

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANTRISANT LLANTRISANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

This Report is also available in Welsh upon request.

Foreword from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce Llantrisant Community Council's Annual Report for 2022/23.

This report comes at the end of the first municipal year since the local government elections in May 2022. The election resulted in 7 new members to the council, meaning that exactly 50% of our fourteen-member body were entering local government for the first time, bringing new ideas, skills and energy to the table, to compliment the knowledge and experience of other members re-elected after many years of service.

It's good news too that 6 out of our 14 members are women, which is important for us as we try hard to reflect the demographics and experiences of the communities we represent.

It's been an important year for the Council in reflecting on how our services can really make a difference in our communities. Like most town and community councils, at this level we are a fairly compact organisation, and our budgets and staffing are modest; but we make the most of the resources we have to improve the environment we live and work in in so many ways.

For the first time this year, reflecting on the challenges many vulnerable people in our community face with the cost of living crisis, Llantrisant Community Council made £10,000 available to support the work of local food banks, who helping some of the poorest people keep their heads above water.

We've continued to ensure our local environment is kept clean and attractive. Our staff have worked tirelessly to ensure that our gardens, flowers and planters are kept immaculately, graffiti is washed away and repairs and maintenance kept up at our halls and other assets. We're enormously grateful to the many volunteers who support our work as a Keep Wales Tidy Hub, and help clear litter on weekends. We're also looking forward to re-engaging with HM Probation Service who will be able to assist us delivering even more for the residents.

On behalf of the Council, I wish to put on record our thanks to our amazing staff for the way they continued to provide services to the public.

May I also take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their work throughout the year and convey to those who retired at the 2022 Local Government Elections our gratitude for their service and our very best wishes for the future.

This Report is written in a format which reflects our duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and we hope as residents you will find it informative and helpful.

Cllr Mal Davies

Chair of Llantrisant Community Council 2022/23



Contact the Council

The Community Council Office is open to the public Monday to Friday between the hours of 9.30am and 1.30pm.

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About Llantrisant Community Council

Llantrisant Community Council first came into existence along-side Llantrisant & Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council in 1894. It then became Llantrisant Parish Council before becoming Llantrisant Community Council in 1974 following the creation of Communities in Wales by the Local Government Act 1972.



Llantrisant Community Council is made up of the four wards of Beddau, Llantrisant, Talbot Green and Tynant. Overall, there are fourteen elected Members (Councillors) that represent the four wards, serving an electorate of 10,912.

Community councils have a wide range of duties and powers vested by Acts of Parliament. They may determine the types of positive actions and activities that is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being, social well-being and/or environmental well-being in their communities. Community Councils cannot act beyond their duties and powers.

Membership of the Council 2022/23

The Membership of the Council during the Municipal Year was as follows:

Llantrisant (4 Members)

Cllr Anne Callow	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Lynne Murdoch	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Adam Robinson	<i>Conservative</i>
Cllr Ellie Townsend Jones	<i>Labour</i>

Beddau (4 Members)

Cllr Julie Barton *	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Mal Davies	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Dr Catherine Preston	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Paul Thomas	<i>Conservative</i>

Talbot Green (3 Members)

Cllr David Brown	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Glynne Holmes *	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr David Myles	<i>Labour</i>

Tynant (3 Members)

Cllr Ron Hunt	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr David Nicholas	<i>Labour</i>
Cllr Carys Romney	<i>Labour</i>

* Cllrs Barton and Holmes also sit as elected members of the principal authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Council Meetings

Llantrisant Community Council meets ordinarily on the second Tuesday of each month, typically at 6.30pm. All of the full meetings of Council are held in hybrid format – i.e. with the facility for elected members and the public to attend in person or online. Some of our Standing Committees meet in hybrid format, but mostly they have been held entirely online.

This means that Councillors and members of the public may attend our meetings in person or online, entirely at their own discretion, and we have facilities in the hall now to enable this.



Council Staff

The Council employs six members of staff who carry out the range of functions and services on behalf of the Council, and implement decisions taken by the elected members.

The staff at the time of publication of this Report are as follows:

Clerk and Proper Officer: Mr Geraint Hopkins JP BA (Hons)

Responsible Financial Officer and Deputy Clerk: Mrs Alison Jenkins CiLCA

General Maintenance Manager: Mr Jason Akers

General Maintenance Officer: Mr Louis Kingston

Cleaner, Caerlan Hall: Ms Amanda Stokes

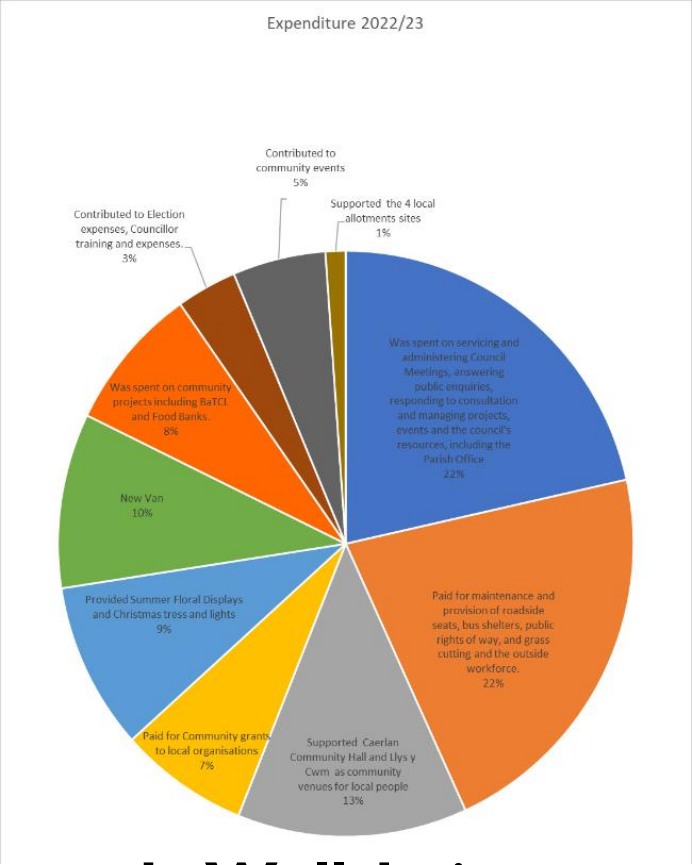
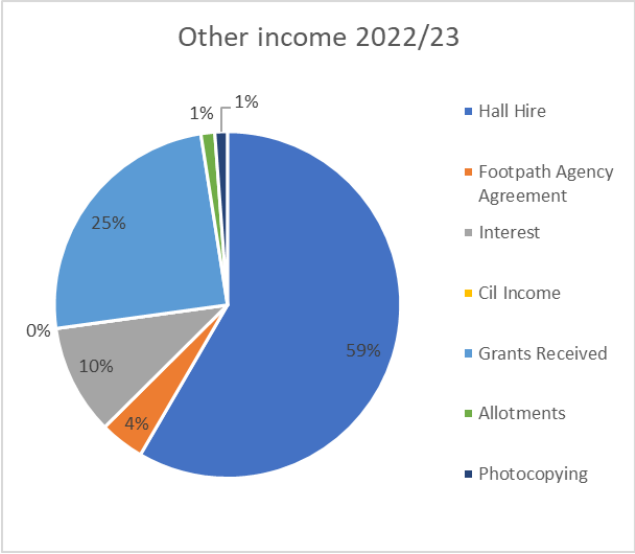
Cleaner, Llys y Cwm: Ms Kathleen Mountjoy



Finance

The main source of funding for community councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Llantrisant Community Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2022/23 the Llantrisant Community Council precept was £278,278. A band D property for Council Tax paid £52 for the year towards the Community Council. The remaining income generated by the Community Council comes from hire charges for Caerlan and Llys y Cwm hall, allotment rents, interest, grants, RCT agency agreement and Community Infrastructure Levy payments.



The Council’s duties towards Well-being

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015 by the Welsh Government with the aim of improving the social, economic, environments and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

The Act is seeking a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long-term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

Llantrisant Community Council is not a member of the Public Service Board but has a duty to take reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives as set out in the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and publish an annual report of the progress which we have made.

We have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report and demonstrate on the progress which we have made towards the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023.

The Cwm-Taf Wellbeing Objectives:

Cross Cutting Objective: Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

Objective 1: Thriving Communities

To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

Objective 2: Healthy People

To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

Objective 3: Strong Economy

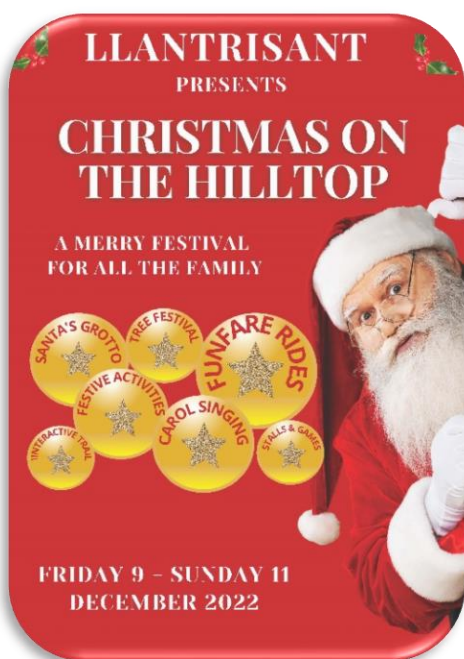
To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

The best way an organisation with the size and resource that we have as a Community Council can help tackle loneliness and isolation is to make sure we contribute to a lively and inclusive range of community activities which the public can come to and enjoy together.

Tynant and Beddau Community Fair 2022

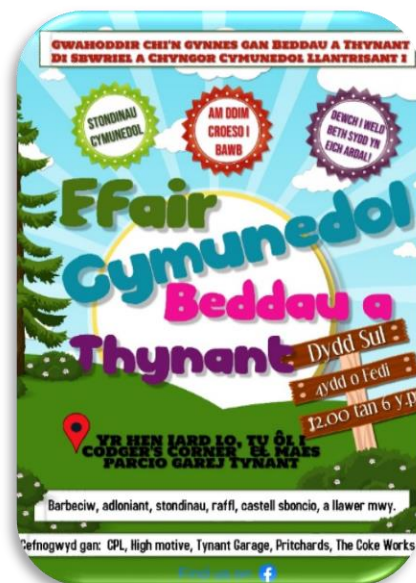
The Council was very involved in the Tynant and Beddau Community Fair in 2022, with the maintenance staff preparing the Old Coal Yard in advance ready for use, and the events organisation capacity of the Parish Office fully deployed to making the event a success. Convened with the community under the Chair's direction, the event was extremely successful despite the inclement weather.



Christmas

The scale of Christmas events grew further from the previous year, which had been the first post-pandemic event.

This year we organised a major weekend community event in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, the Llantrisant Guildhall, Llantrisant Parish Church and the Llantrisant Business Forum, under the umbrella "Christmas on the Hilltop." The event was a great success and saw several thousand people coming in to the old town across the three day event to enjoy the festivities.



In Beddau and Tynant we worked with the Community Library in partnership with a range of organisations, to organise a carols around the Christmas Tree event which was well supported by the community.

Remembrance Sunday

The Community Council was proud to play its part in the community's commemoration of Remembrance Sunday, assisting with the technical and practical arrangements for both the Llantrisant service on the Bullring, and for the second year running playing the leading role in organising the service at the Memorial Gardens in Beddau and Tynant.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee



The Council facilitated events for the public to celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, which included the lighting of the Beacon on the Billy Wynt. This was a major undertaking by council staff and local craftsmen to construct and install the Beacon. It was lit along with those around the country, and enjoyed by the public, whether they came up to the Billy Wynt or watched from all around the community.

The Proclamation of the New King

Sadly, not long after the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations, Her Majesty passed away, and according to carefully-made plans, the Council went into official mourning. The Council organised the Proclamation of Charles III as the new King on the Bullring in Llantrisant, which involved organisations, groups, the Chairman of the Council, notable individuals from the town, including the Freemen of Llantrisant and the Llantrisant Town Trust.

Objective 1: Thriving Communities

Providing Meeting Space

The Community Council own 2 halls:

Caerlan Hall, Newbridge Road, Llantrisant

The larger of the 2 halls, holding up to 100 seated. Caerlan is regularly used by local community groups such as Welsh Classes, Gwynfa Camera Club, Ballet lessons, yoga and Afon Dance as well as being booked for parties.

Llys y Cwm Hall, Gwaunmiskin Road, Beddau

Llys y Cwm is the home of the local Meithrin and is also used for other groups throughout the week including Afon Dance AttenDANCE for over 50's and 2nd Beddau Brownies.

Grants

During 2022/23 the Council provided over £30,000 in grant money to support over 50 community organisations and groups. These groups are vital to the richness and diversity of community life and activities, and the Council is proud to exercise this important role to support them, especially as we emerge from the pandemic.

Community Assistance Fund

During the Autumn of 2022 it became increasingly clear to the Council that the cost of living crisis was having a major impact on the lives of many of our residents. The Council debated how much worse the problem could become for vulnerable people across the impending winter of 2022/23, and how, within the limited confines of the powers of community councils, this Council could help.

The Council agreed to establish a Community Assistance Fund, which was a specific grant of £10,000 to supply up to £5,000 each to the two food banks serving the Llantrisant Community Council area.

Pride in Appearance



The Council and its staff take great pride in the community it serves, and much of the work our maintenance team does improves the appearance of the area.

Our floral display involved around 90 baskets and 50 planters throughout the community during the summer and were well received by residents.

Our community gardens, such as the Memorial Garden, Mount Pleasant, etc. are kept beautifully by our team for the public's enjoyment.

And throughout the year, the team went above and beyond our expectations, by cleaning and making more easily accessible areas like the community paths, and removing fallen trees blocking pathways.



This year by planting perennials in our flowering baskets and planters, we've been able to save water and also enhance the environment for biodiversity in our built-up areas.

New Council Vehicles help deliver better outcomes

With the advent of a fully-electric second vehicle, the Council has been able to better deploy staff across the community and increase the efficiency of work to improve our environment. The Council's new large Transit van has secured a more mobile and more effective workforce for many years to come.

Litter Hub



Llantrisant Community Council continued throughout the year to work in collaboration with Keep Wales Tidy to host a Caru Cymru Litter Picking Hub to help make our community a cleaner and safer place to live, play and work. As a hub we have a supply of 20 litter pickers, hoops and hi-visibility jackets along with a supply of RCT rubbish bags.

Litter-free Beddau and Tynant already have a supply of litter pickers available to the local community. The Parish Office now provides for the Llantrisant and Talbot Green area too.

Equipment can be borrowed free of charge by individuals, groups, schools, organisations and businesses. Once they have completed their litter pick we work in partnership with RCT Streetcare to ensure the full bags are collected.



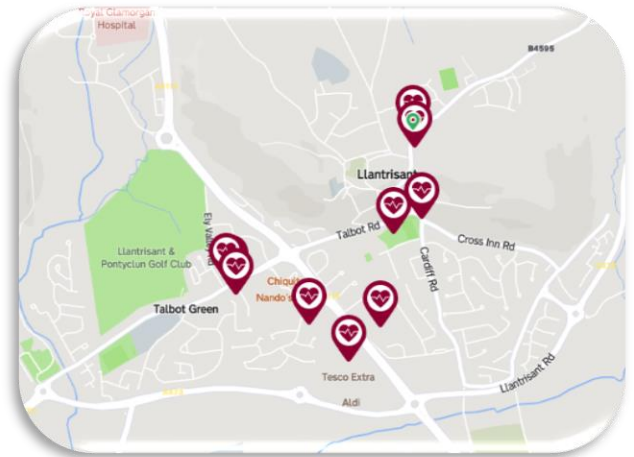
Dedicating a Memorial to Suzanne Goodall MBE, Founder of Ty Hafan hospice.

Objective 2: Healthy People

Defibrillators

The Community Council has worked in partnership with community organisations and others to provide a network of emergency defibrillators throughout the Llantrisant and Talbot Green area.

The locations of our defibrillators can be found at:
www.defibfinder.uk



Allotments Competition

Allotments are a great way for people of all ages to grow and use good, healthy food, and gain fresh air and exercise while doing so. Our allotments are also a place where plot-holders come together to share their experiences, learn from each other and support each other.

Llantrisant Community Council operates four allotments sites: Brynteg, Penycoedcae, Southgate and Tynant.

The popular annual Allotments Competition was held again, which drew entries from across all four of the Council's allotments sites.

The allotments were inspected - as they are every year - by Councillors, who noted that there had been considerable improvements in the presentation of the sites and the facilities offered to plot-holders.

Objective 3: Strong Economy

Events to Increase Footfall

Not only do the major events we put on help to support a sense of community, but they also bring people in to the community that might not otherwise visit. We have been keen to involve businesses in our events planning, and to recognise the important role of events in helping to boost spend in local businesses.

Llantrisant Business Forum

We have worked closely with Rhondda Cynon Taf officers responsible for town centre development and regeneration to re-establish and promote the Llantrisant town Business Forum. The events we run in partnership with the community help to bring more people in to the town and spend their money in local businesses.

New Benches

Benches well-placed throughout the community are pleasant for people to sit and enjoy some of the spectacular views on offer in our area. They do however also have an added benefit of encouraging more people of differing abilities to get out and about, safe in the knowledge that there are places to stop and rest on the way.

The Council now maintains over 110 benches in the community.

New Bus Shelters

The quality of our public transport network in our community depends not only on well-run, efficient buses, but also the physical infrastructure in place to support people using the services.

A new sedum bus shelter was installed at the Gwaunmiskin terminus.

Other Statutory Functions

Planning and Development Control

Community and town councillors represent the people living in their local area at the closest level to the community. When decisions are being made they are there to put the views of their electors across.

Local councils have an important role and contribution to the planning process. The Local Planning Authorities have a duty to notify local councils on any relevant planning applications as well as any decisions on a planning application within the local council area. At its meeting Llantrisant Community Council considers all planning applications and makes comments to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council when warranted.



St David's Day flags in Talbot Green, March 2023