



Cwmbran Community Council  
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân



# Residents Handbook Summer 2023













[www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)



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# Cwmbran Community Council Members

<p><b>COED EVA</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr Rh Bennet</b></p>	<p><b>FAIRWATER</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr J Davenne</b></p>	<p><b>GREENMEADOW</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr L Chaney</b></p>	<p><b>LLANTARNAM</b></p>   <p><b>Cllr M Villars</b>      <b>Cllr W J Walker</b></p>		
<p><b>LOWLANDS &amp; AVONDALE</b></p>   <p><b>Cllr S Mor-</b>      <b>Cllr C Morgan</b></p>		<p><b>MOUNT PLEASANT</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr W J Ashley</b></p>	<p><b>NORTHVILLE</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr A Bird</b></p>	<p><b>SOUTHVILLE</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr L Johnston</b></p>	
<p><b>ST DIALS</b></p>   <p><b>Cllr K K Manneh</b>      <b>Cllr F Jones</b></p>		<p><b>TWO LOCKS</b></p>   <p><b>Cllr Peter Jones</b>      <b>Cllr L Simmonds</b></p>		<p><b>UPPER CWMBRAN THORNHILL</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr L Lloyd-Tolman</b></p>	
<p><b>TY CANOL</b></p>   <p><b>Cllr Mrs M Day</b>      <b>Cllr P J Sea-</b></p>				<p><b>UPPER CWMBRAN</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr S Wharton</b></p>	<p><b>UPPER CWMBRAN</b></p>  <p><b>Cllr G Lloyd-</b></p>

Cwmbran Community Council 01633 849070 , Clerk to the Council,

The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

email: [cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk)

# Introduction

Cwmbran Community Council serves the community of Cwmbran within Torfaen in the south-eastern corner of Wales.

Cwmbran Community Council is one of the largest Community (town) Councils in Wales. It provides grass roots services to all parts of a diverse and growing community.

The Council's strategic direction is set by elected Councillors (Members) who oversee a team of staff responsible for delivering services on a day-to-day basis.

## **Here is a Statement from our Chair, Leanne Lloyd-Tolman**

It is my absolute pleasure to introduce the Handbook this year. 2022 was a challenging time for many of our residents. As a Council we rose to the challenge and supported residents via our Winter Warmer Scheme and Fuel support funding. Our gardening and decorating service continues to be busy, offering subsidised rates to OAPs and residents with a disability.

We have continued to work alongside partners to increase biodiversity in our parks and public spaces. The Big Event last year was an unbridled success and this year's event is looking to be even bigger and better!

The handbook is a great way for us to tell you about what we have been doing but more than anything we want to hear from you! Have you used our decorating service? Did you have a great day at the Big Event? What would you like us to deliver in the future? Do get in touch and let us know your views.

You can use the e-mail address or the other contact methods described in this Handbook. It's "Your Council, Your Future; Your Say."

**You can learn more about our Chair on pages 12 & 13.**

# Voter ID requirement

From 4 May 2023, voters in Wales will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

- Police and Crime Commissioner elections
- UK parliamentary by-elections
- Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

[Apply for photo ID to vote \(called a 'Voter Authority Certificate'\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-to-vote)

## Accepted forms of photo ID

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

### International travel

Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country.

### Driving and Parking

- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge

### Local travel

- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Oyster 60+ Card funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Freedom Pass
- Scottish National Entitlement Card
- 60 and Over Welsh Concessionary Travel Card

Disabled Person's Welsh Concessionary Travel Card

### Proof of age

Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)

# Our Achievements

## Keeping Cwmbran Warmer This Winter

With people facing vast increases in energy costs many will be struggling to pay their bills. Knowing the real health risks that people face if they are cold Cwmbran Community Council supported a local energy advice and voucher scheme and distribute free blanket packs to people in need in Cwmbran.

The Council partnered with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB).

An initial £10k from the Council is supporting CAB so they can step up their services in Cwmbran.

CAB gives advice on debt and energy costs and where needed, provides energy vouchers to help households pay their bills.

The packs included free blankets, thermal socks and an information leaflet.

The leaflet included handy advice on how to keep warm in winter as well as details on support services and advice available in the area.

We would like to thank Promocorp LTD for providing the Blanket packs at a discounted rate.



# #CBE 2022

The Cwmbran Big Event (CBE) has been an established feature of our community for some time.

The event was taken on by Cwmbran Community Council in 2019 after Torfaen Borough Council were no longer able to support it.

2022 was the first year since Covid that the CBE was able to take place.

The venue throbbed with visitors, mingling and mixing. VIPs and the public all came along to support the event. Children had a great time!



The local media paid fitting tribute to the success of the event.



The event was a huge success with over **7,000** visitors!

Our friends at Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council contributed vital funding. Sponsors gave crucial backing.

We are extremely grateful for the support the event receives.



Cwmbran Community Council  
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân gyda Chyngor Cymuned Croesyceiliog a Llanyrafon  
Cwmbran Community Council with Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council

Mae Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân yn cyflwyno'r  
Cwmbran Community Council presents



# DIGWYDDIAD MAWR CWMBRÂN

## CWMBRAN BIG EVENT



Dydd Sadwrn 10 Mehefin 2023

12:00yp tan 5:00yh

Llyn Cychod Cwmbrân

Saturday 10th June 2023

12:00pm until 5:00pm

Cwmbran Boating Lake

Am fwy o wybodaeth ffoniwch:

For more information call:

**01633 849070**

[cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk)





# What is a Community Councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent individual geographical units on the council, known as a ward. They are generally elected by the public every five years. They have a duty to act properly as a Councillor. In particular, they must:

- ◆ attend council meetings.
- ◆ take part in meetings and form objective judgements based on what is best for the community.
- ◆ abide by majority decisions.
- ◆ represent the views of the community when discussing council business and working with outside bodies.

Councillors (“Members”) have three main components to their work.

**Decision making** – Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented. They must observe the Councillor’s Code of Conduct.

**Monitoring** – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how things are working.

**Getting involved locally** – As local representatives, Councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations.

These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the Councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:

- ◆ Going to meetings of local organisations such as tenants’ associations.
- ◆ Going to meetings affecting the wider community.
- ◆ Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public.
- ◆ Meeting with individual residents.

# Meet Your Councillor

## **Councillor Leanne Lloyd-Tolman, Chair of Cwmbran Community Council**

### **What inspired you to join the Council?**

I've always tried to stay active within my Community by volunteering where I could but as the Pandemic passed I really felt I needed to do more. I knew that the after effects of Covid would be felt for a very long time and wanted to be part of the recovery process. When I was approached about standing as a Councillor I was initially hesitant, as I'm not naturally a person who likes the limelight. I spoke with my family, friends and current/past Councillors from the ward and was motivated to push myself out of my comfort zone. The past year has been a steep learning curve but has also been so rewarding and worthwhile. I'd encourage anyone in the same position to take the plunge too.

### **What do you feel are the major issues facing Cwmbran and your Ward at the moment?**

The ongoing cost of living crisis is undoubtedly the biggest issue facing residents at the moment. The impact of rising costs has hit almost every resident across Cwmbran. As an area which already experiences high levels of social and financial deprivation Thornhill has been impacted particularly hard. Having said that, what the cost of living crisis has highlighted is the amazing sense of community that still exists here where neighbours look out for neighbours and where people are willing to pitch in to make sure nobody misses out. I think building on and restoring this sense of community spirit and pride is key to building resilient and robust communities for the future.

### **What qualities do you think you bring to the role?**

I think one of the most important things I bring to the role is that I'm a local resident. I live in Thornhill and therefore residents' issues are also my issues. I have a vested interest in wanting to protect, invest and improve my ward. I think I'm an open, approachable person and I'd hope that people would feel confident and comfortable asking for advice or help. I'm also a natural organiser, I love nothing more than a project and good old to-do list. I've spoken to lots of residents about what they would like to see happening and there are currently lots of ideas and plans for long and short term projects in and around the ward in various stages of fruition which is extremely exciting!

## **What do you enjoy most about being a Councillor?**

Meeting the amazing and dedicated residents of Cwmbran who quietly, behind the scenes make a huge impact on the lives of people around them. Whether that's a one off litter pick in your own street or a regular Sunday morning commitment with the Eco Warriors of the Bran, a few hours a week manning a Food Bank or cooking for 30 people at a Community Lunch club. Young people volunteering through holidays and weekends with Torfaen Play so that children in Cwmbran get the opportunity to access play schemes or people giving their time to sit with our elderly residents who might otherwise be lonely. I've been genuinely blown away by the willingness of people to give to others and it makes me very proud of my town and its residents.

## **Finally, what do you like to do in your free time?**

Well, I have five children who obviously take up a lot of my time! Spending time together and making memories while they're still willing is my biggest priority. We love musical theatre and try to go to shows as often as possible. My current favourite is The Lion King! My youngest is also obsessed with castles so we try to squeeze in a few visits a month.

Outside of my Council work I volunteer in a number of different ways. I'm passionate about the right of every child to access an appropriate, well supported education. I'm a school governor at two schools which I absolutely love doing as it gives me a real insight into the pressures schools and parents are under at the moment.

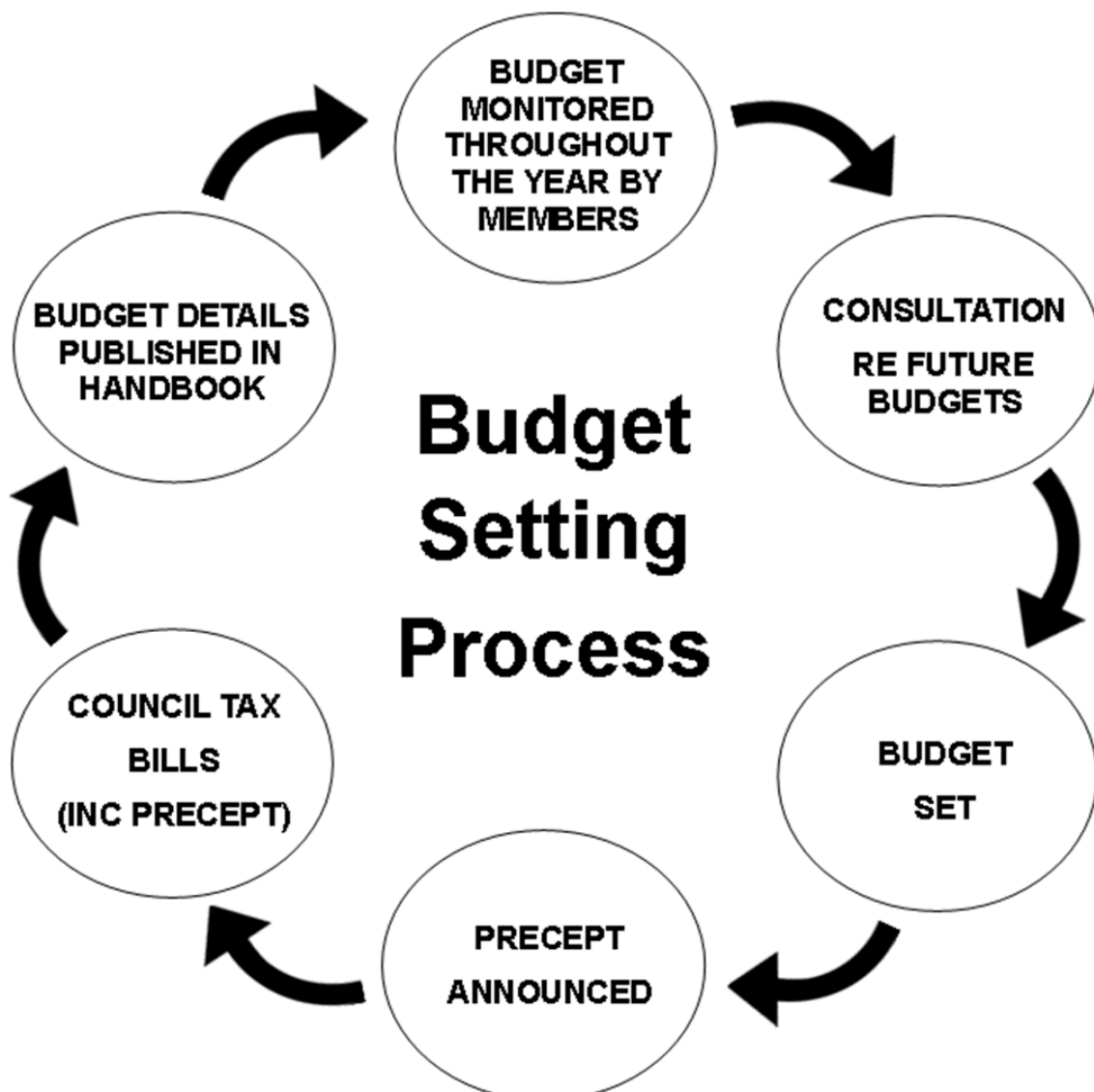
I'm also a Committee member at Thornhill Community Centre which offers a huge amount of support to residents of Thornhill, Upper Cwmbran and West Pontnewydd. Along with a small, but dedicated, group of volunteers, we provide a food bank, fuel support, community lunch club as well as regular, low cost community activities throughout the year.



# Finances

The services and activities described in this booklet are funded from the Council's own resources. Each year, the Council decides on the services it wants to provide and calculates how much it needs to fund them. This amount is known as a Precept – an amount which is added to your Council Tax bill each year and collected for us by Torfaen County Borough Council.

Cwmbran Community Council set its Precept for 2023/24 at £601,543 a small reduction on the 2022/23 precept.(13759 = Band D £43.72)



# Finances

## This is how the Council will spend its money in 2023/2024

Summary		
A	ELECTIONS	6,000
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES	35,250.00
C	STAFFING	314,775.00
G	ACCOMMODATION	66,0000
H	OFFICE EXPENSES	26,200.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE	47,500.00
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	20,000.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE	106,550.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK FORCE SCHEME	9,000.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING	56,800.00
O	CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	65,000.00
P	TWINNING ACTIVITIES	0.00
R	BANK INTEREST	-200.00
V	VAT refund or payment (VAT on income & expenditure)	-3,000.00
	Grand Totals	749 ,675.00
	Less Funding from Reserves	-148,075
	Precept Funding	601,543

# Events & Celebrations

The Council arranges a vibrant series of exciting events each year to engage and stimulate the community.

Here are some of the highlights each year:

## Schools Eco Quiz

This fun quiz tests the knowledge of our schoolchildren on environmental matters and the world around them.

It's a great way for the Council to encourage an understanding of sustainability, climate change and biodiversity amongst local primary school children.



## Primary & Senior Schools Festival

Could your school produce the next Little Mix or Idina Menzel?

Make sure you enter our wonderful series of concerts held at the Congress Theatre. Your chance to perform on a real stage in front of an audience. Just "Let it Go!"



# Events & Celebrations

## Flag Raising

The Council supports a number of national celebrations and commemorations each year by raising appropriate colours at the Council House.

Our flagpoles are a permanent tribute to those who have given their lives in the struggle for liberty.



## Remembrance

The Council has been a long-standing supporter of the community's commemorations of events associated with Remembrance.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with families who have lost loved ones and community leaders.

## Christmas

We round off our programme of events with a delightful series of tree lighting ceremonies in the heart of our community.

Celebrating the festive season by singing carols beneath one of our magnificently decorated trees.



# Grants to Voluntary Organisations

## Are you...

- ◆ Part of a non-trading, not for profit voluntary organisation ?
- ◆ Based and operating in the area of Cwmbran Community Council?

## Did you know...?

Cwmbran Community Council awards grants to voluntary organisations?

Each year we give out around £8,000 in support of a variety of good causes that are either based in Cwmbran Community Council area or support people who live there.

To find out if your organisation is eligible for a grant, download our application form and criteria on our website!



*Please note: Cwmbran Community Council can only award a grant to the same organisations once every two years.*

[www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)

# Task Force

## Did you Know?

Cwmbran Community Council employs a small Task Force to undertake basic gardening and decorating work for residents of the Cwmbran Community Council area.

## Charges are as follows:

£10.00 per man, per hour  
including VAT

Exceptions apply:

75 years old or older: Half price

Registered as disabled: Half Price

*The Task Force Team will offer you an estimate which is without obligation, before any work is carried out.*

## To Apply:

Please contact Cwmbran Community Council to request an application form

01633 849070

Or email

[cwmbrancc@cwmban.gov.uk](mailto:cwmbrancc@cwmban.gov.uk)

[www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)



# Meetings

All our meetings are open to the public. At the meetings, Councillors make important decisions about the way in which the Council spends its money.

- ◆ Our Events & Community Projects Committee manages our busy programme of events throughout the year.
- ◆ Our Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee considers applications for grants from organisations in the community.
- ◆ The Council promotes & encourages sustainability. Our Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee plays an important role in this. The committee also considers planning applications, passing on observations to Torfaen County Borough Council about each one.
- ◆ The Policy & Finance Committee deals with everything else that the Council does – support for Town Twinning; grants to community assets, staffing matters and other decisions about how the Council is run.
- ◆ Each committee makes recommendations about the business being discussed. These recommendations are then considered by the Full Council.

Copies of agendas and minutes are available from Cwmbran Community Council, The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY.

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed at [www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)

## Did You Know...?

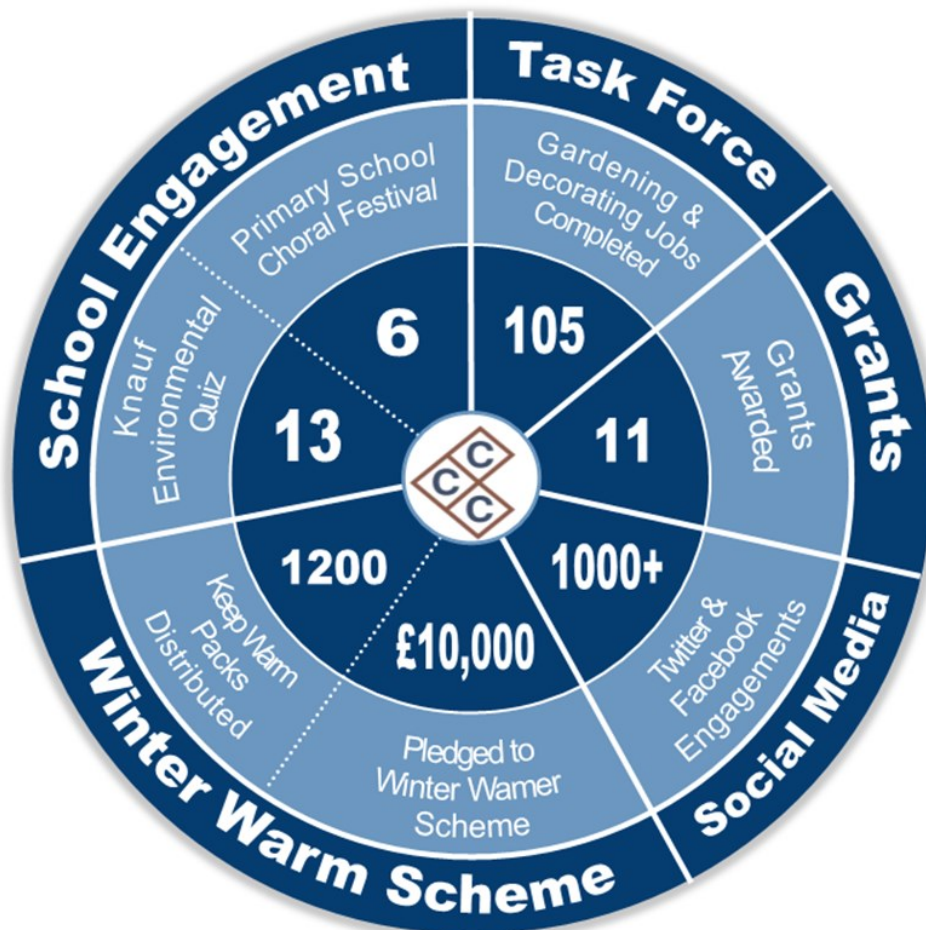
All Members of the Council (Councillors) are required to attend at least one Council meeting every six months. Failure to do so means they lose their seat.

# Outcomes & Indicators

Here are some figures and reflections which indicate our success in 2022/23

Our Gardening and Decorating service will continue to serve the community, we hope for many years.

The Council pledged £10,000 to support the Winter Warm Scheme run by Citizens Advice Bureau. In addition, the Council provided tailored Winter Warm Packs to eligible people in Cwmbran.



Our relationship with the voluntary sector is an ongoing success as is our commitment to digital communications and using social media to engage the public.

Our ongoing engagement with schools helps to encourage children and young people and is an established feature of the Council's work over many years.

# Our Year in Pictures

Here are some of the things we did in 2022/23!



**Ysgol Gymraeg Cwmbran wins our Knauf Insulation Eco Quiz 2022!**



**Our Cwmbran Big Event every June is always a huge success!**



**Every year the Council commemorates Remembrance Day at Cwmbran Park.**



**Two Councillors present a resident with a card and flowers for her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

**Visit our website and social media for regular updates.**

## Core Funding

Did you know that the Council provides core funding to a range of organisations in Cwmbran? Here are a few..



Situated in the centre of Cwmbran town, Cwmbran Centre for Young People (CCYP) is accessible for all young people in the local area and cater for any young person from any social or economic background.

The Congress Theatre Co. is a registered charity which is run mainly by volunteer members who give their time and talents to ensure the continuation and safekeeping of the Congress Theatre.



## LLANTARNAM GRANGE

Cwmbran's centre for contemporary Art and Craft. We're a friendly space where everyone is welcome to enjoy, feel inspired and included, appreciated and respected.

**Google the above organisations to find out more!**



Cwmbran Community Council  
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

## Follow us on Social Networks!



**Cwmbran Community  
Council**



**@CwmbranCouncil**



**[www.cwmbran.gov.uk](http://www.cwmbran.gov.uk)**

## Dilynwch ni are Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!

If you would like to advertise your organisation/business in the next edition of this Handbook please contact below.



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