

Dinas Powys Community Council

Annual Report

**Financial Year 1st April
2023 - 31st March 2024**

www.dinaspowys.org



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A word from the Chair



Dinas Powys is a thriving community with a multiplicity of voluntary organisations and social groups for residents to enjoy and on behalf of Dinas Powys Community Council, I would like to welcome you to this Annual Report which summarises some of the work that has been carried out this year.

Firstly, it is a pleasure to introduce the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to the Council, Jeanette Haigh, who was appointed in October 2023 after the retirement of the previous Clerk, Bogda Smreczak. We also welcome a new staff member; our Assistant Clerk, Maxine Hadley. I would like to give a big thank you to all our staff for all their hard work and commitment over the last year and to our residents.

We Community Councillors and staff are proud of the village and its community and wish to serve both to the best of our abilities. We are all living in uncertain times, local government cuts over the past few years have meant that unitary authorities are now seeking partnerships with town and community councils to take direct responsibilities for discretionary services they offer. The Community Council is communicating with the Vale of Glamorgan Council as to how we can best achieve this for Dinas Powys and recently formed a new committee, the Community Asset Transfer Committee to negotiate and agree the transfer of assets in the coming year for Seel Park and the CRUZ (Community Recreational Use Zone) site at Scholars Park. This Committee is tasked with scrutinising the legal and financial implication amongst its responsibilities.

The Community Council is committed to working with residents, local groups and businesses to continue to improve the vibrant community that Dinas Powys is today. The interests of our residents are always at the forefront of any decisions we make. This year we have undertaken a Community Mapping exercise, an ongoing exercise which will provide the Council, with the ideas and information that could shape future projects. Copies of the survey were delivered to all houses in Dinas Powys and Councillors attended local events to engage with residents. Local businesses and organisations were invited to focus groups to engage with residents to build a "community map": a picture of the great places and spaces, groups and organisations, activities and people we already have.

The purpose being to identify gaps in community needs and highlight any improvements respondents would like to see in our village. There is a recognition that many local services are important to the quality of life of residents and need to be protected wherever possible. It is also important that relevant services and venues are offered so that a real sense of community spirit is engendered in future generations. The results of the survey are available on our website.





Continued words from the Chair



The Community Council has participated in many public consultations and invited numerous speakers to talk at Council meetings. Examples have included the Regional Community Lead for Virgin Media, Natural Resources Wales, Fairtrade and the Vale of Glamorgan Housing Strategy Team. Councillors have been engaged with the Dinas Powys group set up to support and guide all of the residents affected by the Replacement Local Development Plan and engaged a specialist consultant to review the information and details relating to the proposed Dinas Powys sites. Councillors attended, listened and contributed to a public meeting held in January 2024. Objections were submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council for review. In addition to this, we also attended the public meeting regarding the Flood Action Group and are in contact with the organisations involved in this. Our Councillors have a good relationship and regularly meet with the Neighbouring Policing Team for updates and reporting of local issues and antisocial behaviour. We continue to engage with the Cardiff and Vale Health Board with regards to the creation of the Eastern Vale Wellbeing Hub. Meetings and training by our Community Councillors are reported at our Full Council Meeting and shared with the other councillors.

Finally, I would like to give thanks to the many organisations for their dedication and commitment to the voluntary sector and their local communities in Dinas Powys, especially those who worked with us to help deliver important support and encouragement to the community. To celebrate this work, Dinas Powys Community Council has held its first year of our new Local Hero Award. This is to acknowledge the dedication of our volunteers and to recognise the hard work of organisations and individuals who have continued to help others and make Dinas Powys a better place. Following many nominations, these volunteers are heroes of our community and we are so pleased that we can highlight what really makes a difference to so many residents, providing important support for a host of worthy causes. The work of those recognised this year, and all the great efforts in Dinas Powys's wider network of volunteers, adds so much to our amazing community and makes Dinas Powys such a special place to live.

Carolyn Mirza-Davies
Chair, Dinas Powys Community Council
May 2023 / 2024

Councillor Carolyn Mirza-Davies signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, as Chair at the Annual Meeting, 18th May 2023 with Cllr Anne Asbrey, Chair 2022 - 23



GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, introduced as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, that a Community Council must prepare and publish a report (an "annual report") about the Council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year.

Community Councils have a wide range of duties and powers vested by Acts of Parliament. They may determine the types of positive actions and activities which are likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being, social well-being and/or environmental well-being in their communities. Community Councils cannot act beyond their duties or powers.

This is our first report which we hope you will find of interest. Essentially, through this Annual Report we are able to update the public, the auditor and local and national government on how we are making a difference in our community.

ABOUT DINAS POWYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council has been in existence since 1894 as a result of an Act of Parliament. It was formerly known as St Andrews Major Parish Council. This was later replaced by Dinas Powys Community Council in 1974 following the creation of Communities in Wales by the Local Government Act 1972.

Dinas Powys Community Council operates in the Town and Community Council sector, the grass roots of local government. We are one of 735 town and community councils in Wales. We have 16 sitting Councillors that represent the four wards; the Twyn, Cross Common, Eastbrook and Murch. Every Councillor represents public interest as well as individuals living in the ward in which they have been elected.

We meet formally on the third Thursday of the month for Full Council Meetings at 7pm in the Lee Hall, Britway Road. Full Council Meetings are structured with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity for the public to ask questions providing a request has been submitted to the Clerk in advance of the meeting. It is a working meeting rather than a public presentation.

OUR SIXTEEN COUNCILLORS

The role of a Councillor is a responsible one. All Councillors have an active interest in the community and are dedicated to improving the quality of life and the local environment. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers. No salary is paid. The Community Council makes available £156 per member (equivalent to £3 a week) towards extra household expenses (including heating, lighting, power and broadband) for working from home. They are also paid £52 a year towards the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role.

As part of their inauguration – just after the election and before the Annual Meeting, Members must agree to act within the law and follow, in particular, the Local Government Act (1972). They are governed by a Code of Conduct set out by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and must sign a declaration of acceptance of Office upon their election or appointment to say they agree to work within this code as well as producing a list of interests they hold.

At the head of the Council is the Chair. The Chair is appointed at the Annual Meeting in May, and is supported by the Vice Chair. When the Chair is unable to attend, the Vice Chair will lead the Meeting. It is the role of the Chair to ensure that meetings are conducted properly, with the aim of producing a set of clear, accurate minutes. An additional declaration of acceptance of office is signed by the Chair to fulfil this role at the Annual Meeting.

The Chair, along with the Clerk, is responsible for ensuring agenda items are maintained during the meeting and discussions by other Councillors reflect that. The Clerk as part of their role summons the Councillors to each Council and Committee meeting which Councillors have a duty to attend.

Your Community Councillors for the Year 2023/24 were:

Carolyn Mirza-Davies, Kay Shaw, Chris Franks, Vince Driscoll, Anne Asbrey, Colin Asbrey, Richard Grigg, Marianne Cowpe, John Fanshaw, Keith Hatton, Stephen Griffiths, Lara Stevens, Debbie Evans, Malcolm Phillips, Mike Hartey and Adam Cooke.

NB: Adam Cooke stood down as Councillor for the Twyn Ward at the end of the financial year due to work commitments. A By-Election is scheduled for April 2024.

Each Councillor, their political affiliation and the Dinas Powys Ward they represent is shown

COUNCILLORS OF DPCC

TWYN WARD



Adam Cooke

Plaid



Vince Driscoll

Conservative



Stephen Griffiths

Conservative



Lara Stevens

Plaid

CROSS COMMON
WARD



Anne Asbrey

Plaid



Marianne Cowpe

Plaid



Carolyn Mirza-Davies

Plaid



Malcolm Phillips

Plaid

MURCH WARD



Colin Asbrey

Plaid



Jon Fanshaw

Plaid



Christopher Franks

Plaid



Richard Grigg

Plaid

EASTBROOK WARD



Keith Hatton

Plaid



Mike Hartrey

Plaid



Debbie Evans

Plaid



Kay Shaw

Plaid

COMMITTEE MEETING STRUCTURE

We currently, have six Committees; Finance & General Purpose, Halls, Planning, COSAC (Commons, Open Spaces, Allotments, Cemetery), Transfer of Assets and Management Committee.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL – 2023/2024

The Chairman of Council is an ex-officio Member

Finance and General Purposes Committee		Chair, Vice Chair + 6 members	
Chair	Keith Hatton Colin Asbrey John Fanshaw Chris Franks	Vice Chair	Vince Driscoll Richard Grigg Carolyn Mirza -Davies Marianne Cowpe
Planning Committee		Chair, Vice Chair + 6 members	
Chair	Kay Shaw Lara Stevens Stephen Griffiths Debbie Evans	Vice Chair	Marianne Cowpe Richard Grigg Malcolm Phillips Mike Hartrey
Halls Committee		Chair, Vice Chair + 6 members	
Chair	John Fanshaw Adam Cooke Stephen Griffiths Carolyn Mirza-Davies	Vice Chair	Lara Stevens Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Mike Hartrey
COSAC & Footpaths Committee		Chair, Vice Chair + 6 members	
Chair	Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Debbie Evans Keith Hatton	Vice Chair	Chris Franks Kay Shaw Vince Driscoll Malcolm Phillips
Transfer of Assets Committee		Chair, Vice Chair + 8 members	
Chair	Colin Asbrey Vince Driscoll Keith Hatton Debbie Evans Chris Franks	Vice Chair	Marianne Cowpe Anne Asbrey Kay Shaw Malcolm Phillips Carolyn Mirza-Davies

Management Committee		Chairs of each Committee
Chair	Chair of Council	Chair of Finance & GP Chair of Planning Chair of Halls Chair of COSAC Chair of Transfer of Assets
<u>Advisory Members</u>	Footpaths Warden Allotments Rep	Remains Vacant Adrian Holcombe

The Terms of Reference for each Committee can be found on the Community Council's website <https://dinaspowys.org/> They are also available on request from the Council Office at the Parish Hall.

All Council meetings are open to the general public unless excluded due to an item of a confidential nature or deemed prejudicial to the public interest. This exclusion is carried out under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

Meetings are generally agreed in the spring of any year and a timetable of meetings is produced. The current year's timetable of meetings is available on the Community Council's website <https://dinaspowys.org/>

The Local Government & Election (Wales) Act 2021 addresses how Town and Community Council meetings should operate.

The Community Council can operate remotely or via hybrid meetings from the Lee Hall or Old Library (which are the two main venues for council meetings). Only Principal authorities are obliged to live stream meetings. Dinas Powys Community Council does not live stream or record Council meetings unless there is a reason to do so. The Council will however continue to inform our residents of Council matters via uploaded Council Agendas and Minutes.

Depending on what projects are being dealt with, there may be occasions when members meet in between meetings as a 'Working Group' to deal with specific areas/projects to bring back to Committees and, eventually, to Full Council.

This year, COSAC Committee created a Working Group to investigate the future of the Cemetery and Allotments situated in St Andrews, which is still work in progress.

COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEE

Dinas Powys Community Council maintain a close working relationship with the Community Council. They supply details of Vale Council plans and proposals to the Community Council.

On occasion advice is sought from Vale officers that might assist the Community Council in its work. Contact details of relevant departments is supplied and they provide helpful guidance on a range of topics. Local County Councillors attend every scrutiny meeting as well as planning, public protection and licencing. There are very good working relationships between the County Councillors, the Community Council and its staff and members.



The Council has always sought to co-operate with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on day to day matters and more long-term objectives under a document known as the Town and Community Council Charter. Cllr Keith Hatton serves on the Community Liaison Committee which organises its work modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and Town Councils.

Below is a list of councillors who represent the Community Council on other boards and committees of other authorities

Vale of Glamorgan Council Representatives	Councillors
	Anne Asbrey Marianne Cowpe Chris Franks Vince Driscoll
Community Liaison Committee	1 representative
	Keith Hatton
One Voice Wales	1 representative
	Stephen Griffiths
Fair Trade	1 representative
	Anne Asbrey
Murchfield Community Association	2 representatives
	Vince Driscoll Malcolm Phillips
Michaelston-le-Pit CC	1 representative
	Marianne Cowpe
BOARD OF GOVERNORS:	
Dinas Powys Primary School St. Andrews's Church in Wales School Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth	Debbie Evans Marianne Cowpe Richard Grigg

TRAINING

A training plan must be published in line with the Welsh Government's legislature (Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021. Since the elections in May 2022, elected members are regularly provided with details of training courses available to them and are encouraged to fulfil during their tenure as Community Councillors.

STAFF STRUCTURE 2023–2024

The Community Council's staff contains a team of 2 full time employees and two part time employees.

Jeanette Haigh – Current Clerk – started in October 23 - full time – 37 hrs pw

(Bogda Smreczak – Previous Clerk retired in October 23)

Maxine Hadley – Assistant Clerk – started in October 23 - full time – 37 hrs pw

Dave Davies – Maintenance Manager – Part time – 20 hrs pw

Clive Hankins – Cleaner – part time – 16 hrs pw

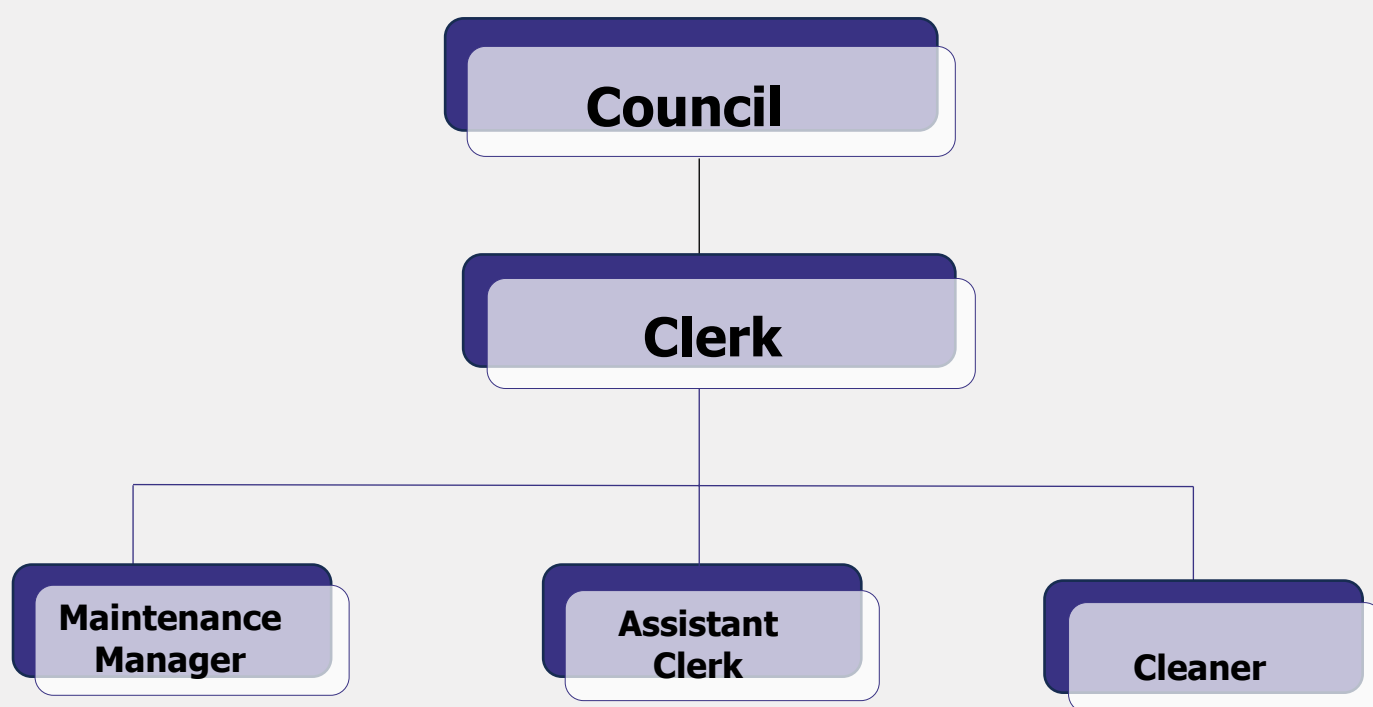
Staff are based at the Parish Hall in Dinas Powys.

Our opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 9am – 5.30pm

Friday: 9am – 5pm

(closed for lunch between 1-2pm)



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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Each year the Community Council undergoes a budgeting exercise to decide how much money is required to provide, manage, run and improve the services and facilities of the Council that are on offer to the people of Dinas Powys. (Section 41 of the Local Government and Finance act 1992)

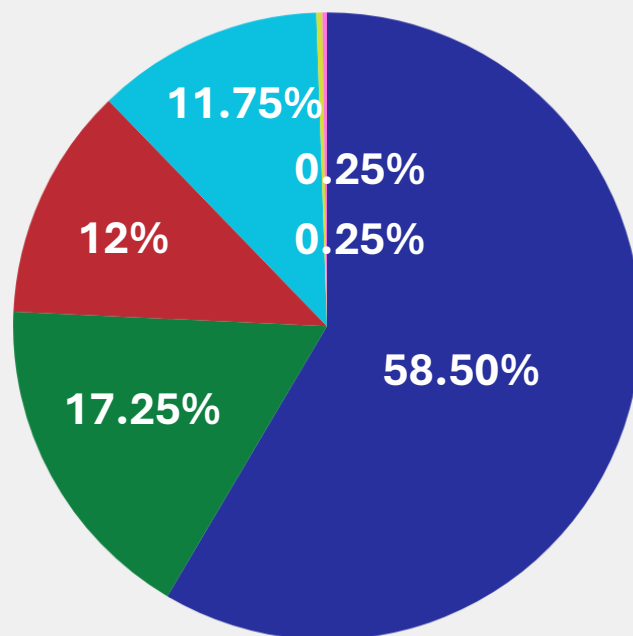
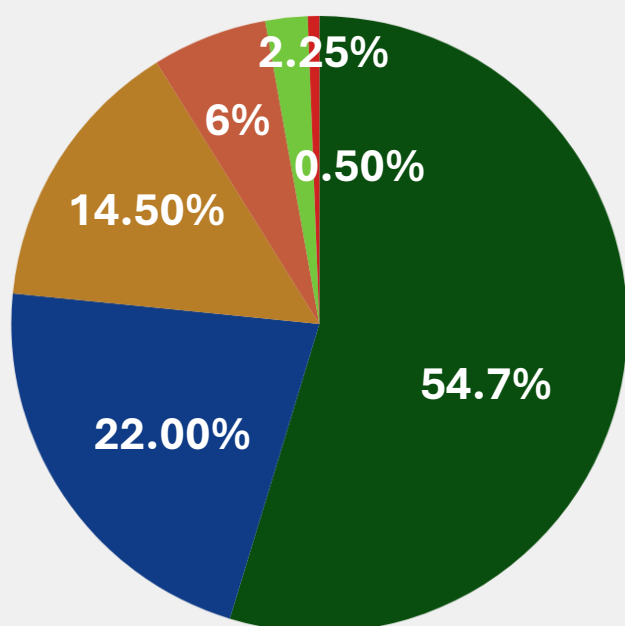
This is called the precept which is the additional amount added to the residents council tax bills. The precept is calculated by deducting the estimated income from the projected expenditure. The amount is formally requested of the Vale of Glamorgan Council within a timeframe that allows the Unitary Authority to prepare its Council Tax bills, which includes the Community Council precept.

For 2023/24 the precept was £133,220 which equates to £33.07 per household at Band D.

The remaining income generated by the Community Council comes from hire charges for the Parish & Lee Halls, highways unit rental, cemetery, allotment fees, interest, grants and section 106 monies. To see the breakdown of how our precept and other sources of income has been spent please the diagram below.

54.75%	Precept
22.00%	Cemetery
14.50%	Allotments
6.00%	Hall Hire
2.25%	Highways Units
0.50%	Grants, VAT Refunds, Interest etc.
INCOME=£243,573.06	

58.50%	Admin, Election fees, Subscriptions
17.25%	Open Spaces
12.00%	Halls Maintenance
11.75%	Rates, Utility Bills, Licensing
0.25%	Events
0.25%	Donations
EXPENDITURE =£209,907.98	



ANNUAL AUDIT

This year, the Community Council's accounts for 2023-24 will be subjected to a 'full' triennial audit once they have been approved by Full Council in June 2024. An Audit opinion will be received later this year. They must, therefore, be regarded as 'Not yet Audited'.

It should be noted that the Annual Audit for 2022-23 was completed and submitted in accordance with statutory guidance and legislation. The audits for this particular year were returned as qualified.

GRANT FUNDING

The Community Council provides financial support and donations (in response to requests) to a diverse range of organisations that are able to demonstrate clear benefits and develop or maintain opportunities for local residents. We also donate to charities

This year, donations were made to the following organisations/charities

Murch Bowling Club	£148.99
Dinas Powys Brownies	£ 50.00
Hope Rescue	£100.00
Royal British Legion	£200.00

ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Parish Hall – Grade II Arts & Craft style Listed Building
- Old Library
- Lee Hall

The Parish Hall and Old library are Grade II listed buildings (2002) and are of special architectural interest.



Amongst notable features, the Parish Hall has a rare, wooden sprung dance floor and a full stage lighting rig. The office is located at the entrance to the Parish Hall. The Lee Hall is a separate building of more modern design. Access is available from the Lee Hall to the gardens, which are also available for community activities.

It is the responsibility of the Halls Committee to ensure that these listed buildings are maintained to a high standard and also to raise income from the hire of the building (to community groups, entertainment, and private and commercial hirers) that can be used to offset the costs of maintaining these valuable and well-loved community assets. During 2023/24, the Halls Committee have ensured that hire charges from the halls reflect their value, yet are affordable, that all health and safety measures and other legal responsibilities have been discharged, and that the halls and gardens are well maintained and attractive to users and visitors.

The Parish Halls host the annual Village Show. The venues provides the perfect opportunity for residents to showcase their finest vegetables, arts, crafts and cookery skills. The event is run by host of volunteers, including Councillors, led by a Village Show Committee made up of local residents.

The Twyn

War Memorial - Erected in 1935 in memory of those who fought and lost their lives during the First World War, the War Memorial is a poignant focal point for Remembrance in the community. Today, the names of those who fought and died during the Second World War are also remembered on the memorial.

Fountain – the fountain was erected in 1912 as a memorial to the reign of King Edward VII.



Dinas Powys Common is situated in the heart of the village. The boundaries include St Andrews Road, Mount Road and Southra. The Common is a very popular, very well used community open space for both formal and informal leisure activities.

With the Athletics Club and the Cricket Club being located on the edge of the Common, rugby and cricket games are regularly held in season; with formal training activities for young, junior and senior players taking place all year-round.



The children's playground and fitness area draw in families with young children; the large open space provides opportunity for exercise and letting off steam; the wildflower and hay meadows provide both play and learning opportunities. The Common is used to stage events such as junior football tournaments and charity fundraising events. It is also used by the junior school and pre-school groups as part of their learning experience.

Cross Common is situated on the southern fringe of Dinas Powys. The boundaries include Cross Common Road, residential housing and agricultural land. The area consists of secondary broad-leaved woodland and some scrub with a central patch of rough grassland. An unofficial footpath runs through Cross Common.



St Andrews Cemetery is a small 'rural' cemetery situated in the Hamlet of St Andrew Major, directly opposite the medieval church, St Andrew's. As well as being a place for peace and reflection the cemetery also serves as a valuable, accessible green space, providing opportunities for those who visit to connect with nature.

Allotments, we have a total of 53 allotment plots which are situated directly next to St Andrews Cemetery and share the same views of open countryside with the additional bonus of health and well-being benefits of 'green gym activities' making them very popular with Dinas Powys Residents. Allotment tenants pay a small annual fee, which goes towards the cost of water rates and grass maintenance of the pathway that runs through the site.

The allotments are regularly inspected by the COSAC Committee to ensure they are cultivated and well maintained. Every summer the Committee judge the best allotment and most improved allotment. The winners are presented with garden gift vouchers at the Village Show held in the Parish Hall.



Scout Field is a small green space situated in Greenfield Avenue. In 2022, Dinas Powys Community Council gave permission to WANDP (Wild About Nature Dinas Powys) to develop a Community Orchard. It is still in its infancy but continues to thrive.

Play grounds

- Dinas Powys Common play area and exercise equipment
- Caerleon Road play area

The play areas are regularly inspected and every year undergo a full inspection, this is to ensure they are safe to use.

It is the responsibility of COSAC to ensure all open spaces are well maintained.

Bryn y Don Playing Field

The playing field is annually leased to Dinas Powys Football club who use it for training purposes

Highways Unit, Station Road

3 x Units are currently leased out which generates a small income for the Community Council.



BIODIVERSITY



Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act places a duty on all public authorities, that when carrying out their functions in relation to Wales, must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity wherever possible within the proper exercise of their functions. In so doing, public authorities must also seek to promote the resilience of ecosystems.

In order to comply with the S6 duty, Dinas Powys Community Council must prepare and publish a plan setting out what actions are proposed in order to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience. All reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance living organisms and various types of habitats.

Dinas Powys Community Council takes seriously its responsibilities to the sustainable management of resources and the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment within its ownership / control. Other public landowners with an interest in the Village include the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, Network Rail, NRW and Woodlands Trust. Communication channels with these organisations exist and issues / concerns are reported as they arise.

A balancing act needs to be maintained in providing habitats for indigenous natural species and the provision of access to and enjoyment of the environment by local residents. Due to constraints on budgets, equipment and installations will only be replaced when the economic argument for doing so is positively balanced.

Site	Routine Actions
Dinas Powys Common	Grass cutting undertaken monthly during the growing season, although this is dependent upon growing conditions. Grass is cut high, except on delineated sports areas (2) during the playing season. A section of Dinas Powys Common is managed as a hay meadow and harvested for hay in the late summer. (trial) Low level maintenance of trees and shrubs undertaken as required for H&S of users.
Cross Common	The woodland is managed with a light touch.
Bryn-y-Don Football Field	The bank of the river on the edge of the football field is left uncut to allow the best possible habitat for wildlife.
Scout Field	In collaboration with WANDP (Wild About Nature Dinas Powys), several apple trees have been planted with the aim of creating an orchard. The bank of the river on the edge of the Scout Field is left uncut to allow the best possible habitat for wildlife. The grassed area cut monthly during the growing season.
St Andrew's Cemetery	Public access is required all year-round. Grass mowed regularly. Cuttings remain in situ. Hedge along the roadside is cut back every two years.
St Andrew's Allotments	Footpath maintained by regular mowing – monthly in the growing season.
The Square / Twyn	Grass mowed regularly. Mix of plantings including pollinator-friendly species. Tree maintenance undertaken as necessary.
Halls Garden	Grass mowed regularly. Managed as a lawn. Leaf-fall composted to improve soil and provide habitat for wildlife. Logs / tree branches etc laid down in quiet corner to provide habitat piles

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is concerned with giving local people a voice to express their views and opinions regarding matters which affect them and their community. This includes individuals, voluntary and community organisations and public bodies to come together to discuss a common objective and action a way forward.

Community engagement lies at the very heart of the role of Dinas Powys Community Councillors. Listening and collaborating with individuals and local organisations, helps them to have a better understanding of the community's needs and aspirations and also helps to deliver better services and facilities.

In August 2023, the Community Council, launched a community survey at the annual Village Show. The aim of the Survey was to build a "community map" of our community: a picture of what great places and spaces, groups and organisations, activities and people we already have. But also, to look at the gaps in community need and improvements the respondents would like made.

From achieving the baseline aims of delivering this survey and using the results as evidence to capture what is working well, where the gaps are, and what we all care about – the plan is to review and think about possible ideas for the future and discuss the next steps in planning how to go about this... (Full details of the survey can be found on the community council's website <https://dinaspowys.org/dinas-powys-community-council-community-mapping-summary/>)



1 Summer Walks 2023

Geraint Thomas is the master of local walks surrounding Dinas Powys. Every year during the summer months he arranges a number of walks on behalf of the Community Council, taking fellow walkers past local landmarks such as the hill fort, Cwm George and the Salmon Leaps to name a few. Geraint also arranges a Boxing Day walk which has grown in popularity, with over 70 walkers attending this year.



2 Remembrance Sunday & Armistice Day

Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day Services continue to be very well supported by the community with around 500 residents including children from local schools attending. The Remembrance Sunday Service would not be possible if it were not for the generous support from members of the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys and Dinas Powys Football Club.



3 Christmas

Dinas Powys was definitely in the mood to welcome Christmas this year. The Christmas tree is the focal point for Christmas events held on the Twyn, the Dickensian Fayre and Carols around the Christmas Tree.

The Best Dressed window competition - made a welcome return to the Christmas calendar this year. COSAC reintroduced the competition following a few years break since COVID. The winner, Shutter Hire was awarded £50 and the runner, Bank of Flowers £25.



MAJOR PROJECTS AND KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

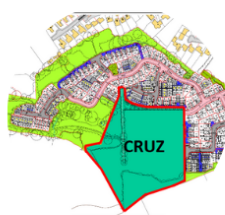


Cruz Site (Scholars Park)

The CRUZ site (Community Recreational Use Zone) is a 7.4 acre piece of land situated on the former St Cyres Lower School. It is part of a hybrid application comprised of a full application for residential development for 215 units (now known as Scholars Park) and associated landscaping and Outline application in respect of the CRUZ site. Two acres of this site is to be set aside for Biodiversity and dormice. The proposal is that this land is disposed by The Vale of Glamorgan Council by virtue of a lease (subject to Cabinet approval and contract) to the Community Council for future management.



On completion of Scholars Park, residents and members of COSAC Committee raised concerns over the CRUZ site ground being filled in with unacceptable waste with poor drainage and in no fit state to consider future management of the site. Following several site meetings between members of COSAC, personnel from Barratt & David Wilson Homes and Vale of Glamorgan Council, Terra Firma Wales (a geotechnical and geoenvironmental engineering and site investigation consultancy firm) were contracted to investigate the site.



A Remediation Strategy Report (and plans on how best to remove the debris left behind on the site is due to be published in April/May 2024.



New Bus Route

After two years campaigning with Cardiff Bus and Active Travel, the Community Council successfully achieved re-routing the 305-bus service up to the Medical Centre at the top of Murch Crescent in Dinas Powys as well as the reinstatement of the number 93 bus on Saturdays which was withdrawn during COVID. A Special thanks to Cllrs Anne Asbrey, Colin Asbrey, Kay Shaw, Debbie Evans, and Malcolm Phillips for leading this.

Street/Footpath Lighting Dinas Powys

a) Eastbrook Railway Station



After two years of engaging with United Welsh, Cllr Anne Asbrey, with the support of Councillors Malcolm Phillips and Debbie Evans successfully managed to have lights installed on the footpath behind Eastbrook Station. A light Vigil, supported by Community Councillors and residents held in Eastbrook, and a campaign/petition entitled WISE (Walk In Safer Environments) were also instrumental in achieving this result. Meetings with United Welsh continue with Cllrs Anne Asbrey, Debbie Evans and Malcolm Phillips to discuss residents' various issues of concern.



b) Lights on Footpath 28a

Cllr Malcolm Phillips brought the lack of light on footpath 28a, running from the pedestrian train crossing to the Murch shops to the attention of Cllr Anne Asbrey, requesting the matter is brought to the attention of Vale of Glamorgan Council. Local residents fully support this initiative but due to funding issues the matter continues to be 'work in progress' and aims to be completed in the next financial year 2024-25.



c) Dinas Powys Railway Station

Following on from the success of the lights at the back of Eastbrook Station, Cllr Malcolm Phillips engaged with Network Rail to highlight the dark, unlit footpath leading from Dinas Powys Railway Station to Elmgrove Place. Lights were eventually installed to the delight of a great many residents.



Benches on the Common

In July 2023, the Community Council applied for Section 106 grant funding towards the purchase and installation of benches on Dinas Powys Common. Many of the existing benches were badly weathered and in need of replacement. With increasing use of local outdoor spaces it was felt to be a solid investment in the village amenities to maintain and improve facilities for local residents.



Discussions with VOG officers helped to inform the selection of materials taking into account sustainability, maintenance, longevity and cost. Two key suppliers were approached requesting quotes for 19 benches of the same style. The Community Council were notified in December 2023 that their application was successful. The schematic map below shows the location and condition of the benches

Schematic Map showing the locations & conditions of benches on Dinas Powys Common - Published in 2020

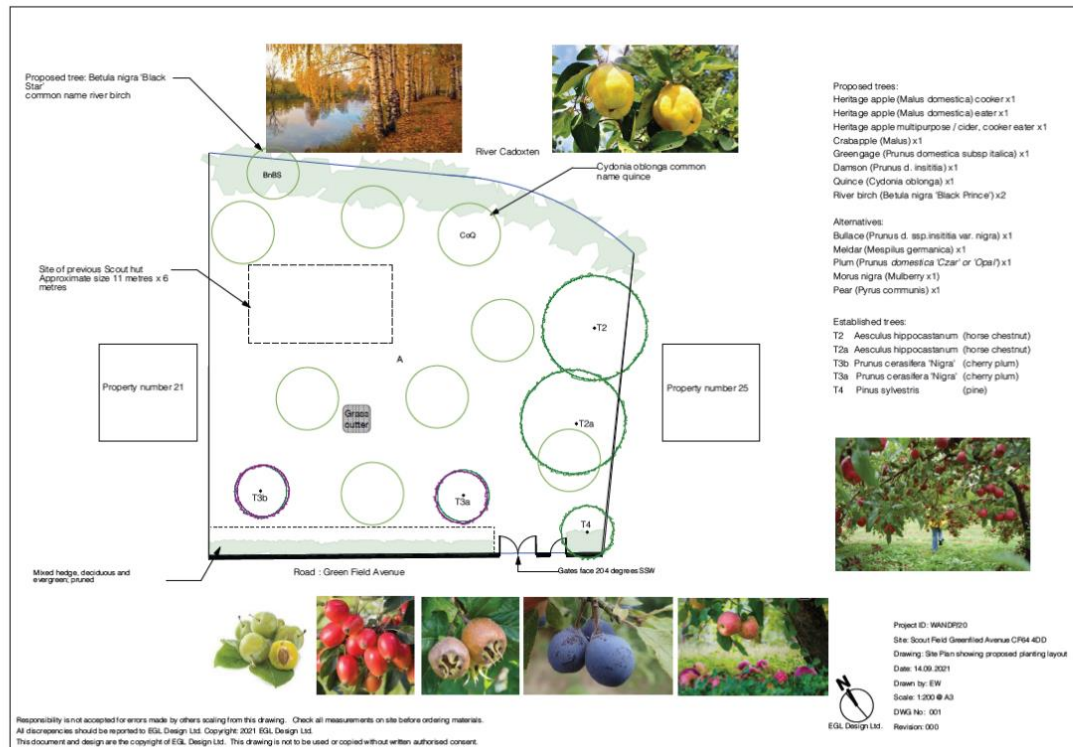


Open Spaces



Community Orchard in Green Field Avenue

The Community Council granted permission to WANDP (Wild About Nature, Dinas Powys) to develop a Community Orchard in the Scout Field. A Memorandum of Understanding sets out the development and management obligations of both parties. COSAC Committee was asked for volunteers to help plant the trees. Cllrs Anne Asbrey, Chris Franks, Debbie Evans and Kay Shaw including members of their families, with members of Dinas Powys Women's Institute were amongst those who helped to plant the trees.



Longmeadow - Green Space

Cllr A Asbrey contacted Vale of Glamorgan Council to cut back and clear the shrubs. The benches in this locality were also cleaned and painted.

Play Areas



Drylla – With the support of Cllrs Debbie Evans, Chris Franks, Macolm Phillips and Anne Asbrey, residents painted the railings surrounding the play area and swings. With the help of Councillors, residents were able to apply for s106 money for a new climbing frame worth approximately £10k. The play area continues to be very well used by local children.



Seel Park – As Chair of 'Friends of Seel Park' Cllr Debbie Evans continues to help maintain the park. She and other members of the recently formed Transfer of Asset Committee are involved in negotiations with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in accepting Seel Park as an Asset. This is still work in progress.



Renovation to the Halls Floors

Last summer, the floors of all three buildings underwent a refurbishment. The Parish Hall floor (a rare sprung floor) was also in need of repair. However, during the repair the contractors discovered asbestos lagging around the radiator pipes beneath the floor. Consequently, all renovation works came to a halt until the asbestos was analysed and the area made safe to continue work. This caused some disruption to our regular hall hirers but eventually the work resumed a few weeks later. The Parish and Lee Hall floors were sanded back to the wood and lacquered. To help minimise further damage to the floors, the maintenance manager replaced the wheels on all the trolleys used in the Halls. The area outside between the garage and the fire exit door to the Parish Hall was resurfaced with a resin bound finish. The Old Library floor was also given an uplift with a brand-new tongue and groove floor



Local Hero Award

During her year as Chair, Cllr Carolyn Mirza-Davies set up the 'Local Hero Award' a new initiative to highlight what really makes a difference to residents in Dinas Powys and to acknowledge the dedication of volunteers, organisations and individuals who help others.



The Award this year went to Mike Grove who is a founding member of Dinas Powys Food Bank, an organisation run locally and supported from Bethesda Chapel. Mike was nominated for his dedication and leadership of the food bank and its incredible work over the last 12 years. Dinas Powys Food Bank has fed and cared for hundreds of vulnerable people, while individuals have quietly and diligently supported their neighbours throughout with volunteers and donations from the public and local shops. At 80 years old, Mike opens the centre every Wednesday, without fail! He leads a team which collects and sort, weighs and dates food in preparation for the clients who attend. Mike goes out of his way to help and often offers to deliver food if families cannot attend.



In addition to the Local Hero Shield, a charity gift of £100 was donated to the Food Bank from the Chair's Community Council funds.

Special thanks to Assistant Clerk, Maxine Hadley for planning and co-ordinating all aspects of the Local Hero Award initiative from start to finish and helping the Chair with the difficult task of filtering through so many other worthy applicants down to one winner.



Defibrillators



The Community Council is responsible for 5 defibrillators Dinas Powys. They are all situated in prominent locations around the Village. All five are registered with 'The Circuit', a data base set up by the British Heart Foundation which is used by Wales Ambulance Services. The defibrillators are regularly checked by Council staff to ensure they are 'emergency ready'.

The 'Rotaid' cabinets are falling into disrepair. The plan is to replace them in the next financial year with with lockable ones made out of a tough thermally resistant double skin construction which will help better protect the defibrillators.



Dinas Powys Fair Trade



This year the Community Council reconfirmed its support to the Dinas Powys Fairtrade Initiative. Cllr Anne Asbrey is our Community Council Rep and regularly attends events. This year the Fair Trade Youth Competition generated a wide range of art work submitted by children. The Chair, Carolyn Mirza-Davies was delighted to attend the event held in Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre. Photos of the Chair with Moyo Bankole, one of the winners.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024 – 2025

08

Additional notice boards

Plans to install new notice boards in the Murch and Cross Common Wards are in the pipeline. Suitable locations and permission are being explored.

07

Creating extra Space

To explore creating extra burial space within existing grounds of the cemetery

06

Proposal to transfer Seel Park to Dinas Powys Community Council

Following an expression of interest by the community council to acquire Seel Park as an Asset – Heads of Terms are being explored.

05

Apply for S106 grant funding towards enhancing Halls

If successful, the grant will go towards replacing the curtains in the Lee Hall, Old Library and stage curtains in the Parish Hall, all of which are in need of replacing. Other enhancements include storage facilities for council archive and changes to the disabled toilet facilities to include baby changing facilities.

04

Remediation Work on the CRUZ site

Once the Remediation Strategy Report has been published plans will be put in place to remove the debris and level off the site.

03

Apply for a Church grant to replace the fence between St Andrews Cemetery and Allotments

The current fence between the cemetery and allotments is in a very poor state. Extensive weed growth and the disposal of green waste alongside the fence has exacerbated the problem. If successful, the plan is to remove the existing fence, clear the area of unwanted vegetation and erect a new wooden fence.

02

Installation of 18 new benches on Dinas Powys Common

Following the successful Section 106 grant application, for new recyclable benches on Dinas Powys Common, the Community Council plan to install them during the spring/summer of 2024.

01

Purchase of Flail mower for tractor

The current mower is falling into disrepair. The plan is to purchase a new mower in advance of the mowing season of 2024.



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