

Wrexham Incorporated

In 1857, 646 people were entitled to vote as burgesses¹ and 206 were entitled to stand as councillors, but the Borough Council's duty was to all the town's inhabitants.



George Bradley, one of Wrexham's early mayors.
George Bradley, un o feiri cynnar Wrecsam.

The Council's priority was to tackle the poor sanitation and housing in Wrexham. Between 1863 and 1867, the Council installed a proper sewerage system and the last cesspool privy was closed by 1894. The Council built an isolation hospital for people with infectious diseases, appointed a health visitor to advise mothers of new born children, and opened public baths (for washing as well as swimming!) on Tuttle Street.

The health benefits were obvious. The town's death rate fell from 29 per thousand in 1857 to 11 per thousand in 1957. The health visitor helped reduce infant mortality from 152 per thousand in 1907 to 29 per thousand in 1957.

The Council's Medical and Sanitary Officers also worked to improve living conditions in the slums of Wrexham, often contrary to the moral attitudes of the time. By 1907 the Council realised that improving life in the slums was not enough, they had to be cleared away and new housing built. Wrexham's first council estate, designed by the renowned architect, Patrick Abercrombie, was built on land in Acton Park in the 1920s. After the Second World War, Queen's Park was built as Wrexham's New Jerusalem in the Caia fields. The slums were cleared away, but ending poverty and social exclusion is a task that the Council still works to achieve today.

'No project was entered upon without the closest investigation as to the cost to the ratepayers, and careful regard for the healthy progress and advancement of the Borough.'

Thomas Bury, second Town Clerk, writing in 1907
Thomas Bury, yr ail Clerc y Dref, yn ysgrifennu yn 1907



Condemned back to back housing, Ashfield Road.
Tai cefnffin a gondemniwyd, Ashfield Road.

Corffori Wrecsam

Yn 1857, roedd 646 o bobl â hawl i bleidleisio fel bwrdeisiaid¹ a 206 â hawl i sefyll fel cynghorwyr, ond roedd dyletswydd Cyngor y Fwrdeistref i holl drigolion y dref.



Wrexham's first Guildhall, Chester Street, 1914.
Neuadd y Dref gyntaf Wrecsam, Stryt Caer, 1914.



The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Wrexham, 1907.
Maer, Henaduriaid a Chyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Wrecsam, 1907.

Blaenoriaeth y Cyngor oedd mynd i'r afael â charthffosiaeth a thai gwael Wrecsam. Rhwng 1863 a 1867, gosododd y Cyngor garthffosiaeth briodol a chaewyd y geudy carthbwl olaf erbyn 1894. Adeiladodd y Cyngor ysbyty neilltuo i bobl gydag afiechydon heintus, penodwyd ymwelydd iechyd i gynghori mamau plant newydd-anedig, ac agorodd faddonau cyhoeddus (ar gyfer ymolchi'n ogystal â nofio!) ar Stryt y Twil.

Roedd y buddiannau iechyd yn amlwg. Disgynnodd cyfradd farwolaethau'r dref o 29 y mil yn 1857 i 11 y mil yn 1957. Cynorthwyodd yr ymwelydd iechyd ostwng marwolaeth babanod o 152 y mil yn 1907 i 29 y mil yn 1957.

Gweithiodd Swyddogion Meddygol a Glanweithdra'r Cyngor hefyd i wella amgylchiadau byw yn slymiau Wrecsam, yn aml yn groes i agweddau moesoli'r oes. Erbyn 1907 sylweddolodd y Cyngor nad oedd gwella bywyd yn y slymiau'n ddigon; rhaid oedd eu symud ymaith ac adeiladu tai newydd. Adeiladwyd stad gyntaf tai cyngor Wrecsam, a ddyluniwyd gan Patrick Abercrombie, y pensaer enwog, ar dir ym Mharc Acton yn y 1920au. Ar ôl yr Ail Ryfel Byd, adeiladwyd Queen's Park fel Jerwsalem Newydd Wrecsam yn y Caia. Cliriwyd y slymiau, ond mae cael gwared ar dlodi ac allgâu cymdeithasol yn waith y mae'r Cyngor yn dal i geisio'i gyflawni heddiw.



Condemned housing on Farndon Street.
Tai a gondemniwyd ar Farndon Street.



New council housing under construction on Lorne Street.
Tai cyngor newydd yn cael eu hadeiladu ar Lorne Street.

¹ Burgesses were men with voting rights. You could become a burgess if you owned enough property or a business in the town.
¹ Roedd bwrgeisiaid yn ddynion gyda hawl i bleidleisio. Gallech fod yn fwrdaid os oeddech chi'n berchen ar ddigon o eiddo, neu'n berchen ar fusnes yn y dref.

