



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

Cwmbran Community Council Annual Report 2023/24



www.cwmbran.gov.uk



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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 2023/24 by Councillor L Lloyd-Tolman
Councillor C Morgan was the Vice-Chairman

The Leader of the Council in 2023/24 was Councillor KK Manneh Esq., JP, MA
The Deputy Leader was Councillor R H Bennett

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 D Thomas</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</p>	<p>UPPER CWMBRAN</p>  <p>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 Chair 2023/24

I am enormously proud of the work Cwmbran Community Council has undertaken in my year Chair. We have become a more effective, more agile and more open organisation. Our programme of initiatives and projects has developed and diversified ensuring that our residents will benefit for years to come.

Following the pandemic and the ongoing pressures of the Cost of Living crisis the Council has prioritised Wellbeing and with this in mind we have instituted a new post, Events and Community Outreach Officer, who has been proactive in reaching outward to the community to gain insight and information from our residents about what they would like to see in the future. This collaboration ensures that the Community voice is very much centralised in any decisions we make. To that end we have established Mother and Daughter and Family exercise classes, both of which have proved very popular. We have welcomed new groups(Allsorts Club and MIndfulness Classes) into our building that provide safe spaces and activities for residents at no cost.

The Big Event was, again, a huge success providing an amazing demonstration of the power of Community and Community Cohesion with so many local groups and organisations coming together to provide residents with an amazing, free day out. Our inaugural Windrush Celebration Evening was a vibrant, emotional and inspiring evening giving us a chance to recognise and thank the Windrush generation and their descendants for their contribution to our area and our institutions. We continue to work closely with schools to host and support the Eco-Quiz, Junior Choral Festival and Cwmbran's Got Talent. All of which showcase just how much potential, dedication and talent our local young people possess.

This year we have taken a different approach to supporting local community groups who provide direct help to those community members who need it. Community feedback clearly pointed out that local organisations and Community Groups were struggling to re-establish themselves post Covid and as such we looked at where we could help. We also increased our grant making capacity so groups, clubs and organisations serving our Communities had the extra support needed to reestablish activity or to provide new activity.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow Councillors, Council staff and all those who support our work at events by volunteering or attending and look forward to 2024/25 with confidence that Cwmbran Community Council will continue to deliver community benefits and value for money for our residents.



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 2024/25 the Council estimated that it needed to spend £789,820

Cwmbran Community Council set its Precept for 2024/25 at £638,745.83 a 4.99% increase on the 2023/24 precept.(13913 = Band D £45.91)

The Council retains its funds in a number of institutions:

Unity Trust Bank: on 31 January 2024 the balance on this account was £101,880.14

Monmouthshire Building Society: on 31 January 2024 the balance on this account was £1,309,813.59.

Co-operative Bank: on 31 January 2024 the balance on this account was £176,125.52

Income and expenditure for 2023/24 will be recorded in the Annual Return, which is to be approved by 30 June 2024. Details will be available from the Clerk.

The certified-annual-return for 2023/24 will be published and will include financial information for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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 2023/2024. The Report was approved by Cwmbran Community Council on 29th May 2024

Audit

The Council's accounts for 2023/24 will be the subject of a final internal audit and external audit. The outcome of each audit will be published to our [website](#) during 2024/25.

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

This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2024/25

Summary		
A	ELECTIONS	0
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES	20,750.00
C	STAFFING	325,500.00
G	PREMISES	45,500.00
H	OFFICE ADMIN	19,600.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE	100,670.00
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	49,000.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE	184,550.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK FORCE SCHEME	4,250.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING	40,000.00
Grand Totals		789,820.00
Less Funding from Reserves		-151,074.17
Precept Funding		638,745.83

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

2023/24 “Our Year in Pictures”

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



Every year the Council commemorates Remembrance Day at Cwmbran Park, whatever the weather!.



Attendees and award winners at the Windrush Event

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 with the Senior schools talent showcase being moved to March also. 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 with some exciting, planned changes to come.

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



Our Work

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.

Cwmbran Community Council's Task Force is a vital and well appreciated service that provides a reasonable cost light decorating service in the Winter months and a light gardening service through the Summer. The rates offered to residents are very reasonable and with a discount of 50% for those over the age of 75 and those who are registered as disabled. An additional discount was made available in 2023/24 to include a household where any member of that household was disabled.

Recognising the additional needs such households may have. This financial year there have been 71 decorating jobs booked in or completed with only 4 of these not receiving the 50% discount, reflecting the success in the service helping those who need the support but not in replacing or out-competing local tradespeople. In the same financial year 73 gardening jobs were delivered with only 2 of those not receiving the 50% discount.

The Council increased the amount of money it granted to organisations across the town with 110 grants totalling over £62,000 helping community groups to grow and thrive

Grants to Voluntary Organisations	25	
Total Funds Awarded		£46,904.08

Members Small Schemes	85	
Total Funds Awarded		£15,160.00

Our relationship with the voluntary sector is ongoing as is our commitment to digital communications and using social media to engage the public. We have also invested in branding to recognise the 75th Anniversary of Cwmbran's new town status



Our ongoing engagement with schools including at flag raising ceremonies for Armed Forces Day 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

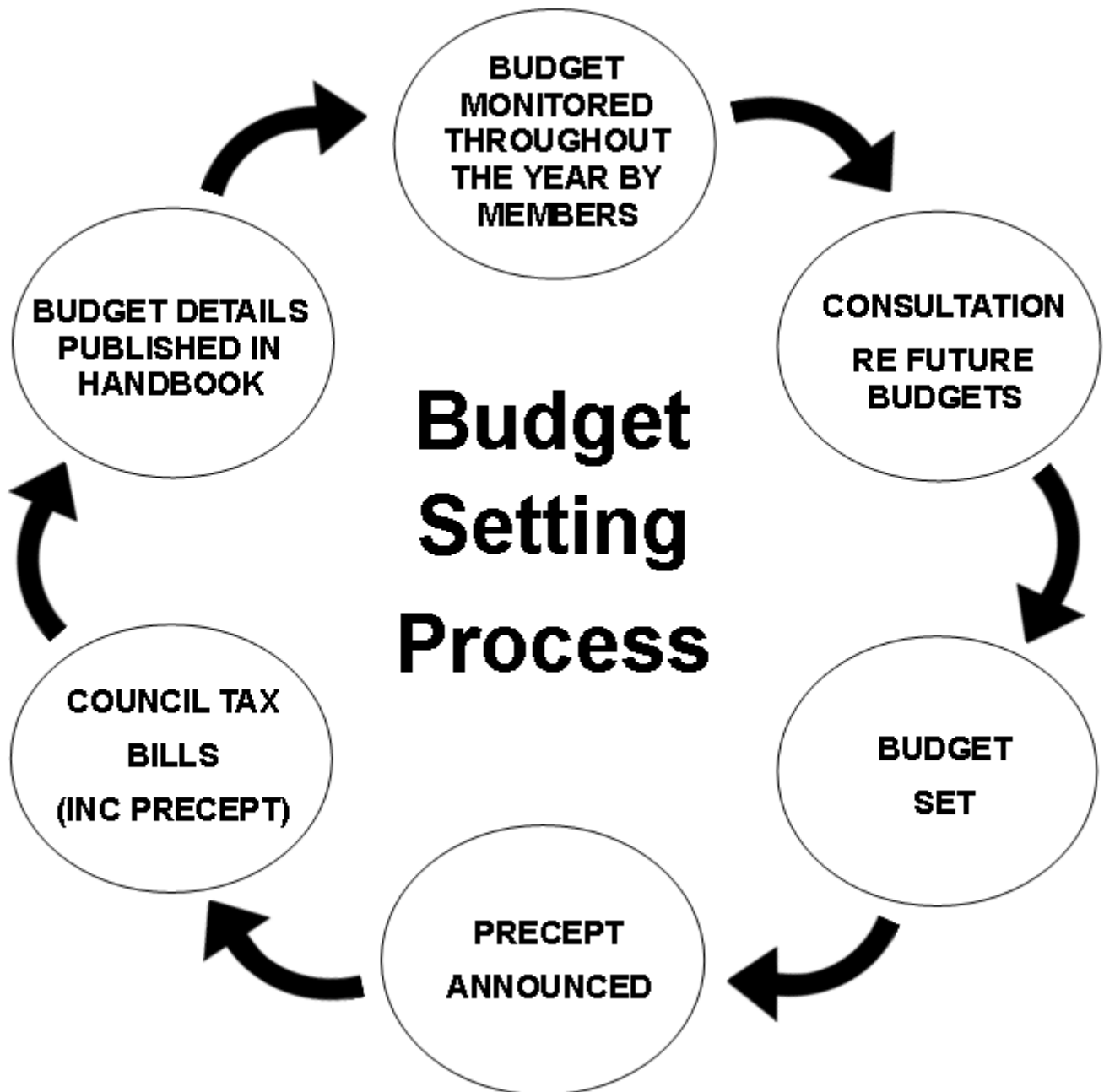
Cwmbran Community Council Success at One Voice Wales Awards

Cwmbran Community Council are pleased to announce that we were awarded the Best Community Initiative at the One Voice Wales Awards, the award, sponsored by Welsh Government, recognising the good work of the Council in reaching out to the community and in reflecting the feedback in the design of services, therefore making them more reflective of community needs and wants.

Many new initiatives were created last year from this community feedback including the Allsorts Club which meets at the Community Council, work to make winter wellbeing support more effectively targeted, the successful Windrush Event and the exercise and play sessions held in association with Torfaen Sports Development.

Chair of the Council, Cllr Leanne Lloyd-Tolman said “It was wonderful to attend the award ceremony and to see the Council gain recognition for our innovative and agile response to the cost of living crisis, especially as it was the most highly contested category of the whole day. We strive to engage with the community and to reflect that engagement in our service design and delivery” “ We were also please to present to other Councils on the Winter Wellbeing approach and to gain ideas and examples of best practice from Town and Community Councils across Wales.”

Our Budget Setting Cycle





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Follow us on Social Networks!



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Dilynwch ni are Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!



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