



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân



“Your Council; Your Future; Your Say.”

December 2019



Please submit your views to CwmbranCC@torfaen.gov.uk



Cwmbrân at 70



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Introduction

“It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Handbook in this special year.

2019 marks the 70th Anniversary of Cwmbran as the first New Town in Wales. We have been very busy raising awareness of this anniversary across Cwmbran and beyond. You will see some photographs of our celebrations on the inside cover of this handbook.

2019 has been an important year for the Council. We staged the Big Event for the first time ourselves, we have responded to new challenges around biodiversity and made improvements to our website & social media sites. We have also worked with our partners to help achieve wider goals.

We have produced these handbooks for several years now. They are a great way for us to tell you what we have been doing. But we also want to hear from you about the way the Community Council works. Did you attend the Big Event? Do you use our Gardening & Decorating service? Does the Council give value for money? How well do we contribute to wider goals and bring “Well-being” to the people of Cwmbran?

Please let us know what you think. You can use the e-mail address below or the other contact methods described in this Handbook. It’s Your Council, Your Future; Your Say.”




















Councillor Anthony Bird, Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council 2019/20



Please submit your views to CwmbranCC@torfaen.gov.uk

Councillors

The Council is run by 19 elected “Councillors” who represent different parts of Cwmbran and take decisions about Council services. Here are your current Councillors. Contact details can be found on our website.

<p>Coed Eva Ward</p>  <p>Cllr Rh Bennett</p>	<p>Fairwater Ward</p>  <p>Cllr J Davenne</p>	<p>Greenmeadow Ward</p>  <p>Cllr N Hopkins</p>	<p>Llantarnam Ward</p>  <p>Cllr M Villars</p>	<p>Llantarnam Ward</p>  <p>Cllr W J Walker</p>
<p>Lowlands & Avondale Ward</p>  <p>Cllr P Cathcart</p>	<p>Lowlands & Avondale Ward</p>  <p>Cllr L Ryan</p>	<p>Mount Pleasant Ward</p>  <p>Cllr S W J Ashley</p>	<p>Northville Ward</p>  <p>Cllr A Bird</p>	<p>Southville Ward</p>  <p>Cllr L Johnston</p>
<p>St Dials Ward</p>  <p>Cllr K K Manneh ESQ JP MA PgD</p>	<p>St Dials Ward</p>  <p>Cllr F Jones</p>	<p>Two Locks Ward</p>  <p>Cllr S J Brooks KSS JP</p>	<p>Two Locks Ward</p>  <p>Cllr M Johnston</p>	<p>Ty Canol Ward</p>  <p>Cllr M Day</p>
<p>Ty Canol Ward</p>  <p>Cllr J Rees</p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran East Ward</p>  <p>Cllr R Kemp</p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran Thornhill Ward</p>  <p>Cllr L Williams</p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran West Ward</p>  <p>Cllr D Williams</p>	

CHARTER FOR TREES · WOODS & PEOPLE



Natural treasures, in roots, wood and leaves, for beauty, for use, the air that we breathe. Imagine: a wood starts with one small seed. We're stronger together - people and trees.



SUSTAIN LANDSCAPES RICH IN WILDLIFE

Cultures in a world within itself, thriving with life. A fallen branch is a feast for beetles, fungi, rich mud and soil in a wildflower bed. A hedgerow is a living network, where a host of creatures share their home. Forests are full of opportunities for people, but their natural wealth is the wildlife that future good means thinking in the ground, adapting plans to what is in the ground. New urban and transport projects should make room for our native wildlife to move forward too. Take heed of nature's needs.

PLANT FOR THE FUTURE

When we enjoy the company of a tree and see the beauty of a massive wood we often think to share with the foresight and confidence to invest in the future. We must then take some generosity of spirit that some sense of hope for the future, and plant more new. Long-term thinking gives us the time to allow shifting values into every life. More orchards for communities, more hedgerows for wildlife, more forests for timber and jobs. Nurture people's pride in their local trees and empower them to care for their future. Nurture the roots, plant bright future.

CELEBRATE THE POWER OF TREES TO INSPIRE

Trees have always given us ideas. As time has dimmed their intricate beauty, we remember to create, but as the leaf-mould of time tells that our ideas future growth. The poetry of trees is always living in every stake sunk into our soil. We grow attached to our culture and learn to look for them in life. We feel connected to trees in home and tree to us them, planted with children. Tree Charter Day each year to strengthen the cultural legacy and help our living traditions thrive.

GROW FORESTS OF OPPORTUNITY AND INNOVATION

Forests work and trees all flourish under the stewardship of skilled professionals. They reward us with fuel for exceptional craft and ingenious green energy and fibre. Consider the source of wooden products and choose the home grown from well-managed forests. Such the rising generation that with responsible management a wooded land is a thriving nation.

PROTECT IRREPLACEABLE TREES AND WOODS

As our woods have been increasingly wooded since before records started, they are living monuments from Britain's pre history. A tree may be a village's oldest inhabitant, a founding figure in a region's identity, a natural home to the nation's story. Their hedges and hedgerows have our history. Old orchards are habitats for some of our native species and living monuments of disappearing ways of life. A country that cares for its future, cares for its past, we need laws and commitments to protect these irreplaceable natural treasures.



PLAN FOR YOUR LOCAL LANDSCAPE

The trees that catch our eye are those that live amongst dangerous streets, in the local park, back our school or place of work. Like us, they grow and change and space to breathe and support to thrive. Trees give place their distinctive character. Local community networks have a vital role to play in caring for woods and trees. Trees provide long-lasting good, so well-informed planning requires long-term minds. Take guidance on planting, felling and replanting from skilled professionals. Good landscapes of the future depend on care for trees today.

RECOVER HEALTH, HOPE AND WELLBEING WITH THE HELP OF TREES

Trees grow quietly in cities. Amidst places where bus fumes and building noise can jaded senses. Sprays of greenery create cleaner air and cleaner minds and foster bodies more inclined to take a walk or meet a friend. Spruce life and green roads when we stroll through healing gardens. Parks and woodlands keep us well and help to quell fears of old age, as we breathe more freely under trees. Healthcare and the arts go hand in hand, harness the therapeutic power of trees.

MAKE TREES ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

Trees offer shared experiences to every age, religion and race. In parks people can work together, sharing experiences and learning from each other and their natural surroundings. Those who no longer walk with ease can still find place through lanes from trees. There should be room.

COMBAT THE TREES

Trees die and die trees. Enlightened and healthy planning of the site, keeping from halting massive projects, earliest sign.

STRENGTHEN

From roots that from locking make our lives then receive stable, to the cattle. T again. As will be it.

THIS CHARTER FOR TREES, WOODS AND PEOPLE WAS COMPILED BY THE WOODLAND TRUST AND FINANCED BY THE NATIONAL TRUST



Charter
for Trees, Woods
and People



Support the
Woodland Trust
We stand up for woods
and trees!

WOODLAND
TRUST

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 has set its Precept for 2019/20 at £651,495 (£50.23 Band D equivalent).

Chairman of the Council, Councillor Anthony Bird said “The Precept reflects the Council's commitment to support community organisations, encourage the arts and deliver events and other important local services.”

“We need to ensure that the Council can respond to new challenges and that its facilities and premises are up to scratch.”

“We must also, of course, ensure that our work force is properly supported. We are confident that the budget represents excellent value for money.”

This is how the Council will spend its money in 2019/20

Summary		2019/20	£
A	ELECTIONS		0
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES		13,275.00
C	STAFFING		269,875.00
G	ACCOMMODATION		66,465.00
H	OFFICE EXPENSES		38,130.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE		79,900
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS		13,000.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE		97,430.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK SCHEME		8,820.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING		4,100.00
O	CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE		61,300.00
P	TWINNING ACTIVITIES		0.00
R	BANK INTEREST		-800.00
Grand Totals (Precept)			651,495.00

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

PSB Goals

Cwmbran Community Council promotes the economic, social, environmental & cultural well-being of Cwmbran, in accordance with sustainable development principles. We work especially closely with our partners at Torfaen Public Services Board and contribute to the “Well-being” objectives set by the Board.

We would like to know your views on how we contribute to these objectives. Is there more we could do to help meet these aims?

Objective 1: Develop a functional, connected network of natural areas that support the current and future well-being needs of local populations.

We are looking at Green Infrastructure Issues to help develop a connected network of natural areas. How could we encourage better management and ownership of our green spaces?

Objective 2: Develop adaption & mitigation responses to the impacts of climate change.

Our Gardening & Decorating “Task Force” has been recognised as a Local Council Service of the Year. We have purchased cleaner, greener gardening tools. Give us your views if you have used this service.

We are promoting biodiversity at our premises and in the community. Could we do more to promote this?

Objective 3: Provide children & young people with the best possible start in life.

We provide Cwmbran youngsters with great opportunities through our concerts, festivals and schools quizzes. Have you taken part in these events? Did you enjoy the experience? Did it support your positive mental and / or physical well-being?

Objective 4: Supporting healthy lifestyles and enabling people to age well.

We have funded local organisations who encourage physical activity, such as allotment groups. Could you apply for a grant for your voluntary group?

Our Gardening & Decorating service is discounted for the elderly.

Objective 5: Tackle the inter-generational patterns of poverty and develop economic resilience.

Our core funding of Citizens Advice Bureau helps provide vital support to the community. Could we fund other organisations?

Objective 6: Improve local skills through work-force planning, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities.

We recognise the impact of volunteering in the community through our Grants Presentation and Community Awards. Do you know a Community Champion worthy of recognition?

Objective 7: Create safe, confident communities and promote community cohesion.

We enjoy excellent relationships with our community safety partners. They support our events and attend our meetings to keep us up to date with community safety projects. Have you attended any of our events? How was the experience? What did you think of the 2019 Big Event?

Our 5 Ways of Working

We follow ways of working associated closely with sustainable development. Here are some of the actions we have taken.

Long-Term Thinking	Preventative Action	Integration	Collaboration
<p>Every decision today has an impact tomorrow and on future generations.</p> <p>We set our budgets with an eye to the future, earmarking resources to meet known or anticipated challenges.</p>	<p>We think long-term to spot problems before they arrive and take action to avoid them.</p> <p>We have carried out physical improvements at our premises. When planning & reviewing events like the Big Event, we aim to resolve problems before they occur, through close joint working and risk assessment.</p>	<p>Working alongside other local councils across Torfaen, Gwent and Wales, we aim to deliver a Wales of joined up communities.</p> <p>Our internal HR documentation has been updated to reflect our commitment to promoting equality, inclusion and diversity.</p>	<p>We work with partners from the public, private and third (voluntary) sector, using the strengths of each partner to enhance well-being.</p>

And finally..... **Involvement**

This is where *you* come in:

Throughout this Handbook, we are seeking the views of the people who will live with the consequences of our actions. Clients, Members, service users, students, customers, the wider community.

Help US shape the future: Your Council; Your Future; Your Say.




BUCKINGHAM PALACE

28th October, 2019.

Dear Councillor Bird,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your kind letter of greetings on behalf of the people of Cwmbran, sent on the occasion of the Seventieth Anniversary of Cwmbran New Town which is being celebrated on 4th November.

Her Majesty appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, has asked me to send her warm good wishes to all concerned for a most successful and memorable day.

Yours sincerely,


Poppy Whitworth
Loyal Greetings Officer

Councillor Anthony Bird.

Northville Underpass: A Case Study in Community Engagement

The improvement of the Northville underpass has been an ongoing concern for local residents for many years but it has taken a collaborative approach to deliver real progress.

What started as your Community Councillors following up concerns over litter and abandoned shopping trolleys has changed into massive community led undertaking.

Working together with partners from Torfaen County Borough Council, Gwent Police, Cwmbran Centre, CCYP, Bron Afon and The Northville Community Group, our Councillors have been vital in securing funding and leading on community engagement over the future of the underpass.

In recent years the subway has seen an upsurge in antisocial behaviour, from fires to foul language and fisticuffs, with 442 incidents reported to the police in 2017 alone. And we've heard what people have said.

So with a few different plans now drawn up and the money in place, consultation will take place to see which plans you like best. Then the work is set to start in the New Year, making the gateway to our town centre and our community a safer place for all.



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 such as local theatres; 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 or david@cwmbra.gov.uk.

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed at www.cwmbra.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.

Dates of Meetings

Our meetings are held at 6.00pm. Dates are published on our website.

The meetings are open to the public and held at the Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY.

Wednesday 18 December 2019 COUNCIL

Monday 6 January 2020 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE followed by GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15 January 2020 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 20 January 2020 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12 February 2020 COUNCIL

Monday 17 February 2020 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE followed by GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 26 February 2020 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 2 March 2020 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 25 March 2020 COUNCIL

Monday 30 March 2020 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE followed by GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 8 April 2020 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 14 April 2020 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 6 May 2020 COUNCIL

Wednesday 13 May 2020 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING



Please submit your views to CwmbranCC@torfaen.gov.uk

Working with Our Partners

There are many ways in which you can help shape the way in which local organisations work? Here are some examples:

- Torfaen Public Services Board brings together a number of organisations to improve the well-being of Torfaen. Information relating can be found at www.torfaenpublicservicesboard.co.uk. Ways to get involved include responding to consultation questionnaires, joining the People's Panel and attending events.

Councillor Stephen Brooks, Leader of Cwmbran Community Council represents town & community councils on the Board. He tells you about their contribution to the work of the Board here: <http://www.torfaenpublicservicesboard.co.uk/en/Planning-Together/MonitoringProgress.aspx>

- Torfaen Voluntary Alliance has been working with local town & community councils on an exercise to map community buildings and facilities. They are identifying all community venues in Torfaen that are not for profit and are used by the community.

The project will identify venues in order to establish the needs and possible challenges that they may face, in order to create an effective and practical proposal to support the continuation and sustain the venues. Please notify us of any such facilities in your area, to help this exercise.

- Earlier in the year, we welcomed senior Councillors from Torfaen County Borough Council to talk to us about a new approach to Civil Parking and Environmental Enforcement across Torfaen from 1 July 2019. We heard about how the arrangements would be brought "in house" and the ambition to encourage behavioural change.


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We are grateful to Mossfords for their donation of a plaque to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Cwmbran New Town.

Please submit your views to CwmbranCC@torfaen.gov.uk

“From the History Books”

As indicated earlier, 2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the creation of the “New Town” of Cwmbran. We have enjoyed working with the community to celebrate this important landmark.

The anniversary has given us the opportunity to display many artefacts from our archives and contribute to other activities taking place around the community. We have enjoyed uncovering the history of the town.

But one item has us beat.

We discovered a wonderful piece of social history in our archives, which, as far as we can tell, remains pretty close to its original condition. It is pictured alongside.

We have dusted it down a little but, our dilemma is, we seem unable to discover any information about the item at all. The tribute records the contribution to Llantarnam AFC by Lewis Lawrence Esq. It is dated June 1913.

Can you help us discover the story behind the artwork?

Do you know anything of the history of Llantarnam AFC?

Are you related to Mr Lawrence or any of the other gentleman referred to?

We’d love to hear from you if you can shed any light on this intriguing piece of local history.



Chairman of the Council, Councillor Anthony Bird studies this piece of Llantarnam history with Llantarnam Councillors Bill Walker and Mike Villars.

Meet Your Councillor:

Councillor Michele Day (Ty Canol Ward)

You are a long standing Councillor who has also chaired the Council. What first attracted you to become a Councillor?

I have been actively involved in the Trade Union movement so the move into local politics was a very natural progression, working closely with the local community and helping people where I can.

There are only 6 female councillors on the Council at the moment? How could we encourage more females into local politics?

I would certainly like to see more women involved in local politics, however I understand how difficult it may be for women with children, for example, in regards to childcare arrangements and juggling family life and work commitments etc.

You chair the Council's Events & Community Projects Committee. Tell us about some of the events the Council organises?

We encourage young people through our support for play provision and concerts. We support the community during Remembrance and celebrate Christmas. We also staged the 2019 Big Event as you know. We learnt many important lessons about event management through that experience. We were disappointed to learn, for example, that we needed to pay Torfaen County Borough Council for the use of the site. We will budget for that in future.

Finally, how do you like to fill your time away from the Council Chamber?

I enjoy reading and love my garden. I also spend quite a bit of time knitting and sewing.



Councillor Day is pictured here with our current Vice Chairman, Councillor Leighton Johnston

How You Can Help us

This handbook describes many of the ways in which the Council serves the public. But here are some ways in which *you* can support us!

- Our meetings take place in public. Come along to listen to the debates.
- Why not come along and support our programme of events? Many are free to attend. Music Festivals, School Quizzes, Christmas Events.....
- Do you know a community champion who deserves rewarding.... or a local voluntary organisation that needs a grant? Visit our website for more details.
- Have you used our Task Force? Is this a service you value?
- What do you think our spending priorities should be in future?
- We also have a new, generic e-mail address now. You can reach us at CwmbranCC@torfaen.gov.uk

Did You Know...?

We have almost 1,000 Facebook followers. It's a great way to see what we do and offer feedback. We are also on Twitter @CwmbranCouncil



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân



Cwmbran Community
Council



@CwmbranCouncil



www.cwmbran.gov.uk

Follow us on Social Networks!

Dilynwch ni ar Rwydweithiau Cymdeithasol!



David Collins, Clerk to the Council / Clerc i'r Cyngor

The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran, Torfaen, NP44 3JY



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