

# Cyngor Cymuned **Llandybie** Community Council

Annual Report

2021/2022

Chairperson : P. H. Roberts

# Chairman's Introduction

- I have been honoured to be Chairman of Llandybie Community Council for the 2022 to 2023 period.
- We have once again seen some challenging times with the busy running of such a large Community Council. Our Council meetings are now held in hybrid style with councillors and public able to join face to face and online. Elections during the year have welcomed new councillors making up a current team of nineteen in total. We have once again received a clean bill of health in terms of our annual audit for 2021-22 and have Stuart Griffith , our recently retired Clerk and his Assistant Clerk Rhian Thomas , to thank for this.
- I wish Stuart a happy retirement whilst welcoming our newly appointed Clerk Dai Nicholas.
- Our focus during the year as part of our remit under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 has been to adopt a Biodiversity and Environmental Development Plan that encompasses our activities and actions as a council. It extends into our parks, schools, buildings, planning and community organisations.
- The Council has declared a Climate and Nature Emergency Motion in recognising the part Community Councils can take in reversing the decline in nature and climate change. The councils 'participation in the Local Places for Nature Project at Banc Y Ddraenen is one aspect of this work.
- The council continues to maintain and upgrade the village parks with Blaenau and Penybanc having completely new playgrounds. We can be proud of our parks, they are well kept, litter free and well used by the respective communities.

# Chairman's Introduction

- They offer families a safe place for their children to play and socialise.
- Some other projects include a disabled access at Penygroes Park and improvements to the Llandybie Tennis Courts.
- The Service level agreement with Carmarthenshire County council ensures the 11 parks are maintained and cleaned to a very good standard. Work continues with maintenance and where needed, replacement of wayside and park seats. Annual tree surveys are undertaken and safety work carried out.
- Something that not many local residents will be aware of is that we have over 100 rights of way footpaths criss-crossing the community These footpaths are maintained with the help of Carmarthenshire
- County Council thus enabling access to the countryside for our residents.
- It is anticipated that these facilities will be greatly enhanced with the
- eventual agreement reached with Celtic Energy regarding the reinstatement of the Gilfach Iago Site.
- The Council will be keeping an eye on developments.
- We have continued to support local organisations with financial grants to help keep sports facilities and social activities vibrant in our communities. We continue to keep our toilet facilities open and upkeep a number of buildings under our care.
- I wish to thank all the councillors and clerks for their support and commitment over the year and for making my role as Chair enjoyable and worthwhile. I would also assure residents that the Councillors will endeavour to create a thriving local economy that ensures a prosperous future for ourselves and our children.

Diolch yn fawr

*P. H. Roberts*

# Our preferred way of working

Consider the well being goals at all times

Use our local knowledge for the benefit of our community

Involve local people in local decisions where appropriate

Work with other local organisations

Publish our annual plan on the website

# Income and Expenditure

- Llandybie Community Council is funded mainly from a precept paid by local taxpayers. In 2021 /2022 total income was £189.157 ( ex VAT).
- For 2022/2023 it is expected to be £199,975.
- The Band D tax levied in 2022/2023 is £40.34 a reduction from £40.96 - the lowest compared to other neighbouring large Councils.
- No precept increase for the last 5 years

- Expenditure in 2020 /2021 was £212,598 ( ex VAT)

52,892	Staffing	
14,456	Premises	
7,559	Office Services	
25,736	Member costs (inc Election cost of £18,999)	
9,807	Services and Subscriptions	
10,644	Section 137	
0	Payments under other powers	
1,450	Public open spaces	
5,775	Village halls	
3,200	Burial grounds	
6,480	Rights of way - maintenance	
0	Rights of way - improvement	
21,212	Grass cutting/ litter/ facilities	
13,473	Park repairs and replacement	
3,891	Public lighting - energy	
0	Public lighting - improvement	
24,606	Community development	
11,417	Public conveniences	
212,598		

# What do we do ?

Maintain and improve parks and play areas – some owned by the Council and others maintained on behalf of local village associations.

Maintain a network of local public footpaths.

Wayside seat maintenance and replacement

Support local organisations, clubs, and events with grant support.

Support community facilities with annual grant funding for the village halls.

Help nurture new community groups that help meet local needs.

Encourage local volunteering.

# Councillors

## **Llandybie Ward**

- Cllr Anthony Davies
- Cllr Simon Roberts
- Cllr Helen Bjork (Resigned May 2023)
- Cllr David Hopkins
- Cllr Anthony Jones
- Cllr Dai Nicholas (Resigned November 2022)
- Cllr Emyr Nicholas

## **Heol Ddu Ward**

- Cllr. Ian Llewelyn – Chairman

## **Penygroes Ward**

- Cllr Julian Tandy
- Cllr David Thomas
- Cllr Richard Barnes
- Cllr Peter Roberts – Chairmperson
- Cllr Mrs Sian Thomas

## **Saron Ward**

- Cllr Mrs Karen Davies
- Cllr Mrs Anita Evans
- Cllr Mrs Carey Thomas – Vice Chairperson
- Cllr Darran Jones
- Cllr Gwenllian Harries
- Cllr Griffith J Davies

# Staff

## **Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer**

- **Stuart Griffith** (Retired January 2023)
- **Dai Nicholas** (Appointed December 2022)

## **Administration Assistant**

- **Mrs Rhian Thomas**



# Population

(based on no of electors in the ward)

• Llandybie inc Heol Ddu	3366
• Penygroes	2391
• Saron	3481
• TOTAL	9238

# The Council's Vision

To improve everyone's quality of life by providing equal opportunities for all by creating attractive, safe, vibrant, healthy , inclusive and environmentally sustainable communities.

# The Council's Objectives

- To consult with our communities
- To encourage environmental sustainability and help reduce climate change
- To preserve and promote the welsh language and culture
- To support our local community organisations
- To improve our parks and play areas
- To create, maintain and improve community facilities
- To contribute to the wellbeing of all residents in compliance with the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act

# Embedding the Five Ways of Working

## **Long Term**

– balancing short term needs to safeguard the long term

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## **Prevention**

– of problems occurring or worsening

- The Council has set aside £150k for park repair and replacement
  - It is committed to core financial support for all local village halls
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- Improved playground equipment since Asset Transfer from CCC
  - Undertake regular playground inspections
  - Undertake regular maintenance of equipment
  - Maintained local footpaths with annual schedule of grass cutting
  - Wayside seat maintenance programme
  - Continual liaison with County Councillors on local issues

# Embedding the Five Ways of Working

- Integration
  - impact on other bodies' objectives
- Collaboration
  - working together
- We are mindful of the well-being goals and assess the impact of projects against them.
- Clerk regularly attends local West Wales Clerk's meeting and One Voice Wales meetings
- We actively work with other local organisations in order to meet the well-being objectives.
- Actively respond to consultations
- Work with various sporting bodies
- Work with local community groups

# Embedding the Five Ways of Working

- Involvement – of other interested people with the diversity to achieve well-being goals.
- We appreciate the importance of involving a wide range of people who have an interest in achieving the well-being goals.

# What approach has the council taken to embed the four PSB well-being objectives into its plans ?

- **Healthy Habits** - people have a good way of life and make healthy choices about their lives and environment.
- **Early Intervention** – people have the right help at the right time.
- **Strong connections** – from people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change.
- **Prosperous People** – maximise opportunities across all areas.
- The Council are actively embedding these into its way of working.
- The PSB well-being objectives will be fully reflected in any Community Development Plans.
- We have already listened to our communities' concerns on road safety, play area replacement, CCTV and actively listen on all other areas of concern.

# What approach has the council taken to embed the national well-being goals into its plans ?

- A Prosperous Wales
  - A Resilient Wales
  - A Healthier Wales
  - A More Equal Wales
  - A Wales of Cohesive Communities
  - A Wales of Vibrant Culture and ^thriving Welsh Language
  - A Globally Responsible Wales
- The Council actively embeds these into its way of working.
  - The national goals will be fully reflected in any Community Plans, or work streams/projects (present and future).



# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## Healthy Habits

- Encouraging Outdoor Play
- Encouraging Sports

## Progress

- The Council has invested heavily in play equipment since taking them over on Asset Transfer. This has increased the opportunity for safe, active play in our area.
- The Council monitors playground safety with regular inspections which identifies works required and monitors progress of these works.
- Helps support Multi Use Games Areas and supports local sporting clubs with grant aid for the junior sections and with ground maintenance.
- The tennis courts and bowling green at Llandybie are maintained to a very high standard.
- Grant support has been provided to Saron Juniors FC, Penybanc RFC Juniors and Penygroes RFC specifically for ground improvements.

# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## Early Intervention

- Website
- Play Areas
- Local Organisations grant aid
- Support for organisations supporting children and young people

## Progress

- Fully functional bilingual website which has been upgraded during 2020 to make it accessible to all. Council and community news added.
- See above - encourages outdoor play and learning from an early age.
- Grant requests considered twice per annum with presentation evening for the successful organisations.

# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## Strong connections

- Heritage

## Progress

- The Council sees local heritage as useful way to help make connections. There are information boards at Llandybie, Penygroes and Pantllyn
- Pencae'r Eithin Coal dram - a reminder of the coal industry which was so prevalent locally.
- Cilyrychen clock – returned to Llandybie and placed centrally in the village as a reminder of the industrial history of the Lime Firms at Cilyrychen.
- Support with footpath maintenance for the Heart of Wales walking trail.

# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## **Strong connections**

- Community Events
- Supporting Community Facilities
- Website

## **Progress**

- Support for Christmas lights at Llandybie Parish Church.
- Annual grant aid for all local village halls.
- Full maintenance of Llandybie bowling green, tennis courts and pavilion and Saron Juniors FC pitch and changing rooms.
- Public Conveniences at Llandybie and Penygroes open daily.
- New accessible website has been developed and is operational

# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## **Prosperous People and Places**

- Community Consultation

## **Progress**

- Improved facilities at the play areas
- New CCTV system introduced at Penygroes park after consultation with public and police