

**CYNGOR CYMUNED
LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2023-2024**

Approved:
15.07.2024

LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council for the year ending 31st March, 2024.

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council is a non-political Council and comprises of 11 Community Councillors:

- Cllr. Martin Griffiths (Chair)
- Cllr. Dylan Davies (Vice Chair)
- Cllr. Annette Davies
- Cllr. Val Davies
- Cllr. Deian Griffiths
- Cllr. Angela Lake James
- Cllr. Glyn Jones
- Cllr. John 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 9AZ. Tel: 01559 384266.

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Of the eleven Councillors named above, nine reside within the area served by the Council, namely the villages/communities of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Pencader, Pontwelly, New Inn, Gwyddgrug, Dolgran and Alltwalis, with two residing within the distance permitted outside the area. There is currently one vacancy.

It is with great sadness we note the passing of Cllr. Yvonne Griffiths, who had served the Council most conscientiously as one of its longest serving members. We should wish to record our gratitude and appreciation for her contribution to the work of the Council over a substantial number of years and extend our deepest sympathy with the family.

The Council also mourns the loss of Mrs. Janet Jones who, for many years took care of the Play Area in Pencader. We should again wish to record our gratitude and appreciation for her loyalty and support of the Council and extend our sincere sympathy with her family.

We should also wish to record our gratitude to Cllr. Mair Jones who resigned in July 2023 due to relocating from the area. We wish her every success for the future.

In October 2023, we were pleased to welcome two new members to the Council, namely Cllr. Angela Lake James and Cllr. John Jones.

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.

Budget

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council receives its income primarily via the Precept. For the year 2023-2024, this amounted to £45000, which was the same as the previous year, 2022-2023.

The Council's expenditure during 2023-2024 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
- Upkeep and maintenance of 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, MacMillan Cancer, Kids Cancer Charity, Llandysul River Festival, Wales Air Ambulance, Cerebral Palsy, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Carmarthenshire Young Farmers Club, Llanfihangel-ar-arth Eisteddfod.

Eleven Councillors accepted the annual allowance payment of £156.00 each (some on a pro-rata basis due to length of service during the year) set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. In addition, two Councillors claimed the additional allowance of £52.00 for consumables. The total remuneration paid to Councillors during 2022-2023 was £1664.00.

A full breakdown of the Council's expenditure is available in the Annual Accounts for 2023-2024. 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 detailing the proposed training to be undertaken by individual Councillors for 2024-2025, as well as providing information on training undertaken during 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. This continues to

be reviewed regularly and is amended as required at various times during the year. Councillors are regularly 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 2023-2024, Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council will receive a basic audit under the Auditor General's new audit arrangements. A full audit was undertaken for the year 2022-2023. 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, 2023 -2024, is therefore the third year of a three-year cycle.

Complaints

No complaints were received during the year 2023-2024.

Key Objectives for 2023-2024

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

- Review the upkeep of Pencader Cemetery, with maintenance as necessary especially the entrance area, and ensure that both Pencader and Alltwalis Cemeteries are kept to a high standard.
- 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.

Assets

Pencader Play Area
Pencader Cemetery
Cemetery at Troedrhiw Chapel, Alltwalis
War Memorial at Pencader
Hen Ŵr 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.

Ensuring representation on / support of committees of local organisations.

Arranging the Annual Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial in Pencader.

Achievements

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

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

Detailing arrangements to facilitate hybrid meetings.

Provision of CCTV outside Pencader Pavilion and Pencader Public Conveniences.

Further provision of LED lighting throughout the area.

Reviewing the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.

Updating the Council's Website.

Priorities

The Council's Priorities for 2024-2025 are:

- Review the upkeep of Pencader Cemetery, with maintenance as necessary especially the entrance area.
- To complete provision to facilitate hybrid meetings.
- To complete the leasehold transfer in respect of the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.
- To continue to support improvements in our community while ensuring the continued maintenance of all services and facilities currently provided.
- To complete and publish its Biodiversity Plan, ensuring implementation of its objectives.
- To ensure publication of all required documents on its website.

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2023-2024 for Llanfihangel-ar-arth Community Council. This report marks the end of the second year of the election term. At a time of substantial and continuing change for the Council, it has been encouraging to welcome two new members and, it is sincerely hoped that the remaining one vacancy 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 2023/2024 again during 2024/2025.

I should wish to take the opportunity to thank all Councillors and Staff 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
