

Council 2nd June 2025

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/2025

It gives me great pleasure to submit my Annual Report in accordance with the provisions of the Local Governments and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

I would like to thank my predecessor Lars Tiessen for all his outstanding work and his help and advice whilst I was Vice Chair. Also, I would like to extend my gratitude to my Vice Chair, David Fardo, for his help, suggestions and support during the last 12 months. His experience gained during previous Chairmanships was invaluable.

It goes without saying that Penllyn Community Council would not have been able to achieve any of its goals without the tireless works of my fellow councillors and The Clerk & RFO, Tony Williams. So, I would like to express my thanks to them too.

I set out below, in no particular order, just some of the matters that occur to me that have come before Council during my term of office, I hope this will give readers some insight into the Council's working for the community.

(a) CONTEXT

Detailed information regarding the composition of the Council, its members and its committees and external representation can be viewed at :

[..\Notices\Councillors for notice boards 2024 25.pdf](#)

With regard to changes in Councillor representation during the year, Cllr. John Evans (Ystradowen) resignation in May 24 was received with much regret, the resulting vacancy having yet to be filled.

Council also heard in June 24 of the death of Mervyn Lewis (Ystradowen) who had served as Councillor and also as Chairman during service spanning some 30 years.

On a much happier note, Council this year celebrated fifty years of continuous service by Cllr Peter Jarvis (Llansannor), which includes having been Chairman some five times over those years. SOME RECORD!!!

(b) RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNCIL

Unfortunately, in contrast with previous "administrations", there has been no regular attendance at any of the monthly Council meetings by any of our three Vale of Glamorgan Councillors, viz Cllrs C. Champion, N. Wood and R. Fisher. We sincerely hope that this lack of attendance will change as their support is much valued.

However, the support received from Cllr Champion in attending, with myself and Cllr Howells, a Section 106 meeting with the Vale Council was very helpful.

It is to be hoped that the forthcoming Boundary Commission review of the Vale's electoral arrangements may allocate a Vale Councillor to the Penllyn Ward wef 2027 local government election.

Cllrs Bancroft and Summers represented the Community Council on the Vale's Community Liaison Committee which organises its work modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and Town Councils.

(c) BOUNDARY REVIEW

Looking to the future, this year saw the conclusion of the review of Community / Town Council boundaries in Wales by Welsh Government's Boundary Commission. Whilst the Commission's draft proposals have yet to be agreed by government, Council was pleased to note that its submission in respect of the boundaries at Darran Farm and at Highgrove were acceded to. However, Council was not so content with The Commission's insistence that the number of Councillors should be reduced by two, one from each of the Penllyn and Ystradowen Wards, notwithstanding that the number of residents in Ystradowen will increase significantly with new housing, Council has appealed this recommendation.

(d) FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Detailed information regarding the Council's income and expenditure 2024/25 can be viewed at :

[..\Final Accounts\Outturn 24 25.pdf](#)

Council's Final Accounts 2024/25 were approved at the May meeting of Council and will now been forwarded to Wales Audit office for their opinion, until such time the figures must be regarded as "unaudited".

Progress continued with the review of banking arrangements including the implementation of online banking, the adoption of updated "Standing Orders and Financial Regulations" and the updating of the Council's Asset Register and insurances.

(e) LAND & PROPERTY / BIO-DIVERSITY PLAN

Council manages a number of sites that are ideally suitable for the development of bio-diversity initiatives, core objectives of Council's "Action Plan", as required by the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, are as follows:

- (i) To manage and re-generate trees and woodland to support the creation and continuation of wildlife habitats.
- (ii) To manage and regenerate wooded areas and hedgerows.
- (iii) To create planted areas of wildflowers.
- (iv) To develop opportunities for increasing the bee population and for encouraging an increase in the bat population.
- (v) 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.

Council is mindful in its decision making of the "Five ways of working" as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) Act 2015.

Annual maintenance work on playgrounds, sports fields and ancient monument , vis The Wellgreen, Trerhyngyll, and The Winchfield, Parish Field and Salmon's Wells in Penllyn and Graig Penllyn, has continued during the year. This work is a major financial outlay for the Council, Cllrs. Mostyn Bancroft

and Lars Tiessen must be congratulated for their work in making the necessary arrangements and securing best value for the Council.

At the Wellgreen, Cllr Mostyn Bancroft, after a good deal of perseverance, secured the supply of a new bench free of charge from Keep Wales Tidy, organised for the playground surface to be cleaned, and also personally undertook the renovation of the Council's notice board, which was badly in need of maintenance.

At the Winchfield, Cllr Lars Tiessen negotiated a large number of free hedge saplings from the Woodland Trust to enable the perimeter to be reinforced and helped organise their planting. Our thanks must also go to Mr Tom Homfray who cuts the hedges there free of charge.

Council's thanks must go out to the Penllyn Residents Association for their continued assistance in the everyday management of the site.

At Salmons Wells, Cllr David Fardo has continued to arrange annual maintenance, and thanks must go to Mr Barrie Oliver for his works on site.

(f) COMPLAINTS

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

(g) COUNCILLOR TRAINING

This has continued through sessions provided by One Voice Wales and Planning Aid Wales. Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code. Of particular note were the sessions in respect of Section 106 Planning Gain Agreements and finance and budgeting which were found to be particularly useful.

(h) KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

Town & Country Planning - Council continued to discharge its statutory responsibilities in responding to Applications referred to it by the Vale Council. Among the many applications responded to was that in respect of the new housing development off Sandy Lane, Ystradowen, which caused local concern. Unfortunately, notwithstanding the observations of the Council that the proposed one access route could cause problems and that a second would be preferable, Vale Planning rejected Council's observations.

The Council has also been closely monitoring ongoing Vale Council planning enforcement issues reported to it by the Council. These were in respect of a private property at Trerhyngyll where the issue was the height of boundary walls, and at Llansannor Village Hall where the issue was that of vehicle parking provision.

Road Naming & Numbering - On a more positive note in respect of Sandy Lane, Cllrs Helen Harbour and Sara Howells conducted a survey which resulted in the name of the new development being changed to Gerddi Tudur/Tudor Gardens, names suggested by the local residents.

Planning Gain Agreement - Again in respect of Sandy Lane, Cllr Sara Howells and myself attended a meeting with the Vale's Section 106 Officer with the purpose of ensuring the Council's early input to the allocation of this funding.

The 20MPH Speed Limit - Many Ystradowen residents were unhappy that the main road through the village had remained at 30mph throughout. The Vale Council has continued to hide behind the promise by Welsh Government of the "imminent" publication of updated guidance as an excuse for

delaying consideration of legitimate requests to review such local speed limits brought to them. Nevertheless, the resolution of this issue remains very much an ongoing issue for the Council.

School Governorship, Llansannor CIW School - For many years now there have been problems with parents' vehicle parking at the school, Cllr. Summers, Council's representative on the board of governors, has been extremely active in trying to find a solution to this problem, culminated in a meeting at the school on 30th April this year with Vale Council Cabinet members to try to find a permanent solution.

Miscellaneous Responses to Residents Requests - A considerable amount of time and effort was put in by Cllrs Fardo, Teissen and myself in to trying to get trees overhanging The Rhiw in Graig Penllyn cut back or felled. Local householders were worried about danger to individuals, property and power lines. Despite a number of site meetings with various Vale of Glamorgan personnel and communications with National Grid and Openreach we were sadly unable to get anything actually done but we have had reassurance that the Vale Council will inspect them regularly and take action if they deteriorate further.

Also at the Rhiw, residents concerns regarding parking continue to be an ongoing issue for the Council.

Public Footpaths, Rights of Way -The area covered by the Penllyn Community Council is criss-crossed by numerous footpaths. Inevitably, we receive comments and complaints regarding these on a regular basis. Cllr Parisa Eslambolchilar has been exceedingly helpful in this matter and, together with myself, will be representing Council on The Vale Footpath Forum.

COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year we returned to The Fox at Penllyn, as customary this was held after Christmas on Friday 24th January. The evening was well attended by Councillors, Clerk and their respective partners and was much enjoyed by all in attendance.

Anne L. Jarvis

Chair, Penllyn Community Council

May 2025