

Annual Report 2025/26

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council

Introduction

Under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, a community council must prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year.

The Community Council was formed in 2022 following local government reorganisation and occupies a role that forms part of the Welsh local government structure.

Council Annual Report

The Council's Annual Report sets out information relating to its Councillors, clerk, meetings, Council priorities, activities and achievements over the past year and provides an update of ongoing initiatives that aim to enhance life within its communities.

Your Council

Llantrisant Fawr Community Council has three Wards, Llangwm, Llansoy and Llantrisant which represent the rural, Monmouthshire communities, of Llangwm, Llansoy, Llantrisant, Gwernesney, Llanllowell and Llangeview.

Councillors are the voice of their local community and can work to influence other tiers of Local Government and help make collective decisions which form the policy of the Council.

Council membership and staffing

The Council comprises 9 members: Cllr David Williams, Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner, Cllr Glyn Williams, Cllr John Watkins, Cllr James Hawkins, Cllr Robert Trigg, Cllr Malcolm Hatfield, Cllr Steve Jolliffe and the clerk Jayne Stoodley.

The Councillors were elected/co-opted in the local Government Elections in May 2022 to serve a 5-year term of office.

The Chair of the Council is elected annually in May and for the year 2025/26, the elected Chair is Cllr Gwynfor Gardiner and the Vice-Chair Cllr James Hawkins.

The Council is supported by County Councillor's: Rachel Buckler and Fay Bromfield and we are grateful to them for reporting on County Council activities and for taking up issues raised by Community Councillors.

The Council employs one part time employee the Clerk: Jayne Stoodley, she can be contacted at llantrisantfawr@gmail.com

The clerk is employed under section 112 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and is answerable to the Council as a whole. The Council must also appoint a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to manage its finances and at Llantrisant Fawr Community Council the Clerk and the RFO is the same person.

Council meetings

The Council meets monthly (there are generally no meetings in August and December). Meetings are held at Llangwm Village Hall at 7.30pm on the third Tuesday of the month, apart from January, April and September when meetings take place at the Greyhound Inn, Llantrisant.

Precept and Budget

The Community Council is funded by a precept which is an additional amount added to the Council Tax from Monmouthshire County Council and is based on the requirements of the Council. Each November a Budget Planning meeting is held where the Council calculates the money required to provide its services and to fund any planned projects. This amount is then deducted from any reserves already held and determines the precept requirement.

The Precept for the year 2025/26 totalled £22,950. It had been agreed earlier in the year that a higher reserve should be set aside going forward, which would allow the Council to help fund and encourage local community projects.

Member Remuneration

In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by 30th September following the end of the previous financial year. This information must be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales by the same date. Nil returns are also required. For 2025/26 there was a nil return.

Audit

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require town and community councils to have adequate and effective arrangements in place for an internal audit of their accounting records and their systems of internal control. This is carried out on an annual basis by an independent internal auditor who is an independent and competent person appointed by the Council to carry out checks on its systems of control. The auditor carries out tests focusing on areas of risk to public money, reports to the Council and signs a report on the annual return to confirm that the Council's systems of controls are in place and operating. The Community Council is then subject to a statutory external audit by the Auditor General for Wales. All financial information including the Annual Return, internal and external audit reports are available to view under the Finance pages on the website. www.llantrisantfawr.org/finance/

Responsibilities and activities

Mobile and Broadband Connectivity

The Community Council has been working with local Councillors and Member of Parliament, Catherine Fookes, to improve Broadband and Mobile connectivity in our area. Broadband mostly provided by Voneus has in recent months improved following investment and upgrading by the company. Unfortunately, the battle for a Mobile mast to be installed by the main Network providers is ongoing and a request for a meeting with the operators has been declined. The Council continues to work with partners to bring about change.

Planning matters

The Council gives careful consideration to all planning applications received from Monmouthshire County Council and report any concerns that need to be drawn to the attention of the planning authority.

Highways issues

An active approach is taken in relation to road safety and speed limits which many drivers choose to dismiss when taking routes through our villages.

We continue to press for better enforcement of speed limits and have worked closely with Monmouthshire C.C. Highways to bring about improved road safety measures.

The Council has worked with Highways throughout the year, reporting Potholes, blocked gullies, poor road surfaces and overgrown hedgerow and verges. Meetings have also taken place in relation to poorly maintained Bridges within our wards with a view for urgent works to be undertaken.

Grass cutting

The Council is wholly responsible for the grass and verge cutting at Llangwm Village Hall and car park and employs a local company to carry out these activities.

Crime Prevention

The Council undertook a Community Engagement project with residents in September 2025 which was supported by Gwent Police. The Community Council purchased 100 packs of 'Smart Water' for residents to register and take away to help protect their property and homes. The meeting was well attended, and Gwent Police demonstrated the product and spoke about the benefits of using this new technology to help fight rural crime in our area.

Defibrillators

The Council own three permanently accessible defibrillators: One located at Llangwm Village Hall and two others at the Bus Shelters in Llantrisant and Gwernesney. Continual status monitoring, pad replacement and maintenance of these life-saving assets continues to be funded by LFCC.

Although not owned by the Council, a further defibrillator can be found at: Bush Farm, Llansoy, Usk, NP15 1DF. It is situated in the open garage alongside the main house and is available for emergency use.

Grants and Donations

The Grants and Donations Policy can be found on the Council Website and application forms are available through the clerk.

The Council provides modest financial support to Llangwm Village Hall in relation to its outgoings in relation to electricity costs directly linked to the running of the Community Council Defibrillator which is located at the site.

Annual donations are made towards Churchyard maintenance within the Community Council area, along with support for planting Flower beds and boxes within Llangwm.

The Council also contributed towards funding for a local young resident, to assist with training and support costs when competing in an International Skiing competition for Wales.

Involvement and future activity

The Council welcomes involvement by residents and feedback on what they would like to see the Council carry out on their behalf.

Communication

For more information about the Council, please view our website. Here you will see published, regular updates, agendas, minutes, financial information and details of internal and external audit outcomes and Council policies.

The website is: www.llantrisantfawr.org

Contact: For more information about the Council or to get in touch, please contact:

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