

Cyngor Cymuned **Llandybie** Community Council

Annual Report

2023/2024

Chairperson : Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman's Introduction

To be elected Chairman for Llandybie Community Council during 2024/2025 has been an honour and a pleasure and I have enjoyed my year in office very much.

I have overseen some memorable projects that will benefit the community, notable projects include;

Public Rights of Way;

- The Community Council oversees the upkeep of close to 100 Rights of Way and we have seen a busy time making sure these are kept clear for local walkers and visitors to our countryside. Very few of our walks are not up to standard and we have in fact reopened Rights of Way including the Ammanford to Bonllwyn loop with the help of the local Ramblers Groups and we continue to work closely with them and the County Council Rights of Way Team.

Parks, Young People & Families;

We have 11 parks within our Community Council Area and we have good record in keeping those up to standard and in fact we contributed £20,000 to the Caerbryn Community owned park, a totally new park replacing the previous dilapidated park area. Our parks are used by young families and adults who can enjoy the Multi Sports Sport's Play area and the outdoor gym equipment along with a newly installed Trampoline area at Llandybie Park.

Chair's report (Cont)

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.
- We also took part in Earth Day 2025 celebrations in conjunction with local manufacturer Morgan Marine which will see 60 new planted across our communities, trees that will be enjoyed by future generations.

Chair's report (Cont)

Supporting our key community groups;

We have supported over 50 Community Groups including many volunteer organisations and charities. Our presentation evenings at Llandybie RFC and Penygroes Memorial Hall saw us celebrate and support those groups along with entertainment from Dawnsyr Penrhyd Folk Dancers where the youngest member was three years old.

Parks and play areas in our community;

We have installed new swings at both Spien and Gorsddu Parks and we are currently looking at projects to improve Blaenau, Penygroes and Saron Parks in maintaining and improving facilities to a high standard, we recently installed an outdoor Table Tennis facility at Penygroes Park and have started a project of regeneration of a nature and conservation area 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 thank Councillors, the Clerk and the Administration Officer for the way they have conducted themselves at meetings and for the hard work undertaking during the year.
- 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.
- Thank you and diolch yn fawr, Cllr David Hopkins, Chair.

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 £250,864 (ex VAT).
- The Band D tax levied in 2024/2025 was £43.02 an increase from £40.34 - the lowest compared to other neighbouring large Councils.
- There was a small increase of precept by £13,000 taking it to £193,000 the first increase in over 8 years.

- Expenditure in 2024 /2025 was

HEADING	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	DIFFERENCE
Grass Cutting	£31,500.00	£35,598.26	-£4,098.26
Staff Salary and PAYE	£61,864.00	£60,437.50	£1,426.50
Office Services	£6,000.00	£7,021.72	-£1,021.72
Insurance	£2,500.00	£3,240.60	-£740.60
Financial Grants (Open Spaces, Hall, Cemetary)	£20,000.00	£17,589.00	£2,411.00
Asset Maintenance (Public conveniences, premises, parks, rights of way, burial grounds)	£54,500.00	£59,845.40	-£5,345.40
Services & Subscriptions	£6,050.00	£3,639.34	£2,410.66
Members Allowances & Paye	£15,875.00	£7,868.00	£8,007.00
Election Costs	£16,000.00	£8,028.26	£7,971.74
Section 137	£20,000.00	£14,630.00	£5,370.00
Lighting	£6,000.00	£6,207.42	£6,794.00
Community Development	£15,000.00	£17,228.00	-£2,228.00
Total	£255,289.00	£241,333.50	-£13,955.50

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 Chairperson
- Cllr Anthony Jones
- Cllr Huw Davies
- Cllr Emyr Nicholas

Heol Ddu Ward

- Cllr. Mrs Lynne Wilkins

Penygroes Ward

- Cllr Julian Tandy Vice Chairperson
- Cllr David Thomas
- Cllr Richard Barnes
- Cllr Peter Roberts
- Cllr Leila Thomas

Saron Ward

- Cllr Mrs Karen Davies
- Cllr Mrs Anita Evans
- Cllr Mrs Carey Thomas – Chairperson
- Cllr Amy Thomas
- Cllr Craig Davies
- 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

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

- 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 are set to be resurfaced and bowling green at Llandybie is maintained to a very high standard.
- Grant support has been provided to Saron Juniors FC and Caerbryn FC 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 4 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.
- Supported the History of Penygroes Book.

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.