

At a glance

Welshpool Town Council has proactively tackled the cost-of-living crisis by supporting key community services like Meals on Wheels, the evolving Warm Hub, and the Give and Take initiative. With help from volunteers, local businesses, and donations, these programs provide essential support to residents facing financial hardship or social isolation.



Challenges

As the cost-of-living crisis worsened, Welshpool Town Council and local Councillors saw an urgent need to support struggling residents. Rising demand for services, limited funding, and lack of awareness among vulnerable groups created major challenges. Sustaining volunteer-led programs while managing costs added further pressure. To ensure essential support remained accessible, the council had to develop practical, community-driven solutions.

Solutions

To support residents through the cost-of-living crisis, Welshpool Town Council and local councillors launched new community initiatives and expanded existing ones, relying on volunteers, local donations, and fundraising to provide meals, warm spaces, and essential resources.



Community
Hub



Give and
Take



Meals on
Wheels



Community
Support

Meals on Wheels

- This long-running Council funded service has thrived for 61 years, delivering 120 meals a week to elderly and disabled residents of Welshpool and the surrounding areas. With help from 15 volunteers and local donations, Meals on Wheels offers nutritious food and vital daily companionship to those aged 30–90, often being their only human contact.

The Community Hub

- Launched in October 2022, following the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, the hub has become a vital community space. Donations from residents and businesses, including equipment such as microwaves and cutlery, have enabled the hub to provide free meals, social interaction, and a place for advice from local agencies.

Give and Take Initiative

- Give and Take, set up and run by local councillors in response to the cost of living crisis, provides free fresh fruit and veg to 30–40 residents each week, supporting those in need and fostering a sense of community through informal connection and engagement.

Community Engagement

Social media campaigns, public appeals, and local fundraising have played a vital role in the success of these initiatives.

Just as important has been the involvement of former service users who have become volunteers themselves, strengthening their own sense of purpose and deepening community ties.

“This is an absolute life line for us in this community”.

**Beneficiary of the
Community Hub Services**

Welshpool Town Council Case Study Video



“People come here not just to stay warm, but for the company and the chat and to have a bit of a laugh’

Cllr Nick Howells
Founder of the Community Hub

Funding & Powers



All community and town councils in Wales need specific legal powers that enable them to provide various services and support for their local communities. These powers, granted by legislation, allow councils to undertake a wide range of activities and initiatives to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

Eligibility for the general power of competence (GPOC) provides greater freedom for councils to act. Powers and justifications can therefore differ – if eligibility for GPOC has not been confirmed then councils should consider their specific circumstances and always seek advice about the legality of proposals to avoid acting beyond their powers.



For advice and guidance, councils may wish to contact their One Voice Wales Development Officer admin@onevoicewales.wales

“Some people live on their own, and we are the only people they see all day”

Colin, Volunteer Driver
‘Meals on Wheels’

The Future

Welshpool Town Council and local councillors are committed to expanding these initiatives and with continued community support, they aim to strengthen these programs, ensuring all residents have access to essential services.

Welshpool’s success highlights the impact of grassroots initiatives, driven by local councillors and community collaboration, in addressing financial hardship and social isolation.



Want to Find Out More?

For more information on the One Voice Wales Cost-of-Living Crisis project contact the team at:



CoLC@onevoicewales.wales



<https://bit.ly/3KYHftK>



[Cost of Living Website](#)