

# **CILYMAENLLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023**

## **1. Introduction**

Following the implementation of the Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act 2021, community councils are now required, after the end of each financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year. This annual report therefore reports on Cilymaenllwyd Community Council's activity during financial year 2022-23.

## **2. The Council**

Local Government and Town and Community Council elections were held on 5th May 2022 and the following were elected as Community Councilors uncontested until the next election in May 2027:

### **Cilymaenllwyd (South Ward)**

Mr Russell Davies  
Mr Anthony Eynon  
Mr Gareth Griffiths  
Mr Geraint James  
Mr Dennis Jones  
Mr Tudur Lewis

### **Cilymaenllwyd (North Ward)**

Mr Anthony Jenner  
Mr Vivian Williams

In the May 2022 Local Government Elections, Councillor Dorian Phillips secured his seat on the Llanboidy Ward, which includes Cilymaenllwyd, as a County Councilor for Plaid Cymru. Councillor Dorian Phillips attended community council meetings regularly during 2022-23, providing updates on matters such as road repairs; reopening of the Cardi Bach railway track as a footpath; updates re the Local Development Plan and matters relating to planning plus waste collection.

There were some changes in the membership of the Council in 2022-23 with Councillor Leslie Owen and Councillor Geraint James resigning after many years of service and Councillor Vivian Williams announcing that he would also be resigning at the end of the year, again after many years of service. It is with great sadness to report Councillor Gareth Griffiths passed away in July. Therefore, Mrs Rebecca Jaimangal-Jones was co-opted as a Councillor in July. Mr Michael Fussell, Mr Julian Williams and Dr Ffion John were co-opted at the end of the financial year.

In addition to these changes, a new Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Janice Morgan, was appointed in May 2022, following the resignation of Mrs Anwen Phillips, after 12 years of service. The Council would like to thank the previous Councillors and Clerk for their dedication to the Council's work for the benefit of the community.

Councillor Anthony Jenner was the Chairperson during 2022-23, following Councillor Dennis Jones, and the Vice-chairperson was Councillor Tudur Lewis. The Annual General Meeting was held on 31 May 2022 and the other meetings were held as per the schedule, a total of six meetings in total, on the last Tuesday of every two

months, face to face, at Caffi Beca, after a period of being online during Covid -19. Attendance in all meetings during 2022-23 was very good indeed.

### **3. Activities and Achievements of the Council in 2022-23**

The Council's work continued to focus on supporting and improving the community as set out below.

#### **▪ Public Right of Way Footpaths**

Following a directive from Carmarthenshire County Council for community councils to reopen some public right of way footpaths within their communities as part of the creating open spaces agenda to enhance the local community and improve the health and wellbeing of the community, a public meeting was held in September at Caffi Beca. Over 50 residents came together to discuss the footpaths within the community and were given the opportunity to identify the footpaths they wished to reopen in the areas of Efailwen, Hebron, Cwmiles and Login. Since this meeting, a group of volunteers in the Login area have come together, and after discussing and agreeing with the land owners, they have set about opening more than 2000 meters of footpaths and making them more accessible in the that area.

To assist the clearing work of some of the public right of way footpaths, the Council submitted an application worth £57,362, entitled 'Cilymaenllwyd Right of Way Footpath Restoration', for a Sustainable Communities grant under the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund at the end of March 2022. If the application is successful, the intention is to clear the footpaths in the Afon Wenallt valley. It is expected to hear early in the next financial year 2023-24.

#### **▪ Renewing Information Panels**

Two information panels were renewed, one on the historic site of Meinir Gŵyr in Glandy Cross and the other on the Ynys Fach picnic site. They will be installed at the beginning of the summer. The County Council agreed to carry out maintenance work at the picnic site in order to make it a more attractive and enjoyable place for local people and visitors. These information panels will contribute towards creating increased interest among both residents and visitors to the area.

#### **▪ Defibrillator for Ffynnonwen Area**

The application made to Save Life Wales for a public access defibrillator on behalf of Ffynnonwen Community Center was successful. The defibrillator will be installed as soon as possible in 2023/24.

#### **▪ Website**

It was agreed that the Community Council needed to develop a website as well as the Facebook page. After receiving several quotes, it was agreed to procure the services of Jamie King Media, a local web developer, to develop the community council's website. It is hoped that the website will be ready by Summer 2023 and will contain all the required information. This will mean that information about the

Council's work and other key documents will be more accessible to everyone. It will contribute towards improving community engagement and promote community development and social activities.

The Community Council also responded to the following consultations:

- Welsh Government changes to reduce the current speed limits from 30mph to 20mph in streetlit areas on restricted roads across Wales. Restricted roads include where streetlights are placed no more than 200 yards apart and located in residential and built-up areas with high pedestrian activity. These changes are planned to take place in September 2023. Several speed restrictions will be introduced in Efailwen, Glandy Cross, Pantycaws and the Community Council will work with Carmarthenshire County Council to implement these changes in accordance with the requirements.
- Carmarthenshire County Council's 2nd Deposit Revised Local Development Plan – a new and affordable housing development plan for the county for the next 10 years. Councillors submitted a response regarding the two proposed sites in Glandy Cross and one proposed site in Efailwen for the development of new houses.
- Carmarthenshire County Council Community Review 2023 and the proposal to unward Cilymaenllwyd Community Council i.e. that the South Ward and the North Ward within Cilymaenllwyd become one ward. The Council agreed with this proposal, believing the the community council is one whole community and would make all areas inclusive.

#### **4. Budget**

Community council activity is funded through the Council Tax. Each community council decides how much to raise to pay for its expenditure for the benefit of the community, which is the precept. In 2022-23 the total precept was £7,000, the same as the previous year. The total balances and reserves brought forward at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records was £9703. The total and reserves at the end of the year were £11459 which is slightly more than the previous year. The reason for this is that more payments were made in the previous year than were made in 2022/23. More VAT was claimed in 2022/23; it was expected to have paid for the development of the website but it was not ready, therefore these payments will be included in the next financial year.

Cilymaenllwyd Community Council's expenditure was mainly as follows:

- Financial donations to local groups such as Ffynnonwen Community Centre; Cylch Meithrin Ffynnonwen; contribution towards a plaque to recognise Mr and Mrs Rhoswen Llewelyn's contribution to the community
- hedgecutting
- clerk's salary
- footway lighting charges and election charges
- libaility insurance
- subscription to One Voice Wales

A full breakdown of the expenditure incurred for this financial year 2022- 2023 will be available in the Annual Accounts once approved.

The council published its accounts for financial year 2021- 2022 in accordance with Audit Wales requirements in two public locations - one in Glandy Cross Shop notice board and the other on the Ffynnonwen Community Center notice board and also on its Facebook page. These accounts were subject to an Internal Audit by an appointed professional person and also an External Audit by the Auditor General for Wales.

## 5. Remuneration

From 9th May 2022 each Councillor should receive £150 under the requirements of Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. This payment will be increased to £156 due to the increase in living costs as of April 2023. Due to the changeover in Clerk, this remuneration matter was missed, therefore, not payments have been made to date. This will be addressed at the beginning of 2023-24 and reported upon in a 'Statement of Payments'.

## 6. Looking forward to 2023-24

Looking to the year ahead, Cilymaenllwyd Community Council will be reviewing and updating its key documents and policies in the next financial year 2023-24, in line with recent new regulations, to include:

- developing a four year training plan (2023-27) for Councillors and the Clerk which will involve participating in One Voice Wales training modules. This will ensure all Councillors and Clerk are fully aware of the processes and responsibilities of those the individuals and the Council.
- revising its Standing Orders in accordance with the new One Voice Wales guidance
- developing a biodiversity policy and action plan for the community;

in order to ensure that the council operates effectively and efficiently, responding and meeting the needs and wishes of the residents of Cilymaenllwyd.

30th May 2023

Signed by Chair 2022-23:

R.A. Jenner

Signed by the Clerk:

J.A. Morgan 6/6/2023.