



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2022/2023



Contents Page

About Cwmbran Community Council	}	
- Committees and Leadership		3
- Contacting the Council		
Members		4
Statement from the Charmain		5
Financial Information & Audit		6
Council Spend Summary 2022/23		7
Our Year in Pictures		8
Events & Celebrations		9
About this Report		10
Our Objectives		11
Outcomes & Indicators		12
Winter Warm Scheme		13
Our Budget Setting Cycle		14

About Cwmbran Community Council

Cwmbran Community Council serves the community of Cwmbran in the south-eastern corner of Wales. Within Torfaen, it occupies the valleys and hills along the Afan Llwyd river.

Cwmbran was created as a New Town in 1949, when its existing villages were developed into a cohesive and vibrant community.

Today, Cwmbran is essentially urban in character but with areas of rural and unspoilt charm. There are around 30,000 electors in Cwmbran.

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.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at www.cwmbran.gov.uk. Notices of meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can also be viewed here, along with governance documents and other Council information.

The Council also has a lively social media presence, details of which are shown on the final page of this report.

Committees and Leadership

Decisions are made by the Full Council. The Council receives recommendations from committees. Details of the [committee structure](#) are published to our website.

The Council was chaired in 2022/23 by Councillor A Bird.
Councillor Rh Bennet was the Vice-Chairman

The Leader of the Council in 2022/23 was Councillor KK Manneh Esq., JP, MA
The Deputy Leader was Councillor SWJ Ashley

Contacting the Council

The Clerk to the Council is Gareth Davies

The Council's main telephone number is: 01633 849070.










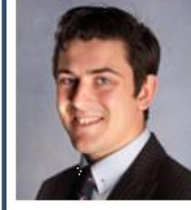










The Council can also be contacted at via cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk

Have we done all we can?

Please let us know. You can reach us via social media or by email.

Members

Cwmbran Community Council Members

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

Cwmbran Community Council 01633 849070 , Clerk to the Council,
 The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY
 email: cwmbrancc@cwmbran.gov.uk

Statement from the Chairman 2022/23

As we look back on the last year, we can be proud of Cwmbran Community Councils continued commitment to providing a voice for and support to the Community we serve. We have ensured that even during a significant cost of living crisis for residents that we have not raised the precept that the Council uses to provide services and we have prioritised direct support for residents struggling with electricity and heating bills. Our winter warm support projects provided £10000 to CAB for support for residents who needed it. We also developed an innovative project which provided over 1000 warm packs, including a fleece blanket and energy saving advice, using the Council House and valuable community partners to distribute these.

We have also enjoyed working with schools to support the Eco-Quiz and schools' choral festivals that enabled pupils to use their knowledge and voices to inform and entertain.

We have maintained funding to the Torfaen Play service that provide in school and holiday play opportunities.

We have also supported many community organisations across Cwmbran with grant funding to help support their important work and services to residents.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to staff members who have moved on to other roles, David Collins Clerk to the Council and Clare Facey latterly Acting Clerk to the Council who both served the Council and the Community with professionalism and enthusiasm for many years.



Councillor Anthony Bird Chairman 2022/23

Financial Information

The Council derives most of its funds from its precept. That is an amount which is added to Council Tax bills to fund the Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2022/23 the Council estimated that it needed to spend £701,675.

Cwmbran Community Council set its Precept for 2022/23 at £601,745 a 7.5% reduction on the 2021/22 precept.(13759 = Band D £43.73)

The Council retains its funds in a number of institutions:

Unity Trust Bank: on 31 January 2023 the balance on this account was £101880.14

Monmouthshire Building Society: on 31 January 2023 the balance on this account was £1,394,938.54.

Co-operative Bank: on 31 January 2023 the balance on this account was £87,722.17

Income and expenditure for 2022/23 will be recorded in the Annual Return, which is to be approved by 30 June 2023. Details will be available from the Clerk.

The certified-annual-return for 2022/23 has been published and includes financial information for the year ended 31 March 2023.

General and Earmarked Reserves are identified in the Council's Statements of Accounts produced at year end. These will be available from the Clerk.

This Report covers the financial year 2022/2023. The Report was approved by Cwmbran Community Council on 18 May 2023.

Audit

The Council's accounts for 2022/23 will be the subject of a final internal audit and external audit. The outcome of each audit will be published to our [website](#) during 2023/24.

Details of previous years accounts and audits have been [published](#).

This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2023/24

Summary		
A	ELECTIONS	6,000
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES	35,250.00
C	STAFFING	314,775.00
G	ACCOMMODATION	66,000
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

What do you think should be our spending priorities as we plan for the future?

2022/23 “Our Year in Pictures



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 as Cwmbran Park.



Two Councilors present a resident with a card and flowers for her 100th Birthday!

Find us on social media to see what else we've been up to!

Events and Celebrations

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



Cwmbran Big Event

The Cwmbran big event was taken on by the Council in 2019 when Torfaen Borough Council were no longer able to support it. It is the biggest event we organise and every year it attracts approximately 7,000 visitors.

The event is funded by Cwmbran Community Council. We also receive vital funding contributions for the event from Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council.

Schools Eco Quiz

This fun quiz tests the knowledge of local primary school children and encourages the understanding of sustainability, climate change and biodiversity. The quiz takes place every year in February and is partially funded by Knauf Insulation.

Primary and Senior Schools Festival

The primary school festival takes place in March and the Senior schools festival is in October. The event has been running for almost as long as Cwmbran Community Council has existed and is still a popular event.

Remembrance Day

The Council has been a longstanding 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.

About This Report

Cwmbran Community Council's Annual Report indicates the progress **we** have made towards our objectives. It also records our wider achievements and ways of working.

The Council has produced an Annual Report for many years. Previous reports can be viewed at www.cwmbran.gov.uk.

Here are our current objectives, which provide a framework for our activities:

A Prosperous Cwmbran.

A Resilient Cwmbran.

A Healthier Cwmbran.

A More Equal Cwmbran

A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities

A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language

A Globally Responsive Cwmbran

A "Competent" Cwmbran

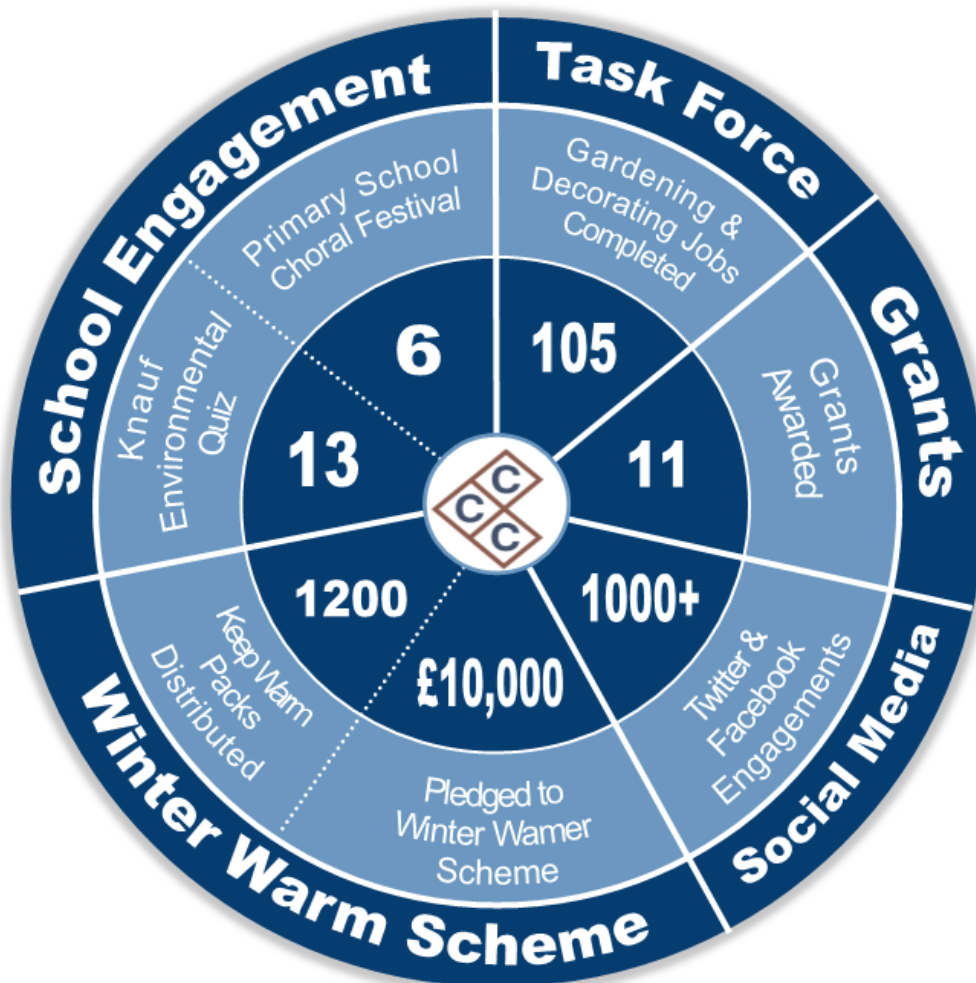


Outcomes & Indicators

Here are some figures and reflections which indicate our success this year.

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 ongoing 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 are established features of the Council's work over many years.

Find out more at www.cwmbran.gov.uk



Cwmbran Community Council

Keep Warm Keep Well

Help with keeping warm this winter

In Partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau

The Winter Warm Scheme was one way the Council supported the residents of Cwmbran in 2022. We pledged £10,000 to support Citizens Advice Bureau and provide “keep warm packs” for anyone in Cwmbran who needs one. See below press release on the scheme.

Press release from Cwmbran Community Council - 23/11/2022

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 has decided to support a local energy advice and voucher scheme and distribute free blankets to people in need in Cwmbran.

The Council has partnered with the Citizens Advice Bureau to help. 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.

Cllr Kebba Manneh, Leader of the Council said, ‘We are really pleased that we can partner up with CAB in this way. If anyone is struggling with their prepayment meter top ups, or falling behind on monthly bills, go and see CAB in Cwmbran Library in Gwent Square and they will help.’

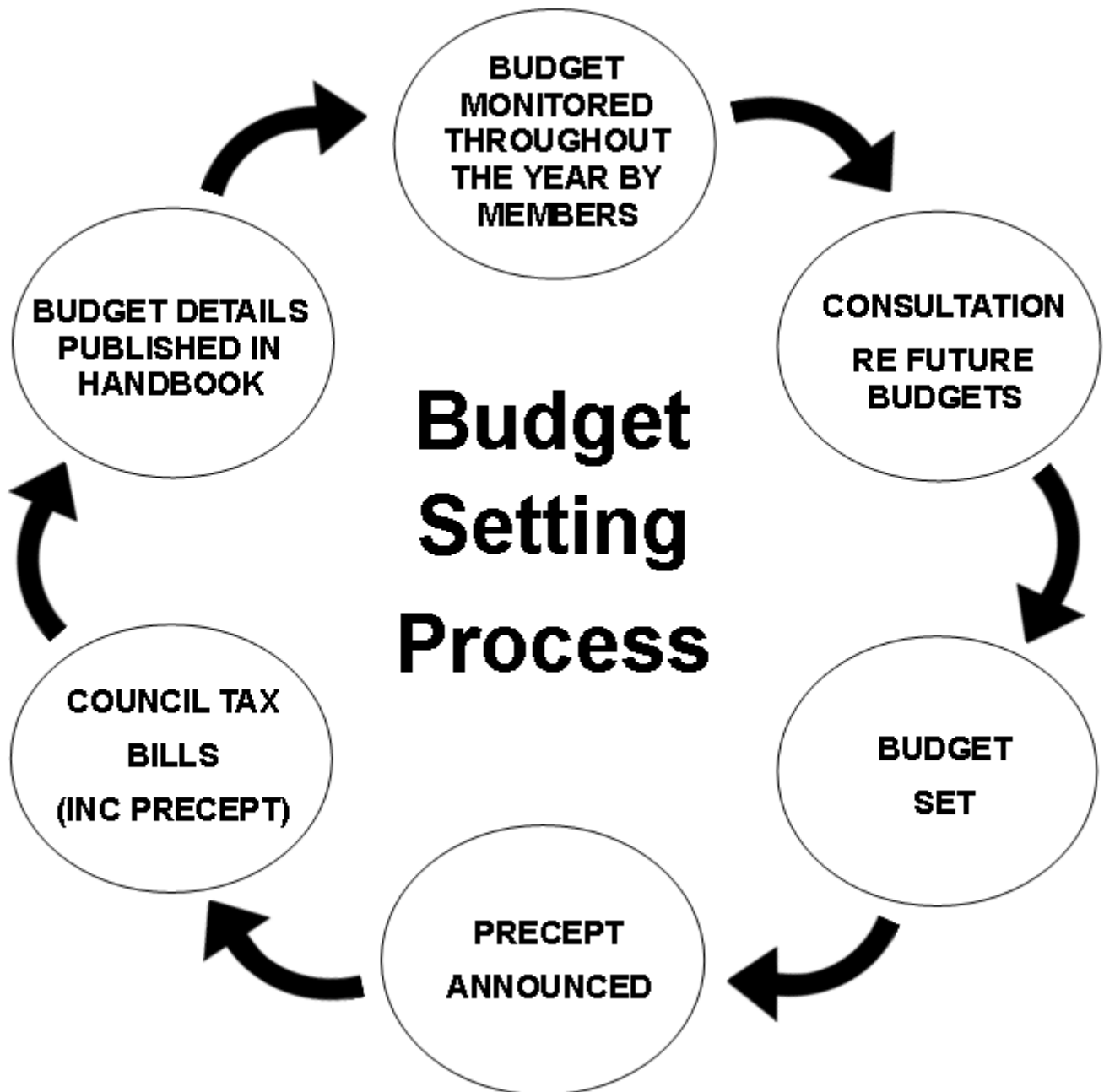
New research by the University of South Wales shows how difficult it is for the body to function properly in room temperatures below 18 degrees without wrapping up warmly. It makes doing homework far more difficult, increases the risk of stroke and heart attack to the elderly and vulnerable and makes life unpleasant for everyone.

But people in Cwmbran are having to make that choice and turn their heating down or off. So, the Community Council has bought 1,200 fleece blankets for Cwmbran residents who need them.

The free blankets, provided at discount by Promocorp Ltd, together with free socks and stuff sacks can be picked up from the Council offices and other organisations across Cwmbran just by showing evidence of a Cwmbran address.

Chair of the Council, Cllr Anthony Bird commented, ‘The Council is determined to help and is grateful to Promocorp for their support. It’s very sad that many households would struggle to find the money for additional blankets in this cost-of-living crisis, but we know that it’s happening. If you know of anyone who could be going cold at home, please let them know about the support that is on offer from the Council, CAB and other organisations.’

Our Budget Setting Cycle





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Follow us on Social Networks!



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Council



@CwmbranCouncil



www.cwmbran.gov.uk

Dilynwch ni are Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!



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