

CILYMAENLLWYD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 – 2026

1 Introduction

This Annual Report summarises the work and key activities of Cilymaenllwyd Community Council during 2025–26, in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act 2021. During the year, the Council continued to deliver community-focused work, including improvements to local footpaths and green spaces, support for community organisations and events, engagement with residents, and sound financial management.

2 The Council

The composition of the Council remained unchanged throughout 2025–26, with nine Councillors representing Cilymaenllwyd. A total of six meetings were held during the year, beginning with the Annual General Meeting on 3rd June 2025. Meetings took place at Caffi Beca at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of every other month. Councillor Russell Davies continued to serve as Chairperson, while Councillor Rebecca Jaimangal Jones held the position of Vice Chairperson. Attendance at all meetings was consistently strong. Councillor Dorian Phillips attended these meetings, providing regular updates on a range of local matters. All meeting agendas and minutes were prepared by the Clerk and made publicly available on the Council's website.

3 Financial Summary

The 2025–26 financial year began with a balance brought forward of £2,571.38 and closed with a balance of £2,760.49 as of 31 March 2026.

Community Council activity is funded through Council Tax, with each council setting an annual precept to support planned expenditure for the benefit of local residents. Following a budget forecasting exercise, the Council increased its precept from £8,500 to £13,000 for 2025–26. This increase reflected the Council's commitment to providing greater financial support to local charities, organisations, and community events, alongside increased staffing and operational costs and Council insurance.

Total income received during the year amounted to £16,513.21, comprising the £13,000 precept together with VAT reclaims.

Total expenditure for the year was £13,752.72. This included:

- £1,945.60 for the Clerk's salary
- £175.00 for room hire
- £3,031.86 for public lighting and electricity costs for 2024/25 and 2025/26
- £1,258.00 for Councillors' remuneration
- £1,895.89 for audit fees, website management, One Voice Wales membership, and Council insurance
- £4,850.00 allocated under Section 137 to support local charities and organisations

The annual accounts for 2025–26 will be available following formal approval and will provide a detailed breakdown of all income and expenditure.

As part of its commitment to transparency and accountability, the Council published its audited accounts in accordance with Audit Wales requirements, making them available on the Council's website. The accounts were reviewed by an internal auditor and externally audited by Audit Wales.

During 2025–26, Audit Wales conducted a full audit of the Council's accounts. All reports issued by the Auditor General for Wales are publicly available on the Council's website in accordance with Regulation 15(5) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

4 Financial Support to Organisations and Charities

In 2025–26, the Council allocated £4,850.00 under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to support local charities, organisations, and community initiatives. Section 137 enables councils to provide financial assistance to activities and charitable purposes that directly benefit the local community.

As part of the Council's revised funding process, organisations were required to submit a financial support application outlining the purpose of their request and how the funding would be used. Applications were considered by the Council at its November meeting.

Financial support was awarded to the following organisations and charities:

- Ysgol Beca
- Cylch Meithrin Ffynnonwen
- Ffynnonwen Social Centre
- Y Cardi Bach
- Wales Air Ambulance
- Llanglydwen Church
- Marie Curie
- In it with Isaac
- Carmarthenshire County Council Christmas Toy Box Appeal
- Llandissilio & District Senior Citizens
- Urdd Gobaith Cymru
- Eisteddfod y Garreg Las 2026
- Merched y Wawr

This funding supported a broad range of cultural, educational, wellbeing, and community-focused activities that contribute positively to local community life.

5 Councillors' Remuneration

In accordance with Section 147 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and the guidance issued by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, the Council was required to make annual allowance payments of £156 (£3 per week) to Councillors for the 2024–25 financial year. These payments were issued during the 2025–26 financial year.

Eight Councillors accepted the allowance and chose to donate it to local community causes; one Councillor declined the allowance. All remuneration complied fully with statutory requirements. The allowance for the 2025–26 financial year will be issued in 2026–27.

6 Planning

During 2025–26, the Council considered fourteen planning applications within Cilymaenllwyd area as part of its role as a statutory consultee. No objections were raised to any applications during the year. A letter of support was submitted for one application where the proposed development was considered to provide a positive benefit to the local community. In another case the Council highlighted safety concerns for the consideration of the Local Planning Authority.

The Council continues to review all planning applications carefully to ensure the interests of the local community are represented.

7 County Councillor's Update

During 2025–26, the County Councillor continued to work closely with residents, the Community Council, and the County Council to address a range of local issues. Work included reporting and following up pothole repairs, speeding concerns, road improvements, and drainage problems, including blocked drains, flooding, and water pooling. Issues relating to hedge cutting, overhanging trees, litter collection, and fly-tipping were also addressed.

Roadside ditch clearance and drainage works were carried out in several areas, following the submission of a list of priority issues to Highways, with further visits planned.

8 Footpaths Restoration Project Update

During 2025–26, landowners and the volunteer group worked together to clear fallen trees on the restored public rights of way in the Wenallt Valley. Further improvement works were also carried out, including improved drainage, mud clearance, and the laying of a stone surface. Positive feedback was received from walkers, with the Wenallt Valley noted as an enjoyable and accessible area for walking. A picnic table was installed near the bridge to provide a resting point for walkers.

In September 2025, a Public Path Diversion Order relating to changes made under the SPF grant project was issued for final consultation. No objections were received. In addition, part of the Landsker Borderland Trail will be rerouted through the Wenallt Valley to improve safety and enhance the user experience. The change received no objections from landowners and has been submitted to the Ordnance Survey for map updates. The route will be designated as Category A priority footpath, with surface maintenance carried out by the County Council's Maintenance Team. The County Council also intends to install gates where possible to improve accessibility.

9 Biodiversity

The Council continued to update and implement its Biodiversity Action Plan during 2025–26. Progress was made through the public footpaths restoration project undertaken in 2024–25, which supported a number of biodiversity objectives, including community engagement through monthly walks, wildlife training sessions, and partnership working with local organisations. Bat boxes were also installed in the Wenallt Valley, and the Vincent Wildlife Trust carried out a bat survey.

In line with its duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Council prepared and approved its 2025 Biodiversity Report, outlining the actions taken to maintain and enhance biodiversity within the community. The report was published on the Council's website.

The Council also approved and published a Biodiversity Policy, setting out its commitment to meeting its statutory biodiversity responsibilities under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

10 Health & Safety

Health and Safety remained a standing item on the Council's agenda throughout 2025–26. The Risk Register and Asset Register were reviewed and updated during the year. Public footpaths in the Wenallt Valley were regularly checked for hazards, with fallen trees and other obstructions cleared by landowners and the volunteer group to maintain safe access.

11 Training

During 2025–26, Councillor training activity included Code of Conduct refresher materials being shared with all Councillors to support continued awareness of standards and responsibilities. In addition, the Clerk completed the Finance Module to further strengthen financial management and governance skills within the Council.

12 Community Engagement

Community engagement during 2025–26 was mainly focused on support for the Eisteddfod y Garreg Las 2026, with Council members actively involved as part of the local appeal committee covering Efailwen, Llanglydwen, Login, Cwmiles and Hebron. The committee was established with a fundraising target of £7,000 to support the event. A range of fundraising activities were held, including a community bingo, car treasure hunt, concerts at Caffi Beca and Llanglydwen Church, carol singing at Nebo Chapel, and a cawl and twmpath evening. These events received strong local support and generous donations from the community. The Council also provided sponsorship for three competitions: acting, drama or composition work; theatrical presentation; monologue for 16–19 year olds.

The appeal committee exceeded its target, raising over £14,800 in total. This achievement reflects strong community collaboration and engagement in support of a major cultural event in the area.

13 Looking Forward to 2026–27

During 2026/27, the Council will continue work on improving local facilities and community infrastructure, with a key priority being the proposed creation of a pull-in parking area and pavement near the Rebecca Riots Memorial Stone. Early discussions with residents and the County Council Highways Department have been positive. The scheme will require planning approval and a Section 278 agreement, as the site is on a main road.

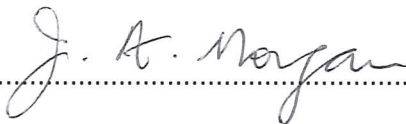
Budget planning for 2026/27 has been completed based on current year expenditure and includes planning and development costs associated with the Rebecca Riots Memorial project. As a result, the Council has set a precept of £15,000 to ensure adequate funding for planned projects and statutory responsibilities in the year ahead.

May 2026

Signed by Chair 2025-26:


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Signed by the Clerk:


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