



**ACTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT for 2024/25**

**(INCORPORATING THE COUNCIL'S REPORT ON HOW IT IS CONTRIBUTING
TO THE WELL-BEING OF ITS AREA)**

Approved at the Annual Council Meeting on 21 May 2025

Acton Community Council Annual Report 2024/25

This Report is prepared to comply with the requirements of Section 52 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, as community councils have to prepare and publish an annual report (as soon as is reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year), detailing the council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year. As the Council's Expenditure levels over the last three years have been over the £200,000 threshold, the Council is also combining and incorporating its duty under the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 into this Report to demonstrate how the Council is doing its part to help achieve the goals and objectives of this legislation.

1 INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The administration for Acton Community Council is carried out by its Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer assisted by an Administrative Assistant, both of whom work on a part-time basis.

The Council also has a Community Agent who is funded through the Welsh Government and managed by the Rainbow Foundation Penley. She works on a part time basis.

The Council consists of six wards and has three standing Committees. The table below, as of the Council Meeting held on 16 April 2025, details the elected representatives and their Role within the Council and membership of those Committees.

WARD	COUNCILLOR	ROLE	MEMBERS			REPRESENTATIVES	
			Planning Committee	Staffing Committee	Youth Committee	Little Acton Centre	Acton Park Playground
Acton Central	Corin Jarvis	Member	Y		Y		
Acton Central	Vacancy	Member					
Acton Park	Phil Lloyd	Member	Y		Y		Y
Acton Park	Becca Martin	Member		Y			Y
Borras Park	Sarah Bailey	Member					
Borras Park	Vacancy	Member					
Borras Park	Debbie Wallice	Member					
Little Acton	Bill Baldwin	Member				Y	
Little Acton	Andy Gallanders	Member			Y	Y	Y
Little Acton	Kevin Roberts	Chair	Y	Y*	Y*	Y	Y*
Maesydre	Salli Edwards	Member	Y				Y
Maesydre	Holly Hewitt	Member	Y		Y		Y
Rhosnesni	Trevor Coxon	Member		Y	Y		
Rhosnesni	Mike Davies	Member	Y	Y			
Rhosnesni	Anne Evans	Member	Y	Y	Y		
Rhosnesni	Ralph Hardy	Vice Chair		Y*	Y*		Y*
*Ex-officio Members							
Staff	Carole Roberts	Clerk & RFO					
Staff	Michelle Williams	Admin Asst.					
Additional Funding	Rhian Jones	Community Agent					

1.2 FINANCE

Information from the Annual Return submitted for Audit for the year end account balances for 2024/25 are summarised below. It should be noted that the amounts have been restated as the Council converted its accounts in June 2024 to an income and expenditure basis:

The amount of £'s reserves brought forward from 2023/24 is	£210,908
Reserve balances carried forward at the end of 2024/25 is	£235,938
Balance for 2024/25 produced an increase in the General fund balances of	£25,030
Income - Precept Level	£225,890
(The Council raised its Precept after holding it at £169,000 for four years)	
Income – Other	£4,614
Total income	£230,506
Expenditure – Staffing Costs	£51,364
Expenditure – Other	£154,111
Total expenditure	£205,475

1.3 POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE PROTOCOLS

The Council must have adequate Governance and Policy arrangements in place. It has published its Standing orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct on its website. They can be viewed by following this hyperlink: [Policies and other Governance documents](#).

During the year, the Council continued to review its principal Governance documents and re-adopted them at its meetings in May 2024:-

ADOPTED JANUARY 2019:

1. Document Retention Policy and Schedule
2. Data Protection and Information Security Policy
3. Privacy Notices – General, Website and Member/Officer
4. Internet, email and social media policy
5. Model Publication Scheme (FOI)
6. Data Breach Notification Policy
7. Subject access policy and template response letters.
8. Member Officer Protocol
9. Grievance Procedure

ADOPTED APRIL 2021

10. Disciplinary and Grievance Arrangements
11. Disciplinary Policy
12. Local Resolution Protocol for Community and Town Councils- Complaints Procedure

ADOPTED MARCH 2023

13. Annual Leave Policy
14. Anti-bullying and Harassment Policy
15. Data Protection Policy
16. Equality Diversity Policy

- 17. Flexible Working Policy
- 18. Lone Working Policy
- 19. Maternity Leave and Pay Policy
- 20. Paternity Leave and Pay Policy
- 21. Performance Improvement Policy and Procedure
- 22. Sickness Absence Policy
- 23. Whistleblowing Policy

STAFFING RELATED POLICIES ADOPTED JULY 2023

- 24. Adoption and Paternity Policy
- 25. Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy
- 26. Appraisal Scheme & Performance review Policy
- 27. Health and Safety at Work Policy
- 28. Recruitment and selection Policy
- 29. Shared Parental Leave Policy
- 30. Stress Management Policy
- 31. Time off in Lieu Policy.

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2023

- 32. Revised Standing Orders

ADOPTED MAY 2024

- 33. Dealing with Press/Media
- 34. Reserves Policy

2 TRAINING PLANS

All Community Councillors attend an induction Training Course at the beginning of their Term of Office. They have access to all Planning Aid Wales training and a broad range of training options delivered by One Voice Wales. The Council undertakes annual assessment of Councillors' training attended and will adapt and develop its formal Training Plan going forwards.

The Council's statutory 2022-27 Training Plan is attached at **Appendix 1** to this Annual Report.

3 S6 DUTY UNDER THE ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

The Council has a statutory duty to comply with section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016: The hyperlink below will take you to the current document and the updated version as at December 2024 is attached at Appendix 2

[Acton Community Council's Report on action taken to comply with S6 of the Environment Act 2016](#)

3 Activities and Achievements

3.1 Objectives

Guidance tells us that it will be good practice for the Council's Annual Report to show how the work undertaken, in the past year and going forward, incorporates the five elements or principles set out in the "Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015". These are; Long Term, Integration, Involvement, Collaboration and Prevention.

In its "Annual Report 2022/23", the Council published a list of "Priorities Going Forward". The following details progress made, and other specific achievements made up to the end of 31 March 2025. Section 3.2 sets out that review.

Section 3.3 lists Council Priorities for the coming financial year 2025/26. These priorities embrace the "Well-being Principles" and it should be noted that the Council is not eligible to use the general power of competence as it does not meet all three of the criteria

The Welsh Government recognised the current challenges facing Welsh communities that will impact on the future generations and established, legally binding goals for all public bodies to work towards. In the Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 it sets out seven key objectives to work towards.

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive Communities
- A globally responsible Wales
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language

The Act sets out how Local Authorities, the Public Health Board and a range of other public sector bodies must work to contribute to achieving the seven goals. The local Council then develops a five year plan with their top six priorities that they are working towards over a five year period.

Because Acton Community Council is a larger Community Council with income and expenditure over £200,000 it must contribute to the Objectives of Wrexham County Borough Council Well Being Plan 2023-28.

WCBC well-being priorities are:

- Delivering efficient Streetscene services and decarbonising our environment.
- Developing our economy.
- Ensuring Wrexham is a fair and safe place.
- Improving education and learning.
- Promoting health and well-being (with a focus on social services and good mental health).
- Supporting a highly skilled and engaged workforce, focussed on delivering services.

The following report sets out how Acton Community Council has, and continues to work towards the Wales wide and Wrexham objectives in their work.

Acton Community Council Well-Being Activities matrix 2024 - 2025

The following table maps the activities of Acton Community Council against the well-being principles which often overlap.

Prosperous 1	Resilient 2	Healthier 3	More Equal 4	Cohesive 5	Culture 6	Globally Responsive 7
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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Play provision							
2.	Advice Service- Outreach							
3.	Maintenance and repair of public play provision							
4.	Youth Outreach work							
5.	Ranger Acton Park							
6.	Events Acton Park							
7.	Financial Assistance							
8.	Community Agent							
9.	Little Acton Community Centre events &Activities							
10.	Acton Community Well-Being Hub (AVOW)							
10.	Power House							
11.	School Crossing Patrols							
11.	Bio Diversity / Conservation S6 duty							
12.	Crime Prevention							
13.	Provision of Defibrillators							
15.	Electronic Speed Boards							

How Acton Community Council is doing its part to help achieve the goals of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015.

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales has produced the 2025 Future Generations Report designed to support politicians, public body leaders in making life better for people and planet now and in the future.

Some of the goals and objectives from the Commissioner's April 2025 report are extracted below in grey type. The Council's response is in blue type.

GOALS

This review and report sets out several Well-being objectives that are the aims public bodies must set to make Wales safer and healthier for people

What should happen next?

The Welsh Government should make a new law to help nature recover by 2026. This would protect nature and help more animals and plants grow by 2050.

Wales has very little nature left. 1 out of 6 types of animals and plants might disappear



The Council pays for a full time Park Ranger to be based in Acton Park. Some of the Ranger's work is to carry out surveys on local plant life and biodiversity within the Park. The Ranger carries out daily tasks and work to reduce weed and excessive plant growth enabling more delicate and vulnerable plants, insects and birds to thrive

Health and Well-being Mission: Support making changes to the way we keep people healthy. Focus on stopping issues early on

Well-being objectives are the aims public bodies must set to make Wales safer and healthier for people

Wales has more older people than other parts of the UK. About 2 out of 10 people are over 65. In 2025, many people spend the last 20 years of their lives being ill.

The Little Acton Community Centre has been holding several weekly sessions for older people to encourage them in a relaxed and fun social setting that is age appropriate to enjoy light gentle exercise, learning new skills particularly Information Technology; to eat and take part in craft activities that improve their fitness and general health and wellbeing.

Thursdays for next 2 weeks 10.30-11.30am
with BCUHB health improvement team.

AVOW Acton Community Council Borrass Park
News Acton and Maesydre Community -
(Acton and Maesydre News- WREXHAM)



Acton Community Hub / Hwb
Cymunedol Acton is at Little Acton.

Follow

3 Oct 2024 · 🌐

A huge thanks to BCUHB Health Improvement Team for another great chair exercise session at Little Acton Community Centre today!! The sessions can support with balance, strength and general wellbeing and are free to attend. If you would like to try chair exercise please come along next week, you are very welcome!!

Mondays for 4 weeks starting 7th October
10-11am with KIM-Inspire in partnership with
The Little Learning Company Limited

Thursdays for next 2 weeks 10.30-11.30am
with BCUHB health improvement team.

AVOW Acton Community Council Borrass Park
News Acton and Maesydre Community -
(Acton and Maesydre News- WREXHAM)



The Council's Community Agent initially supported this group and took the opportunity to signpost them to various services and help with issues they were worried about.

The Council is also supporting groups that use the Acton Community Resource Centre and AVOW who have a weekly Community Hub each Wednesday



AVOW Acton Community Hub / Hwb
Cymunedol Acton and The Rainbow
Foundation were visited by North Wales
Police today!

Come along to meet us all - see how we can
support you.

Every Wednesday at Acton Community
Resource Centre, Overton Way.

New regular time of 11.30-1pm.

Free hot drinks and cake for everyone!



Acton and Maesydre Community - (Acton
and Maesydre News- WREXHAM) Acton
Community Council Borrass Park News
Borrass Area Neighbourhood Watch
#NorthWalesPolice#communityagents#wel
lbeing#Wrexham

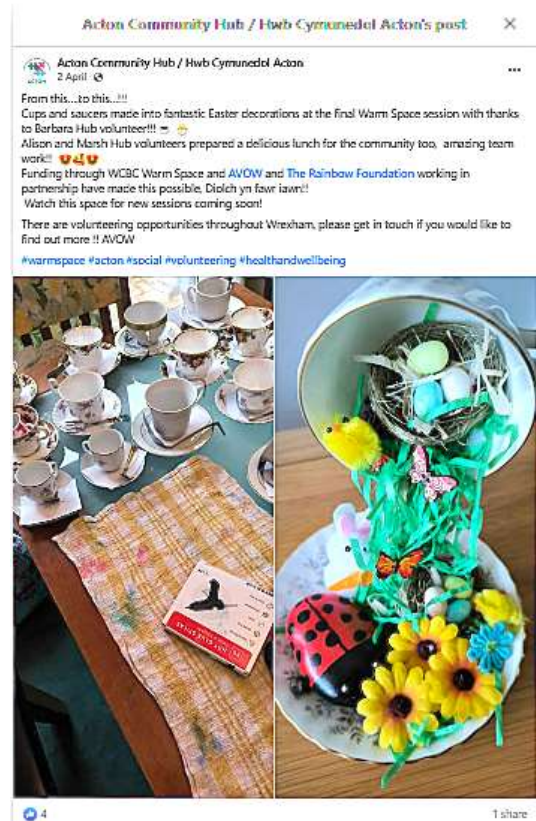


Mission:

Make sure public bodies understand the importance of culture. Our culture is our shared traditions, behaviours, history, and language

7 out of 10 people do arts and cultural activities. But some people do it more than others. This depends on their age, health, money, and education

The Community Council is working with its Community Agent and AVOW (the Association of Voluntary Organisation in Wrexham) to identify isolated and hard to reach adults that may need help and signposting. By creating a community hub it is hoped that those hard to reach individuals will feel able to come and participate in arts and cultural activities at the Little Acton Community Centre and Acton Community Resource Centre



What we have learned:

Money for culture is often the first thing the government cuts when they look at spending. But culture helps stop people getting ill, helps the economy and nature, and makes things more equal

People felt less happy and more worried in 2023 than in 2022

The group chats with the older groups based at the little Acton Community Centre help with reducing social isolation and identifying needs and signposting where they can find help. For the Young People, the Youth Clubs provide peer support and a trusted qualified adult to confide in about any worries they have.

Mission: Make sure everyone in Wales can get local, healthy, food they can afford.



Food and healthy eating are not in most public body plans



Inequality in Wales is getting worse. People living in poverty are more likely to have bad health

The Council has supported and part funded a warm hub at Little Acton Community Centre each Monday morning. It has also provided a light lunch and activities for those attending. It took part in the Christmas Eve free food for all; distribution was from the Maesydre Power House.



A Christmas Lunch was also provided for Pensioners from the Acton Community

About 3 out of 10 children in Wales live in poverty; this means they do not have enough money to meet their basic needs.



The Council funds the Acton Youth Club, which is open access and free to attend. The Club's activities are led by the children themselves. Each session has time set aside to make basic food recipes from food cupboard items, and allows time to discuss and teach children how to eat healthily on a small budget without the need to buy takeaways

The Council has provided family “come and cook” sessions during the school holidays at the Little Acton Community Centre



**Dewch i Goginio gyda ni!
Come and Cook with us!**

Sesiynau am ddim, wedi'u hariannu'n llawn, ar gyfer rhieni/gofalwyr a'u plant.
Free, fully funded sessions for parents/carers and children.
Dewch i ddysgu am fanteision coginio a sut i greu prydau ar gyllideb.
Find out the benefits of cooking and how to cook meals on a budget.
Byddwch yn paratoi pryd i fynd adref gyda chi bob wythnos!
You will prepare and take away a recipe each week!

10am - 12pm

13eg & 20in Awst Canolfan Gymunedol Little Acton, Wrexham LL12 8BH	13th & 20th August Little Acton Community Centre, Wrexham LL12 8BH
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Rhieni a gofalwyr ymuno â ni gyda'ch plant.
Parents and carers join us with your children.

**Rhaid archebu ymlaen llaw!
Booking is essential!**

Cyswllt: 01978 752534
www.getoutthewelshkitchen.org.uk

**FFYHMANT
880**

**LEVELLING
UP**

Funded by:

The Council funds a weekly Outreach session by the Citizens Advice Bureau with the aim of trying to help Clients with debt reduction and restructuring to enable them to live and afford to eat properly.

About 2 out of 10 people in Wales had low income between 2021 and 2023, after paying for housing.

The Council wherever possible keeps its group activities cost neutral. By providing the funding for a full time Ranger in Acton Park, individuals and families of all ages are able to enjoy being in nature and exercise

The Council funds a weekly Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Advice worker to hold a session every Wednesday morning to give advice, benefits help and other signposting to any resident from the Acton Community

Pollution is when bad things get into the air, water, or land. For example, car fumes, litter or sewers emptying into rivers or the sea.



Big thank you to Acton Community Council who donated three Litter Picking Carts to the Wrexham Litter Pickers 🍏🙌



The Council supports its local litter pickers and has provided equipment for them to be more effective.

The Park Ranger and Friends group carry out litter picking in the Park; and

The Council is a Champion seeking to retain the green and open spaces in its community

Public bodies must protect nature when they manage land, buildings, and roads

The Council has submitted objections and comments on the Local Development Plan and for individual Planning Applications for works to protected trees to ensure existing green open spaces and protected trees are preserved and not eroded or damaged when new buildings and road developments take place



Each December the Council reviews its progress against its Section 6 Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. There is a duty to carry out this review every three years with the next one due in December 2025. The current report is published on the Council's website.



End of Wellbeing update

3.2 UPDATE AND REVIEW OF 2024/25 PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

3.2.1 –GRANTS FOR LOCAL GROUPS

The Section 137 grants element of our budget provides annual support to local groups who are within the Acton Community Council area and who struggle for financial support. There are several groups that without Council support would not be in existence. The Budget for S137 Grants in 2024/25 was £12,500.

The Council continues to encourage local groups to apply for grant support and advertises on its social media but the response is disappointing. Despite more work having been undertaken in this area to encourage groups to make regular applications, there is still poor uptake.

The Youth Committee uses separate powers outside S137 to make Grants of up to £5,000 each year to Youth Groups. There are separate Grant application processes and the criteria and application forms and deadlines can be found on the Council's website here: [General Grants - Acton Community Council](#)

During 2024/25 the following organisations applied for and received grants:

Organisation	Grant Amount
1. Wrexham Sounds	£250.00
2. Wrexham Dragons Netball Team	£500.00
4. Your Space	£500.00
5. Nightingale House Hospice	£500.00
6. Premier Radio CIC	£100.00
7. Cerebral Palsy Cymru	£200.00
8. Gate Hangs High Bowling Club	£350.00
9. AVOW	£500.00
10. Dance Empire	£250.00
11. National Eisteddfod of Wales	£2,500.00
12. Purple Orchids Monthly Lunch Club	£500.00
13. Purple Orchids Art Group	£500.00
14. Wales Air Ambulance	£100.00
15. Helping Hands Wrexham CIC	£300.00
16. Theatr Bara Caws	£300.00
17. SSAFA Wales	£200.00
18. Wrexham Foodbank	£2,000.00
Total for 2024/25	£9,550.00

3.2.3 – ACTON COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND PROVISION

The Council provides funding to ensure the continued existence of three play areas owned and managed by Wrexham CBC within the Acton Community.



Acton Community Councils Member Task and Finish Group is looking at the three existing play areas, and has also considered and is progressing the concept of providing a new playground within Acton Park on the opposite side to where the existing Toddler playground is sited.



The Council in March 2025 agreed its design principles for the proposed new Play area in Acton Park and the Wcbc Officers are now to draw up a proposed design and carry out a formal consultation as required by the Play Sufficiency Wales legislation. Once the consultation has been completed the Council will finalise the design options and look at potential grant funding to support this project to build a new playground in a different area of the Park



3.2.4 – LITTLE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Discussions have progressed with Wrexham CBC about the future ownership, costing and sustainability of the Centre. The Council has signed a Heads of Terms and is negotiating a Lease to ensure the Centre remains in use as a valuable Community Building. During 2024/25 the Council has continued to fund the running costs of the Centre and has set money aside in earmarked reserves to be able to carry out refurbishment and improvements to the Centre once the Lease is finalised



There is a Community demand for this building to be kept open and in use.

Working with the Community Agent and AVOW, the Council has developed the Social and Community usage at the Centre and had success in developing strong friendship groups for older residents. Several short 6 week sessions have been run through the year with many of the session topics have been requested by the Older People themselves. The knitting Group created a mural which is now being displayed in the town centre.



Beth Sydd Ymlaen / What's On

Little Acton Community Centre

The Green
Acton, Wrexham LL12 8BE

Little Acton
Community
Centre
Warm Space

Monday

Weekly Craft Group (The Rainbow Foundation)
1pm - 3pm
Every Monday

Warm Space - Share a meal. Hot food and drinks for free, thanks to funding from WCBC.
11.30am - 1pm
7 weeks starting 17th February

Tuesday

Wednesday

Chair Exercise (HIT) - Booking Required
2pm - 3pm
15th January until Mid-March

Thursday

Stretch & Tai Chi sessions (BCUHB HIT) - Booking Required (see below*)
1.15pm - 2.45pm
March 6th - April 10th

Stress Less (BCUHB HIT) - Booking Required (see below*)
1.15pm - 2.45pm
6 weeks starting 20th March

Friday

Coffee morning
10.30 - 11.30am

Contact AVOW on:

Ffôn | Phone: 01978 312556 Eboist | Email: hub@avow.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/actoncommhub>

*** Please book BCUHB events (Stretch & Tai Chi and Stress Less) through the Health team, rather than AVOW, on:**
Ffôn | Phone: 03000 859 625

Eboist | Email: bcu.healthimprovementteam@wales.nhs.uk



This project will be carried forward and developed further into 2025/26 as a priority.

3.2.5 – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

A number of Members have suggested that in order to support resident's wellbeing and in common with some other local Community Councils, Acton Community Council gives consideration to the placing and funding of Christmas Trees and Lighting at various places within the area. For December 2025 the Council purchase some Christmas lights for the Maesydre Powerhouse windows which were welcomed by nearby residents. The Council was able to provide some low key Christmas events that were open to all residents but particularly those who can experience loneliness at this time of the year. A short appeal resulted in a Christmas party being arranged for older residents and lots of volunteers helped out on the day; separate events were held during December in the Little Acton Community Centre, a meal to show appreciation to the voluntary Friends Group that supports the Park Ranger in keeping the Park looking nice and at the Maesydre Power House (Give to Shine) on Christmas eve.



 **Acton Community Hub / Hwb**
Cymunedol Acton is at **Little Acton.**
• [Follow](#)
16 Dec 2024 · 🌐

[Groundwork North Wales](#) was in the festive mood for the final cooking on a budget session today at Little Acton!

Sausage rolls, Brie and cranberry puffs and cheese puffs!! They were delicious and simple to make 🍴

[Acton Community Hub / Hwb Cymunedol Acton](#) and [The Rainbow Foundation](#) have many activities running in the Acton area in the new year..... If you are interested in joining in with the fully funded sessions please get in touch!!

hub@avow.org or contact Rhian Acton
Community Agent at The Rainbow Foundation
😊

With special thanks to [Acton Community Council](#) who have funded all hot drinks and refreshments during each session in Acton, Diolch yn fawr iawn!

[AVOW](#)



3.2.6 – TO MONITOR AND REDUCE SPEEDING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council has provided one Electronic Speed Board on Chester Road by the Gresford Roundabout on the approach into the City Centre and has been looking at other strategic locations within the area. Suggestions include Jeffery’s Road, Holt Road and Borrass Road.

Whilst it is difficult to constantly monitor without Police speed enforcement, it is felt that the sign has resulted in a general reduction in vehicle speed on the road. The Council is taking the outcomes on average speed into account following the introduction of a 20mph speed limit and proposals to reverse some of the lower limits. The Council will assess need and supporting evidence before progressing this priority further.

3.2.7 – PARK RANGER

The Council continues to fund the Park Ranger role. In 2024/25 the Council recognised the great work undertaken by the Ranger and her volunteers and has received regular reports confirming its decision to extend its funding of the Park Ranger to an annual full time working basis is producing results.

During 2024/25 there was a change in Park Ranger but Wrexham CBC ensured regular work continued. A regular volunteer group who meet on a weekly basis is now well established. They undertake aspects of park maintenance. The Ranger continues to organise special events within the Park to include Halloween and Christmas trails, a Dog Show and other activities. All these events have been very well attended. The 2025 Easter event was very well received and had very positive feedback from attendees.

The Council has also listened to residents who have used the former Senior Play area’s enclosed fencing to an area to provide a safe off leash place to exercise their dogs. Their presentation to the Council highlighted how social interactions and support from other dog walkers was important to those struggling with their mental health. The Council working with Wrexham CBC and the Ranger has funded replacement material to ensure this use can continue.

The Park's Fishermen are also well established and there have been improvements to the water quality of the lake. The Park is well used by the Public throughout the whole of the year and changing seasons.



The Ranger has produced several reports on her activities in the Park which have been published on the Council’s website. The latest Report can be viewed by clicking this hyperlink here: [183674-6.5 Ranger Report to 310325.pdf](#)

3.2.8 – MAESYDRE POWER HOUSE



The Council purchased this unusual building in 1993 to prevent the then Manweb from removing the mock Tudor second floor. This is the only building the Council owns. It is structurally sound and the Council must keep the building in a good state of repair. Work is planned to carry out repairs and repainting to protect the external façade from wind and weather damage.

In 2023/24 the Council engaged Chambers Conversation to provide it with professional advice about the condition of the building and the works that were required to keep it wind and water tight and safe given its location at the junction of Plas Gwyn. The work was satisfactorily completed in the autumn of 2023. The Maesydre Powerhouse is used a location for the Christmas Give to shine and residents welcomed the Christmas lighting that was purchased for the Power House Windows

3.3 PRIORITIES FOR 2025/26 GOING FORWARD

The following sections detail those topics that Council regards as priorities for 2022/26. They are not listed in any priority order.

The Council has taken these priorities into consideration when setting its 2025/26 precept. For openness and transparency a copy of the Council's budget provision for 2024/25 and 2025/26 is set out in Appendix 3 below:

3.3.1 – ACTON PLAY AREAS

1. Acton Park Playground

The Council is progressing its work on providing a new Play area in Acton Park. The earlier update given in this report describes the progress that has been made in 2024/25. The Council is actively pursuing the necessary formal permissions from Wcbc to proceed with establishing a new playground at Acton Park. Wrexham CBC as the owner of Acton Park has notified the Council of the process that will have to be adhered to in order to achieve this priority. The Council in March 2025 agreed its design brief for Wrexham CBC to use to take this project forward

2. Aran Road Play area

The Council at its April 2024 agreed that this Play area is the oldest one in the Acton Community and will at some point in the near future become unfit for purpose. There is recognition it is coming to the end of its useful life and whilst still receiving satisfactory safety inspections, the Council wishes to commence the process of preparing for its replacement and identifying this need as a priority.

3. Ffordd Garmonydd Play area: This area was successful previously in obtaining grant funding for improvements and apart from general maintenance, repairs and equipment damage there is no need to carry out a full replacement programme here.

Wcbc have indicated that they will facilitate the tender process through its procurement framework and carry out the Statutory Play requirement consultation. This research by the Council will inform how much monies will be required and assist when researching and / or applying for external grant monies

There are monies amounting to £85,869.58 within the Council's earmarked reserves for playground equipment and replacement. However the Council recognises that it will need to investigate possible grant funding streams, e.g. National Lottery, Welsh Assembly grants, to bring these projects about. This project is a key objective with measurable achievements going forward.

3.3.2 – LITTLE ACTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Council with independent legal advice is finalising a 25 year Lease with Wrexham CBC and has signed a Heads of Terms document during 2024/25. This will prevent the building being permanently closed or demolished. The Council has historically funded the running costs of this Community Centre to ensure it remains open. It is currently run by a voluntary Group. There is an increased budget provision of £15,210 in 2025/26 in recognition of the repairs and improvements that are needed at Centre.



It is expected there will be a call on £41,125.89 earmarked reserve once the Lease has been signed off to pay for the work needed to refurbish the Centre

Acton CC has a Member task and finish group to look at options for retaining and improving the Community Centre and Grant funding options. The task group have previously arranged a building condition survey and need to complete and compile revenue and capital cost estimates and a business plan with proposed refurbishment for the successful retention and running of the Centre as a community facility.

During 2024/25 several successful groups have been established at the Community Centre and there is potential for these groups to continue subject to the necessary funding being made available to meet the AVOW Officer costs in supporting the Groups.

3.3.3 – CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

The Council has reflected on the success of its Christmas activities in December 2024 and will change its focussed priority in 2025/26 to providing Community Involvements for seniors and volunteers. The Council has looked at the costs of providing Christmas lights along the highway but given the size of the Community, cost and logistics of storing equipment will not be proceeding with this as a priority. Instead the Council will give consideration to the placing and funding of Solar Powered Christmas Trees and Lighting at various places within the area if the Community request them. Expenditure for this provision would be from the Council's Community Initiatives Budget.

3.3.4 – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT COMMITMENTS

The Council has a number of long term agreements to meet some of its commitment to provide local Services to its residents. They are listed below

1. Young person's projects - £50,159

To include a free weekly Acton Youth Club at Acton Community Resource Centre; a play sufficiency project at Little Acton, a Pilot School Holiday Play Project at the Fairways and £5,000 provision for funding Grants to Youth organisations through the Youth Committee

2. Seasonal Ranger at Acton Park - £40,578

To include a range of events throughout the year provided by a Park Ranger that is now funded by the Council on an annual full time basis

3. Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Worker - £10,624

This provides for outreach work at the Acton Community Resource Centre each Wednesday morning and provision for additional/follow up casework if the workload requires it

4. School Crossing Patrols - £ 25,800

This provides for patrols at Acton Park, Barkers Lane, and Borrass Park Schools and at Dean Road. Without the Council's funding these patrols would cease. The Council in view of the surveys and high volume of Traffic is funding these posts.

5. Community Agent - this is funded externally through the Welsh Government.

The Community Agent's role is to support over 50's in the Community and regular monthly reports are considered by the Council highlighting the Agent's work with residents on:

- Improving health and wellbeing
- Reconnecting with the Local Community
- Applications and claims to access services
- Connecting with others using digital technology
- Income maximisation (benefit & Debt support)
- Signposting to appropriate service; and
- Establishing local clubs & activities

As reported elsewhere earlier in this Report the Community Agent's role is vital in ensuring the Council is adequately resourced to meet some of its duties under the Well Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015

3.3.5 OTHER PROJECTS

The Council has set aside three £5,000 budget provisions for:

- Community Streetscene expenditure,
- Crime prevention projects (which include the funding of the CCTV camera on Penymaes Avenue)
- Community initiatives fund. (which include spending for replacement pads for the Council's six Defibrillators).

For information the defibrillators the Council has provided are located at:

- Acton Community Resource Centre
- Barkers Lane School
- Cunliffe Arms
- Little Acton Community Centre
- Maesydre Power House
- Vic Fit Gym Borrass Shops



End of Annual Report



ACTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

TRAINING PLAN FOR 2022-27

This training plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 67 of the 2021 Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

Introduction

- This training plan has been prepared based on the guidance issued by One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks.
- Councillor roles and employee roles have been assessed by reference to a set of core competencies for each role. This assessment has enabled the Council to prioritise its resources to enable all roles within the Council to be supported by a well thought approach to its training and development needs.
- The commitment contained in this training plan will assist the Council to enhance its approach to the delivery of high-quality services to its community.
- The plan will be reviewed at least on an annual basis to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and accounts for the changing needs of councillors and employees as well as any turnover of councillors or employees.

The Training Plan

- One Voice Wales (OVW) provides a monthly training programme which the Clerk forwards via email to all Councillors. Councillors are asked to identify their training needs and to contact the Clerk to book the training event(s)
- The Clerk will also forward other training opportunities as they become available for Councillors. However, Councillors may identify other training opportunities which will be considered carefully by the Council based on relevance and cost.
- Councils should ensure that Councillors and Staff have sufficient skills and understanding in all key areas. These include Induction for Councillors; the Code of Conduct for Members of Local Authorities in Wales; Financial Management and Governance for Councillors and the Society of Local Council Clerk (SLCC) Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA) for the Clerk

Course	Required	Timescale
Code of Conduct	All Councillors/Clerk	Within 6 months of being elected
Understanding the Law	All Councillors	Within 6 months of being elected
Chairing Skills	All Chairs/Vice Chairs	Within 6 months of being elected
The Council Meeting	All Councillors/Clerk/Admin Assistant	Within 6 months of being elected
The Council	All Councillors/Clerk/Admin Assistant	Once in the Council Term
The Councillor	All Councillors/Clerk/Admin Assistant	Once in the Council Term
Effective Staff Management	All Members of the Staffing Committee	Within 6 months of being elected
The Council as an Employer	All Members of the Staffing Committee	Within 6 months of being elected
Introduction to Community Engagement	Two Councillors	Once during the Council Term
Community Engagement Part 2	Two Councillors	Once during the Council Term
Health & Safety	Two Councillors	Once during the Council Term
Creating a Community Plan	Two Councillors	Once during the Council Term
Information Management	Two Councillors/Clerk/Admin Assistant	Once during the Council term
Equality & Diversity	Two Councillors	Once during the Council term
Mediation and Conciliation	Two Councillors/Clerk	Once during the Council term
Planning	Two Councillors	Once during the Council term
Respect & Civility	All Councillors/Clerk/Admin Assistant	Once during the Council term

Include below any specific comments about how the training will be arranged or how other development needs will be addressed through other methods;

- Code of Conduct is to meet requirements of Council's Code of Conduct whereby each Councillor is to attend one training session on the Code in each electoral term.
- A Survey has been completed in respect of past and future training needs.
- The Clerk, and the Administration Assistant where appropriate, to attend SLCC branch meetings, SLCC conferences and SLCC/OVW Training (Wales) to ensure their knowledge remains up to date and as part of their Continuing Professional Development.
- The Clerk and the Administration Assistant to complete the ILCA & FILCA qualifications.
- Cyber Security online courses to be arranged for all Councillors who wish to attend, and the Clerk and Administration Assistant.
- Where appropriate and more cost effective, group training to be organised on a face to face basis, rather than individual online training.

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 Section 6 - The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty: Interim Review as at December 2024

Acton Community Council

Introduction and Context

Acton Community Council is one of four Wrexham Town Centre Community Councils created in 1985. It owns one building, the Maesydre Power House and has no other landholdings. The Council serves approximately 13,659 residents and 5795 households (based on the 2011 census). The precept for 2024-25 is £225,890.00.

The Council is committed to encouraging and promoting sustainability goals and practices whenever possible. It seeks to encourage the retention of green open spaces, mature trees and green corridors for wildlife, use of native plants and a broad spectrum of tree species.

Situated within the five wards of the Community of Acton:

- Acton Park is owned and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council and has Tennis Courts and a bowling green within its curtilage. The Community Council fully supports the retention of this valuable open space and funds an annual Park Ranger Post through a Service Level Agreement arrangement with Wrexham County Borough Council
- The area consists of mainly mixed density residential property and has some open spaces included within them, mature tree planting schemes and several estates have deep grass verges
- It includes part of the town centre shopping area with a large supermarket and a Civic Quarter containing the Law Courts, Former Police Station site, RWF Memorial, the Memorial Hall Swimming Baths and Peace Gardens at Bodhyfryd that is bordered by Holt Street, Chester Street and Powell Road.
- There are six Primary/Junior Schools within the Community and one Secondary school together with the former Groves High School site that is currently vacant.
- There is an Owain Glyndwr protected open space known locally as the Spider Park and St John's Field. The Community Council supported its designation as a protected open space.
- The Former Rugby Playing Field at Dean Road/ Holt Road which was owned and managed by Glyndwr University, having received Planning Permission on appeal to be developed for Housing has been sold to a private developer.
- A natural informal open space known as Borrass Bog borders Bieston Close, Huntsman's Corner and the Llanypwll Link road
- The Nine Acre Field is a recreation ground with a Pavilion owned by Wrexham County Borough Council and in 2022 was been renamed as the Queen Elizabeth II field with the intention of it being protected from development. Part of the Field has now been opened to limited public access.
- There are Children's playing fields situated at Aran Road, Ffordd Garmonydd and Acton Park that are owned by Wrexham County Borough Council and part funded by the Community Council under a Service Level agreement arrangement. There are also private developer funded play areas on the Redrow estate off Holt Road
- The Green at Little Acton is a large open space where the Little Acton Community Centre is sited
- The Acton Community Resource Centre is owned and managed by Wrexham County Borough Council and was part funded for ten years by the Community Council under a Service Level Agreement arrangement.

Action Report

How the Council assists biodiversity (through functions with regard to land management, grant funding,

education activities)

In respect of Public services delivery, the Council is now subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 as its Precept is above £200,000. This Act requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. The Act is unique to Wales attracting interest from countries across the world as it offers a huge opportunity to make a long-lasting, positive change to current and future generations.

Action carried out to:	Example	Monitored by
Embed biodiversity into decision making and procurement	Reflected in the commitment to biodiversity and natural areas in its response to the Wrexham Unitary development Plan Taking into account any biodiversity considerations when responding to planning applications	Comments made in documents Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in consultation responses and objections to planning applications, including a request for the retention of younger trees around the perimeter of a proposed development site. Financial support was given to Residents Groups opposing the development of 9 Acre Field and Dean Road Playing Field
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	The Park Ranger is required to produce annual surveys and a report on biodiverse activities within Acton Park. Summer and Winter survey work of trees, birds etc. is undertaken and reported quarterly to the Community Council Supporting the Friends of Acton Park Group and the Angling Club in their work to improve the Park and water quality in the lake. Public participation by Children, School Groups and other local groups to use the Park as a resource. The Council has provided financial support via a three year Service Level Agreement which has enabled the Park Ranger to be employed for four days a week over each twelve month period	Through Feedback from the Park Ranger, Friends group , Council members and residents Formal detailed Reports from the Ranger to the Community Council are reported to the Council meetings Daily and weekly activities are highlighted on the Council's Facebook page by the Park Ranger Recording number of people taking part in activities Recording Biodiversity within the Park
Safeguard principal species and habitats	Champion mature trees such as the "bird and bee" oak tree. and Sweet Chestnut tree The Ranger carries out general maintenance and improvements to overgrown areas and paths within the Park	Submission documents and Council's Facebook Page In 2023 the UK Tree of the Year was won by the Park's sweet chestnut tree; described in the commendation as a towering sweet chestnut renowned for its beauty and history .The 484-year-

		old tree in Acton Park, Wrexham, has stood since the reign of Queen Elizabeth I.
Restore and create habitats and resilient ecological works	Encourage Wrexham Biodiversity and Planning Officers to maintain and manage habitats and expand ecology via planning comments	Planning Comments
Tackle negative factors ie reduce pollution, use nature based solutions address invasive species	Reduction in use of pesticides at Ffordd Garmonydd Play area and Acton Park Play area and seeking alternate solutions such as replacing the bark surfacing in the fenced area of Ffordd Garmonydd to prohibit the growth of weeds	To provide funding for alternate proposals through Service Level Agreements
Use improved and share evidence	Any Data collected as part of an Annual Wildflower and Bat Surveys in Acton park will be forwarded to the Ecology Officer. Winter Surveys within Acton Park from 2021 form a baseline for future years and full year data /evidence	Submission of information to Wrexham County Borough Council by the Acton Park Ranger
Support capacity and/or other organisations	Work in partnership with Arboricultural Officer in supporting TPO applications. Provided funding for Annual Park Ranger post and Acton Play areas and for a Young People project to work with 8-18 year olds providing informal environmental education opportunities Made provision within the Council's budget for Environmental schemes within the Community Streetscene	Outcome of Planning and TPO applications Performance Reporting under the Service Level Agreements provide evidence for positive biodiversity benefits. Since 2022/23 the Ranger Post has been funded on a full 12 months basis with additional provision for activities/events that encourage the wider public to visit and engage with Acton park Amount of money spent

Review of s6 duty

What has worked well?

The Service Level Agreements with Wrexham County Borough Council and the Caia Park Partnership have enabled a focus on biodiversity matters and facilitated informal education for young people to understand the process and care required to grow successfully their own plants and vegetables.

Financial support to the Friends of Acton Park and the Angling Club have improved the biodiversity within the Park and improvements to the management and water quality of the lake has improved resilience and been able to identify blue green algae at an early stage. A grant to purchase a water aerator helped prevent the development of blue algae on the lake. Further purchases to improve the oxygen quality at the lake in Acton Park by the Angling Club have been supported financially by the Community Council.

There is a much higher footfall in the Park since the Covid lockdown period. This has resulted in the biodiversity of the flora and fauna at the Park being enjoyed and appreciated by a broader range of Acton Community residents and other visitors. A reinvigorated Friends of the Park Group now holds regular work days and has close liaison with the Park Ranger in helping to maintain all areas of the Park. The Park Ranger has been proactive in publicising the work, surveys and tree trails within the Park via regular social media posts and the Council's Facebook Page. The extended duration of the Ranger post

has enabled events to be held in the Park throughout the whole year and there is growing attendance at the events demonstrating how well the Ranger post is supported with a multitude of opportunities to promote and assist biodiversity within the Park.

The Community Council continues to engage with Wrexham CBC Officers and the Park Ranger to ensure that Acton Park continues to evolve and encompass greater biodiversity through supported planting schemes and ongoing review and maintenance through the Ranger and Friends Group.

What have the barriers been?

The Council owns no land and can only recommend and encourage other land owners in the Community to embrace biodiversity

The Covid Pandemic and severe Lock Down restrictions negatively impacted on data collection and general work/ publicity/tours within the Park; the footfall in the Park greatly increased during this period. Since 2021 detailed surveys of the Wildflowers and Bats in Acton Park have been carried out and the results of such surveys should be sent by the Ranger to the Wrexham Ecology Officer. The Restrictions saw a loss of opportunities to carry out further tree studies, nature walks looking at birds, bird boxes and significant tree species: Grass cutting at the Park has left some open ground for the growth of wildflower meadow. The Council is supportive of the Friends of Acton Park Group and the new Park Ranger is proactive in addressing several paths that have become overgrown and undergrowth has had to be severely cut back during the autumn of 2024. With the expanded Ranger post in continuing through to 2025/26 there are new opportunities for the recently appointed Ranger to recommence engagement with local schools and groups and routine maintenance jobs around the Park are taking place.

Green Flag status: The Park lost this status in 2024 but the Community Council is supporting Wrexham CBC Officers who are drawing up a Plan and working towards regaining this Award for 2025. The purpose & aims of the Green Flag are:

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management.
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

What will you change?

Work with the Wrexham Local Biodiversity Officer and seek advice whenever necessary. Will seek to encourage the planting up of hardscape/paved areas and publicise the work of Groundwork and other ecology groups on the Councils website. The Community Council will seek to liaise with other organisations working within the Park and bring forward proposals to support Wrexham County Borough Council in its management and continuing improvement of the biodiversity of ecosystems within the Park at Acton.

How and When will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

The Duty will be monitored by the Council Members and the Clerk reporting back to the Council through a regular agenda item at Council meetings. Over the last three year period the Council has reviewed this duty and published its Plan on its website www.actoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

The s6 plan will continue to be developed and reviewed in response to such reporting and any other evidence or information that may be made available to the Council. At the time of Publication of this report there is no specific time or date set for the plan to be reviewed but this will be done in the next twelve months.

Signed for Acton Community Council

Kevin Roberts

Chair

Date 11 December 2024

Carole Roberts

Clerk to the Council

08/01/2025		Acton Community Council 2024/2025					Page 1
10:55		Forward Budget Detail - By Centre					
		Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Year 2 Budget	Year 3 Budget	Year 4 Budget	Year 5 Budget
		2024/25	2025/26				
100	General Administration						
1076	Precept	225,890	0	0	0	0	0
1090	Interest	2,000	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Income	227,890	0	0	0	0	0
4000	Bank Charges & Fees	130	0	0	0	0	0
4100	Employer's Costs	53,350	56,124	0	0	0	0
4103	Payroll Admin Charge	480	1,445	0	0	0	0
4105	Clerk's Expenses	2,370	2,465	0	0	0	0
4110	Equipment	2,000	2,080	0	0	0	0
4111	Legal / Translation	3,880	3,880	0	0	0	0
4115	Chain Plaque	25	25	0	0	0	0
4116	Replenish Chairs Charity A/c	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
4120	Annual Subscriptions	2,715	2,823	0	0	0	0
4125	Insurance	2,113	2,197	0	0	0	0
4130	Elections	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0
4135	Audit Fees	2,850	2,850	0	0	0	0
4140	Donations (S137)	12,500	12,500	0	0	0	0
4145	Conference fees/expenses	1,500	1,560	0	0	0	0
4150	Advertising	500	500	0	0	0	0
4155	Training - Staff	1,500	1,560	0	0	0	0
4160	Training - Members	3,840	3,993	0	0	0	0
4161	Members Remuneration	3,400	3,400	0	0	0	0
4165	Website/Data Protection	1,500	1,560	0	0	0	0
	Total Overhead Expenditure	97,653	101,962	0	0	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	130,237	(101,962)	0	0	0	0
200	Service level & Licence Agreem						
4205	Young Person Projects	48,230	50,159	0	0	0	0
4210	Seasonal Ranger Acton Park	38,573	40,578	0	0	0	0
4215	CAB Outreach Worker-ACAS	10,099	10,624	0	0	0	0
4220	Maesydre Power House	1,600	1,664	0	0	0	0
4225	Acton Playground Provision	16,515	17,175	0	0	0	0
4230	School Crossing Patrols	25,800	25,800	0	0	0	0
	Total Overhead Expenditure	140,817	146,000	0	0	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	(140,817)	(146,000)	0	0	0	0
300	Other Projects						
4300	Little Acton Community Centre	9,210	15,210	0	0	0	0
4305	Community Streetscene	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
4310	Crime Prevention Projects	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
4320	Community Initiatives Fund	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0
	Total Overhead Expenditure	24,210	30,210	0	0	0	0
	Net Income over Expenditure	(24,210)	(30,210)	0	0	0	0

Continued over page

Forward Budget Detail - By Centre

	Current Year Budget	Next Year Budget	Year 2 Budget	Year 3 Budget	Year 4 Budget	Year 5 Budget
Total Budget Income	227,890	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure	262,680	278,172	0	0	0	0
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	(34,790)	(278,172)	0	0	0	0