

Town/Community Council Annual Report

on Contribution to Carmarthenshire's Well-being Objectives

Introduction

Outline of Council Indication of what could be included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and names of councillors • Name of Mayor/Leader • Name of clerk and officers • Geographical area of Council • Number of residents represented • Any other relevant information 	Council Leader:	Yvonne Evans - Mayor
	Councillors:	David Williams Phillip Knight Kevin Madge Yvonne Evans Kal Davison David Jenkins Mal Walker Emyr Jenkins Nigell Jerrett Pauline Barker Debbie Ware Emyr Williams Dafydd Wyn Ffion Lewis
	Officers / Roles:	David Davies – Clerk Robert Venus – Community Development Marissa Sweeney – Assets/Community Centre Elin Rees – Activities/Community Centre
	Wards:	Glanamman and Garnant
	Population:	4,489

What is the Council's Vision / Objectives?

Cwmaman Town Council is committed to supporting the community it represents to become more sustainable, cohesive and ambitious. We are committed to providing the best service possible to all of our residents, visitors and partners who we see as being essential in the future success of Cwmaman.

Cwmaman Town Council intends to work:

- ♻️ **Sustainably:** both internally and within the projects, services and partnerships we develop as an organisation. Furthermore, we aim to advocate and campaign for a more sustainable Cwmaman, Amman Valley, Carmarthenshire and Wales. We will deliver our services within our budgets as a Council and ensure that spend is directed at need based on evidence and justification.
- ♻️ **Inclusively:** through effective application of policies through to regular and meaningful consultation with our residents, visitors, businesses and partners.
- ♻️ **Collaboratively:** although we represent Cwmaman (Glanamman and Garnant) and will focus first and foremost on local asset collaborations, we do not see ourselves as an island. We intend to work with partners within the local area and Carmarthenshire whilst also embracing opportunities that may arise with neighbouring counties and partners across Wales. We see partnerships, across all sectors, as being a key aspect of sustainability and improving the outcomes for each and every person within our community.
- ♻️ **Proactively:** we consider instances where problems have already arisen and require urgent attention as less than a success. We intend to work in a manner which identified short, medium and long-term potential problems and to directly deliver, or deliver in partnership, actions to prevent these issues arising.
- ♻️ **Inclusively:** through the design of projects to the scheduling and commitment of events and services, we shall ensure that all residents are able to benefit from the work we do as a Council. Through our Community Development Service, we shall support the development of new community groups, support the future sustainability of existing groups and ensure all are supported to enrichen our community through their work.

We aim to achieve this through an Asset Based Community Development approach to working where we will identify, devise, develop, deliver and evaluate activities based upon their attainment across:

- **CITIZEN-LED:** Activities and outcomes are inspired by and, where community assets are available to do so, co-delivered with community members. All activities are based upon the evidence of need and demand within the community we represent.
- **RELATIONAL POWER:** Community capacity, sustainability and resilience improves through the development of relationship-oriented delivery and activity.
- **ASSET-BASED DELEGATION AND CO-DELIVERY:** Where strengths are identified within individuals or relational groups, these are supported to take the lead on aspects of project/action delivery.
- **RELEVANCE TO PLACE:** Actions, decisions and interventions undertaken respond to, and work in harmony with, the people and physical spaces within which they are delivered; from the local (Cwmaman/Amman Valley) to the super-local (individual streets, groups, individuals or distinct natural spaces) and extend to regional and national focus where this benefits the community we represent.
- **PROACTIVE INCLUSION:** Both local residents and those from neighbouring/feeder communities are supported to become involved within activities and are supported to feel "welcome", "involved" and "part" of the specific project and community as a whole.

	<p><u>Our aims as a Council are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⊗ To raise the profile of Cwmaman as a place of natural beauty, strong community bonds and supportive of new technologies and innovation. ⊗ To level the playing field between what our residents, in a rural community, have access to and aspire to and what those from larger and/or metropolitan communities do. ⊗ To support local individuals, groups and organisations to thrive and encourage innovation and entrepreneurialism through strong skills, supportive services and advocacy. ⊗ To assist and aid the most vulnerable within our community and ensure they are supported to access services, achieve their potential and live active, healthy and rewarding lives. ⊗ To ensure that all Cwmaman residents are supported in becoming “active citizens” within the community and are able to apply their skills, where they wish, to benefit their fellow residents. ⊗ To deliver our statutory duties in the most efficient and effective ways possible whilst also delivering non-statutory services to support our community as needs; with the long-term aim of supporting the delivery of these services through new or existing third sector organisations. ⊗ To play a supportive and motivational role in our residents’ lives from birth until old age. To ensure their needs are met and that we act as an advocate when needed.
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<p>How has the Council embedded the five ways of working into its planning and working arrangements?</p>	<p>Long Term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>All projects undertaken within Community Development are assessed against the current needs of the community we serve (current/recent consultation), current financial and resource capacity (budgets, staffing, partnerships, community assets) and future trend predications based on available datasets (education attainment in children, key statistic trends, health indicators etc). This allows for the development of services, projects and initiatives which meet current needs whilst ensuring, even where these measures will not specifically continue to have benefit into the future, that they establish improvement foundations for future development within our community.</p> <p>We have/aim to have the following strategic policies to support the long-term aims of the Council and community as a whole:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmaman Assets Feasibility Study Cwmaman Place Plan Cwmaman Well-being Actions Plan Community Development Strategy for Cwmaman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⚡ Arts and Culture Strategy for Cwmaman ⚡ Environmental and Green Infrastructure Strategy for Cwmaman
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	<p>Prevention How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.</p>	<p>Through our Community Development Officer's close contact with local schools, social care teams, police and our Well-being Professionals Network, which we established in 2016, we ensure that we identify issues early and work to prevent further escalation as quickly as possible. In regards to direct delivery, this may be within our MakerSpace project which seeks to prevent the evidenced downturn in STEM related education attainment, retain graduates within the local area, support raised awareness of high value career options and reduce the low access to cultural provision. Through our support and advocacy work, it's shown within the support we offer to the development of organisations such as Shadows which provides depression and anxiety support services.</p>
	<p>Integration Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>As stated previously, we have developed a network of organisations and partners within our Community Development work. This, combined with our Community Development Officer's ongoing monitoring of data and priorities, allows us to develop services and projects which meet the widest range of National Indicators, across all goals, as possible within each activity. It also allows us to identify where an existing organisation or community group may be able to enrich our delivery, or ours theirs, and achieve greater efficiency through integration.</p> <p>We have also developed a number of collaborative projects which ensure that our aspects of said projects are integrated within the service delivery of our partners.</p>
	<p>Collaboration Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.</p>	<p>Our Community Development Officer established a Well-being Professionals Network in 2016 and, for any given project or issue, seeks to identify partners for delivery of any related activities. Over the last 2 years we have developed projects that have allowed us to work with organisations including universities, schools. Healthcare providers, sports clubs, private businesses, 3rd sector organisations and national bodies.</p> <p>Collaborative Projects developed thus far have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Green Infrastructure Project (Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, Neath Port Talbot Council and Small Woods) △ Intergenerational Project (Cwmaman Young People, Age Concern, Age Cymru) △ Amman Valley Volunteer Hub (Workways, CAVS, Cetma) △ Fformiwla 3D Project (Swansea University, Ysgol y Bedol / Amman Valley Children, Hyundai) △ Habitat Improvement Projects (INCC, Wildlife Trust) △ AED Placement (Welsh Hearts, Dyfed Powys Police) △ Amman Valley Community Information Hub (Gwalia, Shadows, Workways, Adult Learning Wales) △ Amman Valley Community Learning Hub (Adult Learning Wales, Agored, Learn Direct)
	<p>Involvement The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>As part of our Community Development activities we have undertaken a range of traditional consultation activities which have provided a baseline of data and evidenced 2 key issues in regards to Involvement within our community: 1. Traditional approaches are not desired by the majority of our community and 2. There is a lack in the variety of opportunities for members of our community to come together and share their views.</p> <p>This has encouraged us to embed community consultation and engagement (involvement) at all stages of our Community Development activities. Within this there's a particular focus on ensuring each project creates greater opportunity for our residents to come together around a shared interest which wasn't serviced previously. We have also developed a range of social media platforms, community website, working groups and project networks; all of which ensure that we encourage involvement in all projects where possible.</p>

In addition to the development and implementation of the “Project Proposal/Assessment Framework” (Appendix 1) and the “Decision Making Toolkit” (Appendix 2), both of which are used within most Council services, we have also undertaken the following approach:

Healthy Habits - People have a good quality of life, make healthy choices about their lives and environment.

Ecology and Environment Projects:

We have undertaken a number of projects and actions to ensure that our natural spaces, wildlife and ecology is both improved and protected. These have included small scale habitat development activities through to large scale projects in collaboration with national organisations and County/City councils.

We have undertaken asset transfers of many of our parks and play areas to ensure they are sustained for our community and those who visit our community; providing easy access to natural spaces for both mental and physical well-being.

MakerSpace/Hearth Workshop:

The Amman Valley MakerSpace project has provided the opportunity for a wide range of local residents to socialise, learn new skills for education and enjoyment whilst ensuring that our residents are supported in accessing both modern technology (digital health) and informal signposting as needed through our key volunteers and Community Development Officer.

Community Centre Provision:

We have undertaken an asset transfer of Cwmaman Community Centre and have been successful in a redevelopment grant under the Rural Communities Development Fund to both improve the buildings look and energy efficiency and provide access to improved community facilities. The Centre now provides a wide range of activities for local residents and others from as far afield as Newtown and Pembrokeshire.

Well-being Professionals Meetings:

Through collaboration with healthcare professionals within these meetings we have been able to access data and identify needs that would have otherwise gone unknown to us. This has then allowed us to, where possible, prioritise and include these issues within our projects for the benefit of all service users.

Volunteering Hub:

We see volunteering as one of the most important areas for development throughout the Amman Valley. For this reason, we have partnered with CAVS to develop the Amman Valley Volunteer Hub service which aims to provide meaningful volunteering for all residents regardless of personal ability or needs.

Community Information Hub:

Within our consultation process in 2016 we identified that many local residents struggle to access the information they need before their issues escalate to the point of requiring the statutory services to support them. Amman Valley Information Hub provides both face-to-face support with partner organisation and access to online/hardcopy resources via our Centre staff and Community Development Officer.

Early Intervention - To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it.

Well-being Professionals Meetings:

This group has allowed us to identify issues that may not have been identified by any one service provider in isolation. This has allowed us to develop projects, secure funding and directly deliver initiatives which aim to reduce the harm created by these issues and prevent further escalation. It has also allowed us to develop a strong signposting process where we now know who can support our local residents when they are first identified as being at-risk.

Community Consultation:

We have found that the first recognition of issues within our community often comes from the residents themselves. This means that consultation plays a key role in aiding us in the identification of target issues for us to prioritise within our service delivery. Consultation is often seen as something which happens as a distinct activity; annual surveys, project specific, change specific etc. Although we do undertake this kind of consultation, we also realise that every interaction we have with our residents is an opportunity for consultation and that increasing opportunities to converse with residents is key to ensuring we provide effective services. Within each of our projects we have a shared aim of increasing these opportunities and strive to create access to engagement for all residents. This has ranged from largescale engagement through partnerships with organisations such as Ysgol y Bedol through to the supported creation of small, shared interest, groups of 4 or 5 people. We recognise that no single approach, topic or activity will suit all whilst we have a duty to ensure all of our residents are listened to and supported. As such, we will nurture any coming together of residents, regardless of number, and aim for majority engagement through diversity of provision as opposed to scale of provision. One of our most successful examples of this approach was the LEADER funded Assets Feasibility Study. This project led to numerous conversations which have been used to inform a robust list of community invested development projects and services and was pivotal in the subsequent successful funding applications through RCDF and Grantscape.

Local and Regional Partnerships:

As a small staff team there are limited time resources available to us. This means that partnership engagement, networking and information sharing are vital for us to obtain a full picture of the issues both locally and across the geographic area we can have an affect upon. The Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Well-being Social Care Act both place a specific focus upon collaboration and sharing of information where needed. This has allowed us to develop projects/project aspects that we may never have thought of or seen as needed without the input of our partners. As we sit on the border of Carmarthenshire, we have also been able to develop connections to Neath Port Talbot and Swansea; both at County and Community level. This has allowed us to ensure that delivering against the issues currently occurring in neighbouring communities, as their residents find it easy to access Cwmaman, will ensure that such issues are already addressed should they arise locally.

Strong Connections - Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.

Community Groups and Events:

The Council supports, in any way needed, the development and delivery of numerous community groups and events. These range from small scale groups of 4-5 people through to large, whole community events. The assets we now hold, as a result of the asset transfer process, have supported this as we now have spaces available for such work. We see these actions as being key to providing opportunities for our community to come together to celebrate, share interests, socialise and develop a greater sense of place.

Community Action Group:

We are currently supporting the development of a “Community Action Group” which will comprise of both private individuals and organisations/businesses. One of the aims for this group is to act as a voice for the community and to work in partnership with Cwmaman Town Council in the delivery of community focussed action. The traditional “committee” approach has shown itself, as with large public meetings, to be largely ineffective in regards to bringing people together within our community. This has inspired the Action Group approach where individuals will be part of the larger whole but only be involved in projects/activities/actions that meet their personal areas of interest. There will only be 2 large meetings per year with all other business being addressed on a project by project basis with communications being undertaken in a manner best suited to the demands of those involved; face-to-face, online discussion, web conferencing etc.

By adopting this approach, and supporting the Action Group model, we hope to remove some of the barriers to engagement that many see when confronted with the more traditional approach. This will then hopefully improve wider engagement and support the development of community connections for a greater proportion of Cwmaman residents.

Improved Group Engagement:

The Community Development Officer meets with any community group within Cwmaman when they request his attendance. Where there is no request over a period of time then the CDO proactively makes contact to see if there is any support they require. This has led to support in writing funding applications, promotional materials, signposting, access to space and a wide range of other issues. The driving aim of this is to ensure that our community groups are supported to be sustainable as they are a key provider of social interaction opportunities for our residents; for many of whom their weekly group meeting is the only social activity they participate in.

The CDO also identifies when there is a shared need/interest in a social activity or subject matter in discussion with distinct individual residents. He then consults with the parties involved to see if they are interested in forming as a group around their shared need/interest. Where this is desirable, he then offers space, advice and guidance and, should they wish, assistance with becoming a formally constituted group. To date the CDO has supported 7 groups to become constituted which as provided sustained social connection for around 130 individual residents who were previously absent from regular social interaction within Cwmaman.

Increased Social Provision:

Whilst the support for groups is achievable when there are motivated residents with the capacity to take forward a social group, there are instances where this is not practicable. In these cases, we, as a Council, seek to provide events, activities, workshops and other opportunities on behalf of our residents. Such examples include the delivery of entertainment events at the Community Centre, nature walks with our partner charity INCC, facilitated “MakerSessions” in the MakerSpace and Hearth Workshop, children’s holiday activities and similar as needed/requested.

Prosperous People - To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county and Places.

Education Hub:

Part of the larger RCDF funded development project, the Education Hub seeks to provide localised access to learning in any form desired by the learner. This has ranged from formal qualifications through partner organisations through to very informal skills development sessions in the MakerSpace/woodlands through volunteers happy to share their knowledge. We are currently investigating formal education centre registration with a number of examination boards and developing a relationship with a number of external providers.

We also wish to support the schools that provide education to the children in our community through the alignment of school holiday/weekend clubs and groups which compound the learning within their curriculum; particularly in the areas of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and maths).

We have also developed relationships with further/higher education providers with the aim of signposting local residents to them once they feel confident enough to undertake the next step in their education. We also aim to support FE/HE learners by providing them access to equipment and technologies which they may need to use in college/university. Where these learners progress to a point of proficiency we then hope to further empower them by supporting them to share their knowledge and skills with other community members who are currently where they were; Community Learning Mentors.

STEAM Related Development:

With the release of the Donaldson Report, the Digital Competency Framework and forthcoming education structure reform in Wales, combined with the ever-changing world within which we live, the need for STEAM knowledge for fun and employment, has never been greater. As such we have developed the most rural MakerSpace provision in Wales and ensured that it includes, albeit at a smaller scale, the kinds of technology, equipment and resources people may encounter within university or employment. This includes a laser cutter, ceramics kiln, woodworking/metalworking workshops, 3D printing technology, robotics and coding equipment and an array of other creative/maker assets.

This is also an area where we hope to support local schools (particularly primary level) to develop a greater understanding of the applications of such equipment within their curriculums. We have ensured that we hold a selection of resources that would be found within a secondary school Design and Technology, Art and ICT department. This then allowed local primary schools to use the MakerSpace as an external learning environment for their pupils and to engage in local CPD for their staff as needed.

We also deliver a number of local projects and activities which support a greater passion for STEAM such as the MiniMakers sessions for children aged 6-13, the Fformiwla 3D project in partnership with Swansea University and the development of a LoRa network in partnership with WAWR, Vindico and ThinkAir.

Community Information Hub:

“Information is power” is even more accurate when applied to a community which suffers with poor access to services. Cwmaman doesn’t have good public transport connections to Llanelli or Carmarthen and falls significantly short in regards to the third sector provision present within each of those larger towns. To help address this issue we have developed the Community Information Hub project which will localise the delivery of advice services through external partners. This advice will cover areas such as business start-up, benefits and banking, education and careers advice; all sessions are informed and delivered by expressed community needs.

Community Volunteering Hub:

Cwmaman Town Council recognises volunteering as an excellent stepping stone for those seeking access to employment and for those organisations who can benefit from volunteer support during their initial stages of development. As such we have worked in partnership with CAVS to deliver the Amman Valley Volunteer Hub project which seeks to promote volunteering to both individuals and organisations within the rural community we represent. The aim is for the service to develop via accessible online media platforms and to become a noticeboard for opportunities and needs within the sector. We also work with CAVS in the delivery of their core duties around volunteer development and ethical volunteer management. Since we began the project 5 volunteers have taken on fulltime contracts of employment with their host organisation.

What approach has the Council taken to embed the national well-being goals into its plans?	<p>The Well-being goals, and national indicators, are identified within each proposed undertaking delivered through the Community Development service. This also defines the prioritisation of tasks, collaborations and focus of resources on those issues identified as being of highest priority within local and regional consultations.</p> <p>Each proposed project is assessed “Decision Making Toolkit” which ensures each project is both measured against and, where necessary, defined by the Well-being Goals and National Indicators.</p> <p>All reporting undertaken by the Community Development Officer utilises the Well-being Goals and National Indicators (see Appendix 3) to inform of the focus of activities and to inform elected members, our residents and other parties of the work we undertake.</p> <p>We are currently developing a range of supporting strategies and policies (see above) which will use the structure of the 7 Goals and the “Sustainable Development Principle” to present the content of each in an accessible and logical manner. This will also allow for correlation between the strategic documents (e.g. “Environment and Green Infrastructure Policy”) and the live working documents related to project delivery (e.g. monthly CDO reports, funding applications etc).</p>
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Report of Steps Taken & Progress Made

Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective	Steps to be taken by the Town/Community Council that contribute to the Well-being Objective	Progress <i>What have you done so far?</i> <i>How are you tracking progress?</i> <i>How effective have you been? (RAG Status)</i> <i>What is the improvement for different communities?</i>
Healthy Habits: People have a good quality of life, and make healthy choices about their lives and environment	Develop the Green Infrastructure Project in partnership with INCC, Carmarthenshire County Council, Swansea City and County Council and Neath Port Talbot Council. Particular focus, on the part of Cwmaman, to recruit and support the role of “Green Infrastructure Volunteering Officer” and ensure that the post holder is able to improve local engagement with our natural spaces, healthy activity and positive emotional well-being.	<p>Thus far we have developed a joint funding application to Welsh Government to cover, on our part, the Nature Volunteering Officer for a period of 3 years.</p> <p>We have also supported INCC to obtain funding for the delivery of volunteer focussed wildlife project and established an initial relationship with Brecon Beacons National Park, Tir Coed and CAVS.</p> <p>Feedback from all parties has been very positive thus far and there is an eagerness within the community for the main project to commence.</p> <p>Progress within the project is being tracked against set targets which focus upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of people volunteering. - Number of new opportunities created. - Number of new “GI” assets. - Area of natural space retained, improved and developed.
	Provision and maintenance of outdoor spaces and community recreation assets – further development of outdoor learning spaces and mapping activities.	The Assets Manager and groundwork team undertake the care and maintenance of 9 play areas, 2 communal parks, 4 community buildings and numerous footpaths and public spaces to ensure our community members have access to clean and healthy spaces to undertake social activities.

	Development of wider range of health-related provision through the Education, Information and Volunteer Hub projects.	The CDO and Community Centre staff currently deliver a range of mental/physical health related classes, workshops and support services through the community centre, community school and our outdoor spaces. These range from Tai Chi to bowls, nature walks to social maker groups.
Early Intervention: To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it	There is a need for greater provision to identify issues among out male residents and our younger residents (11-21). The CDO will focus on ensuring greater provision is included within the Green Infrastructure Project and intends to work with partner organisations to develop schemes which directly engage these groups in activities they have an interest in. The opportunities to discuss needs and identify issues, as previously mentioned, shall then be used to shape the development of specific activities.	See above for activities already undertaken although they have included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Wide Household Survey. - 9 Demographic Focus Groups. - Community Centre Users' Survey. - 7 Online Polls. - 4 Well-being Professionals Meetings. - 6 Community Information Events. and numerous informal discussion groups and individual view gathering sessions.
	The Council will now seek to ensure that the Information Hub becomes a 2-way information sharing service where local residents are able to record their views at any time by completing an online feedback form, calling in to the CDO office or meeting with an external provider and requesting their views are shared (anonymously if needed).	As a result of the Well-being Professionals Meetings and networking of the CDO we are now comfortable that we are able to signpost local residents to the most appropriate service based on their needs. This has been further supported by the development of working partnerships with Carmarthenshire County Council, Hywel Dda Health Board and our local schools.
	Education and Health (our high priority indicators for Glanamman and Garnant) are to be addressed as distinct entities within all primary project plans going forward. Where gaps in capacity are found we will proactively seek to fill these through partnership or local development as needed.	
Strong Connections: Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change	To continue with the development of new groups to support access for a wider portion of our community to social groups around shared interests.	
	To continue to support local organisations with access to funding, development support and advocacy based on local needs.	
	To further develop the calendar of social and community events within our building and natural spaces – delivered both as part of the primary projects' portfolio and as distinct actions.	

Prosperous People and Places: To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county	The further development of the Volunteer Hub to provide meaningful volunteering opportunities and support into work.
	To continue the collaboration with Workways and other work placement agencies to provide both directly and with community partners, opportunities for local work experience placements.
	To investigate and develop the potential for a partnership project with Business Wales and Swansea University (Schools of Management, Environment and Engineering) to establish a series of incubator units for both current and recently graduated students, potential students with existing practical skills/experience and, through Workways/Threshold, skilled but isolated potential entrepreneurs.
	To develop an economic (financial and social) strategy to help support local business, third sector and self-employed development through the use of our natural spaces and in-keeping with the desire to retain the rural, close community feel, of Cwmaman.

Contribution to the National Well-being Goals

Other activity that the Town/Community Council is undertaking that contributes to the National Goals

National Goal	Local Activity
<p>A Prosperous Wales: An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amman Valley MakerSpace: Skills development for all ages in STEAM areas. - Volunteering Hub: routes to employment and organisational sustainability through volunteering. - Education Hub: addressing local need for greater skills and horizon broadening. - Business and Entrepreneur Support: to ensure local residents are supported in achieving their full potential. - Education/Business Collaboration: to ensure local residents benefit from the value both sectors can bring to community prosperity. - Funding Support Services: to ensure local projects receive direct support where possible and support with applications at all times of need. - Green Infrastructure Project: to ensure that local residents are supported to see the relevance of their GI related ideas; both in business and pleasure.
<p>A Resilient Wales: A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Infrastructure Project: to ensure local residents have a greater awareness and sense of place in relation the local environment and support effective use of our resources. - Volunteering Hub: routes to employment and organisational sustainability through volunteering. - Education Hub: addressing local need for greater skills and horizon broadening. - Business and Entrepreneur Support: to ensure local residents are supported in achieving their full potential. - Education/Business Collaboration: to ensure local residents benefit from the value both sectors can bring to community prosperity. - Funding Support Services: to ensure local projects receive direct support where possible and support with applications at all times of need. - Precious Plastic Amman Valley: to develop a local micro-scale plastic recycling facility which allows local residents to clean-up their community and create "Community Products" in the form of plastic artwork, crafts and items that are sold to support community development. - Business Sector Collaboration (Action Group, GI Steering Group & Volunteer Hub): to support greater community participation within the business sector and ensure local residents see greater importance in supporting the local economy, employers and innovators.
<p>A Healthier Wales: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-being Professionals: to ensure early intervention from non-statutory bodies is made possible. - Community Centre/Outdoor Provision: to support active healthy life habits. - Priority Group Support: to ensure that high risk groups are identified and support made available as needed. - Community Action Group: to support in the direct delivery of health and well-being related services and projects. - PIYP: CDO seat on group ensures community access to the scheme. - CDO Support: the CDO supports, with priority, any group which seeks to improve the physical and/or mental health of residents. - Green Infrastructure Project: to ensure that our residents have access to and see the value in engaging in recreational activities in our natural spaces. - Hywel Dda Partnership Working: both directly and through our 2 local GP practices to ensure effective signposting, social prescribing and specific, needs-based, projects are developed.
<p>A More Equal Wales: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education Hub: to ensure that the Education measure which shows Glanamman and Garnant performs less well than Carmarthenshire is corrected. - Volunteering Hub: to ensure all persons, regardless of ability or need, are supported to access meaningful and rewarding volunteer opportunities. - School Collaborations: to ensure that our children in rural communities have equal access to new technologies and concepts as their counterparts in larger towns and cities in Wales.

National Goal	Local Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Localised Services (Direct or Partnership): to ensure that our residents in a rural community, and those in the more isolated communities neighbouring us, have improved access to the services they require when they require them. - Unique and Special: the delivery of first of their kind, tailored and relevant projects to raise local aspirations and improve sense of potential.
<p>A Wales of Cohesive Communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Action Group: to bring our community together around shared concerns and priorities in the direct delivery of “community driven” responses. - Volunteering Hub: to provide opportunities for local residents to meet under a shared goal and to remove perceived barriers and remove misconceptions based upon race, gender, age, sex, religion or socio-economic group. - Cwmaman Community Centre/Hearth Workshop: the delivery of social events, groups, classes and clubs which support a reduction in social isolation through the coming together of community members under shared interests. - PIYP: to reduce litter and “unkempt” spaces within the community and ensure a greater sense of pride in local residents and attraction to potential visitors. - Precious Plastic Amman Valley: to encourage community clean-up groups to come together and take pride in keeping their community clean, educating others on the risks of littering and produce precious “Community Products” to support future community sustainability. - Green Infrastructure Project: to bring local residents together through volunteering to support our natural habitat and create greater access to it for all residents.
<p>A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language: where we have lots of opportunities to do different things and where lots of people can speak Welsh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts and Culture Strategy: to formally recognise and embed the role that arts and culture can play in the prosperity and life of a community in rural Wales. - Dedicated Community Arts Activity: to improve the access of local residents to the arts who may otherwise be unable to access such provision in any of the major towns in Carmarthenshire. - Welsh Voices: to develop, through the MakerSpace project, online instructional content (currently predominantly American or English) in the medium of Welsh and/or with the presence of Welsh accents to raise aspirations and make such activities more relevant to Welsh people. - Curriculum Development: to work with local schools within relevant projects (MakerSpace, Precious Plastic Amman Valley, GI Project) to integrate super-local references within their curriculum and engage with external businesses, FE/HE providers and other organisations where appropriate.
<p>A Globally Responsible Wales: where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Infrastructure Project: to ensure that our residents, and those throughout the Amman Valley, develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and are supported to reduce the harm we all do as individuals, businesses and wider communities. - PIYP: CDO seat on group ensures community access to the scheme. - Precious Plastic Amman Valley: to proactively remove waste from our community and natural spaces that would otherwise be missed from the waste recycling stream. - Education Hub/Schools Collaborations: to support greater global awareness and the role we can play, even as a small community, in making a difference to global issues. - LoRaWAN Network: to work in partnership with WAWR, Vindico and ThinkAir to develop the first [REDACTED] air quality monitoring system of its kind in Wales for the Amman Valley and launch this at Ysgol y Bedol school.

Implementing the Act

An opportunity to reflect on how things are going.

<p>What opportunities have the Council encountered and how have these been best utilised?</p>	<p>Through the transfer of assets from the County Council we have developed new projects and services, and accessed the funding to support this, that meet the local communities needs. We are also ensuring that our recently acquired outdoor spaces are nature friendly with pollinator supporting planting and a range of project delivered, and planned, that directly address nature/ecology issues.</p>
<p>Has the Council encountered any barriers and if so what actions have been/are being taken to overcome these?</p>	<p>No significant barriers have been encountered although we are finding that the local community requires a great deal of support in understanding what new, and existing, provision they have within their community. We are striving to address this through the delivery of small-scale engagement activities, outreach events, development of social groups/clubs and through partnership working with others in the community.</p> <p>The other “barrier” we face is the perception of what Town and Community Councils are and what they can deliver and achieve. Many don’t expect us to be delivering the type of projects we are currently and this can lead to a lack of access to support, involvement at a strategic level and consideration for involvement in funded projects and external events. We strive to overcome this through regular presence at events, focussed communications plans in all projects under the CDO and proactively seeking involvement in projects we see that may bring benefit to our community.</p>
<p>What challenges has the Council faced and what measures have been put in place to overcome them?</p>	<p>With the assets we have now taken on as a Council comes a much greater volume of work. To address this, we have recruited an additional 5 staff since the commencement of our work towards the Act and will be seeking to increase this going forward under the delivery of specific projects related to these assets.</p>
<p>Are there any matters the PSB could support delivery/progress on?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more consistent/regular awareness of the work we are doing/seeking to do as a Council would definitely allow for better collaboration between us and members of the PSB where relevant. • Access to data to support the development and delivery of services and projects, along with advocacy for projects which meet shared goals, would significantly strengthen our arm as a Town and Community Council seeking to deliver the best that we can for Cwmaman and the wider area of the Amman Valley. • Specific support from the PSB on issues around sustainability would be beneficial. This may take the form of a series of sustainability/WbFGA conferences within the County for Town and Community Councils, Third Sector and other parties. Alternatively, it could be in the form of specific training or reference resources made available for officers and members. • Capacity and Skills Development would support us, as a Council, in delivering more against the wider objectives of the PSB. If it would be possible to engage with existing training and skills development services across PSB partners then this would definitely support greater capacity within Town and Community Councils.