

# BARRY TOWN COUNCIL

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



# CONTENTS

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	Page No
Foreword	1
The Council	2
Chapter One: Setting the Context	3
Legislation	5
Councillors	7
Local Government Reform	8
Chapter Two: Corporate Planning & Governance	9
Policies & Procedures	10
Achieving Outcomes	10
Workforce Planning	11
Financial Planning, Precept & Budget	12
Income 2016/17	13
Expenditure 2016/17	14
Budget Monitoring	14
Reserves Policy	15
Financial Regulations	16
Audit	17
Risk Management	18
Asset Management	19
Procurement	20
Chapter Three: Our Achievements	21
Green Flag	22
Cemetery Approach Project	23
Continued Improvement at the Cemetery & New Services	24
Talking Bins	25
Fairtrade	26
Shop Local	28
Town Mayor	29
Town Mayor - Gallery	30
Christmas Gift Appeal	32
Continuous Improvement	33
Chapter Four: Our Contribution to the 7 Wellbeing Goals	35
Contact Us	37

# FOREWORD

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I have felt honoured and privileged to have been given the opportunity to serve Barry Town as Mayor in what has been a busy and rewarding year. My intention was to promote the role and to involve the community as much as I could by introducing innovative fun charity events; as such, I have attended 90 public engagements and held 17 personal charity events.

It has been a busy and challenging year for the Town Council as a whole, with the recruitment of a new Town Clerk, changes to systems, practices and policies and a renewed focus on the Council's strategic positioning and external relationships. Included in this is a strengthening of our relationship with the Memorial Hall and Theatre Trust, and other public and third sector partners. This Annual Report details the context that the Council is working in, its key achievements and helps to set our direction for further improvements.

I feel extremely privileged to have been able to meet so many different people in my role and had the opportunity to gain insight into what is being achieved within our community. I have taken a great deal of pleasure recognising the attainment of others through activities such as presenting awards and certificates. The previous Mayor Emma Pritchard introduced a Mayor's own Scout Troop and a Mayor's Award for an Adult and Youth category. I embraced these and continued the legacy. For this year's Mayors Award I chose Mrs. Mary Thomas (Adult) and Bailey Sloan (Youth); in my opinion, two outstanding citizens of Barry and I will remember their achievements for a very long time. During my term in office, I also had the great honour of granting Freedom of the Town to Teresa Goodwin, who is the IFFA World Field Archery Champion. Another highlight of my term, was to present awards and perform an inspirational speech at my old comprehensive school, Bryn Hafren.

I would like to thank Cllr Karl Kuhnell for his support as my Deputy throughout my term in office, as well as elected members and crucially, officers and staff of Barry Town Council. Without the additional support of friends, family, organisations and individuals I'm sure that my personal charity events would not have been as successful as they have been and I remain very grateful for the support of the community which has really warmed me.

My chosen charities for the year were, the Stroke Association, Breast Cancer Now and Downs Syndrome Association; all causes very dear to my heart. I am very proud and very grateful that due to our hard work, my persistence and the generosity of others, I have raised over £6000 for these charities.

As I hope is demonstrated in this Annual Report; it has been a fantastic year and one I will never forget.



**COUNCILLOR CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS**

Town Mayor 2016/17

# THE COUNCIL

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Front Row:-

(Left - right) Councillors Davey, Drake, Hamilton, Aviet, Williams (Mayor of Barry 2016/17), Payne, Wilkinson, Brooks and the Chief Officer, Emily Forbes.

Back Row:-

(Left - right) Councillors N Hodges, S Hodges, Egan, Wiliam, Powell, Pritchard (Leader of Council 2016/17), Evans, Johnson and Hardy.

Councillors not in picture are:-

Councillors Bertin, Cash, Curtis and Kuhnell (Deputy Town Mayor 2016/17)



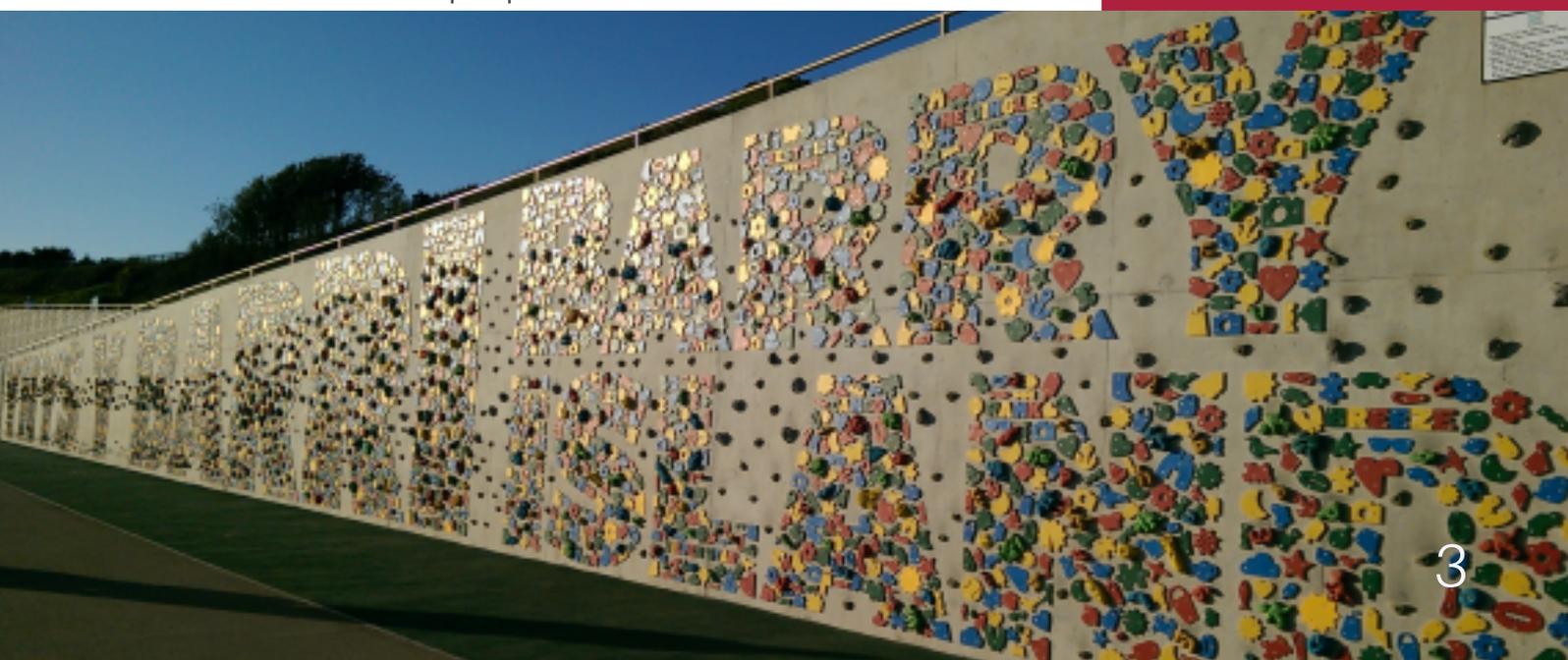
# CHAPTER ONE: SETTING THE CONTEXT

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There are 735 Town and Community councils in Wales; this number has remained relatively stable since the 1980s after the Local Government Act 1972 reformed and rationalised the structures of local government in Wales. Community and Town Councils form the most local level of government: they are corporate bodies and local authorities and cover many rural and urban areas throughout Wales. In the Vale of Glamorgan, there are 4 Town Councils and 22 Community Councils.

As the part of local government closest to the people, Community and Town councils have a powerful voice to represent local people. As an elected tier of local government, Town Council activities are controlled by Acts of UK Parliament or legislation introduced by the National Assembly for Wales. The other tier in Wales consists of Unitary Authorities, for example, for Barry, the Vale of Glamorgan Council is the unitary authority who has a legal duty to deliver services such as education, town and country planning, environmental health and social services.

A typical community council represents around 1500 people; however, Barry Town Council serves the largest population in Wales with over 52,000 people.



Essentially Barry Town Council's powers fall within three main categories: representing the whole electorate within the community; delivering services to meet local needs; and striving to improve quality of life in the community.

Our portfolio of services includes:

- Burial authority for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, and delivering services at Porthkerry Cemetery on behalf of the VOG Council
- Managing community facilities, for example, Pioneer Hall;
- Administering the Office of the Town Mayor and associated Civic events;
- Providing financial assistance to community groups and third sector organisations through Grant funding;
- Working in partnership with the VOG Council to deliver a new community green space at Cemetery Approach Gardens;
- Appointing representatives onto School Governing bodies;
- Representing the voices of the community on partnerships or external bodies such as the Community Liaison Committee, Barry Regeneration Advisory Group, Pride in Barry, Town Centre Forum and the Memorial Hall Theatre Trust
- Commenting on planning applications as statutory consultees (we have to be consulted in law)
- Robust Corporate Governance through Full Council meetings and a number of Standing Committees and Working Groups including:

Full Council

Finance, Policy & General Purposes

Personnel

Halls, Cemeteries & Community Facilities

Planning

Planning Sub-Committee

Fairtrade

Shop Local Barry Advisory Group

Working Party Group

Working Party Consultation Group

Memorial Hall & Theatre Trust Working Party



## LEGISLATION

The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 introduced the new power of 'wellbeing' reflecting the Welsh Government's initiative to revitalise local democracy enabling the sector to do more to improve the local social, economic and environmental situation of an area. Additionally, new legislation was introduced allowing the appointment of up to two individuals to act at any one time as community youth representatives.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 enshrines in law the official status of the Welsh Language in Wales. The Welsh Government has yet to make regulations setting out the Welsh Language standards which will apply to community and town councils but it is the intention to do so in due course, following further consultation. Existing Welsh Language Schemes remain in force until the regulations are made.

The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 sets out ways that all public bodies in Wales can improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It asks public bodies to:

- Think about the long term
- Work better with people and communities
- Look to prevent problems
- Look to join things up
- Establish Public Services Boards
- Develop Local Wellbeing Assessments and Plans

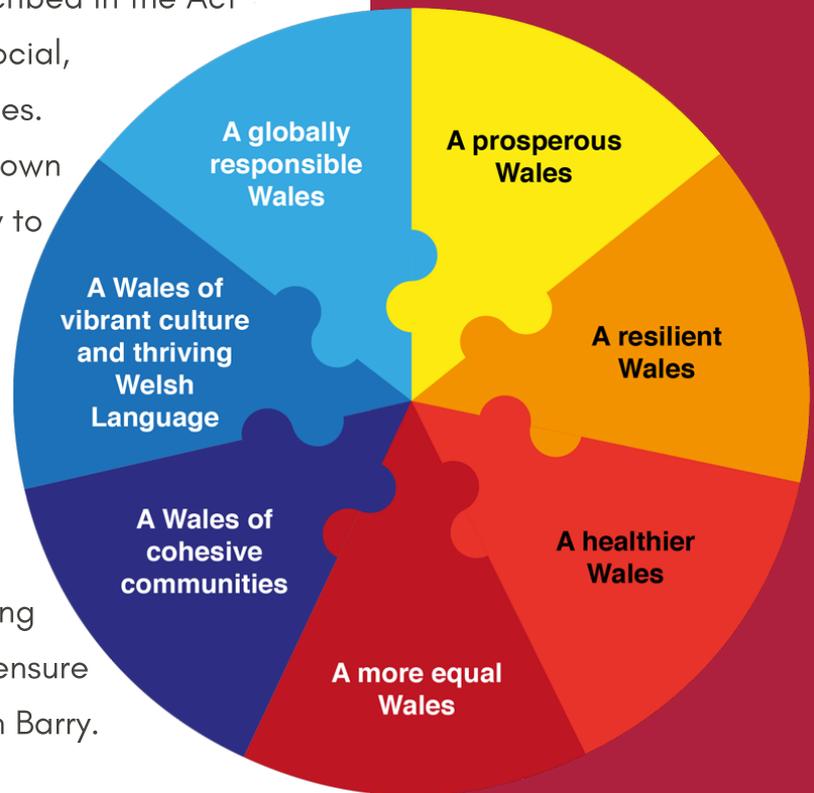
Cymraeg



The Sustainable Development Principle described in the Act is the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

Section 40 of the Act stipulates that Barry Town Council (due to its income levels) has a duty to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the local wellbeing plan that has in effect in their areas and must publish a report detailing progress and must make considerations in their Planning cycle to integrate objectives.

Barry Town Council is now involved in shaping the Vale of Glamorgan's Wellbeing Plan to ensure it meets the needs of the local community in Barry.



The Local Government Act 1972 sets out duties to ensure that all the rules for the administration of the council are followed.

Therefore, Barry Town Council must:

- appoint a chair of the council;
- appoint officers as appropriate for carrying out its functions;
- appoint a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to manage the council's financial affairs;
- appoint an independent and competent internal auditor;
- keep records of all decisions related to council business (the minutes);
- hold an Annual Meeting



## COUNCILLORS

In Wales there are approximately 8000 community and town councillors, who represent the interests of the communities they serve as a whole. They are recognised as having a role in providing the voice of the citizen in the development and delivery of public services in Wales.

Barry Town Council has 22 elected Town Councillors who have three main components to their work.

Decision making – Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. In undertaking their role they are bound to observe the provisions of the Councillor’s Code of Conduct.

Monitoring – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.

Getting involved locally – As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

Published within the last year the latest White Paper Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed, has developed an 'agenda of action' for consultation, to help build resilience and renewal in the sector in the short to medium term. This sets out Welsh Government's priorities for Town and Community Councils which we welcome. This includes:

- Producing a toolkit to support Community Councils in working through what is required in taking on new services and assets, building on experiences of the key ingredients.
- Re-energising ties between Community Councils and Local Authorities and provide a platform to share the good examples across Wales, bringing the new cadre of county and Community Councillors together after the Local government elections next year at a conference focused on strengthening these key relationships.
- Facilitating the creation of clusters of smaller Community Councils, by making some modest funding available to support the initial setting up of joint arrangements.
- Commissioning the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to draw up guidelines for Local Authorities to secure consistency in the manner in which community reviews are conducted.
- Supporting Community Councils to raise awareness of and encourage participation in Community Council elections, and to increase diversity.

## CHAPTER TWO: CORPORATE PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

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CIPFA Good Governance in the Public Sector defines Governance as comprising:

*"the arrangements put in place to ensure that the intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved"*.

The fundamental function of good governance in the public sector is to ensure that entities achieve their intended outcomes while acting in the public interest at all times and a number of principles for Good Governance have been identified.

Barry Town Council evidences its good governance through a number of ways:

### CORPORATE PLANNING

This is the first year in which the Council has held a Corporate Planning Day open to all staff and all Councillors. The day was facilitated by the Town Clerk in a workshop style to achieve maximum input from staff and councillors.

Sessions were held on 'Looking back' and 'Looking forward' enabling people across the organisation to reflect on achievements over the last year, and based on this, shaping relevant corporate objectives for the next five years.

Once published, the Corporate Plan will be reviewed annually to check progress against objectives and updated as necessary.



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A systematic approach has been adopted for regularly reviewing and updating policies to reflect legislation and working practices via the Council's Personnel Committee. Throughout the last year, there has been a large scale policy review across many of the Council's policies and procedures and a revised staff handbook has been developed.

Additional policy developments have included:

- Working Time
- TOIL
- Pay policy statement
- Agile Working
- Lone Working
- Cash handling procedures
- Investment Strategy
- Reserves
- Recruitment and Selection
- Redundancy
- Bullying and Harassment
- Health and Safety
- Fire Safety
- Mental and Emotional health and Wellbeing

## ACHIEVING OUTCOMES

To ensure that Barry Town Council achieves its intended outcomes, key objectives for 2016 / 17 were set out in its Corporate Plan published in 2015 as:

1. To protect, enhance and improve core services/assets and to act efficiently and in accordance with legal requirements and to ensure that finances are maintained within budget
2. To enhance its role within the community and the wider community of the Vale of Glamorgan and improve its communications with the community and to promote and enhance local democracy
3. To work closely and more effectively with our key partners
4. To maintain safety and a feeling of Wellbeing for all

Throughout the year, good progress has been made in working towards these objectives, the detail of which can be found in the Performance Management Section of this Annual Report.

Policy review and updating has included:

Safeguarding  
Concerns and Complaints  
Freedom of the Town

## WORKFORCE PLANNING

Barry Town Council employs 20 staff, split across Management and Support Team and Core Services Teams. Over the last year, the Council has embarked on a change management process of reviewing the Management and Support Team which provides administration for the Council.

Following an external review of Council requirements and roles new job descriptions were developed and in July 2016, following a rigorous recruitment process, a new Town Clerk was appointed and took up post in October 2016.

Since then, there has been further workforce planning undertaken within Barry Town Council in order to review and identify the needs of the organisation moving forward.

The Council commenced a Job Evaluation process across management and administration roles in March 2017 and a review of the external services teams will conclude in June 2017.

Staff development is crucial to any organisation and the Council has developed a mixed methods approach to its Training Programme for staff. This includes face to face training courses, e-learning modules and other methods such as sharing information through team meetings, peer review of risk assessments and involvement in policy development.

A new induction process for staff was put in place in the autumn of 2016 which provides a best practice toolkit for all line managers to use as a template for staff induction.

# FINANCIAL PLANNING PRECEPT

The net running costs of the Council for the year (expenditure less earned income) is funded by a Precept that is collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council as an addition to the Council Tax from all dwellings in the Town of Barry. The Precept represents 85% of the Town Council's income that is used to pay for services and planned levels of spending.

In early 2016, the Town Council set a budget identifying 2016-2017 expenditure including an allowance for contingencies, outstanding expenditure incurred in previous years, payments to or from reserves and earned income from services.

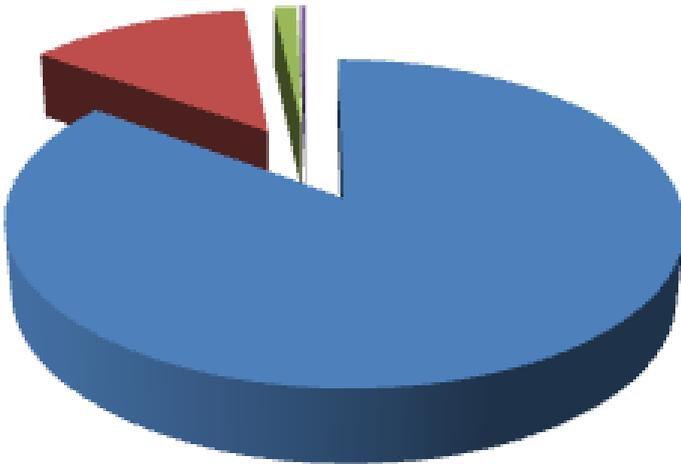
## BUDGET SETTING

One of the key statutory tasks a Council undertakes, irrespective of its size, is to prepare an annual budget. At its simplest, the budget compares what the Council would like to spend in the forthcoming year on local services and activities with the amount of income it expects to generate. The excess of planned spending over income is made up by the precept or by drawing on reserves held by the Council. During the period from November 2015 to January 2016, the Council's Committees reviewed in-year spending and levels of income in detail, determining the cost of spending plans for the forthcoming year and providing for contingencies as well as considering the need for reserves.

Each Committee provided their budget recommendations which were submitted to the Town Council's meeting in early February to approve the budget and confirm the precept.



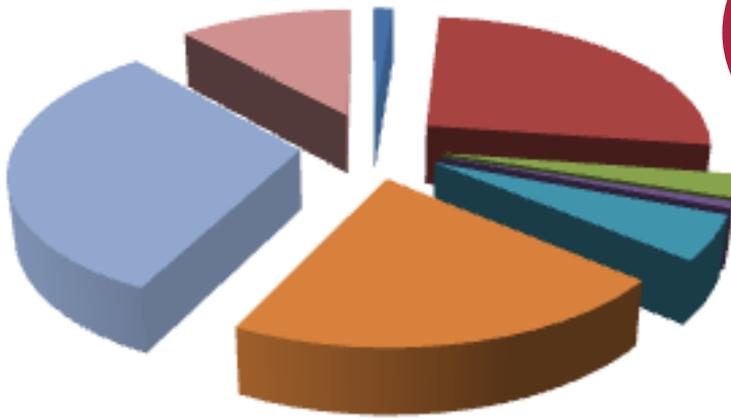
# INCOME 2016/17



■ Precept	£985,383
■ Cemeteries	£150,876
■ Community Hall	£15,472
■ Bank Interest, Grants & Miscellaneous	£3,839



## EXPENDITURE 2016/17



■ Planning	■ Cemeteries
■ Community Hall	■ Civic
■ Community Activities	■ Community Grants
■ Corporate Management	■ Addition to Reserves

<b>Planning</b>	<b>£14,889</b>
<b>Cemeteries</b>	<b>£301,470</b>
<b>Community Hall</b>	<b>£31,537</b>
<b>Civic</b>	<b>£8,990</b>
<b>Community Activities</b>	<b>£60,838</b>
<b>Community Grants</b>	<b>£244,327</b>
<b>Corporate Management</b>	<b>£360,443</b>
<b>Addition to Reserves</b>	<b>£133,076</b>

## BUDGET MONITORING

Once the Council approved the budget, it is used as an active tool used to manage the Council's finances. At regular intervals throughout the year, the Council prepared progress reports showing spending and income to date against budgeted amounts.

Monitoring reports were submitted to Council and Committee meetings providing members with the confidence that spending plans were proceeding as hoped or with information about areas where spending was higher or lower than anticipated. By regularly monitoring the budget, members were able to consider the need to amend their spending plans, take steps to increase income or make decisions about using funds from contingencies or reserves if considered appropriate.



## RESERVES POLICY

The Council holds earmarked reserves, which are set aside for specific purposes and for savings for future projects with the levels assessed and approved as realistic by the Council. In 2016/17 year, the Council held funds in an Acquisition (Reshaping/Devolved Services) Reserve, Cemetery Improvement Reserve, Election Reserve, Place Plan Reserve, Plant & Machinery Replacement Reserve and Shop Local Reserve.

It is generally accepted that general (un-earmarked) revenue reserves usually lie within a range of three to twelve months of gross expenditure. However, the amount of general reserve is assessed at least annually and approved during the budget setting stage by Council.

The Town Council currently hold a general reserve balance of £496,568 (at May 2017) representing five and a quarter months gross expenditure.

## INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In the last year, the Council agreed a new Investment Strategy that provides for investing any surplus funds in short term money market deposit accounts to generate investment income to offset expenditure.

The Council has approved placement of surplus funds in future in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund subject to confirmation of the security of such funds in the event of any bank failing. This decision was taken to lower the risk of investing in one sole institution as the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund's objective is to maximise current income consistent with the preservation of principal and liquidity by pooling funds from a number of Councils and investing in a diversified portfolio of high quality sterling denominated deposits and instruments thereby spreading the risk of loss of public funds if a bank failing.

## FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency are essential to local councils and are a cornerstone to the government's approach to improving public service. Members and officers are responsible for the conduct of public business and for spending public money.

Financial Regulations are in place at the Council as a safeguard and control method. The Council's Financial Regulations have been subjected to revision to reflect legislative changes on procurement, etc. and that the revised document was adopted by the Council in January 2017. The revised Financial Regulations are in line with the latest NALC / One Voice Wales model document and are reviewed by the Council's independent internal auditor.

A Scheme of Delegation is also in place approved by the Council in the last year which provides clarity on the role and function of Council's Committees and officers when undertaking certain transactions in the normal course of the Council's business. This is within the accepted policy framework and where budgetary provisions exist or as otherwise authorised in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

## URGENT ACTION PROVISION

The law makes no provision for dealing with urgent business on Council agendas. If it is urgent only because it was not notified in time to appear on the agenda, it should be left until the next meeting. If it is genuinely urgent, that is, it was too late for the agenda and it will be too late for action if left until the next ordinary meeting, an additional meeting should be called unless the reference of the urgent business can be referred to a committee or sub-committee, or to the Town Clerk for action with consultation with the Group Leaders.

It is contrary to local government law for the Town Mayor, Leader of Council or any other single member to take a decision binding the Council.

## AUDIT

The Auditor General for Wales appoints external auditors for all local government bodies in Wales. The primary responsibility of the external auditor is to provide an opinion on the annual statement of accounts prepared by the Council.

The Town Council's external auditors are Grant Thornton UK LLP, Hartwell House, 55-61 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6FT.

The Account and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 requires all councils to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control. The purpose of internal audit is to review whether the systems of financial and other control are effective.

It is essential that the internal audit function is sufficiently independent of the financial controls and procedures of the council that are the subject of review. The person or persons carrying out the internal audit must also be competent to carry out the role in a way that will meet the business needs of each council.

The Town Council's internal audit function is undertaken by Accounting Solutions Ltd, Clackerbrook Farm, 46 The Common, Bromham, SN15 2JJ.

[www.councilaudit.co.uk](http://www.councilaudit.co.uk)

In 2016/17 three visits were made by the Council's internal auditor who reported that there were no significant issues that warranted reporting to the Council; this is known as achieving a 'Clean' audit.

# RISK MANAGEMENT

Barry Town Council believes that an excellent organisation is, by definition, a safe and secure organisation. It therefore follows that caring for all personnel and minimising risk is inseparable from all other objectives. The Council recognises that it is essential that there is a safe environment and that all staff are competent, healthy and safe at work. All employees are provided with equipment, information, training and supervision as necessary to implement the organisation's Health and Safety policy and achieve its stated objectives.

The Mayor and Councillors regard health and safety management to be fundamental to the delivery of a safe service therefore, accepting ultimate responsibility for health and safety issues, while also ensuring that Health and Safety is recognised as a key responsibility for all members of staff.

Over the last year, Barry Town Council has had a sharper focus on effective health and safety management, based on a good understanding of the risks and how to control them. This is achieved through continuous good quality risk assessment and management and regular staff training and support.

In the last year, all staff have received accredited Health and Safety Level 2 training and all managers have received Risk Management Level 2 training in order to cascade their learning. New Risk Assessment templates have been developed and best practice models for method statements and COSSH assessments have been utilised to ensure that the organisation is operating safely, meeting its moral, economic and legal obligations for effective health and safety management.

The Town Council undertakes annual assessments of financial risks to which the Council may be exposed using the bespoke Local Council Risk System (LCRS) software. The risk register report details the associated risks was reported to and approved at the Town Council's meeting in June 2016.

The Council's insurers are Zurich Municipal, The Zurich Centre, 3000 Parkway, Whiteley, Fareham, Hampshire, PO15 7JZ. Our policy number is YLL-272003-3713 and includes Public Liability cover of £15 million, Employers Liability £10 million, Building & Contents Cover, Motor Vehicles Cover, Libel & Slander Cover and Personal Accident Cover.

# RISK MANAGEMENT



## ASSET MANAGEMENT

The Council's asset register facilitates the effective physical control over assets, ensures that no asset is overlooked or under-utilised and it therefore used most efficiently and forms a record of assets held for insurance purposes.

The asset register is reviewed and updated annual with recorded costs of the assets included in the Council's accounts. The Council's plant and machinery and vehicles are maintained to ensure their useful life expectancy and that the assets are fit for purpose being securely stored when not in use. A Plant and Machinery Reserve has been created to ensure sufficient funds are available when the need to replace any machinery arises.

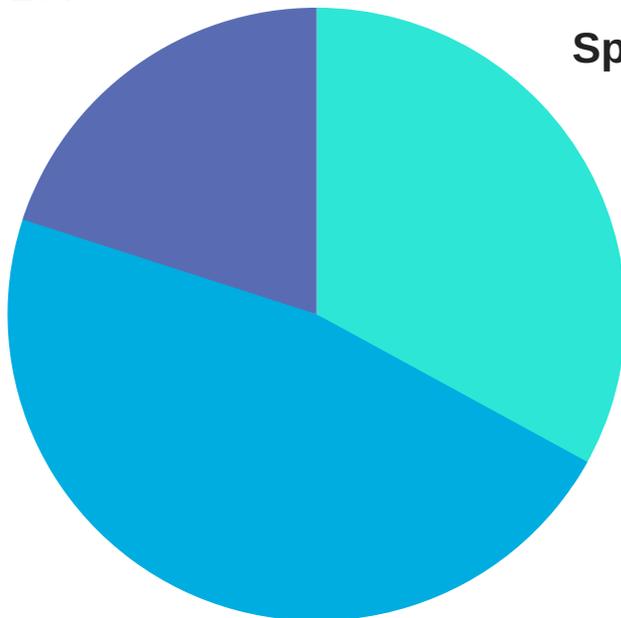
# PROCUREMENT

All members and officers are responsible for obtaining value for money at all times.. The Council's Financial Regulations state that the full requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as applicable, shall be followed in respect of the tendering and award of a public supply contract, public service contract or public works contract which exceed thresholds in The Regulations set by the Public Contracts Directive 2014/24/EU (which may change from time to time).

The Council is conscious of their role in supporting the local economy in Barry and Wales by sourcing the supply of goods and services locally when possible. An analysis of the Council's spend for 2015/16 showed that 33% (£81,493) was spent in Barry, 47% (£117,195) within the rest of Wales and 20% (£50,339) outside Wales.

## Outside of Wales

20%



## Spent in Barry

33%

## Rest of Wales

47%

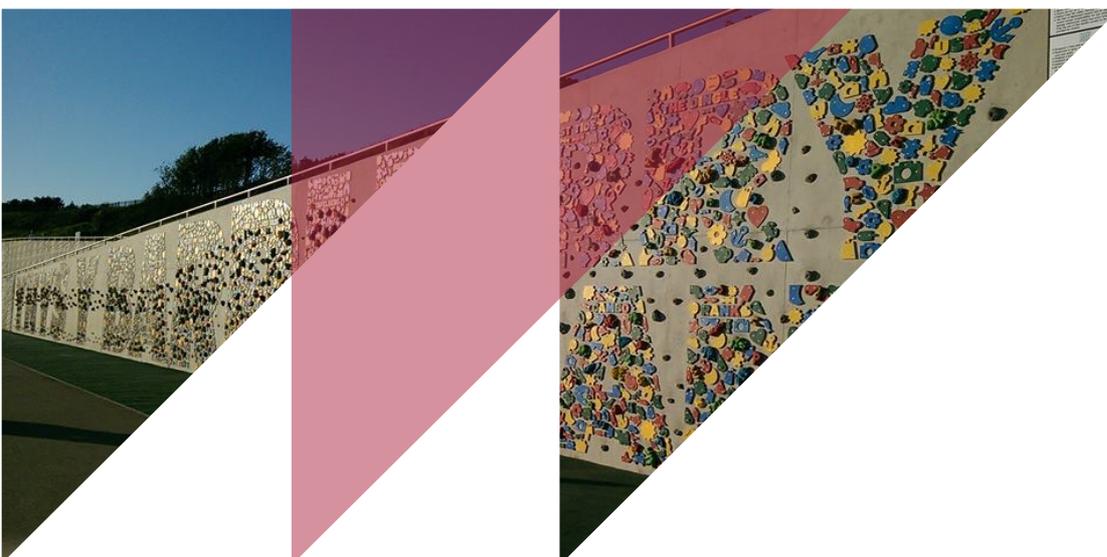
## CHAPTER THREE: OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

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During the latter part of the year, the Council has embarked on a significant change management process appointing a new Chief Officer (Town Clerk) of the Council.

Internally, a wide-reaching review of corporate governance, policies and procedures, strategic planning and operational and workforce planning commenced as highlighted earlier in this report. There has been a greater focus on the effective management of health and safety and assessing risk, improving staff and councillor training opportunities and developing new policies to reflect changes in legislation and best practice as good employers. There has been a renewed focus on staff engagement across all departments and in ensuring that we are an inclusive employer that listens to staff and effectively supports them in their roles.

There have been external benefits to the programme of change too and as a result, the Town Council has engaged at a higher level with officers at a strategic level e.g. Vale of Glamorgan Council, has improved its relationships with other Town and Community Councils and made better links with external organisations.



## GREEN FLAG

In 2016 the Halls, Cemeteries and Community Facilities Committee agreed that the Town Council should make an application for a Green Flag Award for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery. The Green Flag Award is a recognised international mark of a quality park or green space.

The application required considerable information being provided on how the cemetery is managed and maintained and the future plans for the cemetery, which had to meet a strict criteria both in the report and at the time of judging.

In July 2016 Barry Town Council was proud to announce that they had been awarded the Green Flag Award for 2016/17.

There were some recommendations of how the management and maintenance of the cemetery could be improved and having taken these on board and made changes where possible and taking into account other improvements that the Council had implemented a further application has been submitted for 2017.

The Town Council is currently waiting to hear whether they have again been successful in achieving the Green Flag Status for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery.



## CEMETERY APPROACH PROJECT

The Town Council are currently working in Partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on a £500,000 project to create a new open space in the town.

The area is situated adjacent to the Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and was previously derelict land and when completed will span the two sides of the avenue leading to the cemetery. The open space will include a new community building and it is hoped that this will be used by local schools and organisations as well as members of the public.

On completion of the project the Vale of Glamorgan Council land will be leased to the Town Council on a 999 years lease, whereby the Town Council will be responsible for the management and maintenance of the open space.

Following the success of gaining the Green Flag status for Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, once this open space is completed it is the Town Council's intention to submit an application for Green Flag Status to promote open spaces with the town of Barry.



## CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT AT THE CEMETERY AND NEW SERVICES

The Council and its staff understand the important role Merthyr Dyfan cemetery has within the community and are continually striving to provide new services and enhance the appearance of the cemetery.

As part of the Council's programme of improvement in respect of Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery and its services a number of projects have taken place over the past twelve months. These included the installation of up-lighting to the cemetery chapel in order to enhance its appearance. To further enhance this, a number of trees were removed from the entrance of the cemetery to create symmetry with the open space being created at Cemetery Approach. New trees will be planted in the cemetery to replace those removed.

Following the completion of the cemetery extension a Columbarium was installed in April 2017. This will provide spaces for 96 cremated remains urns which can be placed behind a marble plaque (up to three in each space). This service will provide an affordable alternative to the residents of Barry for the interment of their loved ones ashes, whilst extending the life span of the cemetery.

A topographical survey is being prepared taking into account the 56 acres of cemetery land. Once completed this will provide a detailed computerised mapping of all burial spaces, trees, roads and all other features within the cemetery which will in time be available to the public via the Council's website. This mapping system will also assist contractors in future projects such as tree tagging and surveys.



Following the campaign by Carolyn Harris MP to abolish funeral charges for children in Wales and the announcement by The First Minister, Carwyn Jones AM, the Council's Halls, Cemeteries & Community Facilities have recommended to Council that they no longer charge for burials of children and young people in Barry and that should there be a shortfall from the funds available from the Welsh Assembly once the policy has been prepared, that this Council absorb the extra costs.

Future projects for the cemetery in 2017/18 are to resurface a number of the roads as part of an ongoing programme and to refurbish the staff room and cemetery office. Also further investigations are to be made into having photovoltaic cells placed on buildings within the cemetery in an effort to reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

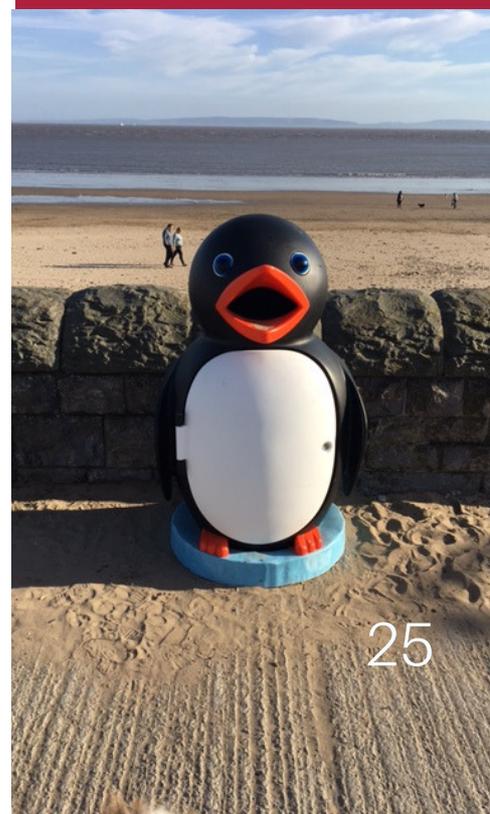
## TALKING BINS

As a seaside town Barry receives a lot of visitors to its beaches annually, thus increasing the amount of rubbish being created.

Barry Town Council has worked in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to help provide new bins for Barry Island to encourage visitors to the Island to dispose of the rubbish in a positive way. The bins purchased were the idea of the Town Council and they were not just any bins they were "Talking Penguin Bins".

The Town Council provided four of the talking bins, two of which thank the residents for their rubbish in Welsh and two in English. They were placed on the ramps to the beach and have proved very popular with children and adults alike. The Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed to manage the emptying of the bins along with the bins they already had in place on the promenade.

It is hoped that the Town Council, should they acquire any open spaces from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the future, that more of these bins can be placed around the town to further encourage visitors and residents of the town to use them to help keep Barry rubbish free.



## FAIRTRADE

In March 2015, as a result of the Town Council setting up a Fairtrade Advisory Group, Barry was awarded Fairtrade Town Status and this was further renewed in April 2016 for a period of two years.

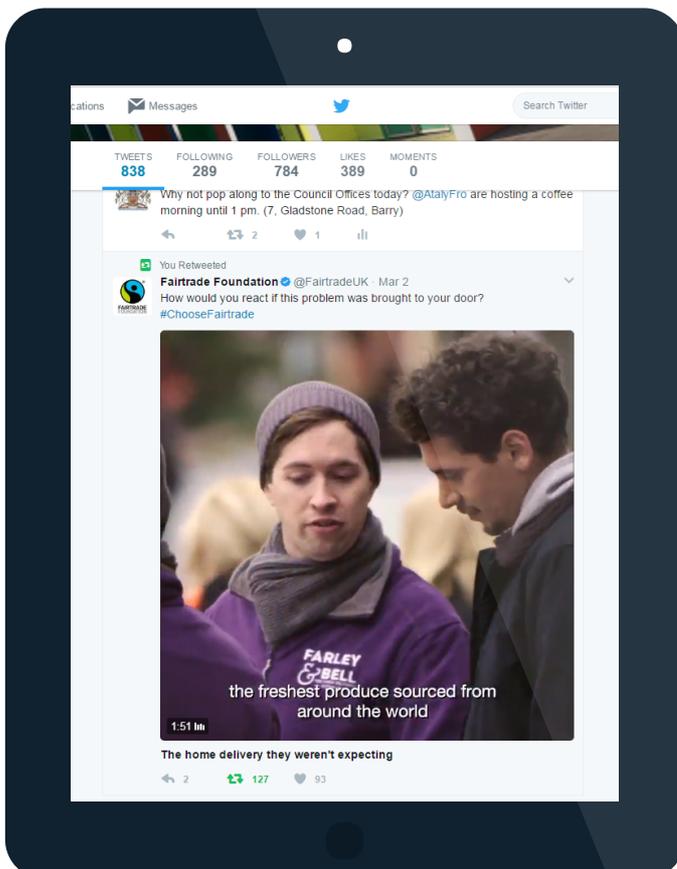
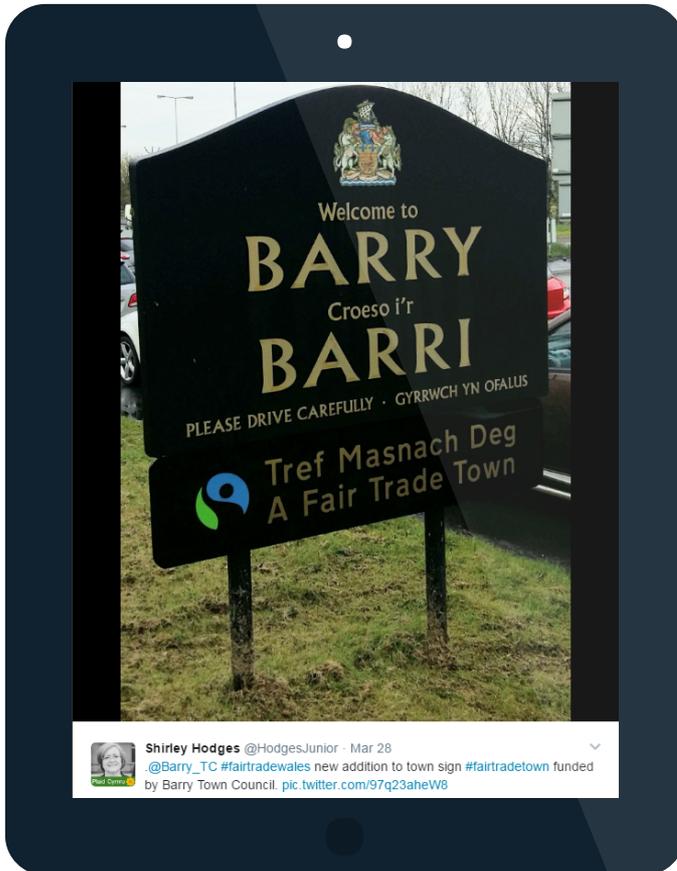
As part of the criteria you must show that the town and its residents are committed to and actively promoting Fair Trade. The Town Council, as an advocate for Fair Trade, ensure that they only use Fair Trade tea and coffee etc. at all its meetings, civic and Mayoral events and encourage other organisations in the town to do the same.

They work closely with schools, churches and local voluntary organisations to promote Fair Trade and hold events to enable this. The Town Council have purchased a number of Fair Trade footballs and members of the Fair Trade Advisory Group visit local schools giving a presentation about Fair Trade and what it means and as a thank you they present the schools with the footballs. The Council also work with Barry Town United AFC annually during "Fair Trade Fortnight". The Council work with the football club to arrange a half-time football match between local youth teams and again as a thank you to the teams taking part the Council present them with Fair Trade Footballs.

The Council are hoping to be able to purchase Fair Trade Rugby balls in the future and work with the local rugby club in a similar way to that of the football club.



In 2017 Barry was granted permission from the Welsh Assembly to erect an additional sign to the entry signs into the town stating that Barry is now a Fair Trade Town.



## SHOP LOCAL

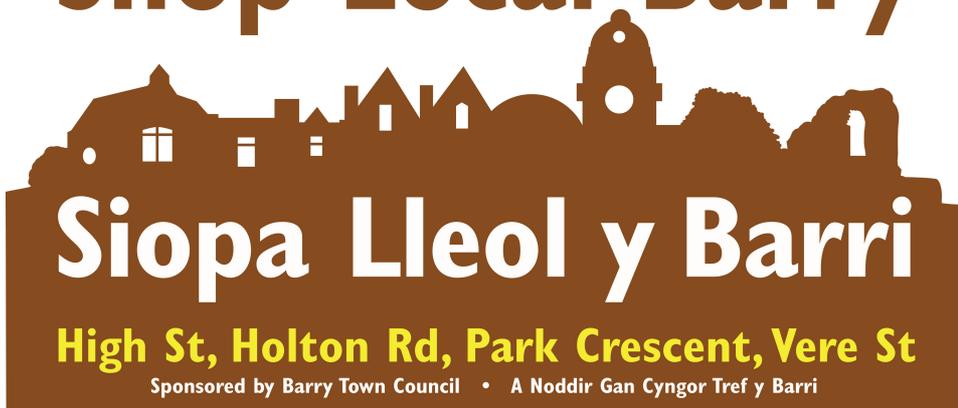
Barry Town Council has established a Shop Local Barry Group in order to promote local independent traders and local businesses within Barry. This group is leading a campaign aimed at making residents and visitors aware of what shops and services are available to them in Barry and will focus on the following areas:-

- Broad Street
- High Street/Island Road
- Holton Road (including the top end)
- Park Crescent
- Thompson Street
- Vere/Main Street

Barry Town Council was delighted to be able to earmark £50,000 for the Shop Local Campaign and show commitment to local traders and independent businesses across Barry. By working in partnership with local traders, we can support the local economy and raise the profile of Barry's shopping areas.

The group has recently been exploring marketing, branding, signage and learning from other towns which have run similar campaigns. Soon, signs will be developed for roundabouts in Barry to encourage people to keep the Barry pound circulating in Barry. We hope that this Council's investment will contribute to a successful and sustainable partnership with local traders.

# Shop Local Barry



## TOWN MAYOR

The Town Mayor is a non-political civic role with the main aim of promoting the town raising money for their chosen charities and chairing the Council. The role is supported by a Deputy Town Mayor.

This past year Councillor Charlotte Williams was elected as Town Mayor, with Councillor Karl Kuhnell being elected as Deputy Town Mayor. The Mayor's chosen charities are Breast Cancer Now, Stroke Association and Downs Syndrome UK.

As well as attending many civic events and events held by other Councils, Unitary Authorities, voluntary organisations and others the Mayor has held a number of events to raise money for her chosen charities. These have included a horse racing night, a drag act, coffee mornings, afternoon tea, Easter Bunny hunt and many more. Larger events have included a Santa Run and Dragon Boat Race, which due to their success will now become annual events held by the Town Council.

Councillor Williams has been an extremely pro-active Mayor and recently held her last event of the year which was an innovative Murder Mystery Dinner.

The Mayor would like to thank all those who have supported her throughout her year of office and hopes that they will continue to support all future Mayors in promoting Barry Town.



# TOWN MAYOR - GALLERY



# TOWN MAYOR - GALLERY



## CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL

Christmas 2016 marked the fourth year that Barry Town Council has worked with the community to raise gifts to donate to organisations that work disadvantaged young people. The organisations Barry Town Council have worked with are:-

Vale Foodbank

Coastlands Church

Ty lolo Hostel

Atal y Fro

Christmas 2016 also saw the highest contribution of gifts since this initiative began which shows that the appeal has become hugely popular and successful within the community.



## CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Barry Town Council recognises that as well as these areas of strength set out above, there are also areas of work which require further improvements.

On reflection, there has not been enough progress in a number of areas in which the Council hoped to realise its ambitions over the last year. These include:

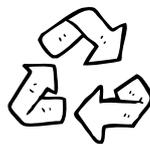
- Promoting Barry Town Council and marketing & communication strategy

- o Website improvement
- o Barry Town Council dedicated Facebook page
- o Cross-promotion



- Asset, Maintenance and Buildings Management

- o asset and links to asset renewal
- o Recycling and waste management
- o Sustainability and green energy strategy
- o Reshaping of Services and devolved service areas or assets



- Supporting Councillors via stronger induction / training / development



- Community engagement

- o Diversity of engagement with different groups (e.g. faith groups)
- o Collecting local issues and community perspectives
- o Community outreach events and activities to listen to the People of Barry
- o Developing a Place Plan for Barry
- o Influencing VOG Wellbeing Assessment and Wellbeing Plan

- Monitoring the outcomes and impact of Community grants

- o Pop Up Library progress

- o Collecting case studies and impact of all grants awarded

Having reflected on areas which lacked progression last year, Barry Town Council has identified a number of key areas for action which will be included in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2017-2022.

# CHAPTER FOUR: OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 7 WELL-BEING GOALS

## A PROSPEROUS BARRY

- Grants for Community Organisations
- Barry Youth Action
- Barry Town Mayor's Scout Group
- Mayor's Youth Award
- Mayor's Adult Award
- Shop Local
- Improved staff training programme



## A RESILIENT BARRY

- Cemetery Approach (Gardens)
- Green Flag
- Talking Bins
- Representing the community on environmental & planning issues
- Improved corporate image & marketing
- Improved strategic positioning of the Council



## A HEALTHIER BARRY

- Santa Fun Run
- Dragon Boat Race
- Health & Well-being Day
- Provided various first aid equipment through grant giving exercise
- Fairtrade Footballs



## A MORE EQUAL BARRY

- Introduction of reduced fee for child burials
- Christmas Gift Appeal
- Older People's Christmas Meals
- Books 4 Schools
- Tall Ships
- Diversity in democracy: "Be a Councillor" event



# CHAPTER FOUR: OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 7 WELL-BEING GOALS

## A BARRY OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

- Town Mayor's Afternoon Tea & Coffee Morning Events
- Royal British Legion
- Grants for Street Parties/Queens 90th Birthday
- High Street & Island Road Christmas Lights
- Increased consultation with the community
- Cemetery Survey



## A BARRY OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

- Continued funding of Barry Memorial Hall
- Funding of the arts through grant exercise
- New bilingual greeting introduced when answering the telephone
- Books 4 Schools
- Bilingual Talking Bins
- Freedom of the Town Award



## A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE BARRY

- Fairtrade
- Shop Local
- Bios Urns
- Talking Bins



# CONTACT US



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