



CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANLLAWDDOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Llanllawddog is a small rural Community Council in the County of Carmarthenshire, a few miles to the north of the town of Carmarthen. The Community comprises the villages of Pontarsais and Rhydargaeau, straddling the A485 together with outlying areas. The population has increased from 706 (Census 2021) to 765 (Census 2022).
- 1.2 The Community Council is made up of 8 Members who are either elected to serve a 5 year term or who are co-opted. The Quorum for the Council is 3.

2. Composition of the Council

- 2.1 The composition of the Council as 31 March 2025 is as follows:

Councillor Steven Mason (Chairperson)
Councillor Havard Hughes (Vice-Chairperson)
Councillor Nia Bowen
Councillor Deborah Dean
Councillor Elizabeth Gibbon
Councillor Philip Hughes
Councillor Darrell Lewis
Councillor Peter Williams

- 2.2 The Council at its Annual Meeting on 13 May 2024 re-elected Councillor Steven Mason as its Chairperson and Councillor Havard Hughes as Vice-Chairperson.
- 2.3 During the 2024-25 Municipal Year the Council had 1 vacancy. The Council interviewed candidates who had expressed an interest in the vacancy and at its meeting on 22 April 2024 appointed Dr Nia Bowen to the vacancy.

3. Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

- 3.1 The Council employs a part-time Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who is the Council's Proper Officer.
- 3.2 The Council's Clerk is Andrew Rees who has been in post since December 2022. His contact details are as follows:

Llanllawddog Community Council
75 Heol Pentre Felen,
Llangyfelach,
Swansea
SA6 6DW
07968 033075
ccllanllawddogcc@gmail.com

4. Meetings of Council

- 4.1 The Council meets six times a year in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. All meetings take place at Llanllawddog Church Hall at 7pm unless otherwise indicated and are advertised on the Council's Noticeboards and its website.
- 4.2 The Church Hall benefits from having Wi-Fi facilities and this has meant that the Council is able to comply with one of the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) 2021 Act in being able to hold multi-location meetings. During the year, Members of the Council have successfully attended remotely when they have not been able to do in person.

5. Finance

- 5.1 The Council at its meeting on 6 January 2025 set a precept of £8,481 for 2025-26, an increase of £337 from the level of precept in 2023-24. This is to mitigate against the increase in liability the Council will have on completion of the play area in Rhydargaeau.
- 5.2 The Council's income in 2024-15 was £52,686.28 made up as follows:
- Precept £8,147
 - Interest £580.21
 - Grants £30,924.00
 - VAT Reclaim £2,472.07
 - Land Transfer £9,385.00
 - Compensation £1,178.00
- 5.3 The Council's income in 2024-25 increased five-fold compared to 2023-24. This was attributable to successful grant applications being made by the Council in the sum of £30,924.00. Negotiations continued with the developer of the Cefn Farm development on the provision of the play area in 2024-25. During those negotiations, the developer offered to relinquish ownership of the land and transfer it to the Council to develop as a play area. To enable the Council to fulfil its vision of developing the play area, the Council made successful applications as follows:
- National Lottery Awards for All - £20,000
 - Brechfa Forest Wind Farm Fund - £10,000
 - Brechfa Forest Wind Farm Fund - £750 for legal fees
- 5.4 In addition to the grant funding for the play area, the Council was successful in securing funding from the Brechfa Forest Wind Farm Fund for Replacement Defibrillator Pads in the sum of £174.
- 5.5 The Council's expenditure in 2024-25 was £26,214.52 made up of the Clerk's salary, part payment of the play area equipment and surfacing, administrative costs, Members allowances and expenses, provision of public lighting, audit fees, insurance and donations.

5.6 The Council has made donations to the following organisations:

- Regional Committee of Urdd Gobaith Cymru in West Carmarthenshire
- Wales Air Ambulance
- Radio Glangwili
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru's Fund for All Appeal
- Cancer Information and Support Services

6. Audit of Accounts

6.1 During the year, Audit Wales completed the audit of the Council's accounts for 2023-24 issuing an unqualified opinion.

7. Activities and Achievements

7.1 The Council has achieved the following during 2024-25:

- **Development of a Play Area in Rhydargaeau** – The Council commenced negotiations with the developer of the Cefn Farm in Rhydargaeau on the development of a play area in 2023-24. The Council secured quotations from two play area companies, whilst the developer secured one quotation. As the developer could not agree with the Council's preferred quotation, the developer offered to transfer ownership of the land to be used as a play area and make a payment to the Council. The Council faced a significant shortfall in funding to develop the play area in line with its aspirations and made successful applications to the Brechfa Wind Farm Fund and National Lottery Awards for All Fund. The successful applications secured funding of £30,000, which together with the Council's contribution from its resources will enable the Council to deliver a much-needed play area. Construction was planned to take place in March 2025; however, the play area company has had to design in additional safety measures. The Council has approved a revised play area layout which incorporates the recommended safety features and has also secured additional play equipment at no additional cost to the project. The delivery of the play area project will take place during 2025-26. Once completed, this will be the first amenity in public ownership to be delivered in the Council's area. The Council has named the play area as Parc y Rhyd.
- **Late Cutting of Verges** – The Council successfully approached the County Council with a request for a later cut of verges in late summer or autumn. The initiative is designed to improve biodiversity, enhance wildflowers and pollinating insects. The exception to the later cut of verges was at junctions, bends or on busy roads, which required to be cut for pedestrian and driver safety. Two local Ecologists assisted the Council in identifying verges which would benefit from a later cut. The initiative has met with the approval of residents.
- **Community Litter Pick** – The Council has held 4 Community Litter Picks to date and further litter picks will be held during the year. In addition, the

Council along with the West Wales Rivers Trust held a “Balsam Blitz” to eradicate Himalayan Balsam in the summer of 2024 around the area of the Afon Gwili prior to the seedpods forming to mitigate the further spread of the Himalayan Balsam.

- **Facebook Page** – The Council now has 135 followers on its Facebook page. The page is administered by the Clerk and 3 Council Members. Information published and shared on the Page has been as follows:
 - Church Hall events
 - Community Litter Picks
 - Community Safety Information
 - Location of Defibrillators
 - Road Closures due to highway improvement works and road traffic accidents
 - Carmarthenshire County Council News – Youth Support Service; School Admissions; Free School Meals; School Modernisation Programme; Bank Holiday Recycling and Refuse Collections and Budget Consultation
 - Power Outages
 - Weather Alerts
 - Police and Crime Commissioner Advice on Doorstep Scams
 - Play Area Consultation
 - Green GEN Cymru Consultation Events and Public Meetings
 - Urdd Gobaith Cymru Fund for All
- **Council Logo** – The Council has adopted a logo for use in official communications and on its website.
- **Noticeboards** – The Council had to purchase a replacement Noticeboard as a vehicle collided with the one situated at the Bus Stop in Rhydargaeau. The Council was fully compensated for its loss.
- **Road Safety on the A485** – The Council continues to be concerned at speeding traffic on the A485 and has lobbied the Carmarthenshire County Council for traffic calming and the provision of a safe crossing. The County Council has during the year installed speed monitoring equipment. The results of the monitoring are awaited. The Council has responded to the default speed limit consultation and has requested that a 30mph speed limit be introduced along the A485 through Rhydargaeau instead of the current 3 speed limits of 20mph, 30mph and 50mph. The Council is awaiting the response of the County Council.
- **Defibrillators** – New Defibrillator installed at Clos y Fedw, Rhydargaeau. Carried out regular checks to maintain the 4 Defibrillators it owns. Replacement pads have been installed to the 3 original Defibrillators as they were coming towards the end of their working life.

- **Planning Applications** – Commented on planning applications as necessary in its role as a statutory consultee.
- **Council Vacancy** – Appointed to the vacancy on the Council to bring the Council back up to a full complement of 8 Members.
- **Green GEN Cymru Renewable Energy Proposals** – The Council has been consulted on the second stage consultation by Green GEN Cymru on its Tywi Teifi renewable energy proposals in March 2025. The proposals involve the construction of an overhead power line carried by pylons. Members of the Council and Clerk have attended meetings convened by Llanfair Clydogau and Cellan Community Council of Community Councils who are similarly affected by the renewable energy proposals along the Tywi Teifi route. The Council has submitted a written objection to the second consultation by Green GEN Cymru requesting that the company place the cable underground and investigate doing so via the cable ploughing method.
- **Christmas Signage** – The Council purchased Christmas Signage which was erected during December 2024 at locations within the Council's area.
- **Presentation from the Vincent Wildlife Trust on the Feasibility of Restoring Wildcats in Wales** - The Council was addressed by Max Henderson, Project Officer of the Vincent Wildlife Trust to explain the restoration of wildcats in Wales project.
- **Adopted the following New Policies and Strategic Documents**
 - Constitution and Model Standing Orders
 - Model Financial Regulations
 - Risk Management Policy
 - Training Plan

8. Action Plan for 2025-26

8.1 The Council may wish to set an Action Plan and set priorities for 2025-26 which can act as the Clerk's targets and appraisal:

- **Parc y Rhyd Play Area** – To oversee the installation of play equipment to complete the Parc y Rhyd Play Area. To organise and secure grant funding for an opening event for the play area.
- **Community Litter Picks** – Organise further Community Litter Picks
- **Training** – To undertake training relevant to the role of Clerk
- **Brechfa Wind Farm Fund** – To actively explore further opportunities for applications for funding from the Brechfa Wind Farm Fund to develop new public facilities.