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PENTYRCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



CYNGOR CYMUNED PENTYRCH

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# Annual Report 2019 – 2020

## Introduction from the Chairman

This is Pentyrch Community Council's second Annual Report. We want to let you know who we are, what we do and how we do it. More is expected of us as Cardiff Council's cuts reduce their services and as Welsh Government expects us to be more ambitious for our communities.

We are forming more community partnerships wherever it is able to do so and consider match-funding grants with the partnerships so formed to improve community facilities while keeping a close eye on how sustainable the suggested improvements are likely to be.

We worked with several community partnerships and groups during this year:

- Parc: this group led the way in securing new play equipment in Memorial Park, Pentyrch. Together we were able to fund new equipment totalling £28,750. PCC contributed 10% of it as part of the grant programme and the rest came from Entrust via Community Funding Resources Ltd. This was a huge gain for the community. It was very disappointing that the park had to close as part of the Coronavirus emergency not long after it opened. But we look forward to Parc's next plans in the coming year.
- Creigiau Recreation Charity: PCC and CRC worked together to draft a Lease for the playing fields and pavilion at Creigiau Recreation Area. PCC owns the site and CRC wanted a Lease so that they could have security of tenure that would allow them to apply for funding to upgrade the sports facilities. Since the time PCC had owned the land, the field and pavilion had been managed by Creigiau Recreation Area Committee (CRAMC).
- Love Where You Live: this is a national programme and PCC has been involved with the Cardiff programme throughout the year. We have been able to help set up and support community groups in Creigiau, Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth. These groups started with local litter picks, supported by Cardiff Council and Keep Wales Tidy, and then branched off into other environmental projects such as Keep Creigiau Tidy which went on to work with Sustrans on the old rail lines in Creigiau. Community walks took place in each of Creigiau, Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth, some with a tour of local history. A Terracycle project was set up and PCC's office became a collection point for recyclable packaging.

- Pentyrch Neighbourhood Watch: together we worked with Cemex at Taff's Well Quarry to upgrade a path at Memorial Park. Although there were some problems after the path was complete it has still provided better walking access to and from the shops and bus stops.
- Garth Rotary continued to develop their Dementia Friendly communities programme which now includes a Friends group and Happy Memory Café.
- CCLiPROWClaimers: This is a new group who are investigating neglected public rights of way in the Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern area. 2026 is the deadline for registering forgotten paths. Representatives will be attending PCC's Climate Change and Wellbeing Working Group.
- Dementia Friendly: PCC supports the work of this group which started in Pentyrch but is branching out into the other villages. We have used the PCC office for training and our Community Engagement Officer attends the group meets and events.

Summer 2020, Cllr Mike Sherwood, Chairman

### **Who are we?**

Pentyrch Community Council (PCC) is constituted under the Local Government Act 1972 and is at the most local level of local government. PCC has 13 members divided into 3 Wards : Gwaelod y Garth (2 Members); Pentyrch (6 Members); Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern (5 Members).

Council Members are elected in a contested election, elected unopposed (if no one stands against a candidate) or co-opted. Co-option takes place if there are fewer candidates than seats at an ordinary election or if no one comes forward to call an election following a casual vacancy.

PCC has 4 members of staff: the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer; the Community Engagement Officer and two Community Maintenance Officers.



The Pentyrch Community Council area

### **PCC Contacts as at March 2020**

All PCC councillors and the Clerk can be found on our website.

Creigiau : Stuart Thomas, Wynford Ellis Owen, Mike Sherwood, Jena Quilter, Amanda Thorpe

Pentyrch : Sara Pickard, John Harrison, Karen Thomas, Simon Roberts, Ian Jones, one vacancy

Gwaelod y Garth : Sandie Rosser, Teresa Filipponi

Clerk : Helena Fox

Community Engagement Officer : Deb Hunt

Community Maintenance Officers : Colin Davies, Gary Welsby

Changes during the year:

Christine Priday resigned from PCC in December 2019 after long and successful public service to our community. Very sadly, Simon Davies died in January 2020.

### **What do we do?**

PCC owns and manages land and buildings, supports local projects, represents the community in local and national consultations and lobbies on your behalf on local concerns, particularly highway maintenance, traffic and public transport, quarries, planning and development.

There is an increasing bureaucratic burden in running community councils as our work is affected by more laws and regulations. We want to operate professionally and meet the required or recommended standards. Much of this official work is done by the Clerk.

The Clerk manages the council and advises Members on the law and best practice. As RFO she is responsible for managing the finances and preparing accounts for audit. The Community Engagement Officer liaises with our villages in our growing range of community projects and events which are detailed later. She runs our social media profile on Facebooks and helps produce the Community Link magazine and supports the Clerk with administrative tasks. The Community Maintenance Officers manage the land we own and keep it in good order. This involves grass and hedge cutting, woodland management, repairs to fences and benches. They also pick up litter five days a week and deal with fly-tipping where possible. You may be familiar with our silver Toyota truck with the PCC logo on its side.

We deal with regular questions and concerns from the general public and help them to sort them out. Typically these involve broken street lights, unemptied rubbish bins, bins not collected, drains blocked, fly tipping, roads and pavements.

We publicize information on our website ([www.pentyrch.cc](http://www.pentyrch.cc)) and on Facebook. We also have 7 noticeboards in the community for official PCC business and community use.

PCC owns and manages the following land and buildings:

#### **Community Assets: Property**

Garth Common (freehold)

Memorial Park, Pentyrch (99 year lease from 1951)

Pentyrch Village Hall (freehold)

Bronllwyn Graveyard, Pentyrch (freehold)

Ael y Bryn & Lon y Fro open spaces (freehold)  
Garth Villa Woodland (freehold)  
Parc y Felin Woodland (freehold)  
Terrace Woodland, Creigiau (freehold)  
Penuel Road Graveyard, Pentyrch (999 year Lease from 1996)  
Fairmeadow Fields, Pentyrch 999 (lease)  
Creigiau Recreation Ground (freehold)  
Carpark land at Pentyrch Village Hall (freehold)  
Pantbach, Pentyrch (freehold)  
Lon y Fro, Pentyrch (freehold)  
Land south of Cefn Bychan (freehold)  
Cefn Bychan/Fairmeadow Woodland  
Castell y Mynach Open Spaces  
Land off Ffordd Dinefwr, Creigiau  
Millennium Mosaic, Pentyrch

**Community Assets: Other**

Public benches: 39  
Council Noticeboards: 7  
Historical postcards  
Memorial Park Playground Equipment  
Commemorative Benches: 3 WW1  
Commemorative Benches: 1 WW2

**How do we do what we do?**

PCC, like all town and community councils, must make its decisions in public and these are done in our monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month except August. These are advertised on our notice boards and the website ([www.pentyrch.cc](http://www.pentyrch.cc)). We spend four months in each of Creigiau, Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth. All Minutes can be found on our website.

PCC has a number of committees to deal with specific aspects of our work: the Finance Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month; the Planning Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Other committees meet quarterly or as needed: Building & Estates; Business Plan, Staffing; Health & Safety.

Creigiau councillors hold monthly surgeries in the Church Hall as way of meeting informally with residents who can raise issues and concerns which PCC can act on or refer on to the right person.

This year our Spring Community meetings were cancelled because of the Coronavirus Emergency. They should be a way of bringing councillors and residents together in a more informal setting than the rather formal monthly meetings.

In summary, councillors make decisions and officers/staff carry them out. No councillor can take a decision on their own on behalf of the council because they are part of a corporate body that can only act after a majority vote. Decisions can be delegated to a committee or subcommittee or another council or to the Clerk and this has to be recorded in the Minutes.

The public and press have a legal right to attend all PCC main and committee meetings and can only be excluded for specific confidential items such as staffing matters or where the financial interest of the council and thus the community could be disadvantaged, for example when a large contract is being prepared for tender.

Like all community and town councils, PCC is funded by the Precept: this is levied via Council Tax and collected, for us, by Cardiff Council, and paid to PCC each April.

We also have contributions to our income from the solar panels on our building at 1 Penuel Road; land rental and easement fees; burial fees; advertisements in the Community Link and occasional donations. We can apply for grants, as we did to help clean and repair the Pentyrch War Memorial and for the new play equipment at Memorial Park (which was a community-led project with Parc).

## **PCC Finance**

### Income & Expenditure

For 2019-20, PCC set a Precept of £155,000 and a budget of £161,456. It spent £163,905 with an income of £194,181. This leaves an underspend on the year of £30,276.

## Assets

At 31.3.19, PCC's physical assets stood at £100,660.22. At 2019-20 they stand at £131,380.42. The increase is largely due to the £28,750 spent on new play equipment for Memorial Park play area. Plus the purchase of some tools for the Community Maintenance Officers and a new lap top and screen for the office.

As the Balance Sheet shows, after taking account of debtors and creditors the net assets of PCC are £82,200 compared with £51,924 at the previous year end.

## General Fund and Ear-marked Reserves

As at 31.3.2020, PCC's General Fund stands at £41,464 from £16,833 a year before, an improvement from 14% of gross expenditure to 25%. PCC's General Fund now meets the minimum 25% recommended below. This is a significant achievement in two financial years during which the General Fund has increased from 2% at the end of 2017-18 to 25% at the end of 2019-2020.

## Population Change

PCC's population did not start to grow during 2019-20 as expected because of continuing significant delays at the building site at Llanilltern Village. Cardiff did not expect any new properties on the site to pay council tax in 2019. In some 5 years, 500 new homes are due to be completed, which will trigger the building of a new primary school. The entire development of 1,500 new homes is expected to complete in about 2028. We had expected homes to be occupied during 2020-21 but delays in construction continued to the financial year end because of extremely wet weather followed by the national disruption caused by the Coronavirus lockdown.

2019 saw the early stages of development of Site E, the land south of Creigiau and north of the A4119. When complete this will add some 680 new homes to the PCC area. We do not expect any new homes to be occupied during 2020-21.

Cardiff Council's Council Tax department confirm that when they set the Band D Equivalent (BDE) number each December, they take into account expected completions of new homes during the coming year. They also bear the burden of any uncollected council tax although the average collection rate is 98.5% for Cardiff, and higher in the PCC area.

The table below shows the Council Tax contributions paid in the PCC area towards the Precept:

Council Tax Band	PCC contribution 2018-19 £/year	PCC contribution 2019-20 £/year
	Precept: £143,000	Precept: £155,000
A	29	32
B	34	37
C	39	42
D	44	47
E	54	58
F	63	68
G	73	79
H	88	95
I	102	110

Because any change in the Precept is shared across the community this table show that this year's £12,000 increase in the Precept varied from an extra £3/year for Band A to £8/year for Band I properties.

Cardiff's latest figures give the number electors in the PCC area as of February 2020 with projected for 2024. The 2024 figures are incomplete:

Ward	02/2020	2024
Creigiau & Capel		
Llanilltern	2,139	N/A (Creigiau is combined with St Fagans and not separated)
Pentyrch	1,925	2,869 : Pentyrch & Gwaelod y Garth combined: increase of 68.
Gwaelod y Garth	<u>915</u>	
Total	4,979	

Cardiff Council give the number of properties in the PCC area as of February 2020 as:

Pentyrch	1,002
Creigiau & Capel Llanilltern	1,074
Gwaelod y Garth.	<u>511</u>
Total :	2,587

As the number of new homes rises, PCC will have the option of increasing its income while keeping the amount levied the same/household but from more homes. Any increase needed in the Precept levied will be spread over more households, reducing the effect per household.

During the year PCC awarded the following grants:

Gwaelod y Garth WI	£100
Keep Creigiau Tidy	£200
Cardiff Eisteddfod	£100
Pentyrch Cricket Club	£200
Pentyrch Tennis Club	£150
Creigiau Cricket Club	£300
Creigiau Cantorion	£100
Creigiau Carnival	£300
Creigiau Community Market	£50
Friends of Pentyrch Primary School	£50
Friends of Creigiau Primary School.	£50
Pentyrch Sports Association	£200

Pentyrch Village Hall: £4,000 was donated towards the cost of roof repairs. This was a long-standing commitment from PCC and the funds had been kept as an ear-marked reserve.

### **A Competent Council**

These are changing times for Community & Town Councils. PCC faces both challenges and opportunities. We want to be ready for change so that we can continue to serve our communities. A number of competency tests are emerging to help Community Councils determine how well equipped they are to meet the challenges ahead. These tests will bring more consistency with higher standards of governance and financial management. The Local Government (Wales) Bill was moving towards being enacted by was delayed until at least October 2020 by the Coronavirus emergency.

### **Village Plan**

PCC's Village Plan Questionnaire was delivered to every household in our area in the summer of 2018. It and the resulting report are on our website. This was a way for us to tell you about services and facilities in the area and to ask you lots of questions about what worked and didn't work for you. The days of councils deciding what's best for people are long gone and we will continue to use the Report to inform our decisions and will re-visit the Questionnaire in future.

### **Engagement with Cardiff Council and community partners**

Cardiff Council has a Charter with all its six community councils. This has improved the contact between PCC and Cardiff including quarterly meetings between the Clerk and senior officers. We also have access to the Cardiff Members' support email and phone which means that, for important issues, we can more easily reach the right people. We had good working relationships with Highways and that has helped to get repairs scheduled and done.

Through the NW Cardiff Group we liaise with our neighbouring community councils both in Cardiff and RCT as well as Cardiff Civic Society and community associations in Llandaff, Danescourt and Radyr and Morganstown. It has been invaluable to be able to pool our knowledge and experience when responding to area-wide issues like the big new housing developments and Cardiff Metro. This will be important in the year to come as Cardiff Council starts its review of the current Local Development Plan and the consultations on the LDP to follow.

During the year we started discussions with Cardiff Council to take over management of some of the open and wooded spaces currently managed by Cardiff. We want to be able to maintain a good standard of maintenance for our communities and to protect open space for the future.

## **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

Although PCC is not yet big enough to have to show its activities against the seven well-being goals of the Act we have decided to make a start, as the Act encourages us to do. We want to show how we are already helping to achieve some of the national and Cardiff goals and to help us and you identify other things we could be doing. Where we can, we will promote sustainable development in your communities.

Sustainable development is an over-arching theme of Welsh Government – one of the first governments in the world to understand the importance in planning for the needs of present and future generations.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 defines sustainable development as improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The national well-being goals together explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales.

Cardiff Council has a duty under the Act to produce a Well-Being Plan and show how it will work to help achieve the seven national goals.

The national and Cardiff goals are:

<b>National Well-being Goals</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Cardiff's Goals</b>
Prosperous	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	A Capital that works for Wales
Resilient	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	Cardiff grows in a resilient way
Healthier	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	Safe, confident and empowered communities
More Equal	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).	Cardiff is a great place to grow up

Cohesive Communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	Supporting people out of poverty
Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	Cardiff is a great place to grow older
Globally responsible	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Modernising and integrating our public services

### What is PCC doing now that contributes to the Well-being Goals for Wales and Cardiff?

PCC Activity	Prosperous A Capital that works for Wales	Resilient Cardiff grows in a resilient way	Healthier Safe, confident and empowered communities	More Equal Cardiff is a great place to grow up	Cohesive communities Supporting people out of poverty	Culture Cardiff is a great place to grow older	Global Modernising and integrating our public services
<b>PCC</b>				X	X	X	
Museum				X	X	X	
Library				X	X	X	
Land management		X	X	X	X	X	X
Litter collection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Community grants			X	X	X	X	
Play and Recreation			X	X	X		
Memorial Park path			X	X	X		

Christmas trees			x	x	x	x	
Floral decorations			x	x	x	x	
Cardiff's LDP community representation		x	x	x	x		
Graveyards					x	x	
WW1 and WW2 commemorative benches			x		x	x	
Love Where You Live		x	x	x	x		
Volunteering	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Community orchard		x	x	x	x	x	
Allotments		x	x	x	x	x	
Quarry liaison groups		x	x		x	x	
NW Cardiff group		x	x		x	x	
Civic Reception			x	x	x	x	
Remembrance Sunday					x	x	
Spring Community meetings			x	x	x	x	
Community Link			x	x	x	x	
Response to Coronavirus Emergency		x	x	x	x	x	
Response to flood emergency		x	x	x	x	x	

PCC is small compared with Cardiff but we have grown over the last few years and we want to be fit for the purpose of serving our communities as more is expected of us.

### **A Prosperous PCC Area**

We try to use local contractors and suppliers for our work. We have lobbied for the re-opening of the Post Office in Pentyrch and were delighted when that happened. We provide hanging baskets in Pentyrch which decorate the shopping area at High Corner. We are working with community groups in Creigiau to improve the floral decorations and together have taken over Cardiff's planters. We provide Christmas trees for the shops at Pentyrch and Creigiau Inn and Gwaelod y Garth Village Hall.

Through our extensive litter-clearing by our CMOs and local community groups, we keep our communities cleaner and encourage people not to drop litter in the first place.

### **A Resilient PCC Area**

PCC owns some 300 acres of land, most of that being parts of the Garth Mountain including woodland. We own the Recreation Field and allotments at Creigiau and Pentyrch Village Hall which is managed on our behalf by the Hall Management Committee.

Just over a third of PCCs budget pays for the management of land we own or lease. It covers a range of tasks including the mowing of grass from small strips of land on housing estates to the field at Creigiau Rec and Fairmeadow at Pentyrch and keeping our trees healthy and safe.

We are all very well aware of the growth of Cardiff via its Local Development Plan (LDP). The effect on NW Cardiff is dramatic and permanent. PCC has been supportive of Cardiff's growth accepting that more homes and facilities are needed. But it has argued from the start of the LDP consultations that growth must be well planned with a primary focus on transport. We lobbied for that ourselves and as part of the North West Cardiff Group (NWCG). The NWCG still meets and continues to lobby for better transport including the re-opening of the old rail line from Fairwater to Creigiau and beyond. We have long thought that that was the only solution to traffic problems in NW Cardiff. We are pleased to learn that that plan has support from Welsh Government and Mark Drakeford, our AM as well as First Minister, from RCT, Cardiff and Transport for Wales.

We have also lobbied in support of properly planned education and primary health care services for both existing and new communities. It is difficult to be reassured when Cardiff insists that everything will be fine but we see the transport problems we predicted come to pass and our schools are worried about their ability to serve the communities in future.

PCC was an active participant in the LDP process and as part of the NWCG appeared at the LDP Hearings before the Inspectors and lobbied hard on behalf of our communities. We take no pleasure in saying that the fears we had for the effects on transport have all come true. We accepted that

more housing is needed and were not NIMBYish about the future but we did want the development to be planned well and planned around good public transport. That did not happen. We continue to examine the planning applications for the new sites carefully.

A worry is that some of these facilities are based around the developers completing a set number of homes and as of now they are more than a year behind. We meet regularly with Persimmon, who are building the new 1,500 estate south of the Llantrisant Road. We raise our concerns and up date you via the Community Link and Facebook.

During the year initial designs for the LDP Site E were put out for public consultation. This is land between Creigiau and the A4119 – so on the other side of that road from the Persimmon development. It will be a while before development starts but following the public Pre-Application Consultation held at Creigiau Golf Club we now have an idea of the shape the development will take. The ancient woodland in the middle of the site will be protected and PCC has initial in-principle agreement that it will be handed over to either PCC or an appropriate community group for management.

In February 2020 Wales experienced severe flooding after deluges of rain. One house in Gwaelod y Garth was all but submerged when the River Taff broke its banks. Local residents and PCC staff came to the aid of the family and helped clear the debris that the flood left behind. Over the river in Taffs Well there was wider devastation. The people of the PCC area donated quantities of food, clothing and household items and the PCC office acted as a collection point. Our staff then took the donations to the collection points in Taffs Well. It was wonderful to see how quickly people came forward and our Library was full of donated items more than once.

### **A Healthier PCC Area**

By maintaining public open spaces, recreation and play facilities, managing our land and giving grants to local sports groups we help to provide the infrastructure for healthy living. We know from the Village Plan Questionnaire that you want more play facilities for children and young people and we are working to provide those.

When concern was raised about Brofiscin Quarry in Groes Faen, PCC contacted Natural Resources Wales for reassurance that the quarry is properly monitored and is safe. PCC met with NRW about and was assured that there is no threat to the community.

Just as this PCC year ended, the Coronavirus Emergency began and staff closed the office on March 17 2020. Working from home, the Clerk and Community Engagement Officer kept the day to day business of PCC going. More importantly in the emergency, the Community Engagement Officer, Deb Hunt, worked very hard liaising with the community groups and volunteers to support our more vulnerable residents. We were humbled by the number of people who came forward to help. Leaflets were delivered to all households giving people the opportunity to connect with a local volunteer who could help them with daily tasks where it was safe to do. Most of this work took place from April onwards so we will write more about this in next year's Annual Report.

### **A More Equal PCC Area**

PCC has a legal duty to treat all people according to their needs. A key outcome of the Village Plan Questionnaire was the need for more play and recreation opportunities for young people and for those to be age-appropriate. PCC owns the Creigiau Recreation Area and by March 2020 we had prepared a draft Lease to the new Creigiau Recreation Charity to take over management of the site and develop it to increase its use. We lease Memorial Park, Pentyrch from the Royal British Legion and we worked with Parc, a community group, to fund and install play equipment for older children. By sharing the cost and looking for grants we can help make everyone's money go further.

### **A PCC Area of Cohesive Communities**

Although called Pentyrch Community Council, our area includes Gwaelod y Garth, Pentyrch, Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern. Each village has a strong and proud history and identity. Many of the projects we run and support encourage community participation within and amongst those four villages.

We support the Love Where You Live campaign and have help start groups in Pentyrch and Creigiau which have continued with their own environmental projects in their communities including litter picks, tree, bulb and wildflower planting and floral displays.

PCC has published its Community Link magazine for several decades and volunteers have helped deliver it to every household. Each edition is also available online. The Link reports on official council information, local planning decisions and lots of updates from local groups and schools. It is an excellent way for our communities to find out what has been going and what's planned in the next few months. This year we increased the number of editions from 3 to 4 each year. We did wonder if there would be enough copy for an extra edition but we needn't have worried.

### **A PCC Area of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

We maintain a small museum of local history, artefacts and memorabilia at our Penuel Road office. We run a community library of donated books in Welsh and English that provides a good selection for local people to borrow. Regular donations help keep the contents refreshed and we take any unwanted books to a local charity. The office is available for free rental for anyone wanting to run Welsh language classes or groups.

During the year we had a generous donation of Creigiau Pottery lusterware. The collection includes a number of different styles and can be seen in the library, adding shimmer to the room.

PCC helps organize the annual Remembrance Service at Pentyrch War Memorial, which we had repaired and cleaned with the help of a grant from Cadw in 2018.

We started an annual Civic Reception in 2017 as a way to thank our communities for all the hard work they do during the year to help keep our villages vibrant.

### **A Globally Responsible PCC Area**

On 21st October 2019, Pentyrch Community Council unanimously agreed to join with Welsh Government and other councils across the UK in declaring a global climate emergency. The Community Council has a core purpose to protect the wellbeing of its community, and this includes a responsibility to be proactive in responding to the threats posted by climate change as well as enabling real and meaningful reductions in carbon emissions.

The Council has a duty to use its resources wisely and prudently and we have taken steps to improve our reserves, as set out above. We have set aside Earmarked Reserves to support projects such as new play equipment, Pentyrch Village Hall roof, Creigiau Recreation Area, and woodland management as well as helping plan for replacing more expensive equipment such as our truck and ride-on mower. We now have duties under the Environment Act Wales (see below).

Our solar panels off-set some of our electricity costs from conventional power supplies. We are moving to battery-powered tools where we can to reduce our use of petrol and diesel. We support the TerraCycle recycling scheme with a collection box at the office. We are changing our mowing regimes to leave areas of grass to grow long and encourage wildflowers to grow and plan to sow some wildflower seed in coming years.

### **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty:** The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities. This means that PCC must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as best it can and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. PCC should, therefore, embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into its early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as its day to day activities.

PCC seeks to meet its duties under the Act by:

- Managing its trees and grassland to promote biodiversity
- Managing its ponds and streams to promote biodiversity
- Minimize its use of herbicides

- Encourage wildflowers in grassland
- Control invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese Knotweed

**Helena Fox**

**Clerk to PCC**