

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council



Annual Report 2025-2026

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council is one of the smallest councils in Wales with a population of less than one thousand people.

The council has been in existence since 1974 and is represented by seven community councillors all of Coytrahen

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1. Chairpersons Address

“It has been a significant year for Llangynwyd Lower Community Council. During the year, we saw the resignation of our Chair, Mrs Judith Morgan, and Councillor Mr Jules Windsor. On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank them both for their service and commitment to the community.

Following these changes, I was honoured to be elected as Chair of Llangynwyd Lower Community Council, and I am grateful for the trust placed in me to lead the Council until the Annual General Meeting. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to our Clerk and fellow Community Councillors for their continued support, dedication, and commitment. Together, we aim to build on the Council's achievements and continue working in the best interests of our community.

The Council also welcomed a new member following a community election. We are pleased to welcome Councillor Mark Lewis and look forward to working with him in serving the residents of Coytrahen.

Throughout the year, significant progress has been made at the Watercourse, a much-loved green space within our community. Following concerns regarding the safety of several ash trees, the Council commissioned a professional arborist assessment of the area. The resulting report identified extensive work that was required, presenting a substantial financial challenge for a Council with a relatively small precept.

The Council worked diligently to secure external grant funding to support these essential works, enabling the Watercourse to reopen and remain accessible to residents. We recognise the importance of this valuable

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community asset and remain committed to its long-term future. We are currently exploring further funding opportunities to improve the bridge and walkways, making them safer, more accessible for disabled users, and more sustainable with improved materials that will require less ongoing maintenance.

The Council continues to engage with Bridgend County Borough Council regarding the Community Asset Transfer of the football field. This remains a complex project requiring careful consideration of future financial commitments and long-term sustainability. Councillors are working hard to ensure that any decisions made are in the best interests of both the community and future generations.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of Llangynwyd Lower Community Council. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, our Clerk, local organisations, and residents for their continued support. I look forward to continuing our work together to strengthen and improve our community.

Cllr. Jean Faulkner”

2. Councillors

- Who are your Councillors:

Chair	Mrs. Jean Faulkner	Independent
Vice Chair	Mr. Martyn Jones	Welsh Labour Party
Councillor	Mrs. June Roberts	Independent
Councillor	Mr. Derwyn Davies	Independent
Councillor	Mr. Phil Gronow	Independent
Councillor	Mr. Mark Lewis	Independent
Vacant		

- What do Community Councillors do

Community Councillors are elected or co opted members of the public who come together and act as a group to reflect the concerns of the community and to represent residents' views, priorities and interests. Community Councillors are the closet tier of government who work directly with residents, but often work with higher

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tiers of government, such as the local Authority Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to action progress or represent community views.

- Community Council Allowance & Payments

Community Councillors are entitled to receive payments contributing towards any costs and expenses that they may incur as part of fulfilling their role. Payment rates are determined by the independent remuneration Panel for Wales, It is the decision of the councillors and council whether they receive their payment.

In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government measures 2011, Community and Town Councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by the 30th of September following the end of year to which the payment related. This information should also be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales by the same date.

- What is the role of the community councillor

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Community Councillors must attend a Community Council event at least one every six months. The section states “if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority before the expiry of that period, ceased to be a member of the authority”

- Training

Under Section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Community Councils are required to prepare and publish a training plan to ensure that councillors and staff have access to appropriate training and development opportunities. Ongoing training enables councillors to develop the professional knowledge, skills, and understanding necessary to effectively represent and serve their communities."

3. Employees

Mrs Louise Turner – Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) – 6 hours per week.

Louise implements the decision of the Council and ensure funds are spent effectively and legally, as well as remain up to date on upcoming legislative changes and maintaining the governance of the Council. Louise is also responsible for the day to day administration of the community council.

4. Funding

The community Council is funded throughout a “precept”. The precept is a portion of taxpayers Council tax which funds the Community Council. The Council's annual precept remains a modest **£12,350**. We are mindful of the increasing financial pressures faced by residents and have therefore worked hard to keep costs as low as possible. Despite our limited budget, the Council strives to make the best use of

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available funds, ensuring essential services and community projects are maintained while delivering value for money for the residents of Coytrahen.

5. Finances

The Council's accounts are independently examined by an Internal Auditor at the end of each financial year and are subsequently submitted to Audit Wales for review and assessment. The Community Council is committed to implementing any recommendations or necessary changes identified through the audit process. Copies of the annual accounts and audit reports are available for public inspection on our website.

To ensure that public funds are used responsibly, Llangynwyd Lower Community Council carefully manages its finances and seeks to achieve the greatest benefit possible for residents and the wider community. Every effort is made to keep costs to a minimum while continuing to provide and maintain local services and community initiatives.

During this financial year, the Council faced an unforeseen cost of approximately £2,000 to facilitate a community council election to fill a vacant councillor position. Whilst residents have the democratic right to request an election, this expenditure represented a significant and unplanned cost for a small council operating within a modest budget. Consequently, these funds were unavailable for other community projects and services that would have directly benefited residents.

Our Audited annual accounts can be found on our website.

6. Community Projects

Watercourse Improvements and Tree Safety Works

Throughout the 2025–2026 financial year, the Council was faced with the significant but necessary task of undertaking maintenance works to the community watercourse and the surrounding ash trees.

Following safety concerns identified during inspections, the watercourse was temporarily closed to protect public safety. During this period, it became clear just how important this area is to local residents, with many people expressing their concern and highlighting the volume of use it receives. The watercourse is a valued community asset enjoyed by people of all ages and plays an important role in the wellbeing of the community.

The cost of the required assessments, tree works, and associated repairs exceeded £14,000. The Council was fortunate to secure grant funding of £8,800 through the Resilient Communities Capital Grant, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Llangynwyd Lower Community Council contributed the remaining balance

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from its own precept to ensure that this much-loved area could be safely reopened and preserved for the benefit of current and future residents.

To protect this investment and reduce the risk of significant future costs, the Council has committed to implementing an annual inspection programme to monitor the condition of the trees and watercourse, ensuring that any necessary maintenance can be identified and addressed at an early stage.

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) – Football Field

The proposed Community Asset Transfer (CAT) of the football field has been a lengthy and ongoing process. Llangynwyd Lower Community Council is currently reviewing the proposed lease terms and conditions and carefully considering the responsibilities that would accompany the transfer.

Before any decision is made, the Council must establish whether taking on the asset represents the best use of residents' precept funds, taking into account the ongoing costs of maintenance, repairs, inspections, insurance, and any other financial obligations associated with the site.

The Council continues to work closely with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to clarify these matters and resolve any outstanding issues. Councillors are committed to ensuring that any decision made is in the best interests of the community and represents good value for money for local residents.

The Council is also mindful of the potential financial implications that the transfer may have in the future. Should the ongoing costs prove to be significant, there may be an impact on future budgets and potentially the level of precept required to maintain the asset. For this reason, a thorough review is being undertaken before any final decision is reached.

7. Community Engagement

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council recognises and greatly values the outstanding work carried out by Coytrahe Community Association for the benefit of local residents, families, and children within the community.

Throughout the year, the Council has continued to work closely with the Association and has jointly supported a number of community initiatives, including the Children's Halloween Party, Christmas Selection Boxes, and the Memorial Day buffet and wreath. These events bring residents together and help foster a strong sense of community spirit.

The Council remains committed to supporting Coytrahe Community Association wherever possible, helping to ensure that a wide range of activities and events can continue to be provided free of charge for the benefit of the whole community. The dedication and hard work of the Association's volunteers are greatly appreciated,

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and the Council looks forward to continuing this successful partnership for many years to come.

8. Moving Forward

The Council recognises the importance of modernisation and the need to embrace new ways of communicating with residents in today's increasingly digital world. Llangynwyd Lower Community Council is currently in the process of developing a professional website that will provide greater accessibility and transparency for the community.

The website will enable residents to access Council minutes, agendas, financial reports, policies, and other important documents, as well as information on ongoing and future projects. This will allow residents to see how precept funds are being spent and remain informed about matters affecting the local community.

The Council believes that improved access to information will help strengthen relationships with residents, encourage greater community engagement, and provide opportunities for residents to become more involved in local events and initiatives.

It is anticipated that the website will be fully operational within the next few months, providing a valuable resource for the community and helping to ensure that residents always have access to up-to-date information.

Community Improvements

During the next financial year, Llangynwyd Lower Community Council is committed to seeking funding opportunities and applying for grants to support the continued improvement of the Watercourse. The Council aims to enhance accessibility throughout the site and replace existing structures with more durable, sustainable materials that will require less ongoing maintenance.

Our primary goal is to improve access to this valuable green space for all residents, ensuring it remains a safe, welcoming, and accessible area for the community to enjoy. Through these improvements, we hope to preserve and enhance the Watercourse as an important community asset for both current and future generations.

9. Environmental Commitment & Community Support

- Biodiversity

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council is committed to maintaining and enhancing the local environment for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Council recognises the importance of preserving the appearance of the village and ensuring that community-owned areas are kept safe, accessible, and well maintained.

The Council has responsibility for maintaining certain public rights of way within the community and allocates funding each year to cut back vegetation and manage

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overgrowth in these areas. This work helps to ensure that footpaths remain accessible and safe for public use.

At times, some areas within the village may appear overgrown or unkempt. However, it is important to note that not all land and pathways fall under the responsibility of the Community Council. Many areas are maintained by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) or other landowners, and the Community Council is unable to undertake work on land for which it is not responsible.

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council remains committed to maintaining the areas within its remit and will continue to work with relevant organisations to raise concerns where maintenance responsibilities lie elsewhere.

Biodiversity

Under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Llangynwyd Lower Community Council has a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. The Council continues to consider the impact of its decisions on the local environment and actively supports initiatives that protect and improve habitats, green spaces, and wildlife within the community.

10. Community Engagement and Feedback

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council welcomes feedback, suggestions, concerns, and communication from all residents and members of the community. The Council values the views of local people and recognises the importance of listening to and representing the interests of the community it serves.

Residents are encouraged to attend the Council's monthly meetings, where they have the opportunity to raise issues, share ideas, and have their voices heard. Meeting dates, times, agendas, and other relevant information are available on the Council's website.

The Council is committed to maintaining open and transparent communication with residents and looks forward to working together to continue improving and supporting the community for the benefit of all.

11. Contacting the Council

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council welcomes enquiries, feedback, and correspondence from residents and members of the community.

You can contact the Council by email at l.turnerclerkllcc@gmail.com or by telephone on **07792 167559**.

The Council is committed to being accessible to residents and will endeavour to respond to enquiries as promptly as possible. We welcome your views, concerns, and suggestions and encourage residents to engage with the Council on matters affecting the local community.

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12. Acknowledgements

During the year, the Council received the resignations of two valued councillors, Mrs Judith Morgan and Mr Jules Windsor. On behalf of Llangynwyd Lower Community Council, we would like to express our sincere thanks to both councillors for their time, dedication, and commitment to serving the community.

Thanks to Our Borough Councillor

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council would like to extend its sincere thanks to our Borough Councillor, Cllr Gary Haines, for his continued hard work, dedication, and support throughout the year.

Cllr Haines has been instrumental in assisting the community by raising local concerns, supporting residents, and helping to resolve issues affecting the area. His commitment to improving the community and working alongside the Council is greatly appreciated, and we thank him for all his efforts on behalf of local residents.

Thanks to Our Residents and Volunteers

Llangynwyd Lower Community Council would like to express its sincere gratitude to the residents and community volunteers who generously give their time and effort to help maintain and improve the village.

Whether through litter picking, gardening, reporting issues, supporting community events, or assisting with local projects, their contributions play a vital role in keeping the community a pleasant place to live. Much of this work is carried out on a voluntary basis, and without their support many tasks would either remain undone or result in additional costs to the Community Council.

Their commitment, community spirit, and pride in the village are greatly appreciated, and we thank them for all they do to help care for and enhance our local area.