

Annual Report 2023/24

Supporting the residents of Gwaelod Y Garth, Pentyrch, Creigiau, Llanilltern Village & Capel Llanilltern.

Pentyrch Community Council (PCC) is made up of 13 Councillors, albeit we currently have some vacancies. Councillors attend monthly meetings of the Council, Planning Committee and Finance Committee.

Several working groups of members, commissioned by full Council, also meet to discuss a variety of important issues and report back. These include Transport, Building & Estates and Staffing together with a Group established to take forward initiatives contained within the Business Plan. This ambitious and carefully considered Plan sets out a progressive program of initiatives and targets aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the people of our communities.

Community Engagement.

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 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.

The highlight of the year was the Civic Reception held at Pentyrch RFC. Community groups were invited to attend and the purpose of this event is twofold:

- To thank groups for their valued contribution to life within our communities
- To provide a networking opportunity

At the September 2023 Civic Reception more than 60 community groups were in attendance 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.

The Speakers at the Civic Reception were:

- Cllr Louise McGrath, Chair of the Community Council
- Cllr Sara Pickard, Community Councillor
- Ms Clair Spring, Headteacher at Craig y Parc School
- Mr Penri Williams

Finances.

Last year's financial performance was as follows:

	Budget £000	Actuals £000
Reserves at Start of Year	202	202
Income for Year	<u>197</u>	<u>219</u>

	399	421
Less Expenditure	<u>196</u>	<u>199</u>
Reserves at End of Year	<u>203</u>	<u>222</u>

The Community Council remains in a strong financial position with the means to deliver the initiatives contained within the Business Plan.

Maintenance of the Public Realm.

PCC's Community Maintenance Team have experienced another very busy year. The Council has responsibility for the management of 250 acres 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.

Across our various landholdings there are a large number of trees. Unfortunately, the condition of some of the trees was such that during last year we had no choice but to have them removed.

On a more positive note, we worked with Coed Caerdydd to hold community tree planting sessions at Fairmeadow, Heol Danyrodyn and Ael Y Bryn.

Activities and Achievements

The Council is 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 £500 grant from PCC.

Keep Creigiau Tidy was awarded £200 for insurance & other running costs.

Gwaelod y Garth Tuesday Club was awarded £350 to enable residents to go on trips throughout the year.

Hilltop Theatre was awarded £250 to purchase storage facilities

Creigiau Cricket Club was awarded £460 for purchase of equipment.

Creigiau Tennis Club was awarded £700 towards safety pads.

The Council works closely with the Creigiau Recreation Charity and recently gave its approval to the ambitious plans to transform the Pavilion.

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.

During 2023 Cardiff Council published its Draft Local Development Plan – this document determines where new housebuilding can be undertaken within our communities.

The community council arranged for the Chief Planning Officer to address a public meeting at Pentyrch Village Hall & almost 100 residents were in attendance.

The Draft Plan included a number of greenfield sites for new housing developments. The community council responded to Cardiff Council strongly objecting to these developments.

The Cardiff & Vale Health Board has proposed a relocation of the Pentyrch Surgery. Whilst it has taken some time to get the Health Board to engage with the community council a number of community councillors are now attending Health Board meetings, discussing the transport challenges faced by residents accessing the proposed surgery at Rhydlafer.

PCC supported the annual Remembrance Service at Pentyrch Cenotaph and Christmas events around the villages.

For the Remembrance Service PCC organise the purchase of poppy wreaths for the council and community groups from the Royal British Legion.

An increasing number of residents are getting involved in our regular litter picks and we are very grateful to residents who give up their time to improve our environment.

Priorities for 2024/25

The Community Council recognised the hardship caused by the cost of living crisis and decided not to increase the rate of council tax paid by residents.

PCC has in place a Business Plan which sets out its ambitions for the coming years. This includes 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, accessibility of toddler groups for parents / carers / child minders / grandparents etc , tree planting, enhanced community engagement and of course support for local community groups, events, buildings and organisations.

A community consultation exercise is planned to ensure our plans for the future are fully aligned with the needs of residents.