

# Cyngor Cymuned **Llandybie** Community Council

Annual Report

2023/2024

Chairperson : Carey Thomas

# Chairman's Introduction

I have been honoured to act as Chairman for Llandybie Community Council during 2023/2024. It has been a both interesting and rewarding experience having gone through the learning curve of the procedural and statutory side of being a Chair of a Community Council and having privilege of meeting some hard-working community champions within our communities.

- The work of the Community Council has seen some positive achievements for the people of our communities and I would like to note the following;
- **Health and Wellbeing;**
- The maintenance work to over 90 of our rights of way footpaths in conjunction with Carmarthenshire County Council has meant that access to stunning countryside is kept and to compliment that within a vision of health and wellbeing we have installed open air gym facilities so that all of our community have access to fitness equipment. This was made possible by a mix of our community improvement budget and 106 grant monies that made it possible to upgrade the Multi Use Games Area and install a Bouncy Mini Trampoline facility.

# Chair's report (Cont)

## **Accessibility;**

- Within the improvements to our 11 parks in the ward, we have seen access gates installed at both Penygroes and Llandybie Parks with a picnic area an accessibility ramp installed at the later, the bouncy mini trampoline, it must be noted, is also accessible to those with varying abilities.

## **Maintaining services;**

- Public conveniences at Llandybie and Penygroes have remained open with a programme of annual maintenance continuing to ensure that our stock remains in good order.

## **Improving our green credentials;**

- We have in my time implemented a digital banking policy and a paperless office and paperless meeting policy meaning we are resolute in our work to limit the use of paper and support our environment along with the creation of environmental policies of greening our communities.

# Chair's report (Cont)

- **Supporting our key community groups;**
- It was with great personal satisfaction that I have chaired our finance committees and, in that role, we have overseen the award much needed community grants to support the work of volunteers and groups that provide key services and facilities as a lifeblood to many in our communities. Our presentation evenings at Saron and Penygroes saw use celebrate and support those groups.
- **Parks and play areas in our community;**
- We have continued to provide safe and inclusive play areas for both health and social interaction for our young people across 11 parks and continue to invest in maintaining and improving facilities to a high standard, we recently approved the upgrade of swings at Spien Road and Gors Ddu in Penygroes and have started a project of regeneration at Capel Hendre Park with the support of our local primary schools, the County Council and local residents.

# Chair's report (Cont)

## **The Community as a whole;**

- The Community Council now has a duty to publish an annual plan and incorporates a community action plan which complements the work at all levels which is required under the Well Being of Future Generations Act (2015) section 40(1) and links directly to the objectives of the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board and the National Wellbeing Goals.
- On a personal note, I would like to say how of much an honour it has been to serve Llandybie Community Council, however, it was very difficult at the beginning with councillors not respecting the protocol of addressing council debate through the Chair. Also, there were occasions when councillors did not respect the right of colleagues to have a different viewpoint and party politics became an issue instead of putting community issues first. At one time I almost took the decision to stand down as Chair but I am so happy that I persevered in continuing as Chair because I now feel these issues have been addressed and meeting are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I would too like to thank the Clerk and the Administrative Officer for their hard work and diligence.
- Lastly, I wish the new Chair my best wishes and will offer support in the familiarisation process when taking over after our Statutory Meeting in May.
- Diolch yn fawr, Carey Thomas

# 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 2023 /2024 total income was £212.527 ( ex VAT).
- The Band D tax levied in 2023/2024 was £40.34 a reduction from £40.96 - the lowest compared to other neighbouring large Councils.
- There has been no precept increase for the last 7 years

- Expenditure in 2023 /2024 was £258, 315 ( ex VAT)

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE
Grass Cutting	£54,000.00	£39,495.35
Staff Salary and PAYE	£51,225.00	£49,462.19
Office Services	£12,350.00	£13,327.16
Insurance	£2,500.00	£0.00
Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetary)	£20,000.00	£9,850.00
Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds)	£33,550.00	£36,097.55
Services & Subscriptions	£2,300.00	£2,526.00
Members Allowances & Paye	£7,134.00	£6,993.00
Election Costs	£10,000.00	£18,999.26
Section 137	£10,000.00	£6,100.00
Lighting	£12,000.00	£10,363.30
Community Development	£42,000.00	£65,102.05
Total	£257,059.00	£258,315.86

# 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 Eifion Davies
- Cllr David Hopkins Vice Chairperson
- Cllr Anthony Jones
- Cllr Huw Davies
- Cllr Emyr Nicholas

## **Heol Ddu Ward**

- Cllr. Ian Llewelyn

## **Penygroes Ward**

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

## **Saron Ward**

- Cllr Mrs Karen Davies
- Cllr Mrs Anita Evans
- Cllr Mrs Carey Thomas – Chairperson
- Vacant from February 2024
- Vacant from February 2024
- Cllr Griffith J Davies

# Staff

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

- Dai Nicholas

**Administration Assistant**

- Mrs Sian Taylor

# 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 (1)

## **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 (2)

- 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 (3)

- 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 PBS 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. This will continue with Saron Park.

# 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 last 3 years**

- 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 and Ammanford Food Bank.
- 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
- Disability Gate at Penygroes Park.

# Carmarthenshire PSB Well-being Objective

## **Prosperous People and Places**

- Community Consultation

## **Progress**

- Improved facilities at the play areas including Llandybie Park with the addition of Outdoor Gym Equipment, a Trampoline and upgrade of the Multi Use Games Area along with a disability ramp and picnic area.