

CYNGOR CYMUNED CYNWYL ELFED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Tryal Bach, Cynwyl Elfed, Caerfyrddin, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA33 6ST
clerccynwylelfed@gmail.com 01267281128 07792765732

CYNWYL ELFED COMMUNITY COUNCIL - ANNUAL REPORT

01 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Introduction:

I am delighted to present Cynwyl Elf Community Council's annual report. It provides an overview of the Council's work during the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Councillor Amy Evans
Chair of Cynwyl Elfed Community Council 2025/2026.

Annual reports by community councils:

Section 52 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, requires Community Councils to prepare and publish an Annual Report about the Council's priorities, activities and achievements during the preceding financial year, to be published as soon as it is reasonably practical after the end of each financial year.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2021/1/section/52>
[https://www.gov.wales > sites > files > publications](https://www.gov.wales/sites/files/publications)

Your Community Council.

Roles and Functions of the Council

Cynwyl Elfed Community Council serves the area which includes, Bryn Iwan, Blaenycloed, Cwmdud, Hermon and Cynwyl Elfed - with a population of approximately 1,002 (2021 Census).

Public Conveniences Cynwyl Elfed

The Council is committed to keeping the public conveniences at Cynwyl Elfed open as the Council believes that the provision of a public toilet is essential for the dignity and wellbeing of people who visit Cynwyl Elfed, for people working in the area or for those who visit the park. The year 2025/2026 is the first full year since the take over where the Council has received the invoices as expected and utility charges have settled into a regular pattern. The Council pays for cleaning services and members of the council have volunteered to clean when extra work is required. The annual financial risk assessment highlights possible financial risks pertaining to the toilet block which the Council strives to minimise.

Defibrillators

There are seven Defibrillators in the area. The Council has committed to ensuring that all 7 defibrillators are emergency ready and a decision was made that the Council will purchase any consumables that become out of date for all 7 defibrillators and all 7 defibrillators are covered by the Council's Municipal Insurance. The Council is the guardian for six of the defibrillators, Bryn Iwan have their own guardian. A volunteer kindly checks all 7 defibrillators once a month and reports back to the clerk who updates the Circuit with the status of the defibrillators. During 2025/2026 the defibrillator at Cwmdud had to be replaced. Cheques were received through the hand of Cllr. Eifion Jones in the sum of £662.72 being money given in memorium and partly local fundraising. The Council agreed to pay the shortfall required to purchase a new defibrillator for which a new cabinet was already in place. The new defibrillator was received in July 2025 During the year 5 electorde pads were replaced at a cost of £247.00 + V.A.T. Batteries will be needed to be replaced during the next year or so and provision was made in the budget for 2026/2027 in respect of projected defibrillator expenses.

Cae Chwarae Bro Elfed Playing Field.

The Park Committee is separate to the Community Council, but should the Park Committee not succeed in getting the park updated the Council is bound to take over the management of the park. Local Councillors are on the park committee and during 2025/2026 arranged a social event which brought the community together to clean the park and equipment. A Carnival was held in order to raise funds for the park which was a success. The park committee is working towards obtaining a grant in order to improve and update the play area, which has been very challenging for them due to problems in recruiting members on to the committee. The Council is committed to support the Park Committee in their goal to improve local facilities and in turn contribute to the well-being of the local community.

Street Lights - 35 in total.

The Council pays Carmarthenshire County Council for the electricity and maintenance of street lights annually which is billed at the end of March. For the year 2025/2026 the figure including V.A.T. was £1,618.13. The final repayment of £300 plus interest was paid to the Public Loan's Board in January 2026. There is also an annual repayment to Carmarthenshire County Council of £417.00 including V.A.T. in respect of 20 replacement lanterns to LED during the financial year 2021/22 at a cost of £139.00 each, to be invoiced in January annually until the financial year 2028/29.

Planning Consultations

The Council comments on all planning applications in the area, by firstly making enquiries to find out the views of people who could be affected by the planning item, with Carmarthenshire County Council making the final decision, taking into account the Community Council response which forms part of the Consultation Process.

Highway Matters

The Council discuss problems/issues regarding the local roads at the monthly meetings and send a report on findings to the appropriate Department of Carmarthenshire County Council or/and Dyfed Powys Police Accident Prevention Unit.

Meetings.

The Council usually meet on the third Monday of every month (except August). The meetings are held in the meeting room at Canolfan Cymdeithasol Cynwyl Elfed (Village Hall) and commence at 7:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting of the Council is held on the third Monday in May and starts at the earlier time of 7:00 p.m. and is then followed by the monthly meeting for May. In addition the Council will call a Public Meeting to engage with the whole of the Community when it needs to consult residents on significant local issues.

Cynwyl Elfed Y.F.C. Agricultural Show - August 2025

The Council was present at the show having booked a table to enable members to engage with the public in a social setting.

Members

Councillors were elected at the Local Government Elections in May 2022 to serve a five-year term of office or Elected/Co-opted later. Councillors are elected to represent the local community, and therefore must live or work in the council area. As local representatives councillors get involved locally and work with a variety of clubs and organisations which contribute to improving lives within the community.

There are currently 8 Community Councillors serving and there are two vacancies in the office of Councillor for Cynwyl Elfed Community Council. The vacancies have been advertised in the noticeboard at Bryn Iwan, Cynwyl Elfed and there is a notice in the News/Notices page of the Council's website. The next Local Government Elections are due to be held in May 2027.

The serving community councillors for Cynwyl Elfed are listed below along with the Special Committees they were elected to represent during 2025/2026:

Cllr. Amy Evans - One Voice Wales Area Committee and County Forum, Bro Elfed Playing Field, Cynwyl Elfed United Charity.

Cllr. Delme Phillips - Governing Body of the Federation of Cynwyl Elfed and Llanpumsaint Schools, Cynwyl Elfed United Charity.

Cllr. Bryan Davies - One Voice Wales Area Committee and County Forum.

Cllr. Elfed Davies - Hall Committee

Cllr. Eifion Jones - Hall Committee, Cynwyl Elfed United Charity.

Cllr. Julian Evans - Senior Citizens committee, Cynwyl Elfed Hall committee,

Cllr. Robin Bowen - Bro Elfed Playing Field.

Cllr. Aled Jones - Cynwyl Elfed Hall Committee.

All Councillors are expected to attend meetings and take an active interest in matters to do with Cynwyl Elfed Hall as well as helping/taking part in and supporting at local events.

Councillors have attended training provided by One Voice Wales during the year. See Cynwyl Elfed Community Council's Training Policy on the Council's website.

The Council is grateful to Councillor Bryan Davies who as well as being a Community Councillor, serves as the County Councillor for the Cynwyl Elfed Ward representing the communities of Bronwydd, Cynwyl Elfed and Llanpumsaint at Carmarthenshire County Council.

Communication

The Community Council has a website where the contact details of Council Members can be found. The agendas and minutes of meetings are published along with financial information, details of internal and external audit outcomes and council policies.

The website address is: <https://www.cynwylelfed.cymru/en/>

The website has both English and Welsh language pages.

Meetings are usually conducted through the medium of Welsh and there is a professional translator at each meeting in order for Welsh speakers to use the language they are more comfortable with while allowing non-Welsh speakers to fully participate.

Finance Summary 2025/2026

Precept

The Community council is funded by a precept which is requested from Carmarthenshire County Council. In December the Council calculates the amount of money the Council needs to raise in order to provide for its services and fund any projects planned. The budget is discussed at the January meeting of the Council and the precept for the next financial year is agreed.

Audit

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 require town and community councils to have adequate and effective arrangements in place for an annual internal audit of their accounting records and internal control.

The Community Council is then subject to a statutory external audit by the Auditor General for Wales.

All financial information including the Annual Return, internal and external audit reports are available to view under the Finance pages on the Council's website.

V.A.T.

Any V.A.T. paid during the preceding year is claimed back following the Internal Audit.

Member Remuneration.

Member Remuneration is a mandatory payment to Councillors unless they sign to opt out. In 2025/2026 a payment of £156.00 was paid to each Councillor at the end of the year. In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by 30th September following the end of the previous financial year. This information must be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales by the same date.

Section 137

Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows expenditure which will directly benefit the area and its residents if other powers cannot be used. The Council does this by implementing the Small Grant Scheme. Details of the grant and how to apply are published on the Council's website on the Notices/News page.

Section 137(3) of the Act also allows the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable purposes.

Details of the Grants given can be found in the minutes of the March meeting. All minutes are published on the Council Website.

The Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO)

The Clerk is the Council's Chief Officer employed under section 112 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

As the Proper Officer of the council in law the Clerk is answerable to the Council as a whole. Individual members cannot give instructions to the Clerk. The Council must also appoint a Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) to manage its finances. In smaller community councils such as Cynwyl Elfed Community Council the Clerk and RFO is the same person, however this does not have to be the case.

The Clerk can be contacted by email at clerccynwylelfed@gmail.com

The Council is keen to see members of the public attend Cynwyl Elfed Community Council.

With the exception of confidential items, all businesses are kept public.

All public agenda papers will be published online 3 working days prior to the meeting.
