Cyngor Tref Trallwng Welshpool Town Council

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Title	Town Centre Bunting or Flags
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1. Purpose

1. To present options to Members for the purchase and installation of either bunting or flags within the town centre, and to seek direction on the preferred approach for future events and celebrations.

2. Background

1. The Council has an allocated budget of £2,000 within the 2026/27 budget for bunting or flags. This is intended to support town centre decoration for events and seasonal celebrations.
2. The current bunting is now several years old and is damaged.
3. Quotes have been obtained for bunting, and alternative options explored for the use of flags utilising existing flagpole bases on shops within the town centre.

3. Option 1 - Traditional Bunting

1. For bunting to work effectively, the longest possible continuous lengths are required, as breaks occur where sections are tied together, affecting both appearance and resilience in wind.
2. Operational considerations associated with bunting include:
    1. Installation and removal would require a specialist contractor, increasing overall costs beyond purchase price.
    2. Anchor points require annual testing, creating an ongoing compliance and inspection cost.
    3. Bunting typically has an estimated lifespan of around two years, meaning it is likely replacement bunting would be required in advance of the Tour de France in 2027.
3. Two quotes have been obtained in the region of around £1,300.

4. Option 2 - Welsh Flags

1. Officers have identified approximately 50 existing flagpole bases fixed to shops and buildings within the town centre.

2. Rather than installing bunting, the Council could instead purchase 50 Welsh flags and suitable flagpoles for these bases.
3. Some online testing of this option has indicated costs of around £241 for the flags with a similar price for poles.
4. Installation and removal could be carried out in-house by Council staff, with no need for specialist contractors. No overhead fixing points would be required, significantly reducing health & safety risk, inspection requirements and ongoing compliance costs.

5. Resource & Legal Implications

1. The 2026/27 budget includes £2,000 for bunting or flags.
2. It appears that both bunting and flags would fall comfortably within the approved budget provision. However, bunting creates a continuing cost liability, whereas flags represent a low-cost, reusable asset.

6. Decision

1. To consider a way forward - if bunting is the preferred choice then three formal quotes will be presented to the Committee next month for approval.