



Cyngor Tref
Rhuddlan
Town Council

Rhuddlan Town Council Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2022

1. Foreword from Mayor of Rhuddlan

During the past 12 months Rhuddlan Town Council has been blessed with several positives but it would not be a Council without some negatives. All in all, I hope that the positives outweighed the negatives, and that by working together a lot has been achieved.

Despite the difficulties thrown at everyone due to Covid we have had considerable achievements and hopefully the community can see the benefits these achievements have brought. Many High Street shops have been visually enhanced by the installation of canopies. Several more of them will be provided in Phase 2 which will hopefully be able to start when suitable grants become available.

Two anti-speeding devices have been installed with the initial data showing a reduction in average speeds of vehicles at the locations. More such devices are now planned to be installed. Two additional defibrillators have been installed in the town. A Farmer's Market has been started on a monthly basis in the Community centre and is being well supported

The Council completed the purchase of Coed y Brain on the Admiral's Playing Field and work is moving on at a fast pace to make it into a fantastic community asset for all to use and enjoy. The dementia friendly Sensory Area in the nature reserve is developing very well and is something we should all be very proud of. Many thanks to Cllr. Kermode in his role with Rhuddlan Dementia Group, for helping to develop this initiative

We have introduced several policies including Safeguarding and a Welsh Language policy - all of which are important to the running of a professional public body, such as ours. These are a few of the several achievements the Council has made, and I know the coming year has lots of good things planned. This is a sign of a positive, hard-working and progressive Council, which we are.

The Town Clerk, Sian Mai Jones, left us in January. She had been Town Clerk for over 5 years and was a great asset to the Council. Although she is sadly missed, we have been fortunate to have someone as equally good to step into her shoes - Steve Wilson. It is perhaps no coincidence that we have now got a full-time clerk bearing in mind the progressive nature of the Council. The transition between Town Clerks has been seamless which is down to Sian and Steve. Paul Smith our Minute/Assistant Clerk has carried out excellent work during the year.

Marianne and I have thoroughly enjoyed our year as Mayoress and Mayor, which we both were very honoured to have done. There have been many highlights during the year but the one thing that has struck me more than anything whilst attending various events in the town, is the unbelievable and incredible amount of good work being done by so many members of the community in a selfless way. Without these people Rhuddlan would not be such a great place to live and whilst we as councillors do our bit, they are the true heroes of the community.

I am pleased to report that during the year I was able to raise a fair amount of money for charity. In May, Cllr. Arwel Roberts, Town Clerk Sian and I did a sponsored bike ride in aid of the Rhuddlan Dementia Group. We raised £500 and got a bit fitter as a result. In September I held a charity night at Rhuddlan Golf Club with a local artist entertaining us. In total we raised £1,126. This money being split 3 ways for The Royal British Legion, St Kentigern Hospice and The Osbourne Trust. In November, together with The Spar in Rhuddlan we had a hamper raffle in aid of The Royal British Legion which raised a further £247.

2. Introduction to Rhuddlan

Rhuddlan town is situated 3 miles inland from Rhyl, at the original crossing place of the river Clwyd. Rhuddlan was granted a charter, the Statute of Rhuddlan, by Edward I in 1284. The Castle and Church overlook the river and there are also numerous historic sites around the town which make Rhuddlan a great place to visit. There is a thriving High Street with a good selection of shops, pubs, eating places,

takeaways in addition to holiday accommodation and caravan parks. . The town provides an ideal place to stay while you visit the rest of the Vale of Clwyd and beyond.

Rhuddlan is a great place in which to live, with easy access to all major towns in the area, good access to the A55 express way and is served by a number of bus routes. There is also a thriving community that enjoys a range of facilities, including a Community Centre, play areas on both sides of the main road, a Health Centre, a library, a primary school and several places of worship, in either Welsh or in English

3. The Council

Rhuddlan Town Council has 3,042 electors (2021) and a total population of 3,666 (2011 Census). The council consists of 11 councillors, 2 of these are also Denbighshire County Councillors. It is chaired by an elected Mayor who was Cllr. Mike Elgin for the period covered in this report. The Council has an Information and Website Committee, a Personnel Committee, a Road Safety Working Group and a Coed Y Brain Project Group. Externally, the Council is a member of One Voice Wales.

The Councillors for 2021-22 were:

Mike Elgin (Mayor)

Andy Smith (Deputy Mayor)

Jackie Burnham

Charlotte Connolly

Ann Davies (also a County Councillor)

Reg Davies

Syd Gaskin

Mike Kermode

Arwel Roberts (also a County Councillor)

Gareth Rowlands

Bleddyn Williams

The Working Group and Committee members were:

	Road Safety	School Governing Body	Personnel	Information and Website	Coed Y Brain
Mike Elgin (Mayor)	X		X	X	X
Andrew Smith (Deputy Mayor)	X	X	X	X	
Jackie Burnham	X				
Charlotte Connolly	X			X	
Ann Davies	X				
Reg Davies	X				
Syd Gaskin	X				
Mike Kermode	X		X	X	X
Arwel Roberts	X	X	X		
Gareth Rowlands	X			X	X
Bleddyn Williams	X				

The Council published a Town Plan for the period 2020-2023 and progress against this plan will be reported in Section 5.

The Council had three employees up until Jan 2022. These were a Town Clerk (Sian Mai Jones), a Deputy Clerk/Project Officer (Steve Wilson) and a Minutes/Admin. Secretary (Paul Smith). In January 2022 the Town Clerk retired and the role of Clerk and Deputy Clerk/Project Officer's was combined into a 34hr/week role as Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (Steve Wilson).

The Council engages with residents using its website, Facebook page, the Rhuddlan Today Facebook page as well as face to face in the Town and at its monthly Farmers Market. Residents are welcome at all Council meetings including committees and working groups. The Council has representation on Ysgol y Castell's Governing Body, Rhuddlan Community Centre Management Committee, Denbighshire Destination Partnership, Rhuddlan Nature Reserve Committee and Rhuddlan Dementia Group.

4. Financial Information

In this financial year the Council's revenue budget/precept income was £166,000 and a summary of this is shown on page 4.

This financial year was not a typical year due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and this affected the amount of grants given to local groups and organisations during this period.

Grants were paid to – Rhuddlan Positive Action for Strokes, St Asaph Rotary Club, Royal British Legion, St Kentigern, Rhuddlan Library and Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych.

A financial audit was successfully completed with no major issues identified.

The Council's assets include bush shelters, flower planters, litter bins, IT equipment, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), fresh air gym, children's play areas, Mayor's regalia, Knights sculpture, floodlights, community notice boards, defibrillators, speed indication devices, signage, telephone boxes and seating benches.

Summary of Budget/Precept and Receipts and Payments

Rhuddlan Town Council			
Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2022			
Last Year Ended 31st March 2021			Current Year Ended 31st March 2022
	Receipts		
147,620.00	Precept		166,000.00
147,620.00		Sub Total	166,000.00
	Operating Income		
124,982.10	Income		10.40
7,189.66	VAT Data		5,460.47
279,791.76		Total Receipts	171,470.87
	Running Costs		
40,801.79	Administration		57,113.48
47,392.80	Community Projects		73,660.90
136,901.11	Playing Fields		8,451.83
5,495.18	VAT Data		17,203.02
230,590.88		Total Payments	156,429.23
	Receipts and Payments Summary		
66,341.35	Opening Balance		115,542.23
279,791.76	Add Total Receipts(As Above)		171,470.87
346,133.11			287,013.10
230,590.88	Less Total Payments(As Above)		156,429.23
115,542.23	Closing Balance		130,583.87
	These cumulative funds are represented by:		
115,542.23	Current Bank A/c		130,583.87
115,542.23			130,583.87
	Reserve Balances are represented by:		
49,200.88	Current Year Fund		15,041.64
66,341.35	General Reserves		52,292.23
0.00	EMR Road Safety Devices		6,750.00
0.00	EMR Coed Y Brain Com Facility		30,000.00
0.00	EMR Town Plan Initiatives		20,000.00
0.00	EMR Defib Devices		3,500.00
0.00	EMR Green COMMunity Projects		3,000.00
115,542.23			130,583.87

Summary of Council Assets		
	Current Value	Insurance Value
Insignia	£ 4,432.00	£ 14,122.00
Office Equipment	£ 3,742.00	£ 3,742.00
Outdoor Equipment	£ 40,216.02	£ 57,405.05
Outdoor Facilities	£ 128,842.00	£ 188,316.09
Playground Equipment	£ 183,382.00	£ 216,405.26
Street Furniture	£ 1,393.00	£ 61,958.00
War Memorial	£ 1.00	£ 10,300.00
Total	£ 362,008.02	£ 552,248.40

5. Progress made with Town Plan

Project Name	Progress made up to March 2022	Next Steps April 2022-2023
1 - Admiral's Playing Field Community Facility	Building works completed. Commuted Sums grant application successful.	Complete internal works, external decoration and resurfacing. Estimated completion date for building is Sept 2022 and externals by end of October 2022.
2 - Rhuddlan Library continued support	£12,000 paid to help fund library services.	Continue funding support. Explore possibility of extending opening hours.
3 - Youth Facilities	No progress due to Covid and availability of suitable premises.	Use Admiral Fields Community Facility for youth facilities. Provide funding to support Youth activities.
4 - Coach Friendly Rhuddlan	Assessment of potential locations conducted and no suitable location identified.	Continue to identify a suitable location and progress subject to funding requirements.
5 - Dementia Friendly Rhuddlan	Continued support provided to Dementia Group. The grant towards the Sensory Garden has enabled it to be nearly completed with excellent help from DCC's Countryside Team.	Continue to support the group's activities.
6 - Welcome to Rhuddlan	Funding of Tourist signage.	Installation of tourist signage. Funding and resource to hold Gwledd Fest in 2022. Fund jubilee celebrations. Work with CADW to increase Rhuddlan Castle opening hours. Improvements to land behind the Knights. Introduction of 1hr free car parking.
7 - Clean and Tidy Town	Organisation of 3 litter picks. Funding provided for emptying of litter bins. Jet washing of pavements completed.	Provide funding to Rhuddlan Community Group for planting of flowers and tidying up of town. Further jet washing of pavements.
8 - Public Conveniences	Building works at Coed Y Brain completed which includes 2 new public toilets.	Complete and open two new public toilets at the Coed Y Brain Community Building at Admiral's Fields. Ongoing support and maintenance of new toilets.
9 - Town Cemetery	Worked with DCC to solve issues with existing cemetery	Budget provision to support identification of new cemetery.
10 - Road Safety speeding of vehicles	Road Safety group established. 2 speed indication devices installed.	Installation of 3 new speed indication devices. Children's road safety poster competition. Develop overall road safety strategy and plan for Rhuddlan.
11 - Parliament Street Car Parking	No progress	Introduce free car parking for first hour
12 - Farmers Market	Monthly Farmers market established at the Community Centre.	Continued resource and funding support.
13 - Rhuddlan Museum	No progress.	Continue to identify opportunities to locate a museum.
14 - Vicarage Lane Car Park	Agreement reached to introduce parking charges with 1hr free parking.	To ensure DCC carry out proposed improvements. Fund 1hr free parking.
15 - Admiral's Field Sports Facilities	Funding of DCC children's sports sessions. Funding of outdoor gym exercise classes.	Install two new items of children's outdoor gym equipment. Funding of exercise classes.
16 - Car Parking Fees and on-street car parking limits	Agreement reached to introduce parking charges with 1hr free parking. No progress on pay and display for on-street parking.	Fund 1hr free parking.
17 - C.C.T.V.	Funding provided for CCTV partnership.	Continue to fund CCTV partnership.
18 - Admirals Playing Fields - Environmental/Botanical areas	Hedge laying completed.	Provision of funds for future projects.
19 - Town Cycle Path	Discussions with Sustrans and DCC completed	Continue to progress.
20 - Local Re-cycling initiative	No Progress	Continue to progress.

In addition, the Council has installed two defibrillators, one at the library and one at Admiral's Playing Field. It plans to install 2 further defibrillators in phone boxes on Dyserth Road and Clwyd Avenue in the next financial year.