



Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council, Tourist Information Centre, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, SY21 7DD
Tel: 01938 553142 Email: town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

Agenda & Summons Operations & Development Committee - 10/09/2025 6:30pm

5th September 2025

To: Councillor(s) Dr Ben Gwalchmai, David France, Estelle Bleivas, Nick Howells, Phil Owen, Phil Pritchard (Chair), Sally Fitzgerald (Vice Chair)

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Operations & Development Committee of Welshpool Town Council which will be held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 in the Council Chamber, Welshpool Town Hall at 6:30pm to transact the business outlined below.

Yours sincerely,

Richard T Williams LLB (Hons)
Town Clerk & Proper Officer

In accordance with the [Local Government and Elections \(Wales\) Act 2021](#), this meeting is available by remote means. Please visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88297683003?pwd=8wcnAxoRLnsvfyjVq01sX1WmJ7a9FA.1> to join online or use Zoom Meeting ID 882 9768 3003 and passcode 469382, or via telephone by ringing .

Agenda

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair will welcome Councillors and members of the public and will receive, and if desired, resolve to approve, any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

To receive and resolve if desired, declarations of interest and relevant dispensations. [Part III, Local Government Act 2000]

[Appendix A]

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive members of the public who wish to address the meeting, in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. No resolutions may be made under this item and should relate only to matters of Council policy or practice, and not individual affairs or the questioner or any other named person. [Para. 27A, Sch 12, Local Government Act 1972]

4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

4.1. Previous Minutes

To approve and sign as a correct record, the minutes from the meeting of the Operations & Development Committee on 09/07/2025.

[Appendix B]

4.2. Matters Arising

To report for information purposes only matters arising from the Operations & Development Committee on 09/07/2025.

5. LAND AND BUILDINGS

5.1. Town Hall & Motte and Bailey

To receive an update on works to the Town Hall and Motte and Bailey.

5.2. General Update

To receive, and resolve if desired, an update from the Operations Manager in respect of Council land and buildings.

5.3. Tender - End of Season Works

To consider the attached quotes for end of season works at Maes y Dre (Budget 140/4345 - ??20,000). [FR 5.8 - For contracts greater than ??1,000 excluding VAT the Clerk or RFO shall try to obtain at least 3 fixed-price quotes.]

[Appendix C]

[Appendix D]

5.4. Dog Control Orders

To note that the Dog Control Order adopted by the Council on 27th October 2010 has been revoked under Section 75(3)(a) of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 as it was not converted to a Public Spaces Protection Order within the three year savings period.

5.5. Byelaws

To consider the report from the Town Clerk in respect of byelaws and recommend to Full Council accordingly. [Section 6, Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012]

[Appendix E]

6. SERVICES

6.1. Meals on Wheels

To receive an update from the Tourist Information Centre Manager in respect of Meals on Wheels.

[Appendix F]

6.2. Markets

To receive an update in respect of the indoor and outdoor market.

6.3. The Hub

To receive an update in respect of the Hub.

7. COMMITTEE FINANCE (MONTH 4 & 5)

To note the current spending position against budget for the committee for July 2025 (Month 4) and August 2025 (Month 5).

[Appendix H]

8. PROJECTS & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

8.1. Town Hall Transformation

To consider an update from the Town Clerk in respect of Town Hall Transformation.

8.2. Oldford Estate

To consider an update from the Town Clerk in respect of Oldford Estate play provision.

9. INTERIM STRATEGIC PLAN - FEEDBACK & ACTIONS

To consider the report from the Town Clerk in respect of the Interim Strategic Plan consultation and discuss proposed themes, strategic aims and actions.

[Appendix I]

[Appendix J]

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of Operations & Development Committee will be held on the 8th October 2025 at 6:30pm.

11. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - EXCLUSION

To resolve, if required, that members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted. [Section 1(2), Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960]

12. DAY CENTRE [CONFIDENTIAL]

To consider an update from the Town Clerk in respect of the Day Centre. [Confidential - information relating to any consultations or negotiations.]

13. LAND ADJ TO YOUTH CENTRE [CONFIDENTIAL]

To consider an update from the Town Clerk in respect of the land adjacent to the Youth Centre, Howell Drive. [Confidential - information relating to any consultations or negotiations.]

14. MARKET CAFE [CONFIDENTIAL]

To consider the correspondence in respect of the Market Cafe. [Confidential - information related to the financial or business affairs of a person and/or the authority.]

Confidential Document [Appendix K]

Confidential Document [Appendix L]

Appendix A



Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council Declaration of Interests Flowchart

What matters are being discussed at the meeting?

Do any relate to my interests?

A Does it affect my entries in the Register of Interests?

OR

B Does it affect the well being or financial position of me, my partner, my relatives or my friends or my, my partner's, my relatives' or my friends':

- jobs, employers or businesses;
- companies in which I or they are a director or where I or they have a shareholding of more than £5,000 (nominal/face value);
- business partnerships; and
- the following organisations where I or they hold a position of general control or management:
 - other bodies where I or they represent the authority;
 - other public authorities;
 - companies, industrial and provident societies and charitable bodies;
 - bodies whose main purpose is to influence public opinion or policy; and
 - trade unions or professional associations

More than other people in the authority's area?

NO

YES

**Disclose the
existence & nature
of your interest**

You may have a
personal interest in
the matter

Would a member of the public – If he or she knew all the facts – reasonably think that personal interest was so significant that my decision on the matter would be affected by it?

NO

**You can
participate in
the meeting
and vote**

YES

You may have a
prejudicial interest

This matter relates to:

- another authority of which I am a member;
- another public authority in which I hold a position of general control or management;
- other bodies where I represent the authority;
- statutory sick pay where I am in receipt of, or are entitled to, such pay from my authority; or
- allowances or payments made under sections 141-160 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

NO

**Also, withdraw from
the meeting by
leaving the room or
chamber. Do not try
to improperly
influence the decision**

**And, considering whether or not it is
appropriate I participate in the decision
making, do I regard myself as not
having a prejudicial interest?**

YES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT –PARAGRAPH 11 (4)
PARAGRAPH 14 (3) (b) (ii)

NOTIFICATION IN RESPECT OF:-

(1) PERSONAL INTEREST ORALLY DISCLOSED AT MEETING

[(2) DISPENSATION RELIED UPON AT MEETING]

1.	NAME OF MEMBER:	
----	-----------------	--

2. DATE AND DETAILS OF MEETING AT WHICH ORAL DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INTEREST MADE:

DATE:	
MEETING:	

3. AGENDA ITEM NUMBER AND BUSINESS TO WHICH THE PERSONAL INTEREST RELATES :

AGENDA ITEM:	
BUSINESS CONSIDERED:	

4. DETAILS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

(Insert ALL category number(s) referred to in the accompanying guidance notes that apply together with any Additional Detail): If this involves SENSITIVE information give details of the agreement of the Monitoring Officer allowing you to simply disclose the EXISTENCE of the interest

--

5. PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Complete sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) in the box below by deleting those sections and words in square brackets as appropriate.

The personal interest detailed in Section 4 above:-

[(a) Is NOT a prejudicial interest because the business concerned relates to [another relevant authority of which I am also a member] [another public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature in which I hold a position of general control or management] [a body to which I have been elected, appointed or nominated by my Council] [my role as a non LEA School Governor and the business does not relate to my school] [my role as a member of the Local Health Board] AND the business does not relate to the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration]

[(b) Is NOT a prejudicial interest because (under the objective, public perception test in Paragraph 12 (1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) it WOULD NOT be regarded as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest].

[(c) Is NOT a prejudicial interest because the business relates to a grant, loan or other form of financial assistance to community or voluntary organisations up to £500].

[(d) IS ALSO A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST because (under the objective, public perception test in Paragraph 12 (1) of the Members' Code of Conduct) it WOULD BE regarded as so significant that it is likely to prejudice my judgement of the public interest].

6. IF YOU HAVE A PREJUDICIAL INTEREST IN RESPECT OF WHICH YOU HAVE THE BENEFIT OF A DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE YOU MUST ALSO COMPLETE THE BOX BELOW.

DATE OF MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE	
EXACT WORDING OF DISPENSATION [As an alternative you may simply attach the letter (or a copy) from the Standards Committee/Sub-Committee notifying you of the grant of dispensation]	

7. DATE AND SIGNATURE:

DATE:	
SIGNATURE:	

This written notification, fully completed, dated and signed must be given BEFORE or IMMEDIATELY AFTER the close of the meeting to the Clerk.

V:\WLEGAL\CLARENCE\STANDARDS\TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS – DECLARATION OF INTEREST (VERSION 2)

Appendix B



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Welshpool Town Council, Tourist Information Centre, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, SY21 7DD
Tel: 01938 553142 Email: town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

DRAFT

Minutes of the Operations & Development Committee held on 09/07/2025 6:30pm in Council Chamber, Welshpool Town Hall.

PRESENT:

Councillor David France
Councillor Estelle Bleivas
Councillor Nick Howells
Councillor Phil Owen
Councillor Phil Pritchard (Chair)
Councillor Sally Fitzgerald

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Dr Ben Gwalchmai

Absent:

Also in attendance:

Councillor Revd William Rowell
Richard Williams - Town Clerk & Proper Officer
Paul McGrath - Operations Manager
6 member(s) of the public / press

OD090725/1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Ben Gwalchmai.

OD090725/2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

OD090725/3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke about Item 8.2 on the agenda and explained that the tenants of Oldford raised £46,000 to provide a play area for all ages, including two toddler areas and asked the Council to support residents in restoring play provision in the largest estate in the town.

OD090725/4. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

OD090725/4.1 Previous Minutes

RESOLVED

To approve the minutes from the meeting of the Operations & Development Committee on

11/06/2025.

WTCM205 - Proposed by Cllr Sally Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Nick Howells

OD090725/4.2 Matters Arising

None.

OD090725/5. LAND AND BUILDINGS

OD090725/5.1 Town Hall & Motte and Bailey

The Operations Manager updated on works to the Town Hall and explained that the temporary toilet works were now complete and propping works are to commence next week.

OD090725/5.2 Annual ROSPA Inspections

The Operations Manager updated on the recently held ROSPA inspections on the Councils play areas. Two medium risks were identified - the fencing at Dol y Felin and the wooden posts at Country Park. Both these works were already underway with the replacement fencing at Dol y Felin likely to be installed in the next few weeks. The Operations Manager will now seek quotes to repair the equipment at Country Park.

Members recorded their thanks to the Operations Manager and his team for their hard work in maintaining the play areas and commended them for the reports.

OD090725/5.3 General Update

The Operations Manager updated councillors on general activities, including:

- Carnival had taken place on the 22nd June and the parade went well. A full debrief and lessons learned session is taking place internally tomorrow.
- Continental Market had also taken place last weekend and was a success. The team rigged a new water pipe to allow traders to get water easily and the team continued with regular litter picks around the town centre across the weekend.
- Mayors Parade preparation works had commenced.
- Day Centre - works had been completed to repair the wall in the store cupboard and leaking radiators had been fixed.
- Maes y Dre - a quote was being obtained for End of Season works taking into account the recent STRI report.
- Grass cutting - bi-weekly rota had kicked in again with 83 Bronybuckly now added to the rota.
- Sports clubs - pre-season and fixtures were starting to get underway so works are taking place on marking pitches and general repairs.
- Little Henfaes - the team successfully pressure washed the play equipment at Little Henfaes.
- Playgrounds - new benches had been installed at Maes y Dre.
- Fire Risk Assessments - the contractor has now completed the Day Centre and undertook the Town Hall earlier in the day.

OD090725/6. SERVICES

OD090725/6.1 Public Toilets

The Town Clerk summarised the report and explained that the Council had installed new feedback signs in public toilets to gather feedback from visitors. The feedback received so far had indicated that the toilets were well used with good or excellent responses.

Members asked if more signage could be explored and any publicity given to highlight that the toilets are now open again.

OD090725/6.2 Meals on Wheels

The Town Clerk summarised the report in the absence of the TIC Manager and explained that 391 meals were served in June which generated £2614 in income.

OD090725/6.3 Markets

The Town Clerk gave an update in the absence of the Events, Planning and Markets Officer and explained that new tenants had started in the indoor market with several stall reconfigurations planned for August by existing tenants. The outdoor market had also seen new attendees and more advertising and promotion is planned for the market.

OD090725/7. COMMITTEE FINANCE (MONTH 3)

Members noted the current spending position against the budget and no comments were received.

OD090725/8. PROJECTS & NEW DEVELOPMENTS

OD090725/8.1 Town Hall Transformation

The Town Clerk explained that the expression of interest for Town Hall Transformation had been submitted on the 18th June 2025 and we are still awaiting a response.

OD090725/8.2 Oldford Estate

Members expressed their thoughts on the correspondence received from the Oldford Community Association (which represents tenants) which included support for restoring play provision on the estate. Members discussed how the Council could provide practical solutions such as assisting with fundraising and putting pressure on Powys County Council to enforce the covenants around play equipment with ClwydAlyn.

The Town Clerk explained that due to publicity of the item that ClwydAlyn had requested a meeting with him to discuss next week.

RECOMMENDED

To support the Oldford Community Association with their campaign to restore play provision on the Oldford Estate and instructs the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting and invite Powys County Council, ClwydAlyn, Welshpool Town Council and Oldford Community Association to discuss further.

WTCM206 - Proposed by Cllr Sally Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Nick Howells

OD090725/8.3 TIC Solar and Battery Installation

The Town Clerk explained that due to the awarded grant by Windfall obtained by Cllr Gwalchmai, the Council needed to select one of two quotes for the works (installation of solar and battery system) to take place.

The Town Clerk explained that Company A had quoted £23,846 and Company B had quoted £23,775. The grant is 100% funded and the Council will receive £23,775.

Members asked questions about the roof condition considering the Quintennial Building Surveys undertaken and the Town Clerk gave assurances from communications he had received from Andrew Rowson (RICS surveyor) that the installation would not impact the works to fix the roof.

RECOMMENDED
To accept the quotation for works to the TIC to install solar and battery system from PAV Electrical Contractors Ltd (Company B) at a cost of £23,775 excluding VAT.

WTCM207 - Proposed by Cllr Sally Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Nick Howells

OD090725/9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Operations and Development Committee will be held on Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 6:30pm.

OD090725/10. CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - EXCLUSION

RECOMMENDED
That members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

WTCM208 - Proposed by Cllr Sally Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Nick Howells

OD090725/11. REVIEW OF CLEANING CONTRACT [CONFIDENTIAL]

The Town Clerk summarised the report and answered questions.

RECOMMENDED
To defer discussions on this matter until October.

WTCM209 - Proposed by Cllr Sally Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Nick Howells

OD090725/12. PROPERTY VALUATION [CONFIDENTIAL]

The Town Clerk updated members to recent property valuations.

The meeting finished at 19:51.

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Councillor Phil Pritchard (Chair)

Decision/Action Log

ID		Assigned
WTCM205	RESOLUTION OD090725/4.1 Previous Minutes To approve the minutes from the meeting of the Operations & Development Committee on 11/06/2025.	Town Clerk & Proper Officer

ID		Assigned
WTCM206	RECOMMENDATION OD090725/8.2 Oldford Estate To support the Oldford Community Association with their campaign to restore play provision on the Oldford Estate and instructs the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting and invite Powys County Council, ClwydAlyn, Welshpool Town Council and Oldford Community Association to discuss further.	Town Clerk & Proper Officer
WTCM207	RECOMMENDATION OD090725/8.3 TIC Solar and Battery Installation To accept the quotation for works to the TIC to install solar and battery system from PAV Electrical Contractors Ltd (Company B) at a cost of £23,775 excluding VAT.	Town Clerk & Proper Officer Operations Manager
WTCM208	RECOMMENDATION OD090725/10 Confidential Session - Exclusion That members of the public and press be requested to leave the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.	
WTCM209	RECOMMENDATION OD090725/11 Review of Cleaning Contract To defer discussions on this matter until October.	Town Clerk & Proper Officer

Appendix C

Jamie Jones

Argae Hall Ltd

Garthmyl,
Montgomery,
SY15 6RU
Tel: 01686 640216



QUOTATION 01

Issue date: 26/08/2025

CUSTOMER

Welshpool Town Council

Description
300 tonnes of M60 moist sand
Spreading sand
Verti-draining x5
Fertiliser x40 bags 6-9-6
Spreading fertiliser
Dragging and levelling sand

Sub Total	£17,640.00
VAT @ 20%	£3,528.00
Total Payable	£21,168.00

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Many Thanks,
Jamie.**

Jamie Jones

Argae Hall Ltd

Garthmyl,
Montgomery,
SY15 6RU
Tel: 01686 640216



QUOTATION 02

Issue date: 26/08/2025

CUSTOMER

Welshpool Town Council

Description
300 tonnes of M60 moist sand
Spreading sand
Verti-draining x5
Fertiliser x40 bags 6-9-6
Spreading fertiliser
Dragging and levelling sand
Over seeding rugby pitch x2
Supplying x9 bags of M79 grass seed
Sub Total
VAT @ 20%
Total Payable

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Many Thanks,
Jamie.**

Jamie Jones

Argae Hall Ltd

Garthmyl,
Montgomery,
SY15 6RU
Tel: 01686 640216



QUOTATION 03

Issue date: 26/08/2025

CUSTOMER

Welshpool Town Council

Description

300 tonnes of M60 moist sand
Spreading sand
Verti-draining x5
Fertiliser x40 bags 6-9-6
Spreading fertiliser
Dragging and levelling sand
Over seeding x1 rugby pitch
Over seeding x2 football pitches
Supplying x27 bags of M79 grass seed

Sub Total	£21,380.00
VAT @ 20%	£4,276.00
Total Payable	£25,656.00

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Many Thanks,
Jamie.**

Appendix D

Private & Confidential

Paul
townhall@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk
07518126776
Quote reference - Q0245/25

Date: 21/08/2025

Dear Paul ,

Thank you for giving ALS Contracting Services the opportunity to price for the work at Maes y Dre Recreation Ground , Welshpool .

The prices you requested for Autumn 2025 are as follows -

Quote 1 -

1. To supply and apply 300 tonnes of moist 60 sand will cost £14,250 + vat .
2. To Vertidrain approximately 4 hectares of pitches will cost £1700 + vat .
3. To supply and apply 40 bags of 6.9.6 fertiliser will cost £1100 + vat .
4. To Drag Matt in sand will cost £400 + vat .
5. Haulage for all of the above will cost £450 + vat .

Total - £17,900 + vat .

Quote 2 - As per Quote 1 but including -

1. To supply and apply 9 bags of Masterline PM79 grass seed to rugby pitch will cost £1275 + vat .
2. Haulage will cost £150 + vat .

Total - £19,325 + vat .

Quote 3 - As per Quote 1 but including -

1. To supply and apply 27 bags of Masterline PM79 grass seed across 2 football & 1 rugby pitch will cost £3625 + vat .
2. Haulage will cost £150 + vat .

Total - £21,675 + vat .

Regards Ant .

Customer to be responsible for updating conditions should cancellation be required.

Appendix E



Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council, Tourist Information Centre, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, SY21 7DD
Tel: 01938 553142 Email: town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

Document / Report

Author	Richard Williams Town Clerk & Proper Officer
Title	Byelaws - O&D September 2025
Date	27th August 2025

1. Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to commence the process of making new byelaws under the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012.
2. The new byelaws will:
 1. Replace existing byelaws made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 and Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906 relating to open spaces.
 2. Introduce new byelaws for the regulation of indoor and outdoor markets under Section 60 of the Food Act 1984.
 3. Introduce new byelaws for off-street parking places controlled by the Council under Section 57(7) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.
 4. Introduce new byelaws to regulate the conduct of persons in toilets under Section 117 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.

2. Background

1. Welshpool Town Council currently has byelaws in force relating to open spaces made under the Public Health Act 1875 and Open Spaces Act 1906. These byelaws are outdated and require replacement to reflect current needs.
2. The Council operates indoor and outdoor markets. Regulation is currently through trader agreements and informal management, but byelaws under Section 60 of the Food Act 1984 will provide a clear legal basis for preventing nuisances, ensuring fair trading, and maintaining safety.
3. The Council also manages a number of public car parks (Maes y Dre, Motte and Bailey, rear of Town Hall, Ann Holloway Centre). Byelaws made under Section 57(7) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 would provide enforceable rules on use of parking places, including charges, misuse, and prevention of obstruction.
4. The Council is also responsible for public conveniences. Section 117 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 gives power to make byelaws regulating the conduct of persons using toilets. Byelaws would enable the Council to tackle issues such as vandalism, misuse, and inappropriate behaviour.

5. Schedule 1 of the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 confirms that community councils may make byelaws in relation to these subject areas. Market, open space and toilet byelaws do not require confirmation by the Welsh Ministers, whereas parking byelaws under the 1984 Act must follow a confirmation process.

3. Advice

1. The Town Clerk advises new byelaws are necessary to:
 1. Modernise outdated open space byelaws.
 2. Provide enforceable rules to support safe and fair operation of markets.
 3. Introduce enforceable regulations for Council-managed car parks.
 4. Protect and regulate the use of public toilets against nuisance and misuse.
2. The new byelaws will improve the Council's ability to manage its services and facilities for the benefit of residents, traders, and visitors. They will also allow proportionate enforcement through Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) where permitted.
3. The statutory process requires the Council to publish Initial Written Statements, conduct a 12-week consultation, then publish Second Written Statements summarising responses. A Notice of Intention will then be published before the byelaws are formally adopted (and, in the case of parking, confirmed).

4. Resource & Legal Implications

1. Costs will arise from public notices, printing, and officer time. These can be met from existing budgets.
2. Any FPN income must be used for enforcement and nuisance prevention, as required by Section 15 of the 2012 Act - this will be covered by a separate Statutory Enforcement Policy which will be adopted by Council if Council decides to pursue adoption of byelaws at the end of the process.
3. The Council has the legal power to make byelaws under:
 1. Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 and Sections 12 & 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906
 2. Section 60 of the Food Act 1984
 3. Section 57(7) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
 4. Section 117 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017
4. The procedure is governed by the Local Government Byelaws (Wales) Act 2012 and the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers.
5. Only Full Council has the power to begin this process and it cannot be delegated to a committee, therefore Operations & Development Committee is asked to recommend this to Full Council.

5. Recommendation

1. That Welshpool Town Council:
 1. Approves the commencement of the process to make new byelaws as set out in this report.

2. Authorises the Town Clerk to publish, and if appropriate, make minor amendments to the below Initial Written Statements for open spaces, markets, parking, and public toilets, and to undertake a 12-week consultation in line with the Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on the 2012 Act.
3. Notes that further reports will be brought to Council at subsequent stages of the statutory process, including the publication of draft byelaws and the issuing of Notices of Intention.

6. Decision

1. To resolve to adopt the recommendations as above.

INITIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT - OPEN SPACES

Welshpool Town Council proposes to replace its outdated open spaces byelaws made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act 1875 and Sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906. The existing provisions are limited and do not cover all land currently managed by the Council, including Powis Lower Park. They also do not address modern environmental and public order concerns.

The proposed byelaws would extend regulation to all relevant open spaces and provide powers to deal with issues such as the release of Chinese sky lanterns and balloons, as well as potentially problems arising from uncontrolled dogs (but not fouling, which is separately regulated). This would help protect the environment, preserve public enjoyment, and promote responsible behaviour in Welshpool's parks and open areas.

INITIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT - MARKETS

Welshpool Town Council proposes to make new byelaws under Section 60 of the Food Act 1984 to regulate its indoor and outdoor markets. At present, the markets are managed largely through trader agreements which creates limits the Council's ability to enforce. In particular, Broad Street becomes an issue on outdoor market days, as Powys County Council does not enforce parking restrictions during those times, leading to lack of spaces for traders.

The new byelaws would provide a clear legal basis to regulate trader conduct, control the allocation of pitches, ensure cleanliness, and manage vehicle access. They would also allow enforcement action, including Fixed Penalty Notices, to be taken where necessary, creating a safer and more orderly environment for traders, residents, and visitors.

INITIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT - PARKING

Welshpool Town Council proposes to make byelaws under Section 57(7) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the regulation of parking places at Maes y Dre, Motte and Bailey, the rear of the Town Hall, and the Ann Holloway Centre. These car parks have grown into public parking areas but currently operate without any enforceable rules.

The proposed byelaws would create a clear framework for how these car parks are used, supporting the introduction or enforcement of charges if required in the future, and giving the Council the legal "teeth" to act against unauthorised or unsafe use. This would improve and protect the Council's assets.

INITIAL WRITTEN STATEMENT - TOILETS

Welshpool Town Council proposes to make byelaws under Section 117 of the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 to regulate the conduct of persons using public toilets. The Council has faced ongoing issues with vandalism, graffiti, and misuse of its facilities. While such matters are criminal offences, the Police have often been unable to prioritise them, leaving the Council with limited enforcement options.

The new byelaws would enable the Council to act directly against those who damage or misuse toilets, setting out clear rules of conduct and providing the ability to prosecute offenders via Fixed Penalty Notices or via the Magistrates' Court. This would help reduce vandalism, protect facilities, and ensure that public conveniences remain safe and accessible for all users.

Appendix F



Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council, Tourist Information Centre, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, SY21 7DD
Tel: 01938 553142 Email: town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

Document / Report

Author	Richard Williams Town Clerk & Proper Officer
Title	Meals on Wheels Performance - July & August
Date	3rd September 2025

1. Purpose

1. To update Members on the performance of the Meals on Wheels (MoW) service during the month of July and August 2025, including key data on usage, income, expenditure, and service distribution.

2. Background

1. Welshpool Town Council provides a Meals on Wheels service to vulnerable residents in the community, as well as hot meal provision to users of the Day Centre. Meals are prepared in-house by paid staff and delivered by volunteers.

3. Summary

1. A total of 935 meals were served across July and August, with 61% delivered via Meals on Wheels in the community and 39% served in-house at the Day Centre.
2. Income during the period was £5,446.75 against modest food and catering costs.
3. Demand remained strong, averaging 117 meals per week, higher than June's average of 98 meals.
4. Week of 18th–22nd August saw a reduction in overall meals (68 total) due to no Day Centre provision, though all meals delivered were via the community service.
5. Gross profit margins continue to remain healthy, with consistent cost control.

Appendix G



Cyngor Tref y Trallwng | Welshpool Town Council

Welshpool Town Council, Tourist Information Centre, The Vicarage Gardens, Welshpool, SY21 7DD
Tel: 01938 553142 Email: town.clerk@welshpooltowncouncil.gov.uk

Document / Report

Author	Richard Williams Town Clerk & Proper Officer
Title	Hub Performance - Q1 2025
Date	3rd September 2025

1. Purpose

1. To update Members on the activities, usage and financial position of the Hub operated by the Town Council, covering the period April to June 2025.

2. Background

1. The Hub was established in October 2022 as a response to the cost-of-living crisis. Initially created as a warm space offering hot drinks and companionship, the initiative rapidly developed into a more comprehensive community offer.
2. With the support of local residents, donations of equipment, and continued commitment from the Town Council, the Hub has grown into a reliable and valued community service. It now operates from the Assembly Rooms in the Town Hall, opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays during winter and every Thursday during the summer months.

3. Commentary

1. Across April–June 2025, the Hub generated £250.05 in receipts and received £293.83 in donations.
2. Visitor numbers recorded totalled 253, averaging around 40–45 per session, though the true number is likely higher due to gaps in data collection.
3. Donations remain a vital part of sustaining the service, with contributions from individuals, local groups, and community fundraising activities.
4. £1752 remains earmarked in our accounts for use in the Hub, however donations to date have prevented this fund from being required.

Appendix H

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/08/2025

Month No: 4

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
Operations & Development								
<u>100 Town Hall</u>								
1100 Income -Corn Exchange	143	1,713	7,000	5,287			24.5%	
1103 Refreshments Corn Exchange	50	130	0	(130)			0.0%	
1104 Refreshments Assembly Room	100	100	0	(100)			0.0%	
1105 Income -Assembly Rooms	558	1,552	1,800	248			86.2%	
1110 Income -Other Rooms	158	298	1,000	703			29.8%	
1120 Income -Telephone Mast Rental	0	0	5,000	5,000			0.0%	
Town Hall :- Income	1,008	3,792	14,800	11,008			25.6%	0
4000 Salary	4,394	17,054	68,355	51,301		51,301	24.9%	
4005 HMRC	1,610	6,071	6,885	815		815	88.2%	
4010 Pension Payments	0	1,310	6,657	5,347		5,347	19.7%	
4055 Rates	0	36,068	35,000	(1,068)		(1,068)	103.1%	
4060 Services	5,898	24,399	60,000	35,601		35,601	40.7%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	8,249	11,569	15,000	3,431		3,431	77.1%	
4095 Licenses	699	834	1,500	666		666	55.6%	
4096 BLT Loan	0	940	0	(940)		(940)	0.0%	
4100 Cleaning & Materials	1,191	7,348	10,000	2,652		2,652	73.5%	
4200 Waste Collection	108	1,250	1,500	250		250	83.3%	
4202 Consumeables	0	42	500	458		458	8.4%	
4340 Equipment	0	(449)	500	949		949	(89.8%)	
4866 IT Costs	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4875 Health & Safety	0	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	781	1,500	719		719	52.0%	
Town Hall :- Indirect Expenditure	22,149	107,217	208,897	101,680	0	101,680	51.3%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(21,140)	(103,425)	(194,097)	(90,672)				
<u>110 Markets</u>								
1200 Income -Market Stalls	1,192	5,195	13,000	7,805			40.0%	
1205 Income -Outdoor Markets	100	365	1,000	635			36.5%	
Markets :- Income	1,292	5,560	14,000	8,440			39.7%	0
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	0	0	750	750		750	0.0%	
4095 Licenses	113	113	500	388		388	22.5%	
4205 Marketing	0	0	250	250		250	0.0%	
Markets :- Indirect Expenditure	113	113	1,500	1,388	0	1,388	7.5%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	1,179	5,448	12,500	7,052				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/08/2025

Month No: 4

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
130 Recreation								
1340 Income - Rec Club Rents etc	0	0	3,000	3,000			0.0%	
1350 Income -Allotments	0	855	600	(255)			142.5%	
1365 Income -Other	1,547	1,547	0	(1,547)			0.0%	
Recreation :- Income	1,547	2,402	3,600	1,198			66.7%	0
4020 Training Staff	0	1,905	2,000	95		95	95.3%	
4025 Uniforms	0	368	0	(368)		(368)	0.0%	
4060 Services	5,661	5,661	2,500	(3,161)		(3,161)	226.4%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	370	3,499	6,000	2,501		2,501	58.3%	
4202 Consumeables	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4340 Equipment	0	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4341 Play Equipment	0	680	10,000	9,320	747	8,573	14.3%	
4342 Play Area Fencing	0	0	16,000	16,000		16,000	0.0%	
4345 End of Season Works	0	0	20,000	20,000		20,000	0.0%	
4355 Country Park Lease	30	30	400	370		370	7.5%	
4360 Outer Park Lease	1,000	1,000	1,000	0		0	100.0%	
4365 STRI/ROSPA	0	520	1,500	980		980	34.7%	
4375 Memorial Garden	0	0	250	250		250	0.0%	
4380 Allotment costs	0	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4400 Vehicles	0	3,125	0	(3,125)		(3,125)	0.0%	
4401 Vehicle Running Costs	207	934	1,000	66		66	93.4%	
4875 Health & Safety	0	16	250	234		234	6.5%	
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	0	100	100		100	0.0%	
Recreation :- Indirect Expenditure	7,267	17,739	64,300	46,561	747	45,814	28.7%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(5,720)	(15,337)	(60,700)	(45,363)				
140 Street Scene								
4000 Salary	4,200	16,629	65,079	48,450		48,450	25.6%	
4005 HMRC	1,432	5,622	6,566	944		944	85.6%	
4010 Pension Payments	0	1,405	4,662	3,257		3,257	30.1%	
4020 Training Staff	0	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%	
4025 Uniforms	0	52	500	448		448	10.3%	
4026 PPE	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4065 Mobile Phones	31	63	200	137		137	31.3%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	98	582	1,200	618		618	48.5%	
4200 Waste Collection	261	1,023	2,500	1,477		1,477	40.9%	
4202 Consumeables	0	61	0	(61)		(61)	0.0%	
4340 Equipment	250	1,003	3,000	1,997		1,997	33.4%	
4400 Vehicles	1,790	4,425	5,400	975		975	82.0%	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/08/2025

Month No: 4

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
4401 Vehicle Running Costs	21	37	1,500	1,463		1,463	2.5%	
4515 Buttington Cemetery	0	1,300	1,500	200		200	86.7%	
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Street Scene :- Indirect Expenditure	8,084	32,202	93,807	61,605	0	61,605	34.3%	0
Net Expenditure	(8,084)	(32,202)	(93,807)	(61,605)				
<u>150 Toilets</u>								
4060 Services	197	1,972	3,000	1,028		1,028	65.7%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	222	282	1,000	718		718	28.2%	
4100 Cleaning & Materials	889	889	15,000	14,111		14,111	5.9%	
Toilets :- Indirect Expenditure	1,307	3,143	19,000	15,857	0	15,857	16.5%	0
Net Expenditure	(1,307)	(3,143)	(19,000)	(15,857)				
<u>160 Motte & Bailey Castle</u>								
4055 Rates	0	582	0	(582)		(582)	0.0%	
4060 Services	0	64	1,200	1,136		1,136	5.3%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	0	13,838	5,000	(8,838)		(8,838)	276.8%	
4095 Licenses	0	0	1,350	1,350		1,350	0.0%	
4550 Rent Private Land	0	3,000	3,000	0		0	100.0%	
Motte & Bailey Castle :- Indirect Expenditure	0	17,484	10,550	(6,934)	0	(6,934)	165.7%	0
Net Expenditure	0	(17,484)	(10,550)	6,934				
<u>190 Ann Holloway Centre</u>								
1110 Income -Other Rooms	417	1,458	5,000	3,542			29.2%	
1300 Income - Rent	80	275	0	(275)			0.0%	
1635 Income -Lease	0	0	6,000	6,000			0.0%	
Ann Holloway Centre :- Income	497	1,733	11,000	9,267			15.8%	0
4060 Services	856	5,029	12,000	6,971		6,971	41.9%	
4085 Repairs & Maintenance	587	2,174	5,000	2,826		2,826	43.5%	
4100 Cleaning & Materials	287	430	4,000	3,570		3,570	10.7%	
4200 Waste Collection	0	219	1,500	1,281		1,281	14.6%	
4866 IT Costs	0	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4875 Health & Safety	0	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Ann Holloway Centre :- Indirect Expenditure	1,730	7,852	23,100	15,248	0	15,248	34.0%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(1,234)	(6,119)	(12,100)	(5,981)				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 27/08/2025

Month No: 4

Committee Report

	Actual Current Mth	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>200 Meals on Wheels</u>								
1650 Income -Meals on Wheels	1,698	9,355	20,000	10,645			46.8%	
Meals on Wheels :- Income	1,698	9,355	20,000	10,645			46.8%	0
4000 Salary	1,043	4,580	21,735	17,155		17,155	21.1%	
4005 HMRC	285	1,281	801	(480)		(480)	160.0%	
4100 Cleaning & Materials	54	54	500	446		446	10.8%	
4202 Consumeables	0	0	250	250		250	0.0%	
4340 Equipment	0	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4400 Vehicles	211	632	4,000	3,368		3,368	15.8%	
4710 Meal Costs	226	1,676	8,000	6,324		6,324	20.9%	
4900 Miscellaneous Costs	0	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Meals on Wheels :- Indirect Expenditure	1,820	8,223	35,986	27,763	0	27,763	22.9%	0
Net Income over Expenditure	(122)	1,132	(15,986)	(17,118)				
Operations & Development :- Income	6,041	22,843	63,400	40,557			36.0%	
Expenditure	42,469	193,973	457,140	263,167	747	262,420	42.6%	
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(36,428)	(171,130)	(393,740)	(222,610)				
Grand Totals:- Income	6,041	22,843	63,400	40,557			36.0%	
Expenditure	42,469	193,973	457,140	263,167	747	262,420	42.6%	
Net Income over Expenditure	(36,428)	(171,130)	(393,740)	(222,610)				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(36,428)	(171,130)	(393,740)	(222,610)				

Appendix I



WELSHPOOL TOWN COUNCIL

Interim Strategic Plan 2025-2028



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Foreword by the Mayor of Welshpool

TBC

Cllr Phil Owen

Mayor of Welshpool



Engagement

This strategic plan was developed by Welshpool Town Council in conjunction with residents via an engagement period during August 2025.

The consultation generated a strong response, with over 230 responses which included more than 1,000 comments received across all themes. These responses provided both quantitative data (such as levels of support for particular services) and qualitative feedback (direct quotes, ideas and concerns).

All feedback was carefully analysed, coded into themes, and summarised in this plan. Where possible, residents' own words have been included to ensure their voices are directly reflected.

This process has helped shape the five key themes and strategic aims set out in the plan.

A copy of the full engagement report is available on our website.

Town Centre & Regeneration

The town centre is the beating heart of Welshpool. It is where people come together to shop, meet, and enjoy local life, and it plays a key role in shaping how visitors experience our community. By investing in our historic Town Hall, revitalising the markets, and planning for the long term through a Place Plan, we can create a vibrant, attractive and welcoming centre that reflects our heritage while meeting modern needs.

Strategic Aims



Redevelop the Town Hall as a modern community and civic hub, making it a flexible, welcoming space for residents, businesses, and visitors while protecting its heritage.



Revitalise the indoor and outdoor markets by improving variety, quality, and promotion to attract more traders, shoppers, and tourists.



Enhance the town centre environment through better maintenance, signage, and public realm improvements that make Welshpool cleaner, greener, and more attractive.



Develop a Place Plan to be adopted by Powys County Council so that Welshpool has a stronger voice in shaping decisions.

Open Spaces

Welshpool is fortunate to have a wealth of parks, recreation grounds, and green spaces that support health, wellbeing, and community life. These areas provide opportunities for play, sport, and relaxation, while also protecting wildlife and the environment. By caring for and enhancing these spaces, and making the most of our historic Motte and Bailey site, we can ensure future generations enjoy the same access to nature, heritage and leisure that our residents value today.

At the same time, we want our open spaces to be clean, safe and welcoming for everyone. That means improving facilities for dog owners, with more bins, better signage, and encouraging responsible ownership so that Welshpool can become a truly dog-friendly town.

Strategic Aims



Maintain and invest in open spaces

to ensure parks, pitches, and play areas are safe, well-kept, and meet the needs of families and local clubs.



Protect and enhance the environment

by supporting biodiversity, improving green corridors, and making space for nature across the town.



Redevelop the Motte and Bailey as a historical leisure and recreational space, balancing heritage conservation with opportunities for learning and play.



Improve facilities for dog owners by providing additional dog waste bins, clear signage, and exploring designated dog-friendly areas, while encouraging responsible ownership.

Community Services

Community services are at the heart of what makes Welshpool a supportive and caring place to live. Public toilets, the Ann Holloway Day Centre, and Meals on Wheels all provide vital help to residents, especially the most vulnerable. Allotments also play an important role, offering opportunities for people to grow their own food, support healthier lifestyles, and connect with others. By protecting and strengthening these services, while promoting the benefits of allotments, we can ensure that Welshpool continues to be a place where people of all ages feel supported, valued, and part of a thriving community.

Strategic Aims



Maintain and protect public toilets

as an essential service for residents, visitors, and town centre businesses.



Secure the future of the Ann

Holloway Day Centre as a valued community facility that supports local groups and vulnerable residents.



Strengthen the Meals on Wheels service, ensuring it remains reliable, sustainable, and able to meet the needs of Welshpool's most vulnerable people.



Promote and expand the use of allotments as affordable, sustainable spaces for growing food, supporting healthy lifestyles, and building stronger community connections.

Events and Tourism

Events and tourism bring Welshpool to life. From traditional festivals and family celebrations to food, music and cultural activities, they showcase the town's unique character and provide opportunities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy everything we have to offer. Tourism is also central to our economy, drawing on our rich heritage, canal, and surrounding countryside. By enhancing events, promoting Welshpool as a destination, and improving our visitor services, we can grow pride in our town and share it more widely.

Strategic Aims



Deliver an enhanced events programme that is better promoted, inclusive, and attracts both local people and visitors.



Develop Welshpool as a destination by making the most of its heritage, canal, castle, and countryside, and working with partners to bring people into the town.



Improve the Tourist Information Centre so that it is modern, welcoming, and effectively promotes local attractions, businesses, and events.

Improving the Council

A modern, effective and transparent Council is key to delivering for the community. By improving communication, building trust, and ensuring financial sustainability, Welshpool Town Council can be an organisation that residents are proud of. We are committed to engaging more openly, working in partnership, and using resources wisely so that every action we take delivers real value. Our aim is to be a Council that listens, leads, and works alongside the community for the benefit of all.

Strategic Aims



Improve communication, transparency and accountability by publishing clearer information and being honest about decisions.



Strengthen engagement with the community through regular consultations, forums, and feedback so residents feel heard and involved.



Ensure financial sustainability by focusing on core priorities, cutting unnecessary overheads, and only taking on new services where funding is secured.

Action Plan

Glossary

- O&D – Operations & Development Committee
- E&P – Events & Planning Committee
- F&G – Finance & Governance Committee
- TC – Town Clerk
- MO – Markets Officer
- OM – Operations Manager
- EO – Events Officer
- TICM – TIC Manager
- CM – Communications Resource (TBC)

Town Centre & Regeneration

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Redevelop the Town Hall as a modern community and civic hub				
TH1	O&D	Progress existing Expression of Interest to full National Lottery Heritage Fund application (£4.2m project)	TC £££	Year 1-3
TH2	O&D	Launch community fundraising campaign and sponsorship scheme alongside grant bid	TC £	Year 2
TH3	O&D	Begin phased transformation works as required by lottery application	All £££	Year 2-3
Revitalise the indoor and outdoor markets				

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
MA1	O&D	Trial themed markets (e.g. farmers, crafts, seasonal) and promote through social media and newsletters	MO/CM £	Year 2
MA2	O&D	Improve signage to both markets from car parks, train station and main areas	TC/MO/CM £	Year 1
MA3	O&D	Support traders with joint marketing and promotion campaigns	MO/CM £	Year 1-3
MA4	O&D	Assess financial sustainability of Monday market and explore feasibility of adding a second trading day	TC/MO £	Year 2
Enhance the town centre environment				
TC1	O&D	Roll out shopfront/window dressing scheme for empty premises in partnership with landlords	TC/EO/CM £	Year 2
TC2	O&D	Pilot town centre planting and hanging basket sponsorship scheme	TC/OM/CM ££	Year 2
TC3	O&D	Develop long-term "clean and green" action plan for pavements, signage and public spaces	TC/OM/CM £	Year 2-3
Develop a Place Plan to be adopted by Powys County Council				
PP1	E&P	Explore appetite from PCC to adopt as SPG / learn more about RLDP process	TC/EO £	Year 1
PP2	E&P	If appropriate, launch workshops with residents, businesses, and community groups	TC/EO/CM £	Year 2

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
PP3	E&P	Draft plan including town centre, housing, transport, parking, and open space priorities	TC/EO/CM £	Year 2-3
PP4	E&P	Submit to Powys County Council for adoption into planning framework	TC/EO/CM £	Year 3

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Open Spaces

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Maintain and invest in open spaces				
OS1	O&D	Audit all play areas, pitches, open spaces and income generation	TC/OM £	Year 1
OS2	O&D	Develop phased upgrade programme, beginning with most used play areas	OM/CM ££	Year 2-3
OS3	O&D	Work with schools and sports clubs to align investment	TC/OM £	Year 2-3
Protect and enhance the environment				
EN1	O&D	Audit all biodiversity measures and prepare Section 6 report and action plan	TC/OM £	Year 1
EN2	O&D	Implement Section 6 action plan for next 3 years, which should include tree planting, community green days and growing volunteer base	OM/CM ££	Year 2-3
Redevelop the Motte and Bailey as a historical leisure and recreational space				
MB1	O&D	Produce concept designs with heritage groups, schools and local community	All £	Year 1
MB2	O&D	Explore funding options via Cadw, National Lottery, heritage tourism and Public Sector Works Board borrowing	TC ££	Year 1-2
MB3	O&D	Begin phased works	TC/OM/CM £££	Year 3

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Improve facilities for dog owners				
DO1	O&D	Audit existing dog waste bins and identify priority locations for additional bins across parks, recreation grounds and key walking routes.	TC/OM £	Year 1
DO2	O&D	Launch a public campaign on responsible dog ownership, including posters, social media messaging and signage in parks.	TC/CM £	Year 1
DO3	O&D	Introduce new dog waste bins in under-served areas and ensure they are clearly signposted.	OM ££	Year 2
DO4	O&D	Explore the creation of a designated dog-friendly zone or enclosed dog exercise area within one of the open spaces.	TC/OM £	Year 2-3
DO5	O&D	Pilot new initiatives such as "Dog-Friendly Business" scheme to encourage shops and cafés to welcome responsible dog owners.	TC/EO/CM £	Year 3

Community Services

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Maintain and protect public toilets				
PT1	O&D	Promotion and marketing with enhanced signage around the town along with data capture technology to measure usage	TC/OM/CM £	Year 1
PT2	O&D	Resolve outstanding repairs to enable full use of Changing Places facility	OM £	Year 1-2
PT3	O&D	Explore sponsorship and community toilet scheme with local businesses	TC/OM/EO £	Year 2-3
Secure the future of the Ann Holloway Day Centre				
DC1	O&D	Continue negotiations with charity and health board on leases	TC/TICM/OM £	Year 1
Strengthen the Meals on Wheels service				
MW1	O&D	Review operational model and explore opportunities for transfer to charity as part of Day Centre	TC/TICM/OM £	Year 1
MW2	O&D	If service retained then begin expanded promotional campaign and trials of further expansion of offering	TICM/CM £	Year 2-3

Events & Tourism

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Enhanced events programme				
EV1	E&P	Strengthen Carnival Committee/Working Group with more community and business representation	EO £	Year 1
EV2	E&P	Develop events in partnership with local groups and organisations to share ideas, costs and resources and ensure that Council-organised community events as possible remain free to attend, while seeking sponsorship and grant funding to cover costs	EO £	Year 1-3
EV3	E&P	Improve event marketing with banners, signage and earlier social media promotion	EO/CM ££	Year 1
EV4	E&P	Expand Winter Festival with competitions, music, family activities and more following 2025 event	EO £	Year 2
EV5	E&P	Trial new event formats (e.g. 1960s weekend, musical festival, storytelling sessions, heritage events, arts etc)	EO/CM/TICM ££	Year 2-3
Develop Welshpool as a destination				
VW1	E&P	Develop a tourism brand to include website, mobile app and other digital channels and work with tourism operators in town e.g. Powis Castle, WLLR to co-construct	TC/EO/TICM/CM £	Year 1
VW2	E&P	Work with regional tourism to create packages and link to enhanced events programme	EO/CM/TICM £	Year 2

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
VW3	E&P	Promote unique experiences through local businesses e.g. food tours, craft workshops	EO/CM/TICM £	Year 2-3
Improve the Tourist Information Centre				
TIC1	E&P	Review current operations, opening hours and promotion of service	TC/TICM £	Year 1
TIC2	E&P	Update offering and explore digital resourcing	TC/TICM/CM ££	Year 2
TIC3	E&P	Develop TIC into a booking and information hub for events, attractions, trails and more	TICM £	Year 2-3

Improving the Council

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Improve communication, transparency and accountability				
CO1	E&P	Publish details of upcoming planning applications to be discussed by the Council so that residents are better informed and able to engage in the planning process	TC/EO £	Year 1
CO2	F&G	Build on existing platforms – continue with broadcasting meetings and update new democracy platform with more open data	TC £	Year 1
CO3	F&G	Launch printed newsletter to every household and continue biannually	TC/EO/CM £	Year 1-3
CO4	F&G	Publish simple infographics of finances, projects and performance	TC £	Year 1-2
CO5	F&G	Consider business case around expanding team to include dedicated communications resource	TC ££	Year 1-2
Strengthen engagement with the community				
EN1	F&G	Run community workshops linked to Place Plan, Town Hall transformation and events	TC/EO/CM £	Year 1-3
EN2	F&G E&P	Establish regular working groups e.g. Carnival, Markets, Open Spaces	EO £	Year 2
EN3	All	Create a volunteer strategy and explore possible coordination roles to support more structured involvement	All ££	Year 2-3

Ref	Committee	Action	Resource	Timescale
Ensure financial sustainability				
FS1	F&G	Continue disposal of unused assets such as Berriew St toilets	TC £	Year 1
FS2	F&G	Benchmark administration costs against other towns and identify efficiencies	TC £	Year 1-2
FS3	F&G	Complete staffing review	TC £	Year 1
FS4	F&G	Develop a three year budget to balance savings with new income generation	TC £	Year 2-3

Appendix J



Engagement Report on the Interim Strategic Plan 2025-2028 Consultation

September 2025

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Introduction

Welshpool Town Council has undertaken this consultation to better understand residents' views on the services we provide, the priorities we should focus on, and how the Council can operate more effectively in the future. The Council faces significant challenges, including financial pressures and the need to make choices about where limited resources are best directed. Listening to the community is therefore vital to ensure that decisions reflect local needs and aspirations.

The purpose of this report is to present a summary of the feedback received from residents, businesses, and stakeholders. It highlights the common themes and priorities expressed during the consultation and will be used to help inform the Council's future planning, budgets, and strategies.

Responses were collected primarily via an online survey between July and August 2025, with paper copies available on request. In total, 222 responses were received with paper copies of responses being inputted into the online form for analysis reasons.

Methodology

Survey Design

A public survey was designed to gather views on key service areas provided by the Town Council, including markets, public toilets, open spaces, events, administration, meals on wheels, communication, and possible future asset transfers. Respondents were also invited to share their overall priorities and final thoughts. Both closed (quantitative) and open (qualitative) questions were included to provide measurable results alongside richer feedback.

Promotion

The consultation was promoted widely through the Council's website, social media channels, local press, and notices placed in community venues. Paper copies of the survey were also made available on request to ensure accessibility.

Analysis

Quantitative responses were collated and expressed as percentages to give a clear picture of overall opinion. Open-text responses were coded into themes, with direct

quotes included throughout the report to illustrate the views expressed in residents' own words. AI was used to collate the themes with constant checking against direct quotes to support the theming.

Staff Session

A workshop session was held with all staff on Thursday 28th August where staff responded to the consultation in groups and then gave feedback to the rest of the team. The response submitted has been incorporated into the report and broadly mirrored the same theming and ideas which had already been suggested by residents and members of the public.

Staff were also given a first insight into some of the data and their responses helped inform the Interim Strategic Plan and associated actions.

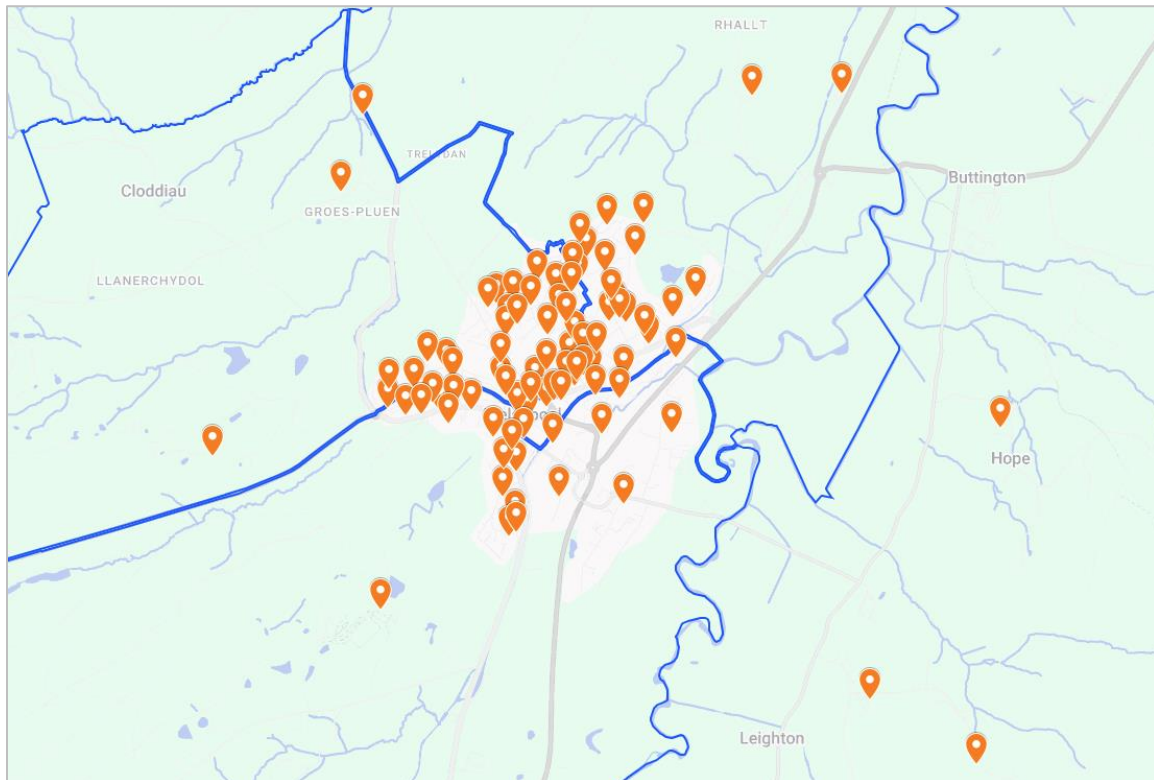
Richard Williams

Town Clerk

Respondents

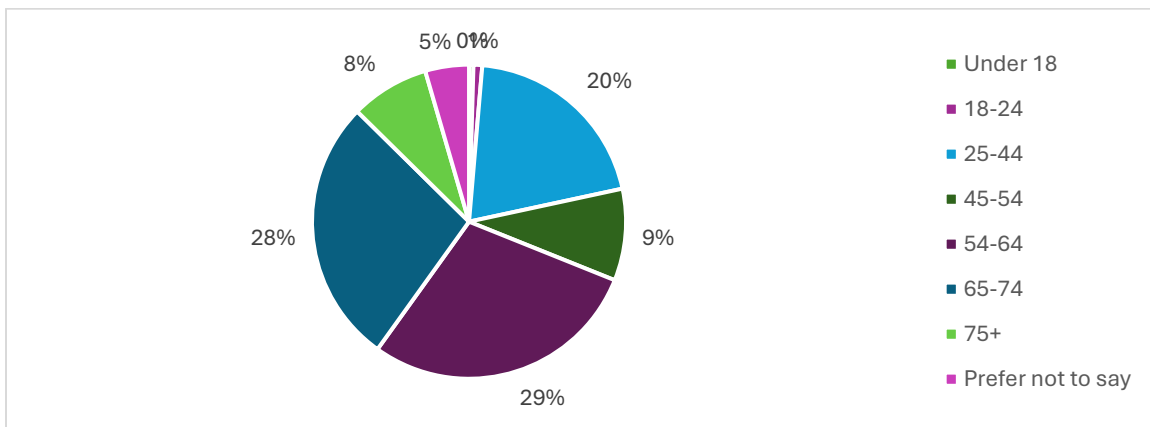
Q1 - What is your postcode?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



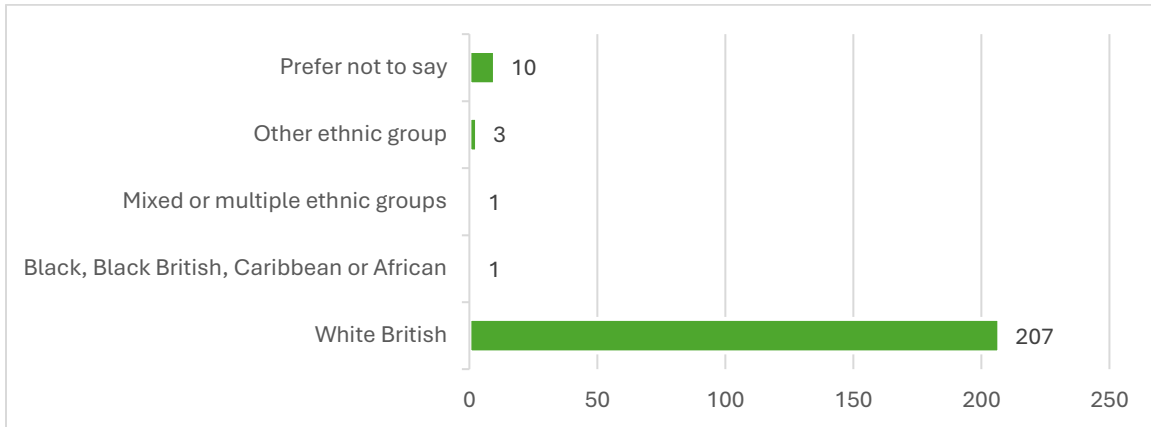
Q2 - Would you support more community involvement in the building?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q3 – What is your ethnicity?

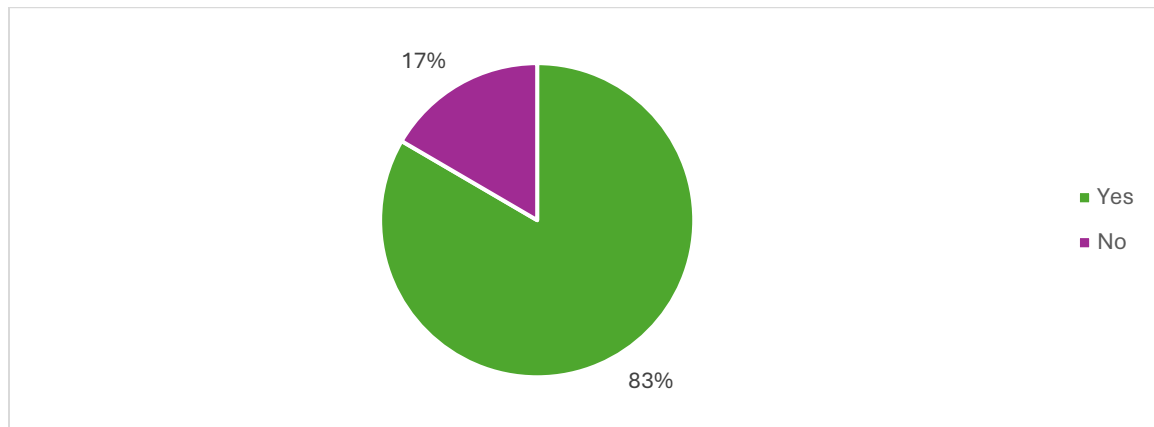
A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Town Hall & Markets

Q4 - Would you support more community involvement in the building?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q5 - How can we enhance the offering at the Town Hall to better suit the community?

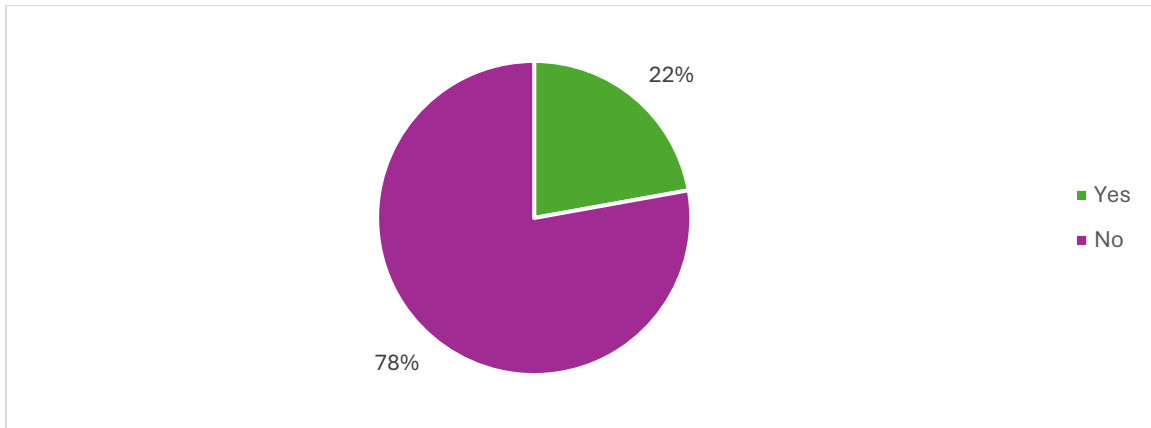
A total of 176 responses was received to this question. The responses included:

- Markets & Traders
 - Strong call for better quality market offer
 - Negative views on the current stalls
 - Inspiration drawn from other markets e.g. Oswestry
 - Suggestions for pop-up stalls and crafts
 - Calls for reduced rents, affordable units and support for start-ups
- Community and Social Use
 - Desire for Town Hall to act as a community hub – hosting local groups, charities, voluntary services, youth and more.
 - Ideas to expand warm hubs, drop-in centres and shared workspaces
 - Need for inclusive facilities – soft play, childcare, ALN friendly spaces, exercise and wellbeing classes
 - Interest in arts, crafts, exhibitions and cultural activities
 - Centralisation of local services (library, TIC etc)
- Events and Entertainment

- Calls for varied and regular programme such as music nights, comedy, cinema, theatre, bingo, quizzes, festivals
 - Requests for more targeted youth events
 - Interest in seasonal/charity/community events such as coffee mornings
 - Fully utilise the wedding licence
- Buildings & Facilities
 - Many felt that the Town Hall is dark, dingy, uninviting and needing modernisation and better lighting
 - Desire for a welcoming frontage
 - Calls to improve accessibility
 - Highlighted by many as underused – needs reconfiguration to maximise space
- Financial and Future
 - Split opinions on seeing the building as a money pit and suggestions to sell or redevelop as flats but others wanted it retained and revitalised as a community and civic asset.
 - Concerns around the high cost of restoration and calls to explore grants, income generation and asset rationalisation
 - Proposals to rent out office space, sublet or co-locate to save money
- Promotion & Engagement
 - Strong criticism of poor publicity and communication – many unaware of what goes on.
 - Requests for better social media, websites, posters, signage.
 - Suggestions for active outreach – public meetings, involving residents in planning, steering groups, youth and community input.
 - Ideas for creative PR – coloured lighting, murals by schoolchildren, guided tours, highlighting heritage (courtroom, assize cases).
- Parking
 - Calls for better parking, free/discounted parking, and deals with PCC to make visits viable.

Q6 - Do you currently visit the indoor market held on Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday?

A total of 220 responses was received to this question.



Q6 – If you said no, why not?

A total of 169 responses was received to this question. The responses included:

- Lack of interest / nothing to buy
 - People say there's nothing of interest, poor variety, or the stalls don't sell what they want.
 - Criticism of it being "tat", "junk", or more like a car boot sale than a proper market.
 - Many miss the days when it had fresh produce, eggs, cheese, butter, butchery, bakery.
- Poor quality and atmosphere
 - Described as dull, drab, depressing, shabby, uninspiring, and run down.
 - Atmosphere seen as empty and lifeless – stallholders often chatting, few customers.
 - Compared negatively with Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Newtown, which are seen as vibrant and well-run.
- Parking
 - Parking is too expensive, limited, or difficult.
 - Some feel the one-way system and parking wardens make visiting not worth it.
- Awareness and Promotion
 - Several respondents said they didn't even know the market was open, or didn't know what was sold there.
 - Lack of signage, advertising, and visibility.

- Market often appears closed or hidden.
- Preference for alternatives
 - Many prefer supermarkets (Tesco, Aldi) for convenience, quality, and price.
 - Others choose online shopping or go to other towns' markets (Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Newtown).

Q8 – What can the Council do to enhance the Indoor and Outdoor Market?

A total of 191 responses was received to this question. The responses included:

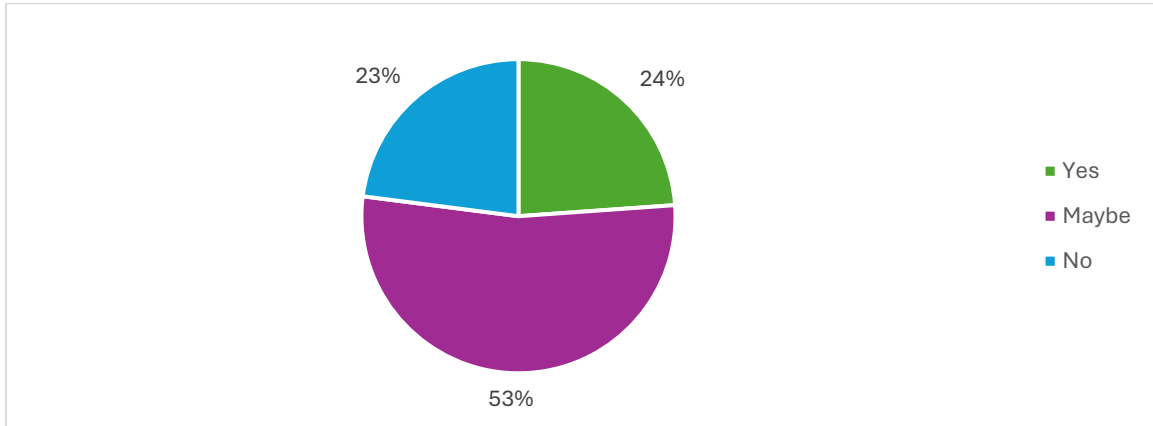
- Stall Quality & Variety
 - Strong call for better quality stalls: fresh produce (fruit, veg, meat, fish, bakery), artisan goods, crafts, antiques, ethnic/world foods, locally made products.
 - People want a wider variety, not just second-hand or bric-a-brac.
 - Calls for themed markets (farmers, craft, vintage, ethnic food, seasonal events).
 - Desire to attract professional traders rather than unmanned or low-effort stalls.
- Advertising & Promotion
 - Major concern about lack of visibility – market “looks closed” or uninviting.
 - Requests for stronger social media use, signage, posters, electronic boards, and PR.
 - Suggestions to highlight stallholders individually, use themed events to generate buzz, and actively promote Welshpool as a market town.
- Building & Environment
 - Many feel the market is dark, dingy, shabby, depressing.
 - Calls to improve entrances, lighting, layout, heating, décor, seating, and exterior appeal.
 - Ideas to open up spaces, remove partitions, restore auction space, sandblast stonework, repair the clock.
 - Some suggest relocating to the old Sainsbury's or Seven Stars car park, or investing in outdoor facilities.
- Parking
 - Lower or free parking charges seen as essential to increasing footfall.

- Ideas include: free parking with purchases, 10–15 min drop-off bays, free Blue Badge parking, or reclaiming street/car park space for markets.
- Trader Support
 - Suggestions for reduced rents, short-term/low-risk leases, and pop-up stalls to encourage new traders.
 - Calls to actively recruit stallholders (e.g., approach local producers, bakers, farmers, and makers).
 - Some suggest an external operator rather than Council running it.
- Events
 - Calls for special events: auctions, music, food festivals, craft fairs, street food nights, late-night openings.
 - More community group stalls and themed days to make the market a destination.
 - Some want to bring back auctions and traditional market practices.
- Financial & Future
 - Some say markets are a lost cause, money pit, should be closed or demolished.
 - Others see potential but stress it must be self-sustaining, not subsidized at a large cost.

Parks, Recreation and Street Scene

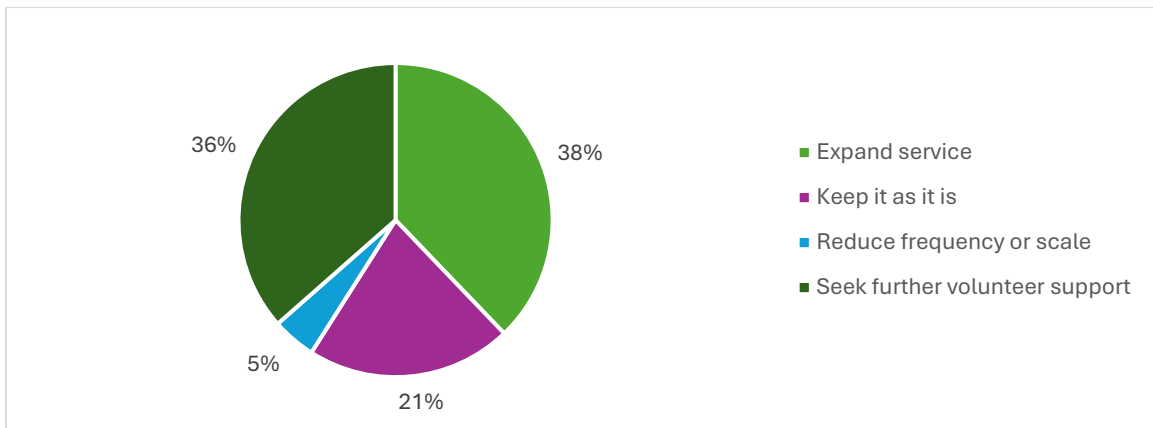
Q9 - Is this service good value for money?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



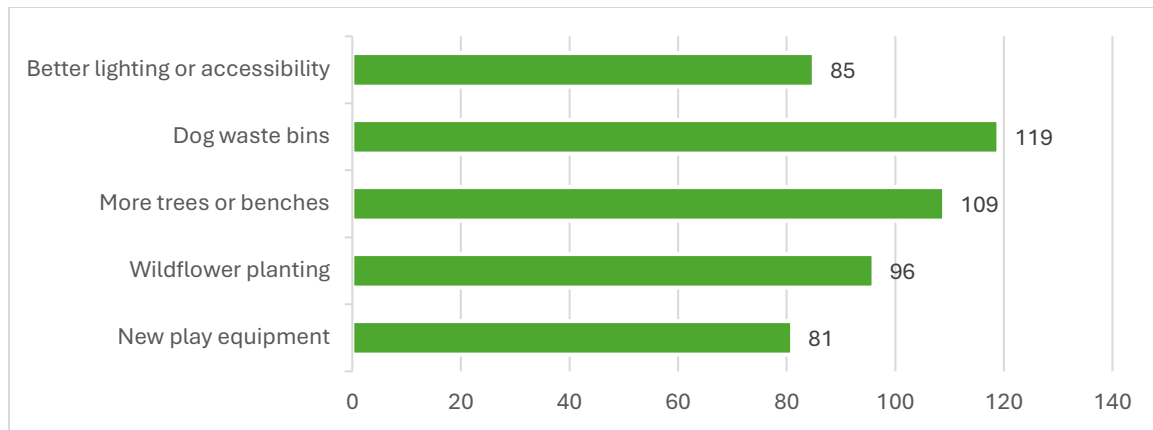
Q10 - What should the Council do?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q11 - What improvements would you like to see?

A total of 202 responses was received to this question.



Q12 – Any other comments or concerns?

A total of 141 responses was received to this question.

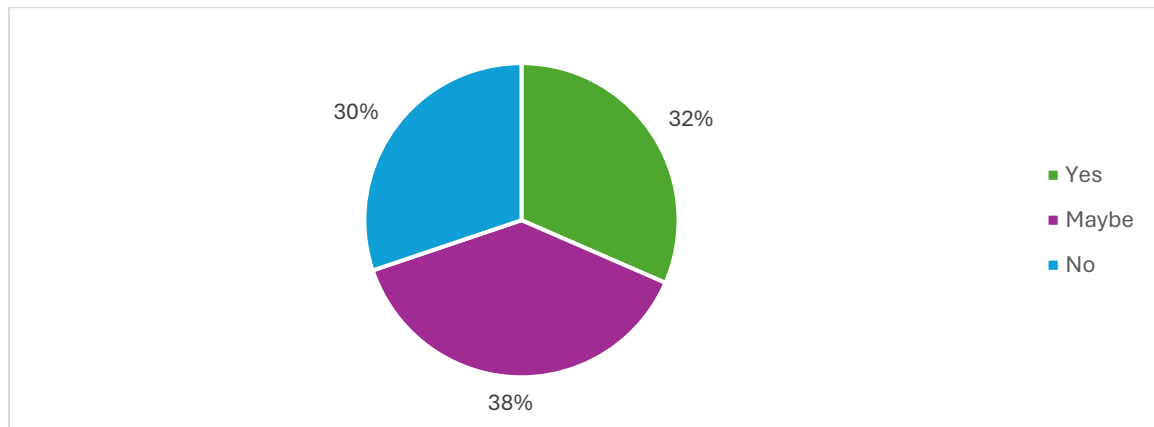
- Parks, Playgrounds and Youth Facilities
 - Upgrade playgrounds – more modern, safe, inclusive equipment (esp. for toddlers, disabled children, and older children/teens).
 - Requests for new facilities: skate park, BMX track, splash park, basketball courts, graffiti wall, youth area.
- Street Scene, Cleanliness and Maintenance
 - Strong criticism that the town looks scruffy, neglected, full of weeds, rusty bins, broken furniture, dog mess.
 - Calls for deep cleaning, repainting, repairing paving, replacing bins, improving signage.
 - Desire for a permanent caretaker/street warden to keep the town tidy.
- Volunteers and Community Involvement
 - Suggestions to recruit volunteers, work with schools, youth groups, local businesses.
 - Ideas for sponsorship schemes, shopfront competitions e.g. Tidy Welshpool campaigns.
 - Support for edible planting (fruit trees, veg planters) and community-led green projects.
- Green Spaces, Nature and Biodiversity
 - Requests to take on more land (fields behind Oldford, canal areas, nature reserves).
 - Support for wildflower planting, more trees, pollinator-friendly areas, wildlife corridors.

- Calls for a balance between formal mowing vs wilder areas.
 - Some want partnerships with Wildlife Trust / Woodland Trust.
- Dog Fouling and Bins
 - Recurring complaints about dog fouling and need for more bins, better enforcement, and fines.
 - Some said don't need dog-specific bins, just more general bins emptied often.
 - Praise for dog bag dispensers along the canal, requests for more.
- Town Centre & Shop Frontages
 - Complaints that the town looks run down, empty shops poorly maintained.
 - Suggestions for shopfront awards, murals in empty windows, stricter enforcement on landlords.
 - Calls for better floral displays, bunting, street furniture to make the town more attractive.
- Safety
 - Requests for park wardens, CCTV, and better disabled access.

Public Toilets

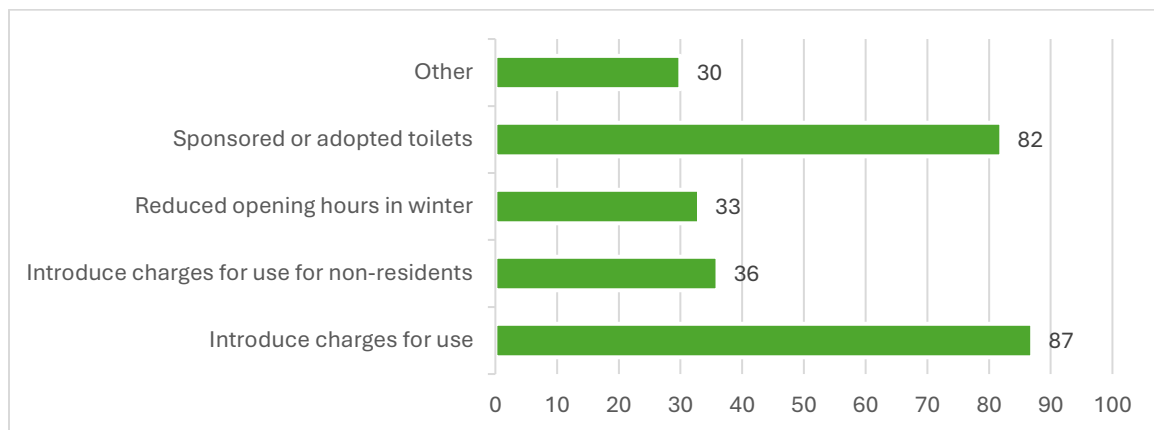
Q13 – Is this service good value for money?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q14 – Would you support the following changes?

A total of 191 responses was received to this question.



Q15 – Any other comments or concerns?

A total of 125 responses was received to this question.

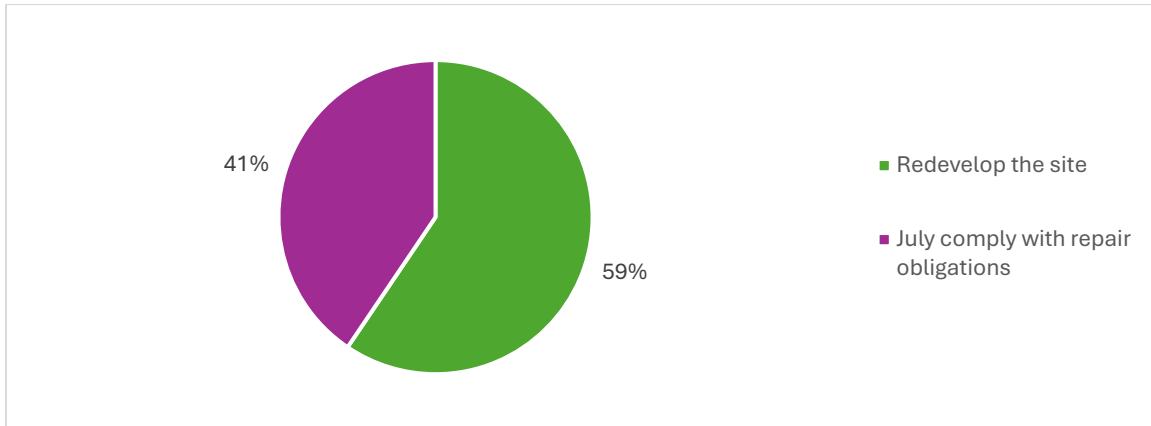
- Essential Service for Visitors & Residents
 - Strong agreement that toilets are a basic necessity and vital for tourism, families, elderly people, and those with health conditions.

- Without them, people will go to Tesco/Morrisons instead of the town centre, or worse, urinate in public.
 - Seen as core infrastructure the council must provide, even if costly.
- Cleanliness and Vandalism
 - Some complaints about dirty, unpleasant, or intimidating facilities.
 - Vandalism and people “hanging around” put people off using them.
- Charges vs Free Use
 - Many support a small charge (20–50p) if it guarantees cleanliness and reduces vandalism.
 - Others strongly oppose charges, calling toilets a basic human right that should remain free.
 - Debate over residents vs non-residents paying – most think this is impractical.
- Location, Access and Signage
 - Many unaware where toilets are or whether they’re open.
 - Calls for better signage around town.
 - Strong frustration that Berriew Street toilets are closed/derelict – seen as an “eyesore.”
 - Requests for at least one 24/7 accessible toilet.
- Costs
 - Surprise at the high cost (£29,000+) for two toilet blocks.
 - Criticism of the refurbishment cost at TIC toilets being excessive.
 - Some suggest outsourcing, sponsorship, or self-cleaning toilets to reduce costs.
- Disabled and Changing Places
 - Calls for better disabled access, hoists, and Changing Places toilets.
 - Concern that disabled users currently face charges and poor access.

Motte and Bailey

Q16 – Would you prefer the Council to redevelop the site or just comply with its repair obligations?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q17 – If redeveloped, do you have any ideas for what you think the Motte and Bailey site should become?

A total of 165 responses was received to this question.

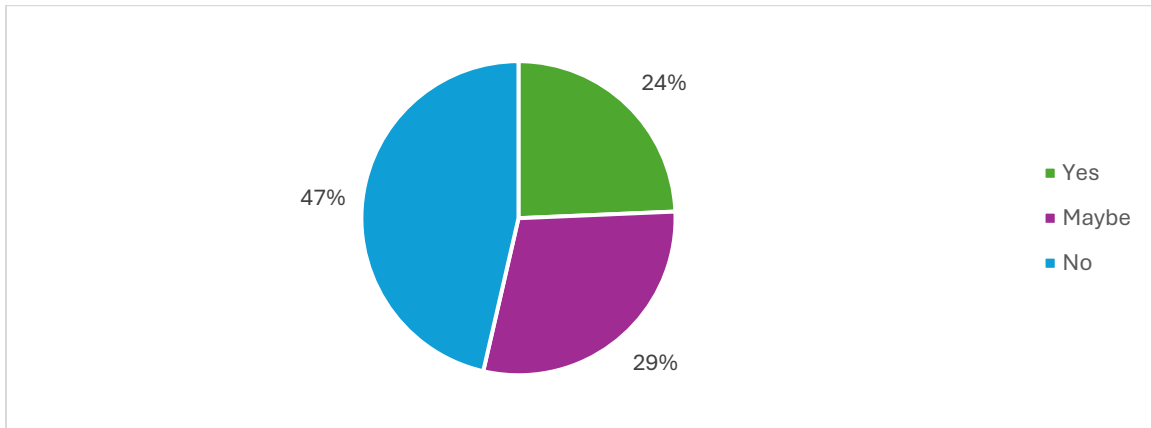
- Exit the Lease
 - Strong recurring theme that the lease was a mistake and WTC should not be responsible for a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
 - Many say the Powis Estate / Cadw / heritage charities should take over.
 - Anger that the motorbike charity proposal was rejected, seen as a lost opportunity.
- Tourism and Heritage
 - Suggestions to promote it as a tourist attraction, often compared to Montgomery or Ludlow castles.
 - Ideas include guided tours, interpretation boards, heritage trails, museum displays, archaeological digs.
 - Many emphasise advertising and signage – lots of locals don't even know it exists.
- Events & Leisure Venue

- Strong cluster of ideas around outdoor theatre, concerts, amphitheatre, festivals, weddings, cinema, craft markets, food events.
 - Some suggest multi-use with a café, picnic areas, or motorhome stopovers.
 - Seen as a way to bring life into the site if permitted.
- Green Space
 - Space for children's play, skatepark, dog walking, or a quiet place to sit.
 - Strong desire for it to be open to the public in some way.
- Criticism of previous decisions
 - Deep frustration about £10,500-£275k maintenance/repair costs.
 - Anger at "wasted money, poor management, bad decisions."
 - Some say WTC lacks the skills or capacity to manage heritage sites.

Tourist Information Centre

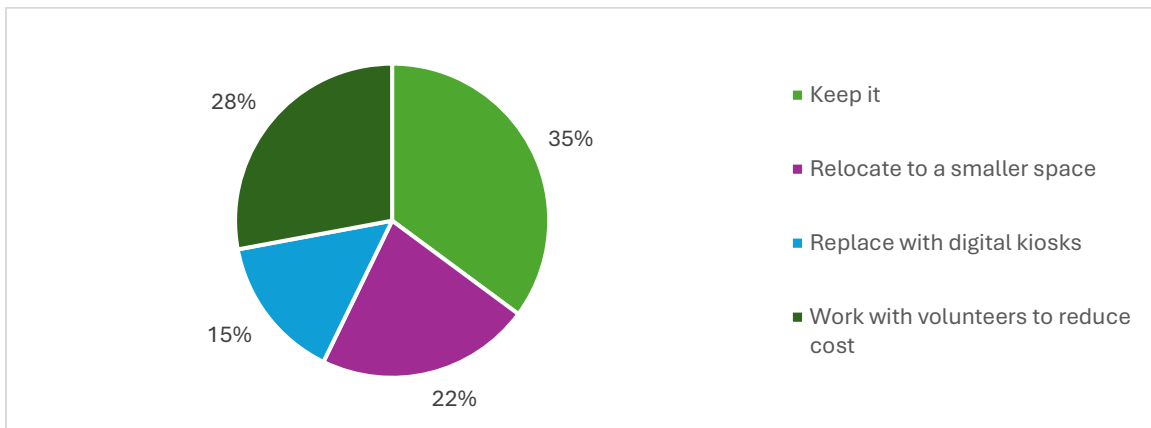
Q18 – Is this service good value for money?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



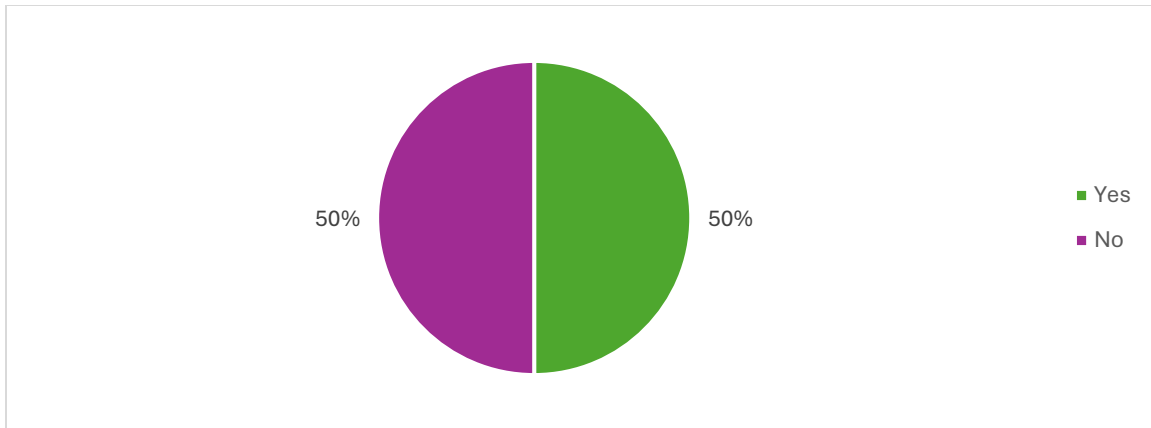
Q19 – What should the Council do?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



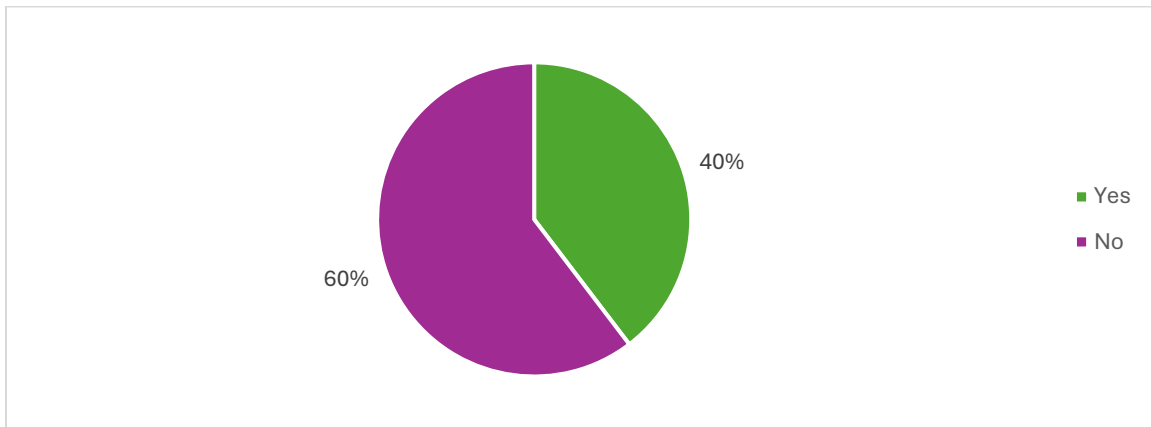
Q20 – Do you think the centre should be renamed to better reflect its usage as a local information point, not just for tourists?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q21 – Would you support adding self-service digital info screens in the town centre?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q22 – Any other comments or concerns?

A total of 123 responses was received to this question.

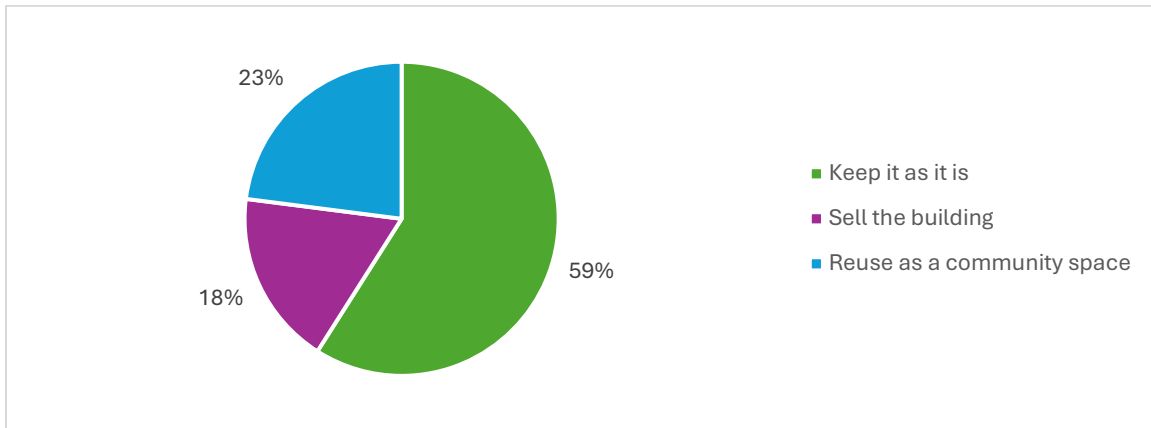
- Service Importance
 - Many see the TIC as an important service, especially for elderly people, visitors, and residents who need ticketing help.
 - Staff praised for being friendly, knowledgeable, and helpful.
 - Suggestions to expand the offer: more local products, postcards, souvenirs, event promotion, bus/train timetables, commissions from attractions.

- Some call for it to be rebranded as a Welshpool Information Centre to serve both locals and visitors.
- Relocate / Co-locate
 - Strong feeling that the TIC is in the wrong location (isolated, hard to cross road, little footfall).
 - Proposals to move it into the Town Hall, Market Hall, or High Street where it would naturally attract more visitors.
 - Some suggest co-location with the museum, bus/train station, or community hub.
- Go Digital
 - Many argue a physical TIC is outdated and costly.
 - Tourists now rely on TripAdvisor, Google, and smartphones for information.
 - Preference for digital screens, websites, or a purely online service – though often countered with fears of vandalism.
- Cost
 - Strong criticism of the high costs (£80k+ / £300k spent on relocation).
 - Many call it a waste of money, a “money pit,” or question what the TIC actually delivers.
 - Calls for radical savings given Welshpool’s high council tax.
- Promotion and Marketing
 - Many feel Welshpool doesn’t market itself well – events, attractions, and tourism info aren’t widely promoted.
 - Suggestions for a website, social media, signage in car parks, event boards, integration with town branding.
- Digital Noticeboards
 - Some doubts about digital screens being smashed or vandalised, citing failures of bus info boards.
 - Some warn that street clutter and accessibility issues already make the town centre difficult to navigate.
- Other
 - Welshpool doesn’t attract enough tourists overall.
 - Empty shops, high parking charges, and poor street scene matter more.
 - Some suggest merging TIC into a larger regeneration or community strategy.

Ann Holloway Day Centre

Q23 – What should the Council do?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q24 – What alternative uses would you support?

A total of 124 responses was received to this question.

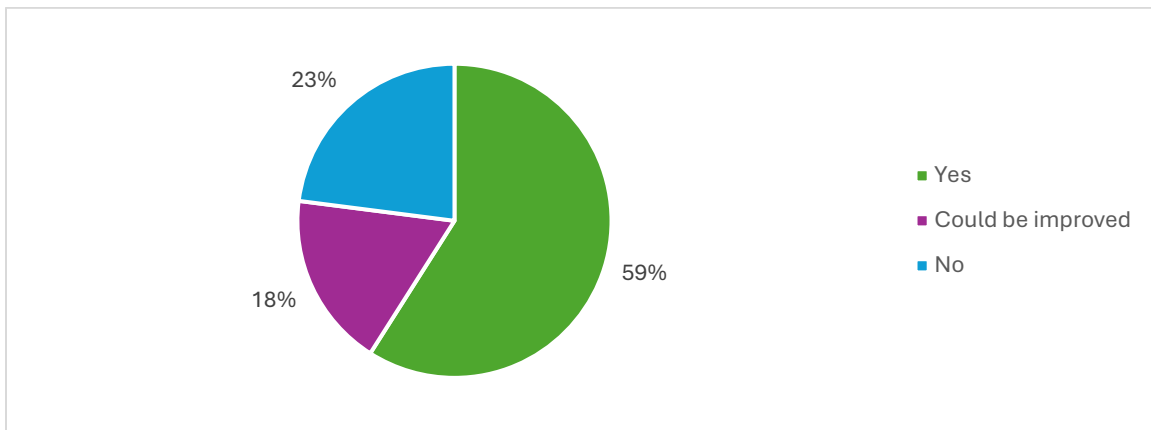
- Support for retaining the service
 - Many stress it is a vital lifeline for OAPs, disabled children, carers, and vulnerable residents.
 - Strong emotional connection: seen as one of the few safe spaces available.
- Community Hub
 - Calls for the centre to be a flexible community space when not in use by Haven/charities.
 - Ideas: hire for meetings, baby showers, clubs, parties, training, coffee mornings, youth clubs.
 - Could generate rental income to offset running costs.
- Sell or Transfer Ownership
 - Strong group feel WTC should reduce its assets and sell the building.
 - Preference for it to go to a charity (e.g. Welshpool Haven) or a social housing/health provider.
 - Selling would remove the cost burden from taxpayers.

- Alternative Uses
 - Use by NHS
- Criticism of the Council
 - Frustration that WTC is acting as a social services provider, which some see as Powys County Council or NHS's job.
 - Concerns over duplication with other centres.
- Legacies
 - Some responses emphasise Anne Holloway's wishes or legacy – that the building should always benefit the vulnerable.
 - Others dismiss the name/legacy as less important and suggest renaming or selling.

Meals on Wheels

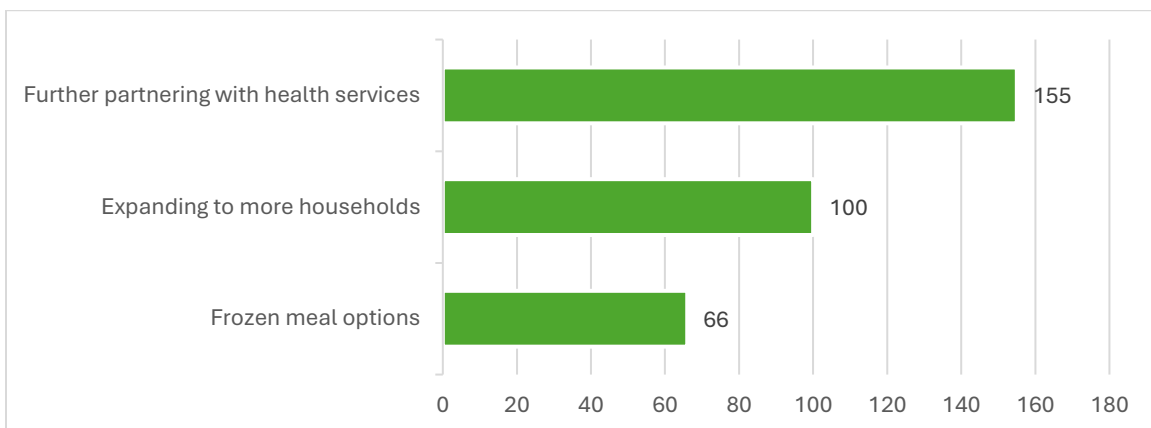
Q25 – Is this service good value for money?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q26 – Would you support any of the following?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question (multiple choice so will add up to more than 100%).



Q27 – Any other comments or concerns?

A total of 99 responses was received to this question.

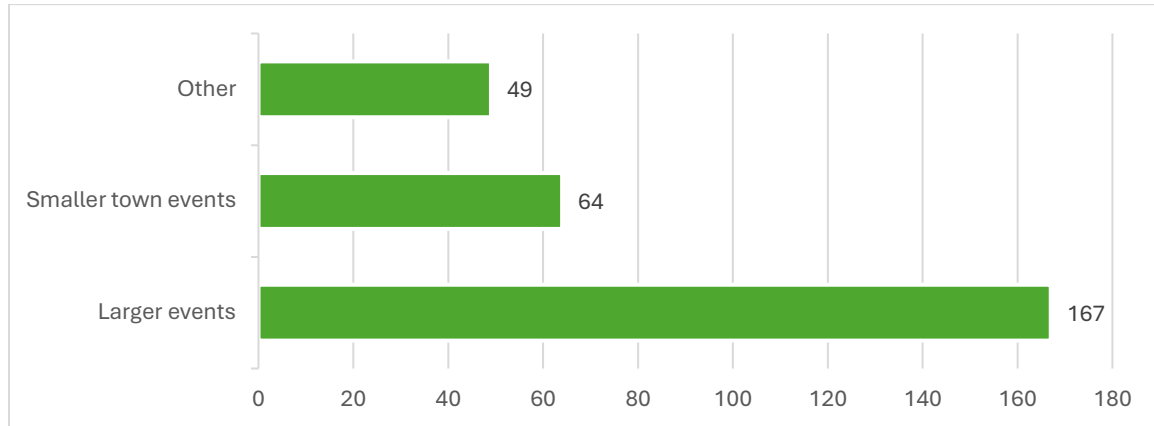
- Service importance

- Strong support that Meals on Wheels is essential for elderly, disabled, and housebound residents.
 - Many highlight it's not just about food – it provides social contact, reassurance, and reduces isolation.
 - Some describe it as “the only thing the council should be proud of” and warn against cuts.
- Questioning delivery
 - Many respondents ask why Welshpool Town Council is running what they see as a “social service”.
 - They argue it should be run or funded by Powys County Council, NHS, or charities/volunteers.
 - Several suggest WTC should stick to bins and toilets rather than social care.
- Cost
 - Concerns over cost per meal, efficiency of routes, and whether alternatives (frozen meals, takeaways, family support) would be cheaper.
 - Some suggest it may be duplicated by private providers like Wiltshire Farm Foods, Deliveroo, or supermarkets.
 - Calls for financial transparency before judging its future.
- Partnerships
 - Partner with hospital, NHS, cafes, caterers, food banks.
 - Link with markets/allotments for fresh produce.
 - Recruit more volunteers or sponsorship to reduce costs.
 -
 - Explore bulk deliveries of frozen meals with carers reheating.
- Charging
 - Some think service users should pay more or that it should be means-tested.
 - Others stress it must stay affordable or subsidised for the most vulnerable.
- Awareness and Promotion
 - A number of people said they didn't know the service existed or how to access it.
 - Calls for better advertising, referral pathways via health professionals, and modern image to encourage uptake.

Events

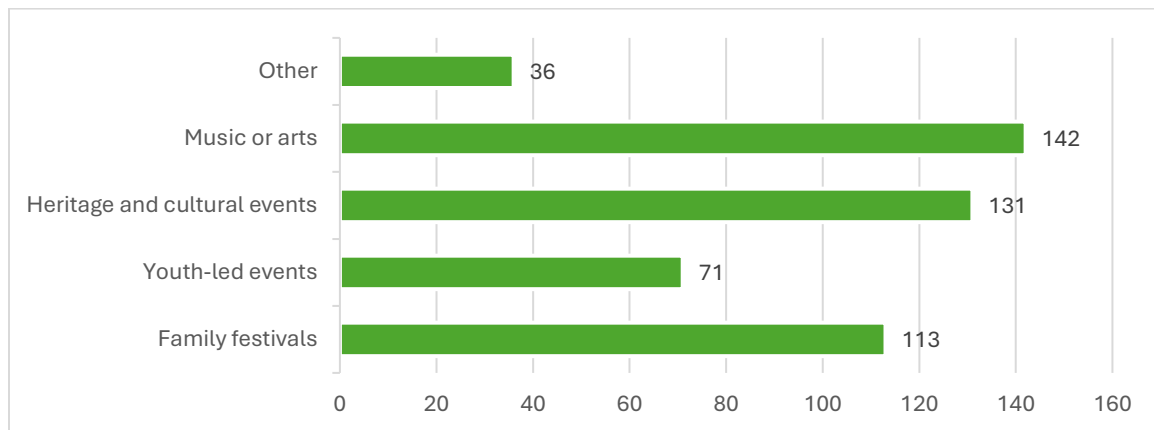
Q28 – What type of events would you like the Town Council to focus on?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question (multiple choice so will add up to more than 100%).



Q29 – What kind of events would you like to see more of?

A total of 211 responses was received to this question (multiple choice so will add up to more than 100%).



Q30 – Any other comments or concerns?

A total of 102 responses was received to this question.

- Importance

- Many stress events bring people into town, support local business, and build community spirit.
 - Popular examples: fireworks, food festival, carnival, tractor run, winter festival.
 - Some want more music, culture, and sporting events to broaden appeal.
- Poor advertising and communication
 - One of the strongest themes: residents often don't know events are happening until after.
 - Calls for better marketing: banners, posters in shops, road signs, central online hub, and longer notice periods for participants.
- Quality and variety
 - Criticism that some events feel small, underwhelming, or messy (especially carnival and Christmas lights).
 - Suggestions for more professional organisation, better theming (40s weekend to 50s/60s, cultural/family focus), and linking events together for greater impact.
 - Some say WTC should hire professionals or partner with groups like Shropshire Festivals.
- Delivery
 - A recurring point: should WTC be in the events business at all?
 - Others suggest creating a separate events committee/company.
- Cost
 - Some concern events are too costly for taxpayers (fireworks, Christmas lights).
 - Others suggest more self-financing, charging small fees, or securing sponsorship.
 - A few point to Powys CC or businesses as more appropriate funders for large events.
- Types and suggestions
 - 60s weekend, tractor shows, dog shows, farmers' markets, sports triathlons, storytelling, art trails, drone light shows instead of fireworks.
 - Calls for more kid-friendly activities and youth-oriented events.
 - Requests for events to feel more Christmassy at Christmas.
- Negative impacts

- Concerns over road closures, parking shortages, litter, and disruption for town centre residents.
- Some say events should be moved to Berriew Street car park or other open spaces instead of closing Broad Street.

Council Administration

Q31 – While some of these costs can't be cut, how could our services be clearer or more transparent to you?

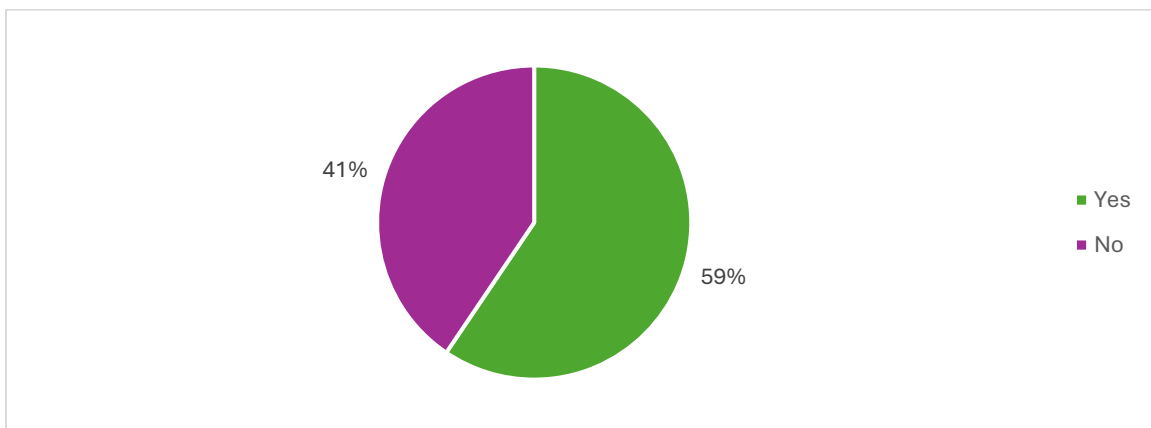
A total of 145 responses was received to this question.

- Publish clear information
 - Strongest theme: people want clear breakdowns of costs, staffing, salaries (redacted), and responsibilities.
 - Requests for easy-to-read formats: pie charts, infographics, newsletters, videos, blogs, social media updates.
 - Some suggest linking admin costs to outcomes so residents see value for money.
- Perception
 - Many think admin is too high a proportion of the budget (often quoting ~40%).
 - Frequent comparisons with other towns (Newtown, Brecon, Llandrindod) which reportedly spend less.
 - Suggestions: reduce staff, merge roles, fewer councillors, less red tape, streamline committees.
 - Some say “more broom pushers, fewer pen pushers” – want to see resources shift to frontline services.
- Improve transparency of meetings and decision making
 - Concerns over closed sessions (‘in camera’ meetings) and perceived secrecy.
 - Calls for all meetings to be open or livestreamed, with minutes and decisions published quickly.
 - Some want clearer accountability about councillors’ conduct, roles, and teamwork.
- Communication and Engagement
 - Many feel they don’t understand what WTC does or confuse it with Powys CC.
 - Requests for more public consultation, newsletters, meet & greet sessions, explanatory videos, and social media updates.
 - Need to make communications relevant to all age groups.
- Costs

- Some say everything can be cut: reduce subsidies, review staff, merge functions.
- Suggestions for AI, automation, hybrid working, digital forms, shared services with Powys CC.
- Push for a “leaner, more efficient” council administration.
- Value
 - Some say admin is necessary and justified if fairly allocated.
 - Some defend councillors as unpaid volunteers and call for more public respect.
 - A few note that residents may not appreciate the statutory or hidden work admin supports.

Q32 – Whilst the Town Council doesn't have responsibility for planning issues, it does have a statutory right to comment on applications. Do you think the Council should develop a Place Plan to be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance which Powys would have to have due regard to when deciding applications?

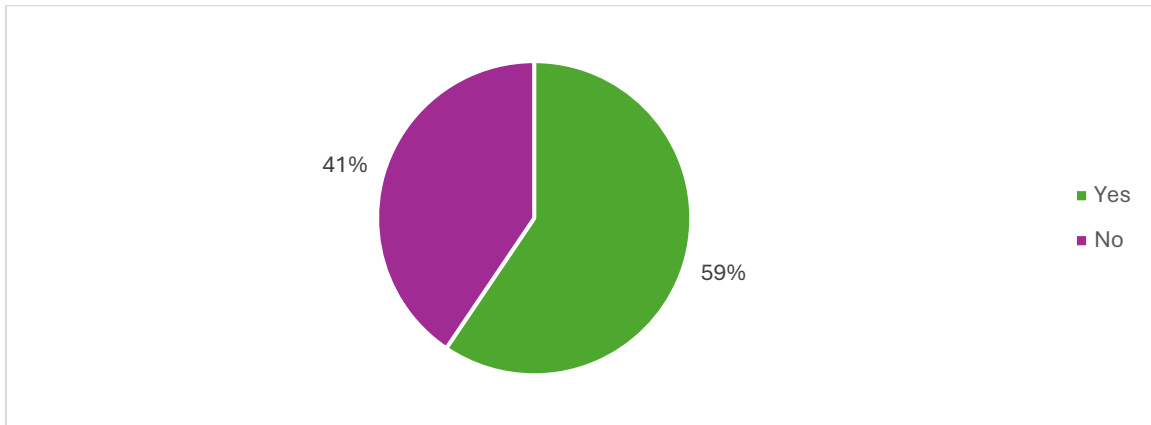
A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Future Asset Transfers

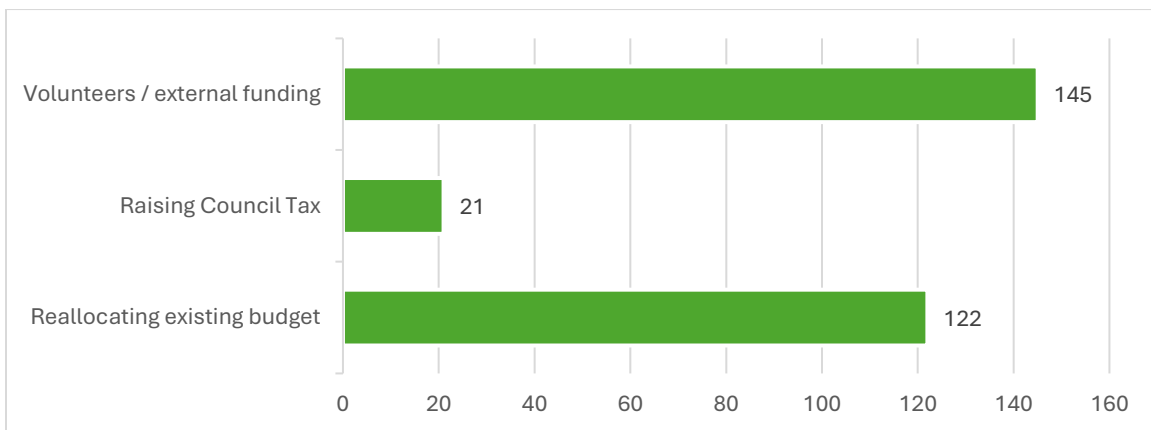
Q33 – Do you support asset/service transfers in principle?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



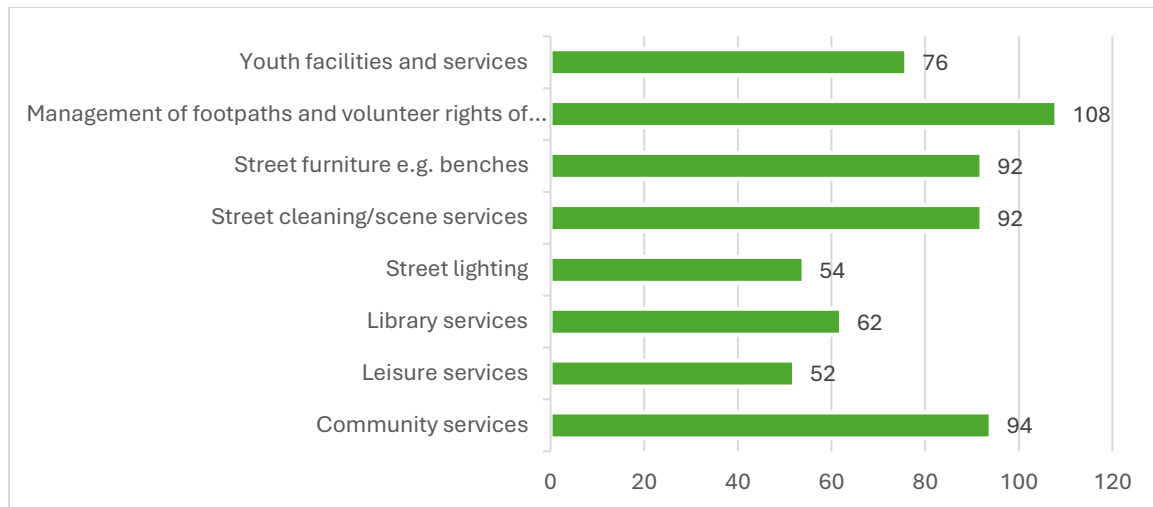
Q34 – How should new assets or services be funded?

A total of 205 responses was received to this question.



Q35 – Which types of assets would you support the Council taking on?

A total of 177 responses was received to this question.



Q36 – Any comments or concerns about asset transfers?

A total of 115 responses was received to this question.

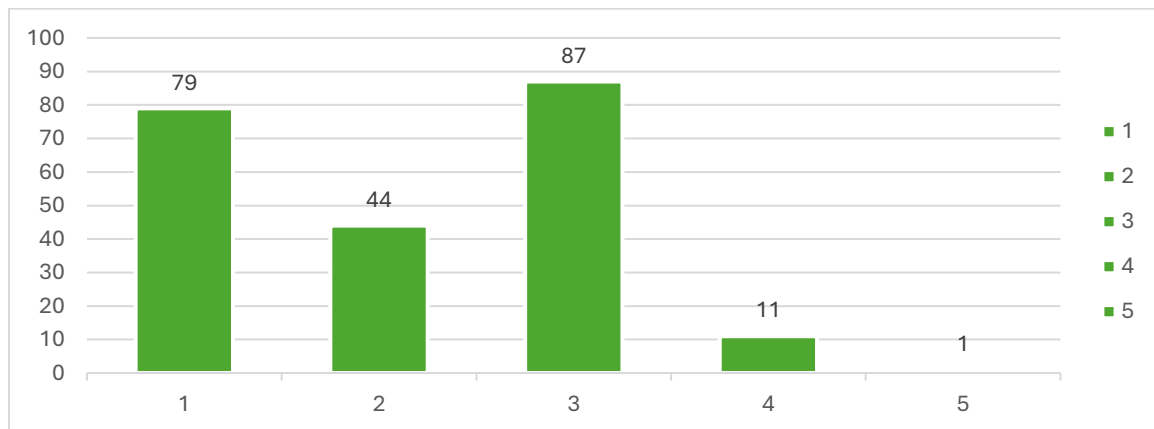
- Costs and Affordability
 - Most common theme: residents fear taking on more assets will raise council tax or bankrupt WTC.
 - Many reference past failures (street cleaning, toilets) as cautionary tales.
 - Some say Powys CC should retain responsibility, as taxpayers already fund them for these services.
- Funding
 - Many insist assets should only transfer if Powys provides full funding or budgets to cover them.
 - Fear that Powys will “dump costs” on Welshpool and then withdraw support.
 - Some propose regional/shared funding since assets (e.g. leisure centre) serve wider communities.
- Capacity
 - Strong doubt about whether WTC has the skills, staff, or financial management ability to run major services.
 - Concerns that WTC already struggles with basics and shouldn’t expand.
 - Several suggest charities, CICs, or private operators are better placed.
- Specific Services

- Leisure centre, swimming pool, youth services, library seen as vital.
 - Street cleaning, bins, grounds maintenance often cited as urgent priorities.
- Double Taxation
 - Residents feel they are already paying Powys CC and shouldn't pay again through WTC.
 - Taking on assets without rebates from Powys is seen as unfair and duplicative.
- Support
 - Several responses suggest evaluating each transfer individually with a clear business case.
 - Only take on services that are sustainable, add value, or generate income.
 - Strong emphasis on long-term planning and consultation with residents.
- General distrust of PCC and WTC
 - Residents recall previous "false rumours" of closures.
 - Frustration with both Powys and WTC for "buck passing."
 - Some believe neither authority has handled assets well.

Communication and Transparency

Q37 – The Council represents you to other bodies such as Powys County Council - how would you rate their responsiveness to the issues raised by the Town Council?

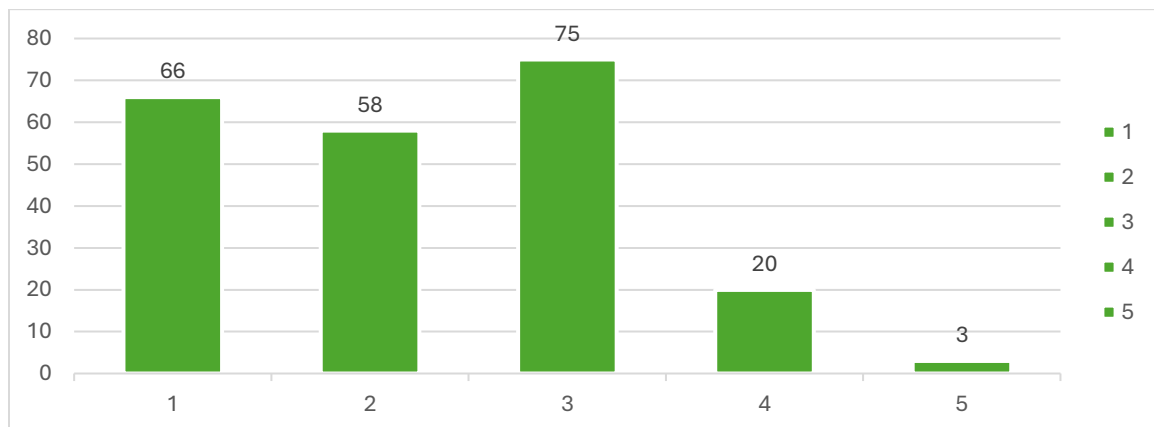
A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Average Rating – 2.15

Q38 – How would you rate the Town Council's communication with residents?

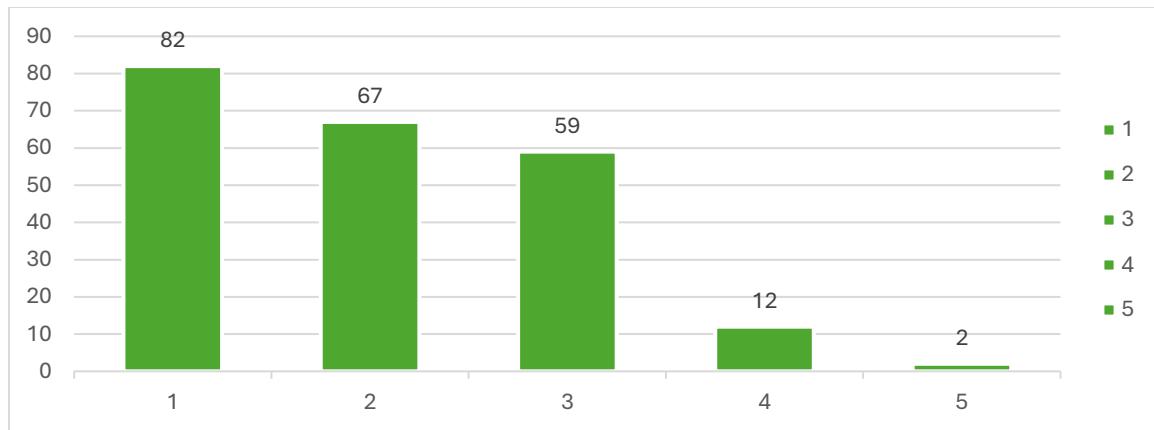
A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Average Rating – 2.26

Q39 – How transparent is the Town Council's decision-making?

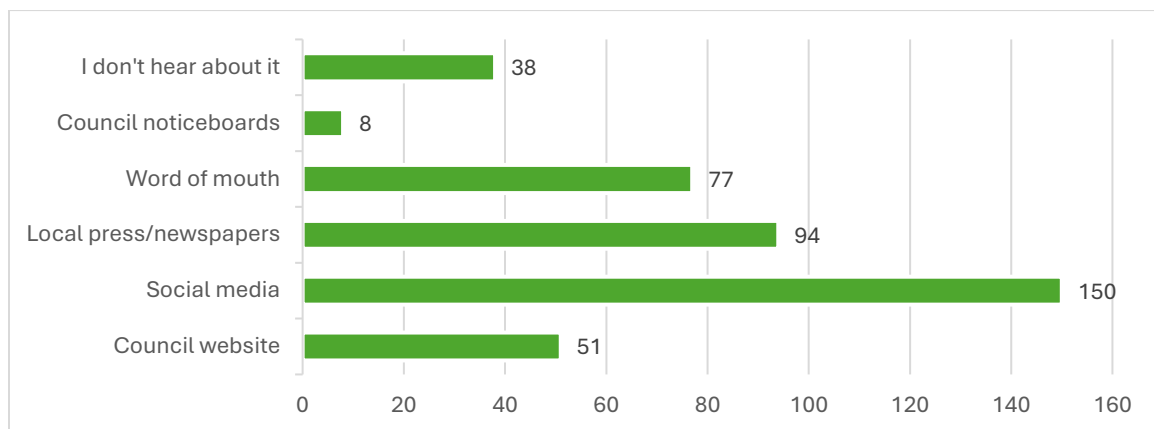
A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Average Rating – 2.03

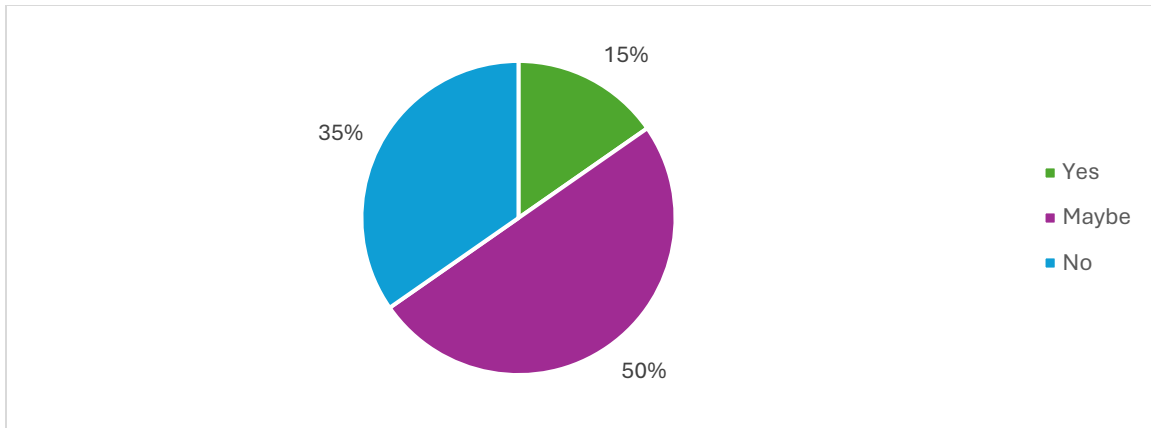
Q40 – Where do you currently get your information about the Town Council?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q41 – Would you like to be more involved in shaping decisions?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Q42 – If yes, in what ways would you like to be involved?

A total of 66 responses was received to this question.

- Consultations and Surveys
 - Many want regular surveys like the one they completed, both online and in paper form.
 - Some suggest household questionnaires on big issues (e.g. one-way system, library, major spending).
 - Requests for feedback loops so residents know their input was heard and what happened next.
- Public Meetings
 - Strong call for open public meetings in the Town Hall, with opportunities to ask questions.
 - Desire for forums or steering groups on major projects (e.g. Town Hall, strategic plan).
 - Some want meetings to be more transparent and less 'toxic'.
- Clear Communication
 - Requests for better advertising of consultations and events (banners, notices, social media, direct mail).
 - More clarity on costs and spending – residents want to see breakdowns of where money goes.
 - Calls for openness and honesty in decision-making.
- Direct Involvement and Volunteering
 - Some respondents said they'd like to volunteer or support councillors.
 - A few mentioned specific skills they could bring (e.g. cycling infrastructure, community support).

- A handful expressed interest in becoming councillors, though some feel put off by the current culture.
- Negative Views
 - A small group said they're unsure how they could get involved, or don't think the council is open to real input.
 - Some frustration with "old ways, bureaucracy and egos" in the chamber.
 - A few suggested they'd like to be involved but don't feel welcome as newcomers.

Final Thoughts

Q43 - Do you have any suggestions about the Council's future priorities or spending?

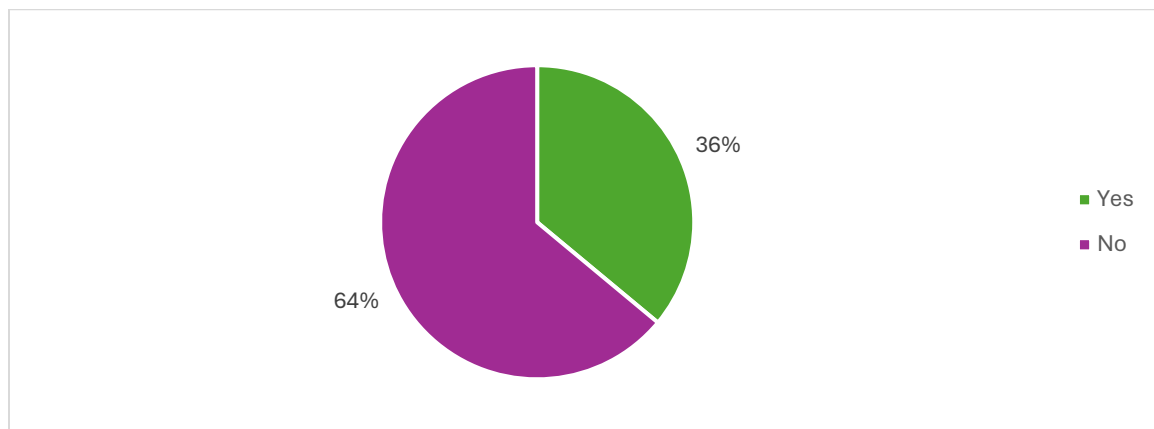
A total of 141 responses was received to this question.

- Keep Council Tax Low
 - The strongest recurring theme: residents feel council tax is too high and want it frozen, cut, or at least better value for money.
 - Calls for less waste, “basic services first,” and fewer staff/overheads.
 - Several explicitly said they don’t want “meaningless” or “expensive” projects.
- Town Centre Regeneration
 - Many want investment in revitalising Broad Street and the town centre:
 - Reuse of empty shops (Sainsbury’s, HSBC, M&Co).
 - Business rate cuts or incentives to attract new shops.
 - Support for housing above shops to bring more life back.
 - Suggestions for pedestrianisation, deep cleaning, and street scene improvements.
- Cleanliness
 - Frequent mentions of street cleaning, weeding, bins, and general upkeep.
 - Calls to make Welshpool more attractive for both residents and tourists.
 - Some want investment in parks, play areas, wildflowers, and community gardens.
- Transport and Parking
 - Parking was a major frustration:
 - Too expensive, too strict, lack of short-stay/drop-off bays.
 - Suggestions for free or cheaper parking to support shops.
 - Several proposed an integrated transport plan, pedestrianisation, and park & ride.
 - Calls for better disabled parking and improved cycling infrastructure.
- Focus on Basics
 - Many said the Council should maintain existing assets properly before adding new ones.

- Calls for repairs rather than replacements, and a focus on visible, tangible improvements.
 - Frustration that money is “spread too thin” on too many projects.
- Youth & Events
 - Some want investment in youth services, play areas, skate/pump tracks, and activities.
 - Others call for a night-time economy (cinema, restaurants, bars).
 - Events were seen as important to community spirit and attracting visitors, but should be cost-effective and make a profit.
- Strategic Vision
 - Several respondents said the Council needs a long-term vision (10–20 years) rather than piecemeal projects.
 - Ideas included place plans, business improvement districts, heritage conservation, and marketing Welshpool as a visitor town.
- Frustration with Culture
 - Several comments mentioned infighting, egos, and lack of unity among councillors.
 - Some distrust about whether consultation feedback will actually be used.
 - A few said they want councillors “vetted” or reduced in number.

Q44 – Would you like to be contacted with the results of this consultation?

A total of 222 responses was received to this question.



Conclusion

The consultation has provided a valuable insight into the views of Welshpool residents on the Town Council's current services, priorities, and future direction. Across all themes, a number of consistent messages have emerged.

First, there is a clear demand for financial restraint and transparency. Many residents feel that council tax in Welshpool is already too high and want to see spending focused on core responsibilities, better maintenance of existing assets, and improved value for money. Linked to this is a strong call for clearer communication – publishing more accessible information about costs, decisions, and outcomes – so that the public understands how and why money is spent.

Second, the condition and presentation of the town centre and public spaces emerged as a major priority. Respondents want to see more effort invested in cleaning, tidying, and repairing what already exists, alongside bolder action to address empty buildings, encourage new businesses, and make the high street more attractive and accessible. Parking and transport were also frequently raised as key barriers to revitalisation.

Third, there is recognition of the importance of youth services, green spaces, and community activities. Residents see value in supporting vulnerable groups, providing affordable recreation for young people, and running events that bring people together and promote Welshpool. However, they emphasise that such services should be affordable, well-managed, and designed in collaboration with the community.

Finally, residents have called for a more open and inclusive style of governance. Many wish to be involved through surveys, consultations, and public meetings, and there is frustration with the perception of council disunity. A longer-term vision for Welshpool – one that is ambitious but realistic, and rooted in the needs and aspirations of the community – is seen as essential.

Overall, while views differ on specific services, the consultation demonstrates a strong appetite for a Council that is financially prudent, transparent in its decisions, focused on the basics, and ambitious in restoring pride in the town's appearance and economy. These themes provide a clear direction for setting future priorities and engaging the community in shaping the next stage of Welshpool's development.

