

LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council for the year ending 31st March, 2023.

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council is a non-political Council and comprises of 10 Community Councillors:

- Cllr Martin Griffiths (Chair)
- Cllr Dylan Davies (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Annette Davies
- Cllr Val Davies
- Cllr Yvonne Griffiths
- Cllr Glyn Jones
- Cllr Mair Jones
- Cllr Haulwen Lewis
- Cllr Shirley Mason
- Cllr Rhian Thomas

We are also grateful to County Councillor Linda Davies-Evans who regularly attends our meetings in her role as County Councillor for the area of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council.

The Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer is Mrs. S. Anita Evans, Frongelli, New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire. SA39 XXX. Tel: 01559 384266.

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All Councillors reside within the area served by the Council, namely the villages/communities of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Pencader, Pontwelly, New Inn, Gwyddgrug, Dolgran and Alltwalis. Eight Councillors were returned unopposed following the Local Council Elections in May 2022, with two further Councillors being co-opted thereafter during the year. There are currently two vacancies.

Meetings

The Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at Tabernacle Chapel Vestry, Pencader, except for the months of August and December when no meeting is held.

In addition, the Finance Sub-Committee meets quarterly to monitor/review the Council's finances, while other sub-committees, namely Planning, Website and Premises, meet on the basis of need.

During the period of Covid restrictions, meetings were held via Zoom. However, it is pleasing to note that all meetings since June 2022 have been face-to-face meetings at our usual venue.

Budget

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council receives its income primarily via the Precept. For the year 2022-2023, this amounted to £45000, which was £4000 (8.1%) less than the previous year, 2021-2022.

The Council's expenditure during 2022-2023 was mainly in respect of the following:

- Staff salaries
- Further payment in respect of upgrading street lighting to LED
- Maintenance of sites for which the Council is responsible, e.g. play area, cemeteries, public conveniences, war memorial
- Flower planters and seating in all villages within the Community Council area
- Further purchase and maintenance of defibrillators
- Requests for financial assistance, e.g. Local organisations – Yr Ardd, Pontwelly, Y Garthen, Eisteddfod yr Urdd Sir Gâr, Jubilee Celebrations, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Carmarthenshire Christmas Toy Appeal.

Nine Councillors accepted the annual allowance payment of £150 each, set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The total remuneration paid to Councillors during 2022-2023 was £1350.

A full breakdown of the Council's expenditure is available in the Annual Accounts for 2022-2023. Please refer to the Council's website.

Relationship with Carmarthenshire County Council

The Council works closely with County Councillor Linda Davies-Evans who attends most meetings and is supportive in dealing with any queries from the Council and its residents in relation to services and any issues affecting residents within the Community.

The Council regularly communicates with Carmarthenshire County Council with regards to issues brought to the Council's attention which are governed by the County Council.

Training Plan

The Council is a member of One Voice Wales which provides most of the training undertaken by Councillors and Clerk. During the year, the Council has approved a Training and Development Policy as well as a Training Plan outlining in detail the proposed training to be undertaken by individual Councillors for 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. This has been reviewed regularly and is amended as required during the year. Councillors are advised in monthly meetings of the training opportunities available.

Audit

Annual accounts are subject to an Internal Audit by a professional person appointed by the Council prior to submission of accounts for External Audit by the Auditor General for Wales. Following conclusion of the External Audit, accounts as well as the Auditor's opinion are published on the Council's website. For the year 2022-2023, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council will receive a full audit under the Auditor General's new audit arrangements. This is a new requirement since the year 2021-2022 where all

Community Councils are subject to a full audit every three years, with a basic audit being undertaken during each subsequent year. This year, 2022-2023, is therefore the second year of a three-year cycle.

Complaints

One complaint was received during the year 2022-2023.

Key Objectives for 2022-2023

The Council's Key Objectives for the last year were:

- To continue its rolling programme of providing defibrillators in all villages within the area of the Community Council.
- To speed up the process of ensuring the completion of leasehold transfer in respect of the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.
- To continue its rolling programme of upgrading street lighting to LED.
- To further continue its liaison and discussions with Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to its concerns regarding the deteriorating state of roads within many areas of the parish.
- To continue its programme in addressing the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
- To work closely with the community, and to serve the community in every way possible.
- To work closely with organisations within the community and to support new and established projects. e.g to serve on the Governing Body of Cae'r Felin C.P. School Pencader, and on the Pencader Improvement and Development Association.
- Ensure the Cemeteries at Pencader and Alltwalis are kept to a high standard.

Assets

Pencader Play Area

Pencader Cemetery

Cemetery at Troedrhiw Chapel, Alltwalis

War Memorial at Pencader

Hen Wŷr Memorial at Pencader

Land for proposed Picnic Area at Llanfihangel-ar-Arth

Asset Transfers

Arrangements continue to be ongoing regarding the transfer from Carmarthenshire County Council to Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council of the Leasehold for the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.

Activities

Continued maintenance of play equipment at Pencader Play Area, which is very well used, to ensure a good and safe condition for the benefit of all its visitors.

Maintenance of all benches and flower planters in all villages served by the Community Council.

Maintenance of Pencader and Alltwalis Cemeteries, War Memorial and Hen Wŷr Memorial at Pencader.

To ensure representation on / support of committees of local organisations

Achievements

Further provision of defibrillators as planned in specified areas of the Community Council.

Work completed on refurbishment of Public Conveniences at Pencader and Alltwalis.

Provision of CCTV outside Pencader Pavilion and Pencader Public Conveniences.

Further provision of LED lighting throughout the area.

Priorities

The Council's Priorities for 2023-2024 are:

- Review the upkeep of Pencader Cemetery, with maintenance as necessary especially the entrance area.
- To complete arrangements in order to facilitate hybrid meetings.
- To complete the leasehold transfer in respect of the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.
- To prepare and publish its Biodiversity Plan
- Review the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.
- Update the Council's Website.

This report marks the end of the first year of the new election term. At a time of substantial change for the Council, it has been encouraging to welcome two new members and, it is sincerely hoped that the remaining two vacancies will be filled early during the forthcoming year.

As you will note from the report, the Council has endeavoured to progress a number of issues of concern within the community and will continue to prioritise any issues / matters not fully addressed during 2022/2023 again during 2023/2024.

I should wish to take the opportunity to thank all Councillors for their continued support, commitment and contribution to the role of serving the community, as well as to record the Council's appreciation to members of the electorate for their support of the work of the Council during the past year.

Martin Griffiths

Chairman – Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council
