



Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân



Building Sustainable Communities

Adeiladu Cymunedau Cynaliadwy



Residents Handbook

Autumn 2016

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Llantarnam Residents Conservation Society

Are you able to Volunteer, spare some time, or help with Llarcs (Llantarnam Residents Conservation Society)?

We need volunteers of all ages to help maintain the community flower gardens at Oakfield Flower Gardens and other green spaces in this area via Litter Picks.

Llarcs is run by dedicated volunteers who give time and resources to create a better environment for all to enjoy.

You don't need green fingers. Three times a year (Spring, Autumn, Christmas) we also hold special community events. All events are free and enjoyed by all ages.

THINK YOU CAN HELP? Email llarcs@hotmail.co.uk, Message us

Introduction

This booklet describes the work of Cwmbran Community Council.

It introduces the services we provide and lets you know about some of the events we organise all year round here in Cwmbran.

In this issue, we focus on our work to build sustainable communities. Here are some of us pictured on our recent visit to the environmental works we funded at Blaen Bran Community Woodland for example.

I hope that you enjoy reading about our services and that you will find this booklet helpful.



Councillor KK Manneh (*white suit, above*)
Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council 2016/17

Did you know...

Every year the Chairman chooses a local Charity to support, this year the chosen Charity is the Multiple Sclerosis Society (Torfaen Branch). To find out more visit their website:

<https://www.mssociety.org.uk/near-me/branches/torfaen-and-district-branch>

Councillors

The Council is run by 21 elected members or “Councillors” who represent the different parts of Cwmbran and take decisions about Council services.

Here is a list of members and how to contact them:

<p>Coed Eva</p> <p>Councillor David Standing, 77 Farlays, Coed Eva, Cwmbran NP44 6UA</p> <p>davidhstanding@googlemail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Plaid Cymru</i></p>	<p>St Dials</p> <p>Councillor KK Manneh, 26 Gileston Walk, St Dials, Cwmbran NP44 4PG</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Fairwater</p> <p>Councillor R Seabourne, 15 Dale Path, Fairwater, Cwmbran NP44 4QR</p> <p>roseseabourne@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>	<p>St Dials</p> <p>Councillor T A Matthews, 4 Creswell Walk, St Dials, Cwmbran NP44 4RQ</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Greenmeadow</p> <p>Councillor Lyndon John Chaney, 30 Marloes Path, Greenmeadow, Cwmbran NP44 4SF</p> <p>lyndonchaney@hotmail.co.uk</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Two Locks</p> <p>Councillor S J Brooks KSS JP, 31 Belle Vue Road, Cwmbran NP44 3LE</p> <p>s.j.brooks@ntlworld.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Greenmeadow</p> <p>Councillor D J Williams, 258 Berthin, Greenmeadow, Cwmbran NP44 4LB</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Two Locks</p> <p>Councillor M Johnston, 127 Trostrey, Hollybush, Cwmbran NP44 7JE</p> <p>Michaeljohnston015@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Llantarnam</p> <p>Councillor P J Williams, 24 South Road, Oakfield, Cwmbran NP44 3EJ</p> <p>4paulwilliams@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Independent</i></p>	<p>Ty Canol</p> <p>Councillor Mrs M Day, 34 Daffodil Court, Ty Canol, Cwmbran NP44 6JG</p> <p>daymichele@hotmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Llantarnam</p> <p>Councillor W J Walker, 109 Court Farm Road, Llantarnam, Cwmbran NP44 3BU</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Ty Canol</p> <p>Councillor Jeff Rees, 16 East Roedin, Cwmbran NP44 7DX</p> <p>pcfairwater@googlemail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Plaid Cymru</i></p>

<p>Lowlands & Avondale</p> <p>Councillor W M Howell, 2 Brooklands House, New Street, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1EN</p> <p>w.m.howell@hotmail.co.uk <i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran East</p> <p>Councillor R Kemp, 6 Crown Close, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1BW</p> <p>rkemp.cwmbran@hotmail.co.uk <i>Independent</i></p>
<p>Lowlands & Avondale</p> <p>Councillor Jessica Claire Powell, 44 Wayfield Crescent, Northville, Cwmbran NP44 1NH</p> <p>Jessica.powell@cantab.net <i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran East</p> <p>Councillor David Daniels, 37 Five Locks Close, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1DB</p> <p>davidreecedaniels@gmail.com <i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Mount Pleasant Ward</p> <p>Councillor SWJ Ashley, 16 Paddock Close, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1LL</p> <p>stuart.ashley@yahoo.co.uk <i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran West</p> <p>Councillor Julian Davenne, 24 Ton Road, St Dials, Cwmbran NP44 7LF</p> <p>Juliandavenne@live.co.uk <i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Northville</p> <p>Councillor TJ Winter 3 Highland Grove, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1BL</p> <p>tj.winter44@hotmail.co.uk <i>Labour</i></p>	<p>Upper Cwmbran West</p> <p>Councillor Steven Evans 3 Cedar Walk, Thornhill, Cwmbran NP44 5SX</p> <p>s.evans767@ntlworld.com <i>Labour</i></p>
<p>Southville</p> <p>Councillor Robert Jones, 24 Chapel Street, Pontnewydd, Cwmbran NP44 1DN</p> <p>Robertjones14071@gmail.com <i>Labour</i></p>	

Further details of how to contact each member, such as by telephone, are available from

David Collins, Clerk to the Council david@cwmbbran.gov.uk tel. 01633 624154

Did you know...

There are elections taking place in 2017 for Community Councillors. The election will take place on Thursday 4 May 2017. “

Meetings

All our meetings are open to the public. At the meetings, Councillors take important decisions about the way in which the Council spends its money.

Our Events & Community Projects Committee manages our busy programme of events throughout the year.

Our Grants to Voluntary Organisations Committee considers applications for grants from organisations in the community.

The Council promotes & encourages sustainability. Our Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee plays an important role in this. The committee also considers planning applications, passing on observations to Torfaen County Borough Council about each one.

The Policy & Finance Committee deals with everything else that the Council does – support for Town Twinning; grants to community assets such as local theatres; staffing matters and other decisions about how the Council is run.

Each committee makes recommendations about the business being discussed. These recommendations are then considered by the Full Council.

Copies of agendas and minutes are available from Cwmbran Community Council, The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY or david@cwmbbran.gov.uk.

Agendas and minutes can also be viewed at www.cwmbbran.gov.uk.

Did You Know...

Members of the Public can ask questions at the Full Council Meeting.

Questions must be submitted in writing within 3 clear working days of the date of the meeting by 12 noon. You can speak for 15 minutes about an item on the agenda. Contact the Council for further details of how this process works.

Dates of Meetings

Our meetings are usually held at 6.00pm at the Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY. Here are the dates of meetings for the rest of the year. The meetings are open to the public.

Monday 21 November 2016 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE followed by
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 30 November 2016 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 5 December 2016 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 4 January 2017 COUNCIL

Monday 9 January 2017 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 18 January 2017 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 23 January 2017 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15 February 2017 COUNCIL

Monday 20 February 2017 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE followed by
GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 1 March 2017 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday 6 March 2017 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 29 March 2017 COUNCIL

Monday 3 April 2017 EVENTS & COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 12 April 2017 ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 18 April 2017 POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday 10 May 2017 COUNCIL

Wednesday 17 May 2017 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

WHY SHOULD YOU MAKE A WILL?

One thing we can all be certain will happen is death. But what will happen to our money and belongings once we have died? To try and ensure that is certain, it is important to make a Will.

When you make a Will you are stating clearly to those you leave behind how you want your estate to be dealt with. This can include leaving specific cash gifts to people; it can include leaving particular items to people; it could even include leaving everything to your favourite charity. No matter what you choose to do with your estate, having a Will makes life much easier for those you leave behind to finalise your affairs and ensure your wishes are carried out.

To die without a Will would mean you die intestate. This means that the Intestacy Rules set out in law will dictate how and to whom your estate would be distributed. This could mean your sister who you haven't spoken to in years or your Uncle whom you haven't seen since your 10th birthday party receives it all. In making a Will you are taking steps to ensure that those who you want to inherit from you, do and those who you don't, don't.

Making a Will sustains the relationships you had with people during your lifetime even after you have passed as you will have chosen them to continue benefiting from your estate.

If you would like to discuss making a Will or if you have any questions about making a Will, please contact **QualitySolicitors Rubin Lewis O'Brien** on **01633 867000** and ask to speak to the Private Client Department.



QualitySolicitors
Rubin Lewis O'Brien

 **01633 867000**  **law@rlob.co.uk**
 **www.qualitysolicitors.com/rlob**

Finances

All the services and activities described in this booklet are paid for from the Council's own resources.

Each year, the Council decides on the level of services that it wants to provide and calculates how much it needs to raise in order to fund them.

The amount it needs to raise is known as a Precept. This is an amount which is added to the Council Tax bill each year and collected for us by Torfaen County Borough Council.

This is how the Council will spend and raise its money in 2016/17

A	ELECTIONS	5,250.00
B	MEMBERS EXPENSES	11,400.00
C	STAFFING	151,850.00
G	ACCOMMODATION	86,950.00
H	OFFICE EXPENSES	20,375.00
I	POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE	74,690.00
K	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS	12,600.00
L	EVENTS COMMITTEE	114,960.00
M	COMMUNITY TASK SCHEME	61,665.00
N	ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY & PLANNING	3,900.00
O	CWMBRAN CENTRE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE	58,000.00
P	TWINNING ACTIVITIES	5,250.00
R	BANK INTEREST	-200.00
	Grand Totals	606,690.00

GRAND TOTAL	606,690
LESS FUNDING FROM RESERVES	-45,315
PRECEPT	561,375

What do you think should be our spending priorities next year?

Building Sustainable Communities

The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act describes how organisations like Cwmbran Community Council must meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Act sets common goals which organisations must try to achieve. It also puts in place principles of Sustainable Development which tell organisations how to meet their duty under the Act.

This Handbook describes some of the ways in which we try to meet these goals; we encourage biodiversity, promote and protect our culture & heritage and support attractive, viable, safe communities.

You can find out more about the Council's record on Sustainability in our [2016 Annual Report](#), which also includes our Statement of Well-Being. The Report lists our achievements under the following categories, which have been recognised across Wales for showing how to build sustainable communities:

<i>A Prosperous Cwmbran</i>	<i>A Resilient Cwmbran</i>	<i>A Healthier Cwmbran</i>	<i>A More Equal Cwmbran</i>
<i>A Cwmbran of Cohesive Communities</i>	<i>A Cwmbran of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language</i>	<i>A Globally Responsive Cwmbran</i>	<i>A Competent Council</i>

The Annual Report includes facts, figures & pictures. It also sets targets for the future.

Did You Know...

There are various on-line resources sites dedicated to promoting family-friendly sustainable living....here are just a couple

- <https://www.petitfashion.com/recycling/> -
- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/global-awareness/green-living-family-guide-to-going-green>

Our Sustainability Partners

Here are some words from our partners about our work to promote sustainability and build strong communities

*"We are really grateful to Cwmbran Community Council for their support in carrying out environmental works at Blaen Bran woodland. These projects will help provide an enjoyable outdoor environment for generations to come."
Blaen Bran Community Woodland*

*"Thank you for your letter confirming the Council's decision to continue with the funding of the Theatre of £7,350. This helps us enormously to enable us to continue with the development of the Theatre and also ensuring its future."
Congress Theatre Company*

*"I would like to thank the Community Council from myself and the residents of Cae-yr-Ebol for the £200. We are hoping to raise some more funds to go for a Christmas lunch."
Cae-yr-Ebol Residents Association*

*"Torfaen County Borough Council is pleased to work with Cwmbran Community Council to enhance biodiversity in Torfaen. Together we have worked with local communities and other partners to create new wildflower areas and other environmental improvements. We look forward to continuing to work together to create a cleaner and greener environment for our residents."
Andrew Nevill, Team Leader, Environmental Projects: Torfaen County Borough Council*

Did You Know...

Each year we hold a quiz for local primary schools to test their knowledge of Sustainability matters. This year's winners were Llantarnam School!

Next year's "Eco Quiz" is on 9 February 2017 at the Congress Theatre. The Council is grateful to Knauf Insulation for its sponsorship of the quiz.

Seeking Sustainable Solutions

Cwmbran Community Councillors joined colleagues from across Wales in Builth Wells recently to discuss solutions to problems we all face in our local communities. In particular, we looked at sustainable energy solutions and arrangements to promote Active Travel.

Here are some links where you can find out more

<http://www.egnida.co.uk/>

<http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/RoadsTravelParking/WalkingCycling/Active-Travel-Plan/Active-Travel-Plan.aspx>

Christmas in Cwmbran 2016

Come and join us at the following events

Tree Lighting	Friday 2 December	6pm – 8pm	The Council House
Tree Lighting	Wednesday 7 December	6pm – 8pm	Outside Ladywell (Pontnewydd)
Entertainment	Thursday 8 December	6pm – 8pm	Cwmbran Shopping
Entertainment	Saturday 10 December	2pm – 5pm	Cwmbran Shopping



Task Force

Cwmbran Community Council employs a small Task Force to undertake gardening and decorating work for residents in the Cwmbran Community Council area particularly those who are unable to carry out the tasks for themselves.



The Task Force also carry out interior decorating. This is another very popular service. Sadly, we can only manage one room per application in order to give everyone a chance.



To apply for the service simply contact the Cwmbran Community Council to request an application form.

Alternatively you can download a copy from our website.

Did you know...

We receive lots of letters about our Task Force thanking us for the wonderful service. They are on public display at our offices. We'd love to hear your views on this service.

Celebrating a Life of Service

This year saw the 90 birthday of HM Queen.

We wanted to add our own contribution to celebrating this remarkable milestone and play a part in Her Majesty's birthday celebrations. We also thought about how to do this in a way which included the whole community.

This year's [Big Event](#) held at Cwmbran Boating Lake on 11 June 2016, coincided with the culmination of Her Majesty's birthday celebrations. What a great chance this gave us to celebrate in style!

With the help of our friends at [Pro-Copy](#), we hit on the idea of producing a giant birthday card to send to Her Majesty. We encouraged visitors to our stand at the Big Event to sign the card and add their birthday greetings. What a success this proved to be.

Our Chairman, Councillor Kebba Manneh led the way in signing the card. He was joined by VIPs, Community Leaders, Armed Forces representatives, Community Safety partners and children from all over Cwmbran; they all added their Best Wishes to a remarkable lady.

Well Done Cwmbran.....and Happy Birthday Your Majesty!





BUCKINGHAM PALACE

18th August, 2016.

Dear Councillor Manneh,

The Queen has asked me to convey her thanks to you, the Members of Cwmbran Community Council and the people of Cwmbran for your kind message on the occasion of Her Majesty's ninetieth birthday.

The Queen greatly appreciated your kind words and, in return, Her Majesty has asked me to send her warm good wishes to you and all concerned.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Sandamas

Christopher Sandamas
Chief Clerk to The Queen

Councillor K. K. Manneh.

Meet Your Councillor

We intend to use the Residents Handbook to introduce you to the various Councillors who sit on the Council.

We begin this series by meeting Councillor Tom Matthews.

Councillor Matthews is a long standing Councillor and a former Chairman of the Council. He currently chairs the Council's Policy & Finance Committee and is Deputy Leader of the Majority (Labour) Group. Councillor Matthews represents the St Dials Ward.

“Tom” enjoyed a distinguished military career. He joined the Durham Light Infantry in 1949 and eventually rose to the rank of Major. These days, he puts this military background to good use by helping us plan events such as the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and other similar commemorations. He also keeps other Councillors up to date with milestones arising from the centenary of World War One.

Councillor Matthews is pictured here, taking a well-earned rest from his civic duties on one of the special memorial benches which the Council installed at Blaen Bran Community Woodland to commemorate the centenary of the First World War.



How You Can Help us.

This handbook describes many of the ways in which the Council serves the public. But here are some ways in which *you* can support us!

- Our meetings take place in public. Come along to listen to the debates?
- Our programme of events is included in this handbook. Why not come along and support these events? Many are free to attend.
- Support our other projects – Do you know a community champion who deserves rewarding? Are you involved with an organisation that deserves a grant?
- Have you used our Task Force? Is this a service you value?
- Follow us on Facebook – it's a great way to see what we do and offer feedback. We are also on Twitter @CwmbranCouncil

Did you know.....we are a Pokestop!



Contact Us

This guide gives just a brief taste of the services we provide. There are many other ways to keep in touch with the Council and follow our work:



Social Media

Enjoy the lively pictures taken at our community events. Respond to our consultation events or other community announcements. Take part in discussions about what we do.

www.cwmbran.gov.uk

Full details of all our services are available on line.

Our website includes other material about the Council, including information we are required to publish by law.



We try our best for the community and hope to provide good services, but we also want to know if you have used our services and are disappointed. You can see our Complaints Procedure on line.

01633 624152

Give us a call? Our phones are staffed throughout the working day. An answerphone will pick up any messages you leave at other times.

david@cwmbran.gov.uk

All our staff are on e-mail. This is the Clerk's e-mail address.

If you wish to receive this information in Welsh, please contact the Clerk to the Council

david@cwmbran.gov.uk

Os hoffech dderbyn y wybodaeth hon yn Gymraeg, cysylltwch â Chlerc y Cyngor

david@cwmbran.gov.uk

Or why not just pop in and see us? We are at The Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY. There is free parking behind our building and a bus stop right outside.

This is also our address if you want to write us a letter.

