

LLANRHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report for Llanrhian Community Council has been written bearing in mind the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 ("the 2021 Act") which was passed on 20 January 2021. It provides for the establishment of a reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, governance and performance. There is support across the sector and from the public for increasing the visibility of the work of community councils so that communities can take an interest in what their councils do and to have easy access to information on the council's work. The requirements in relation to annual reports, training plans, multi-location meetings and public participation are designed to support this intent.

ABOUT LLANRHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL AREA

THE COUNCIL

Community councils are the lowest level of local government in Wales. They are based on geographical areas governed by rules laid down by the Boundaries Commission and Llanrhian Community Council seeks to serve and represent the needs of the communities of Trefin, Llanrhian, Porthgain, Croesgoch and Abereiddy.

The community council is the local tier of elected and co-opted representatives for its community. Councillors provide a bridge between the community and the council and elections for councillors (currently nine) are held every 5 years, whereby the residents within the Council area are asked to elect members to represent the general interests of the community. Every Council has a Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer who is responsible for the administration of the Council's affairs. The Community Council annually appoints one of the councillors to the position of Chair of the Council. The Chair hosts the council meetings, maintains order and can hold a casting vote. The members of Llanrhian Community Council (the Councillors) are volunteers who stand for election because they care about the community. They are unpaid but receive a small yearly allowance.

COUNCILLORS

There are 9 Community Councillors: Cllr. Neil Prior (Chair of the Council for 2023/24); Cllr. Katy Jenkins (Deputy Chair for 2023/24 - who took a leave of absence in March and was deputised for by Cllr. John Morgan for the remainder of the Civic Year); Cllr. Rob Smith; Cllr. Anthony Daniel; Cllr. Paul Raymond; Cllr. Priscilla Wilde; Cllr. Chris Prior; Cllr. John Morgan and Cllr. Paul Niedzwiedzki. Councillors' contact details are available on the Council website and Facebook page as well as listed in the two Council noticeboards.

COMMITTEES

The Council has no Standing Committees but may form Task & Finish Groups for particular activities or projects.

OUTSIDE BODIES

CLERK / OFFICE ADDRESS

The part time Clerk also acts as the responsible financial officer. The clerk provides advice and administrative support and takes action to implement council decisions. Office address: Clerk and Financial Officer Mrs Collette Lowry, 2 Ffordd Pennant, Llanrhian, Flintshire CH8 9NU Email: Llanrhianclerk@hotmail.co.uk Website: Llanrhian-council.wales Agendas & notices including annual returns can also be viewed on the official Community Council noticeboard in Rhewl and at the local shop in Maes Pennant.

ORGANISATION

The Community Council:

- Raises an annual precept to fund expenditure.
- Funds community council owned street lighting in the villages and in recent years upgraded these to LED reducing costs and the carbon footprint.
- Considers annually match funding the Summer Playscheme in Partnership with Flintshire County Council for local children and young people.
- Considers and responds to Flintshire County Council on planning applications within the wards of Llanrhian.
- Considers one off financial assistance to help support local groups and organisations. The Community Council were very pleased to be able to offer financial assistance to: Holywell leisure centre, Llanrhian Community Centre, Llanrhian Arts & Crafts, Llanrhian & District Gardening Club, Estuary Voluntary car Scheme, Llanrhian Christchurch and the Urdd national Eisteddfod this financial year.
- Contributes to funding play equipment within Llanrhian & Rhewl.
- Contributes to community projects having now provided 3 defibrillators for the area.
- Donates gifts to the local primary school.
- Listens to residents issues and liaises with relevant officers such as Streetscene and local partners to improve quality of life

RELATIONSHIP TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Llanrhian Community Council has 1 County Councillor who is also a Community Councillor. County Councillors represent the wards at County Council level and relay issues raised at Community Council meetings. The County Council member for Llanrhian is : Councillor Pamela Banks (Independent).

- Llanrhian Community Council fund the summer play schemes that are organised and managed by Flintshire County Council. For the 2022/23 year there were play schemes operating at the Llanrhian playing fields over 3 weeks of the summer holiday period.
- The Community Council also has a close working relationship with Flintshire County Council regarding the Streetscene Department.
- The Community Council are a consultee for planning applications submitted to Flintshire County Council

MEETINGS

The Community Council usually hold their full council meetings on the third Monday of every month (with the exception of August and December which is a council recess). The meetings were held at the Llanrhian Community Centre with an option to join on-line. The dates and location of meetings can be found on the town council website.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The precept agreed for 2022/2023 was £30,010. The precept is the council tax that the billing authority (Flintshire County Council) collects on behalf of a town or community council. The precept is calculated as part of the town council's budget; it fills the gap between the town council's planned expenditure and its estimated income. The planned expenditure for 2022-2023 was budgeted with plans to draw on reserve balances which had accumulated

due to reduced services throughout Covid. The audited accounts for 2021-2022 can be found at Llanrhian-council.wale

ASSETS

The Community Council holds few assets. These include: Defibrillators, 80+ community street lights, office equipment, salt bins, a bench, planters/flower boxes, noticeboards, dog waste dispenser units and the Chair's Chain of Office.

PROJECTS

The Council completed its lighting upgrade project for the 80+ community lights which would become more cost efficient and environmentally friendly. The Council also continued to invest in the purchase of more dog waste bag dispensers for various locations within the village. With match funding from the community council, Aura installed a replacement play structure in the Rhewl play area

TRAINING PLAN

Section 67 of The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires town and community councils to make and publish a training plan about training provision for its members and staff. The training plan should reflect on and address whether the council collectively has the skills and knowledge it needs to deliver its aims and objectives in an effective manner. The training plan includes councillors and members of staff. The training plan will be developed over the coming years and is available on the council website.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the act think more about the long term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach. This will help us to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the act puts in place 7 well-being goals. Well-being goals • 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 supports these wellbeing goals and will consider them when making future decisions that affect peoples lives withing the local community. Priorities: • Continue liaison with North Wales Police • Continue to encourage community groups by contributing financially • Continue to develop links with local organisations • Continue to support Welsh culture • Continue to develop & encourage environmentally friendly practices. The council, although limited in its powers, will strive to implement and follow procedures lawfully and for the benefit of the community.

ASPIRATIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR 2024/25

- Continue to serve the local community and its residents.
- Continue to review the financial position of the council and research grants.
- Support community groups in achieving their objectives

BOUNDARY PLAN REVIEW

CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

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