Llanrhian Community Council – Chair's Annual Report 2024/25
Cllr Neil Prior, Chair

In my fourth year as the Chair of Llanrhian Community Council, I'm pleased to present a short report highlighting some of our activities over the past municipal year.

Town and Community Councils are set up by statute and form the most local tier of democratic representation. Run by local residents who are either elected or co-opted onto the council, and acting on behalf of its area, Community Councils are comprised of people who care about their community and want to make it a better place to live.

As well as representing the community to the local authority, Community Councils can facilitate a wide range of activities that promote the well-being of their communities. We can bring local people together to make things happen, advise and advocate on behalf of our area, and act as enablers for initiatives that matter to local people.

Llanrhian Community Council is one of the smaller councils in Pembrokeshire, but I believe we continue to punch above our weight, working collaboratively to support our area. This year, our combined efforts have comprised:

Public Toilets
We continue to manage the public toilets in Porthgain and Trefin. These are not statutory services, but we recognise how vital they are for both residents and visitors. In 2024/25, we also contributed to the ongoing operation of the Abereiddi toilets, to part-fund this important facility while a long-term solution is explored. These services also create a small amount of local employment, reinforcing our role in supporting the wider community infrastructure.

Llanrhian Connected Community
This project continues to go from strength to strength, historically supported by Pembrokeshire County Council's 'Enhancing Pembrokeshire' grant and match funding from the Community Council. Our fabulous Community Link Officer has helped deepen community connections across the ward, with standout successes including:

- Continued growth of the 'Widows United' group;
- The hugely popluar and well-attended community lunches across the area;
- Publication of the monthly e-bulletin, now reaching over 200 subscribers;
- Ongoing support to the neighbouring Pencaer Connected Community initiative;
- We continue to support the Llais Rhian magazine publication.

We remain proud facilitators and enablers of this work, using our statutory position and increased precept to host, advise and provide structure to projects that build resilience and connectivity.

Trefin Playpark and Community Pavilion
Originally launched in early 2020, the playpark project has been a key part of our community development efforts. After some delays, I'm pleased to report that the roof, doors and windows of the Pavilion have now been replaced, completing this vital phase of work. This improvement, backed by grant funding of around £10,000, ensures the space is safe, weatherproof and fit for use.

We've also supported Trefin Pickleball Club in securing grant funding, adding another valuable activity to the village's growing range of recreational opportunities.

Planning & Representation
As a statutory consultee, we review all planning applications within our boundaries. We also continue to monitor and engage with key utilities such as Dŵr Cymru/Welsh Water, particularly concerning sewerage infrastructure issues, and made representation in the Electoral Commission's Boundary Review to maintain Llanrhian's current structure.

We manage five defibrillators across the ward (located in Square & Compass, Trefin, Porthgain, Croesgoch and Llanrhian), and have delivered public defibrillator training.

Work continues to better understand the common land situation in Trefin, ensuring that any decisions around its use or management are made with clear legal and historical insight.

Small but important donations have also been made to organisations such as Wales Air Ambulance and the Young Farmers, recognising their vital role in rural community life.

Finance
In recognition of our increasing responsibilities, we took the decision this year to increase the precept to £25,000. This enables us to continue supporting our current programmes, meet growing demands such as toilet maintenance, and provide a financial reserve for future contingencies. We remain prudent stewards of public funds, while continuing to act as administrators for funding related to Llanrhian Connected Community, and we've seen a previously supported venture, Ynni Bro Rhian, establish itself as a community benefit society to help explore renewable energy initiatives for the area.

Closing Remarks
I'm proud of the work we've done this year. For a small council, Llanrhian Community

Council continues to be active, engaged, and committed to serving its communities. The work of our Clerk, Vanessa Walker, has been outstanding once again, and I want to thank all my fellow councillors for their time, dedication and voluntary service. We were, however, sorry to see Cllr Katy Jenkins made step down from the council this year, and we miss her enthusiasm, energy and contribution. I'd also like to thank John Morgan, Deputy Chair, who has ably stepped in when I've been unable to attend meetings.

We are a council that enables, connects and supports, and it is a privilege to lead it.

Diolch,
Cllr Neil Prior
Chair, Llanrhian Community Council