scheme in all local planters and flower beds to perennial, bee-friendly plants.</li> <li>• Supporting the “No Mow May” initiative and wildflower planting in open spaces around the town.</li> <li>• Continuation of the project work undertaken by ACE Monmouth including the implementation of a Management Plan to improve the biodiversity of the Town Field.</li> <li>• Continuation of support for the Plastic Free Working Group, Active Travel Working Group and the Litter Working Group which all focus on the protection of our natural environment.</li> <li>• Consideration is given to reduce the use of single use plastic in all civic events and organised events for the town.</li> </ul>

<p>Develop opportunities for communities and businesses to be part of an economically thriving and well-connected county.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing to support the partnerships established.</li> <li>• Supporting local businesses through projects, established working relationships and using local suppliers for Town Council provisions where possible.</li> <li>• Financially supporting community-based projects through the community grant scheme.</li> <li>• The Christmas lights and associated Christmas events bring the community out to enjoy all the town has to offer and encourages support of the local economy.</li> <li>• The Planning Committee has been keen to encourage new businesses to Monmouth approving many changes of use for buildings and approving advertisement consent when applicable.</li> </ul>
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**g. Biodiversity in Monmouth (S6 Environment Act 2016 (Wales))**

Monmouth Town Council is committed to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in Monmouth for the benefit of its residents and tourists to the area. The Town Council has ownership of only 2 open spaces in the town- the “Town Field” and a play park. The “Town Field” is an open field of trust along the banks of the River Wye and is predominantly used for dog walkers. The field is used for the annual fireworks display, rowing club regatta and the annual raft race organised by the Rotary group. The Town Council also manages the planters and flower beds that are found in Monmouth high street and around the 5 wards of Monmouth. In total there are 66 planters and 9 raised beds.

As a result of the reduced amount of outside space that the Council has management of, we rely on working with other projects to enhance and encourage the biodiversity within the town. This report will highlight the number of initiatives and partnerships that the Town Council are a part with the hope that the biodiversity in the town remains.

What we have done

We work in partnership with Monmouthshire County Council to maintain a new mowing regime for the Town Field which will see increased planting and reduced mowing at the site to improve the biodiversity of the area. We protect and encourage wildlife by being part of the **Nature Isn't**



**Neat** project, which supports the re-wilding of green spaces and planting pollinator-friendly plants to encourage bees and other pollinators.

In 2020, Monmouth was named the **first Bee Town in the UK** and also awarded the **Caru Gwenyn (Bee Friendly) award**. This was a joint venture between the Town Council and community groups such as Bees for Development. The Council has continued its support of the Bee Town Status in 2024-25 through the continued planting of pollinator-friendly plants and use of peat-free compost in all the planters in and around the town. This includes the new planters that can be found in St Thomas' Garden and Church Street Quarter.

**ACE Monmouth** remains a self-constituted group that is financially supported by the Town Council through a Partnership Agreement and the group continue to thrive. The group organises events and festivals and has a strong presence in the town.



Monmouth Town Council also supports the



**Plastic Free Monmouth** scheme which sets out to reduce the usage of single-use plastic that is washing up in our rivers and can be found increasingly in the countryside. By taking ownership and maintaining the drinking water fountains in the town we hope to reduce plastic waste even further. There are now 4 drinking fountains in Monmouth.

We help to deliver a cleaner, greener Monmouth with the provision of **dog waste bins** and the '**Give Dog Fouling the Red Card**' campaign and also support our very active **litter group** (run in partnership with the local authority and a team of dedicated community volunteers).

As a Town Council we also **grant aid to local community groups for environmental projects** such as additional planting at the Two Rivers Meadow.

## 5. Conclusion

This year saw the Town Council's focus shift to improving the town centre and surrounding area for the benefit of both Monmouth residents and visitors. Projects such as the Church Street Quarter and St Thomas' Garden demonstrates a commitment to the town and its businesses especially following the significant detrimental impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's works. Whilst the Town Council recognises that, for many, these issues are ongoing, it is hoped with the Councillors support and commitment, Monmouth will evolve and adapt and continue to be a place where people want to live, work, play and visit across all generations.

The Town Council looks forward to developing these aims in 2025-26 with increased engagement and consultation from the residents of Monmouth.

**Monmouth Town Council**

**Agincourt Square**

**Monmouth**

**NP25 3DY**

# APPENDIX 1- YOUR COUNCILLORS

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Jackie Atkin  
Town  
Welsh Labour



Rob Barrell  
Wyesham  
Independent



Gail Brehany  
Town  
Independent



David Evans  
Wyesham  
Welsh Labour



Sorry  
no picture  
available

Emily Fairman  
Osbaston  
Independent



Alice Fletcher  
Wyesham  
Welsh Labour



Steve Garrett  
Overmonnow  
Welsh Labour



Robert Hatton  
Drybridge  
Welsh Conservative



Roger Hoggins  
Osbaston  
Independent



Mike James  
Osbaston  
Independent



Sorry  
no picture  
available

Sarah James  
Overmonnow  
Independent



Rachel Jupp  
Wyesham  
Independent



Tom Kirton  
Overmonnow  
Welsh Labour



Jane Lucas  
Osbaston  
Welsh Conservative



Martin Newell  
Town  
Welsh Conservative



Andy North  
Town  
Labour



Mandi Rugen-Hankey  
Drybridge  
Welsh Conservatives



Martin Sweeney  
Drybridge  
Independent



Fiona Wilcock  
Drybridge  
Independent



# APPENDIX 2: COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE 2024-25

Date  
range: 20/05/2024 - 18/05/2025

Name	Finance & Policy Committee	Full Council	People and Places Committee	Planning Committee	Staffing Sub Committee
Alice Fletcher	0	3	3	0	0
Andy North	0	10	9	8	0
David Evans	4	12	11	17	8
Emily Fairman	3	11	7	0	0
Fiona Wilcock	0	9	9	12	0
Gail Brehany	0	10	10	16	0
Jackie Atkin	2	10	10	3	7
Jane Lucas	4	12	11	0	8
Mandi Jane Rugen-Hankey	3	11	11	16	7
Martin Newell	3	10	10	0	0
Martin Sweeney	4	10	10	0	0
Mike James	4	10	11	16	7
Rachel Jupp	0	6	5	0	0

<b>Rob Barrell</b>	4	11	10	18	0
<b>Robert Hatton</b>	3	7	5	9	0
<b>Roger Hoggins</b>	4	11	11	0	0
<b>Sarah James</b>	0	9	8	11	0
<b>Steven Garratt</b>	4	8	10	0	0
<b>Tom Kirton</b>	4	12	11	18	0

# APPENDIX 3 – FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

## Working Detail for ANNUAL RETURN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Monmouth Town Council Current Year

	Last Year £	This Year £	Code	Centre	Code Description
1	279,699	322,013	310		General Reserve
1	18,000	5,000	322		EMR Cemetery
1	0	9,020	323		EMR Subway & Underpass SDF
1	6,000	6,000	326		EMR Elections
1	6,827	6,827	329		EMR Staff Absence Contingency
1	1,000	0	330		EMR Chapter 8 Training
1	4,830	4,830	331		EMR Welsh Language
1	1,770	0	332		EMR Agincourt St Toilets Repair
1	2,000	0	333		EMR CILCA/ILCA Course Costs
1	573	573	334		EMR Cycling Promotion
1	0	12,500	337		EMR Placemaking Plan
1	3,677	0	338		EMR Office Mangt (was QMS)
1	1,300	0	339		EMR Newbridgepaving/Wye Bridge
1	929	5,929	341		EMR CCTV
1	2,000	1,851	342		EMR Noticeboards
1	0	8,500	344		EMR Office Infrastructure
1	5,000	2,000	345		EMR Power Supply Costs Christm
1	3,518	3,518	346		EMR Drinking Water Fountains
1	3,134	0	350		EMR 19/20 4th Qtr Office Equip
1	10,000	2,000	351		EMR Community Engt. & Resid. Su
1	2,388	4,148	355		EMR Staff Training
1	4,269	7,391	357		EMR Future Events
1	1,000	1,000	358		EMR Communications
1	74	0	363		EMR C/F from previou year
1	0	400	364		EMR War Mem Repairs
1	50,644	83,788	366		EMR PM Activities
1	6,000	9,000	367		EMR Playground Replace
1	400	600	368		EMR Replace Dog Bins
1	1,000	2,000	369		EMR History Banners
1	800	1,200	370		EMR Litter Bins
1	4,014	5,014	371		EMR Street Furniture
1	4,000	6,000	372		EMR Xmas Lights Contingency
1	0	500	373		EMR Planter Replacement
1	250	750	374		EMR Monnow Bridge Clean
1	907	0	376		EMR Upgrade IT software
1	1,919	1,919	377		EMR Member Training
1	3,838	0	378		EMR Royal Grants
1	Balances brought forward	<b>431,760</b>	<b>514,272</b>		Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of the previous year.
2		529,029	544,901	1176 101	Precept Received
2	(+) Income from local taxation/levy	<b>529,029</b>	<b>544,901</b>		Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3		9,107	6,232	1050 101	Miscellaneous Income
3		17,422	18,650	1190 101	Interest Received
3		10,000	2,673	1200 201	Income Events
3		0	20,685	1300 301	Grants & Funding
3	(+) Total other receipts	<b>36,529</b>	<b>48,240</b>		Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus the amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4		63,925	83,880	4000 101	Salaries
4		42,287	54,616	4001 101	Tax/NI and Pensions
4	(-) Staff costs	<b>106,212</b>	<b>138,495</b>		Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses e.g. termination costs.
5	(-) Loan	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the

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## Working Detail for ANNUAL RETURN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Monmouth Town Council Current Year

	Last Year £	This Year £	Code	Centre	Code Description
interest/capital repayments					year on external borrowing (if any).
6	240	300	4005	101	Payroll Contract
6	2,137	520	4009	101	Staff training & Subsistence
6	1,208	1,449	4011	101	Member Training
6	0	22	4012	101	Bank charges (was utilities)
6	477	96	4021	101	Stationery & Office Supplies
6	10	46	4022	101	Postage
6	276	267	4023	101	Copying
6	261	286	4024	101	Copier Consumables
6	2,486	2,641	4025	101	Insurance
6	2,349	2,499	4027	101	Subscriptions
6	235	289	4030	101	Website
6	1,201	95	4031	101	Publicity
6	1,295	1,315	4057	101	Audit
6	0	432	4060	101	IT Contract
6	16,369	18,606	4062	101	IT Software, Subs & Finance Sys
6	0	3,390	4070	101	Office Equipment
6	7,645	7,836	4071	101	Shire Hall SLA annual payment
6	3,627	3,300	4081	101	Specialist advice services
6	14,412	19,772	4093	201	CCTV
6	160	0	4095	101	Clerks Contngency Fund
6	3,000	3,050	4100	102	Mayor's civic expenses
6	18,112	3,066	4105	102	Civic Expenses
6	162	265	4107	102	Meetings Costs
6	650	680	4110	102	Mace Bearers
6	22,254	6,603	4120	102	Members' payments allowances &
6	54	50	4200	101	Section 137
6	12,000	13,250	4203	201	Community Contributions
6	18,226	24,901	4204	201	Community Grants combined
6	74,500	83,200	4206	201	Partnership Agreements
6	10,036	13,040	4221	201	Events
6	25,127	20,943	4307	301	Agincourt St. Toilets
6	31,114	33,136	4308	301	MCC Street Sweep
6	14,342	16,044	4309	301	Dog waste bins
6	4,915	4,875	4310	301	Town Maintenance Contract & Ex
6	11,436	108,589	4317	301	Decorations & Town Centre Enha
6	6,060	0	4318	301	Cemetery (was Environ Conting)
6	14,356	14,715	4321	301	Blestium St. Toilets
6	5,000	-521	4324	301	Climate Change Emergency
6	3,796	4,100	4350	301	Litter Bins
6	0	56	4351	301	Street Furniture
6	25,605	20,989	4352	301	Christmas Lights & Trees
6	-74	721	4353	301	Fountains
6	20,880	8,955	4354	301	Floral Contract
6	0	12,500	4355	301	Place Plan
6	898	663	4600	401	Plg extra meeting costs
6	(-) Total other payments	<b>376,835</b>	<b>457,030</b>		Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7	(=) Balances carried forward	<b>514,272</b>	<b>511,887</b>		Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8		16,347	22,897	105	Vat Due
8		6,786	5,420	110	Prepayments
8	(+) Debtors	<b>23,133</b>	<b>28,317</b>		Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to

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### Working Detail for ANNUAL RETURN

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2025

Monmouth Town Council Current Year

	Last Year £	This Year £	Code	Centre	Code Description
					the body at the year-end.
<b>9</b>	109,970	44,898	201		Lloyds TSB Combined
<b>9</b>	88,113	89,356	204		Monmouthshire Building Society
<b>9</b>	340,952	358,357	205		CCLA PSDF
<b>9</b>	24	56	210		Petty Cash
<b>9</b> (+) Total cash and investments	<b>539,058</b>	<b>492,667</b>			All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
<b>10</b>	0	8	500		Creditors P/L
<b>10</b>	0	1,806	502		Pension Due
<b>10</b>	0	2,197	503		TAX/NI due
<b>10</b>	47,920	2,203	510		Accruals
<b>10</b>	0	2,884	520		Mayors Allowance
<b>10</b> (-) Creditors	<b>47,920</b>	<b>9,098</b>			Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.
<b>11</b> (=) Balances carried forward	<b>514,272</b>	<b>511,887</b>			Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
<b>12</b>	303,978	321,311			Total Fixed Assets
<b>12</b> Total fixed assets and long-term assets	<b>303,978</b>	<b>321,311</b>			The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
<b>13</b> Total borrowings	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>			The outstanding capital balances as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).