

LLANDOUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2023/24



The Council's mission statement is 'Serving our community, preserving our identity' The Council will always strive to:

- *Be open and accessible in all our decision making*
 - *Be accountable in all our council activities*
 - *Be responsive to the needs of the community*
 - *Encourage community participation*

1. CONTEXT

During the year 2023/24, the Council comprised of 10 councillors who were fully committed to representing the residents of Llandough and providing them with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community. The councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:

Councillor Benny Augustian (Part Year)
Councillor Lucy Barrowclough (Resigned during the year)
Councillor Jo Byworth-Morgan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Pat Carreyett
Councillor Michael Edwards
Councillor Catherine Gibson
Councillor Stephanie Jefferies
Councillor Peter King
Councillor Dean Mears
Councillor Dr Mo Misra (Chair)
Councillor Mark Stanyard-Jones

The Council has a number of standing Committees and Working Parties and councillors are appointed to serve on some of these. The standing committees are:

Policy and Resources Committee
Environment and Amenities Committee
Planning Sub-Committee.

The working parties that were operational during the year were:

Allotments Working Party
Biodiversity Working Party
Health and Safety Working Party
Lewis Road Reserve Allotments Site Working Party
Services to Older Persons Working Party
Village Fete Working Party

Membership of the Committees and Working Parties together with contact details of councillors is available on the following web-link:
http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Councillors_20120.aspx

The main contact for all council business is Paul R. Egan, Clerk to the Council:

63 Woodham Park, Barry CF62 8FJ, Telephone No 01446 409294, E-Mail:
clerk@llandough-cc.co.uk

2. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2024 is summarised as follows:

Balances brought forward from 2022/23	59564.00
Income from local taxation	49425.00
Receipts other than from local taxation	17081.00
Sub-Total	126070.00
Staff Costs	26568.00
Total of all other Payments	49408.00
Sub-Total	75976.00
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2024/25	50094.00

The value of fixed assets of the Council are £102419.00.

The accounts will be submitted to Audit Wales after the accounts have been approved by the Council in June 2024 and an audit opinion will be received later in the year. They must therefore be regarded as 'Not yet Audited' It should be noted that the audit opinion on the Council's accounts for 2022/23 was 'unqualified' which means that there were no issues of concern identified.

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNCIL.

The Council worked in partnership with Councillor George Carroll, the County Borough Councillor for Llandough and he attended nearly all meetings of the Council providing a written report for each meeting and listened to issues raised by councillors relating to the responsibilities of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and took up matters for action with relevant officers as appropriate. A representative of the Community Council serves on the Community Liaison Committee which organises its work modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and Town Councils.

4. COMPLAINTS.

No complaints were received about the work of the Community Council during the year.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT.

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code.

6. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2023/24.

The key achievements during the year were as follows:

a) Arranging a number of litter picks designed to improve the appearance of the community.



b) Submission of a representation to the Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission opposing the reduction in councillor numbers linked with the proposal to dissolve the Community Council in 2027 and create a new community council to be called 'Llandough and Cwrtyrala Community Council' essentially merging the current separate community councils of Llandough and Leckwith/Michaelston community councils.

c) Working with the Corbett Road Allotments Association to improve the operation of the allotments site which included provision of funding to improve biodiversity and site conditions. The Council funded the supply and installation of a new high specification access gate to the site. Selected allotment plots have been split to create starter plots and to reduce the number of people on the allotments waiting list. There are currently 50 people on the waiting list.



d) Working closely with the Llandough and Leckwith War Memorial Institute to ensure that the hall is maintained in excellent condition. During the year, the Council gave some financial support to the Hall Management Committee to fund structural repairs to the roof and front gable. These works were completed during the year.



- e) Celebratory events for the coronation of HM King Charles III including a showing of the coronation in the Llandough War Memorial Hall and a Big Lunch event followed by a Coronation litter pick.
- f) The annual village fete was highly successful with a large attendance level.



- g) Provision of Christmas Trees and decorations.
- h) Providing grants to a range of local organisations and national charities.
- i) Progress was made in relation to developing a site off Lewis Road for allotments and a community area. A concept design has been approved by the Council following a community consultation. The next step will be to have a technical specification designed in order to support an application for planning permission.
- j) The purchase of equipment to enable the Council to hold hybrid meetings enabling councillors and members of the public to attend meetings from multi-locations.
- k) All street furniture was painted.

l) A new Gingko tree was planted on the village green in memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II. A commemorative plaque was installed by the tree and was donated by Wilson Morgan, Memorial Masons:



m) The Council continued to try to identify a volunteer driver to enable the community transport scheme to start up again. Unfortunately, a driver has not yet been identified.

n) A second survey of the needs of older people in our community was undertaken and the results will now be analysed and an action plan prepared for consideration in 2024/25.

o) The Bio-Diversity Working Party continued during the year to plant wildflower seeds and bulbs on selected sites and to take steps to develop the bird sanctuary located in the redundant tennis court in the playing fields.

p) A Christmas Carol Service and Coffee Morning was held in December 2023 as well as a Christmas Fayre.

7. ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL.

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Corbett Road Allotments
- Reserve Allotment site off Lewis Road
- Village Green
- Village Garden
- Brook Green Pocket Park
- Llandough War Memorial Hall (Managed by five principal trustees who are community councillors – it is managed as a registered charity)

- The Council now maintains the grassed area at the bottom of Penlan Rise.

8. BIODIVERSITY PLAN.

Appendix One to this report is the 2023/24 biodiversity plan of the Council which is being reviewed and refreshed and a new version will be published in 2024/25.

9. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2024/24.

These include:

- a) Continuing to pursue the results of the Older Persons Survey including consideration of the main issues identified in the 2024 survey.
- b) Full implementation of the Bird Sanctuary and more wildflower seed and bulb planting.
- c) Implementing the proposal to create allotments and community growing area in the reserve allotments site off Lewis Road.
- d) Organising the Christmas Fayre and the Annual Carol Concert and Coffee Morning.
- e) Village Fete in June 2024.
- f) Commemoration of D-Day involving the lighting of the beacon and procession to the playing fields led by a bagpiper.
- g) Organisation of monthly coffee mornings.

APPENDIX ONE BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2023/24

LLANDOUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT (WALES) ACT 2016

PART 1 – SECTION 6

THE BIO-DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS DUTY

REPORT ON 2022 and PLAN FOR 2023

1. INTRODUCTION.

- 1.1 The village of Llandough is located in the eastern part of the Vale of Glamorgan and is situated between the town of Penarth and city of Cardiff. It has the benefit of being close to two major urban areas but is cushioned by a large expanse of forestry areas and green fields. It serves a population of over 2000 and its precept for 2022/23 was £40474 and this has increased in 2023/24 to £49425.
- 1.2 The Council manages a number of sites that are ideally suitable for the development of bio-diversity initiatives as follows:

Corbett Road Allotments.

An excellent allotment facility comprising of over 65 plots which are mostly in pristine condition. The site is surrounded by a hedgerow and many trees that attract a range of different species of bird life.

Brook Green Pocket Park

The park comprises a large planted area, a brook, grassed area and a woodland area. The site is ideal for a local diversity project which would enhance the natural habitats that already exists for a range of birds, insects and plant life.

Village Green.

Located in front of the Church, the green has a range of trees that over time might grow to sufficient size to encourage birds to nest. There is an opportunity however, to consider planting some of the area with wild flowers.

Village Garden.

Situated off Penlan Road, the site has limited potential but could be considered for spring bulb planting.

Lewis Road Garden.

A very small site with a tree and shrubs. Recently the site has been vandalised and there is an opportunity to consider re-planting of the garden with a view to creating an enhanced habitat for wild life.

Reserve Allotments Site, Lewis Road

Action is being taken to develop this site for allotments and a community area. It will comprise of approximately 26 allotment plots, a pond and many features to attract birds, insects and amphibians to the site. Although currently in the planning stages it is hoped that the site will be developed in 2024/25 for its intended purpose.

1.3 Other sites that would be suitable for attention would be:

St. Dochdwy's Churchyard.

A very tranquil area situated close to Brook Green pocket park. It is relatively well maintained and has the benefit of a range of large trees that attract bird life.

Adventure Playground

Situated off Cogan Pill Road, the site is ideal for planting of wild flowers. The permission of the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be required.

Llandough Primary School Grounds.

The school has already made steady progress in creating a natural habitat for wildlife within the school grounds. This could be supplemented by the possible creation of a bug hotel and planting of wild flowers.

Highway Verges.

Subject to the agreement of the Vale of Glamorgan Council it might be possible to plant spring bulbs in many of the verges that have not already been considered for planting. The necessary approval has been granted.

Hedgerows and Land of Unknown Ownership in Cogan Pill Road.

For the longer term, it might be appropriate for the Council to consider planting of wild flowers and locating bird boxes in this area.

Land around the playing fields (Lewis Road end).

There appears to be scope to develop a number of measures to enhance the bio-diversity of the playing fields. This includes planting of wildflower seeds.

2. CORE OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN.

- 2.1 To manage and re-generate trees and woodland to support the creation and continuation of wildlife habitats.
- 2.2 Manage and regenerate wooded areas and hedgerows.
- 2.3 Manage the nature and wildlife habitat of roadside verges.
- 2.4 Work with the School to create new habitats for wildlife.
- 2.5 To create planted areas of wildflowers to enhance the appearance of the village.
- 2.6 To develop opportunities for increasing the bee population in the community and for encouraging an increase in the bat population.
- 2.7 To encourage the Vale of Glamorgan Council to develop a protocol on the cutting of highway verges so as to enhance the bio-diversity of the area. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has already adopted a new regime.

3. MONITORING.

- 3.1 The Council has a Bio-Diversity Working Party that meets on several occasions during each year for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the plan and to plan for future bio-diversity actions.

4. ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022/23.

LOCATION	ACTION PROPOSED	PRIORITY AND TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	GROUP INVOLVEMENT
Corbett Road Allotments – Land adjacent to the sub-station	Provision of bird boxes subject to landowner's consent – Consent has not yet been received	Medium	Purchase of Bird Boxes	Allotment Tenants
Corbett Road allotments	Provision of additional bird boxes - Achieved	High	Purchase of Bird Boxes	Allotment Tenants
Playing Fields	Rotovate section of land and re-plant wildflower seeds – Deferred until 2023/24	High	Purchase of seeds	Councillors and Volunteers
Grassed areas off Penlan Rise and Greenway Close	Planting of Daffodil Bulbs - Achieved	High – October 2022	Purchase of bulbs	Councillors and Volunteers
Designated lamp standards	Supply and planting of hanging baskets – No suitable lamp standards identified.	Medium	Purchase of hanging baskets (Approval of Highways Authority Required)	Contractor
Creation of Bird Sanctuary with Viewing Area on site of redundant tennis court	Approval received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council and some work has	By August 2022	Detailed plan approved.	Councillors and Volunteers

LOCATION	ACTION PROPOSED	PRIORITY AND TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	GROUP INVOLVEMENT
	been carried out in 2022/23			

5. PLAN FOR 2023/24.

LOCATION	ACTION PROPOSED	PRIORITY AND TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	GROUP INVOLVEMENT
Corbett Road Allotments – Land adjacent to the sub-station	Provision of Hedgehog boxes	Medium	Purchase of Boxes by Community Council	Allotment Tenants
Village Green, Village Garden and site in Playing Fields	Planting of wildflower seeds	High – October 2023	Council to purchase seeds	Members of Biodiversity WP and Cardiff Conservation Volunteers to prepare sites.
Sites in ownership of Community Council	Planting of daffodil bulbs	High – October 2023	Purchase of bulbs	Councillors and Volunteers
Bird Sanctuary in playing fields	Planting of Daffodil Bulbs in front of the sanctuary	High – October 2023	Purchase of bulbs	Councillors and Volunteers
To continue to develop the bird sanctuary	To be determined	Medium	Budget allocated for this purpose.	Councillors and Volunteers

LOCATION	ACTION PROPOSED	PRIORITY AND TIMESCALE	RESOURCES	GROUP INVOLVEMENT
To liaise with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in relation to developing the scrub land at the top of Llandough Hill as an alpine garden.	To seek the Vale of Glamorgan Council's support in relation to the selection of a suitable contractor to prepare the land for planting.	High – by May 2024	Budget to be allocated for this purpose	Contractor to prepare land and Councillors and volunteers to plant the area.