

Pentyrch Community Council Annual Report 2022/23

Background/Context

The Council has faced another challenging year as the effects of the pandemic and the so-called 'cost of living crisis' have continued to present practical and personal difficulties for us all. Our communities have shown their resilience and resourcefulness in supporting family, friends and neighbours with care and consideration and PCC has continued its often unseen and steadfast work in providing services and planning to the benefit of all who abide within our communities.

Conducting Council Business and Governance.

Pentyrch Community Council (PCC) is made up of 13 Councillors, all of whom live within our boundaries, who attend monthly meetings of the Council. In addition, monthly meetings are held of the Planning Committee and Finance Committee, the minutes of both of which are subject to scrutiny and approval at full council meetings.

Several working groups of members, commissioned by full Council, also meet to discuss a variety of important issues and report back. These include Transport, Health and Safety, Building & Estates and Human Resources together with a Group established to produce a comprehensive Business Plan. This ambitious and carefully considered Plan will set forward a progressive program of initiatives and targets aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the people of our communities.

Community Engagement.

PCC has a duty of care not just for the people within our boundaries but also to our staff and members. Health and hygiene protocols have gradually been eased over the year at our busy offices in Penuel Road and for our hard working Community Facilities Maintenance Team out in the field. Members have increased the number of face to face meetings for committees and working group events ensuring that members who are unable to attend in

person are able to represent their particular community via a Microsoft Teams link.

Staff and members are working on the preparation of a program of PCC meetings for the current financial year at venues within our villages which are capable of facilitating a hybrid format in order fulfil our obligation to allow the public and press to join the democratic process as and when appropriate.

The PCC continues to research, compile, publish and distribute around 2,800 copies of the ever- popular 'Community Link ' on a quarterly basis to homes across our communities. This publication contains news of local issues, events and developments as well as highlighting the considerable amount of work and activity conducted by local community-based groups. The 'Link' is also useful to bring legal notices and planning applications and permissions to the attention of residents.

The Council also has an active Facebook group which is a useful tool for real time engagement and for highlighting issues and events which are of local interest and importance and also maintains a number of Community Notice Boards across our villages.

PCC employs a Community Engagement Officer responsible for working with local people and organisations across our communities to provide guidance and support to those facilitating activities and services for local people. A comprehensive list of all those assisted is available on the PCC website.

The highlight of the calendar in terms of community engagement was the Civic Reception at Pentyrch RFC. The event was attended by many local groups, clubs, societies and organisations to celebrate the vibrant nature of community activities in our villages. Importantly, it also acknowledged the contribution of several well-known and respected local people to the enrichment of our communities with the presentation of personal achievement awards by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

Finances.

There was a very significant underspend during the year as actual spend was not in line with expectations . The previous Clerk to the Council retired & with the transition to a new appointment planned projects were delayed

Last year's the financial performance of the Council was as follows :

	Budget £000	Actuals £000
Reserves at Start of Year	153	153
Income for Year	<u>191</u>	<u>201</u>
	344	354
Less Expenditure	<u>242</u>	<u>152</u>
Reserves at End of Year	<u>102</u>	<u>202</u>

Maintenance of the Public Realm.

PCC's Community Maintenance Team have experienced another very busy year. The Council has responsibility for the management of a huge area of land which not only includes the Garth and its environs but also considerable areas of recreational, woodland, cemeteries and open spaces. The work for the Team is constant given the challenges posed by changing seasons and the multitude of fixtures and facilities across and between our villages such as play areas, green spaces, cemeteries, styles, footpaths, kissing gates, benches, litter bins and flower beds.

Activities and Achievements 2022/23.

The Council is pleased and proud to have supported many initiatives and projects within our villages , including :

PENTYRCH RFC - During the winter months residents were able to enjoy a warm space , a chat and lunch (soup and a roll). This free service was offered due to a £400 grant from PCC .

KEEP CREIGIAU TIDY was awarded £150 for long handled litter pickers.

GWAELOD Y GARTH LUNCH CLUB was awarded £350 to enable residents to go on trips throughout the year.

HILLTOP THEATRE was awarded £300 to purchase screens to safeguard children when performing. T

GWAELOD RANGERS were awarded £250 to help with a coronation fun day. Sadly this was postponed due to bad weather and is to be rearranged .

GARTH COUNTRY FAIR was awarded £550 to help set up this charitable event .

PCC has been proactive in fulfilling its role as an important part of the local democratic process by expressing, to the Senedd, the County Council and other representative public bodies, the views of local people on strategic and site-specific plans and processes concerning our local area. Chief amongst these has been raising objections and outlining views regarding the County Council's Local Development Plan including concerns over the lack of social and physical infrastructure, increased traffic generation and impact upon the environment; objections to the removal of Pentyrch Surgery and subsequent lack of engagement by the Local Health Board; lobbying for improved safety measures concerning local traffic movements including speed-limiting measures in and between our villages and controlled school crossings; and continued campaigning for the improvement of local bus services.

PCC is also pleased to have supported the annual Remembrance Service at Pentyrch Cenotaph and Christmas events around the villages. 2022/23 was, of course, a year like no other in as much as we celebrated Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's Platinum Jubilee and later her very sad passing. PCC played its part in this historic period by organising the lighting of a beacon on the Garth mountain and supporting community celebrations for the Jubilee and then by making a Book of Condolence available at venues across our

communities for people to express their sympathies, gratitude for service and reminiscences.

Priorities for 2023/24

As mentioned above, PCC is in the process of producing a Business Plan to set out it's ambitions for the coming years. This will include improvements to local public transport, the sustainable management of our land assets and the environment, an improved network of foot and cycling paths, exploring ways to improve access to medical services, a focus on youth provision and participation, parent and toddler groups, accessibility for all, tree planting, enhanced community engagement and of course support for local community groups, events, buildings and organisations.