

Dinas Powys
Community Council

Annual Report

**Financial Year 1st April
2024 – 31st March 2025**

www.dinaspowys.org



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A word from the Chair



On behalf of the Community Council, I'm pleased to welcome you to this year's Annual Report, offering a snapshot of the work we've undertaken on your behalf. I'd like to begin by extending our heartfelt thanks to Dave Davies for his 13 years of dedicated service as Maintenance Manager.

Dave stepped down from his role in the first quarter of 2025 after serving the community faithfully for many years. A true jack-of-all-trades, Dave was instrumental in the upkeep of Council assets, including recent improvements such as the new bar area behind the Parish Hall and the installation of baby changing facilities. Dave took pride in all of the work he undertook, especially the upkeep of the Parish Hall and dressing the Christmas Tree on the Twyn. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.

We're delighted to welcome David Rogers as our new Maintenance Manager, many of you will know David as the former owner of a local business specialising in woodland management. His practical, hands-on experience translates perfectly to the role, and we're grateful to have him on board. The Community Council remains committed to recognising the people, groups and organisations that go above and beyond for Dinas Powys. Our annual Local Hero Award is one way we celebrate these contributions. This year's recipients—Mark Thompson, Jill Harvey, Wild About Nature, and Evolve Fitness—truly embody the spirit of community service. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors for their continued hard work and commitment over the past year. A special thanks goes to both Jeanette, our Clerk, and Maxine, our Assistant Clerk, for keeping the Council running smoothly, and to Clive for his essential cleaning work. The Community Council is here to serve the residents of Dinas Powys. If there's anything we can help with please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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.

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 6:30 pm 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.

COUNCILLORS OF DPCC

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

TWYN WARD



Jon Cowpe

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



John 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 five Committees; Finance & General Purpose, Halls, Planning, COSAC (Commons, Open Spaces, Allotments, Cemetery) and Management Committee.

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.

CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL – 2024/2025

The Chairman of Council is an ex-officio Member

COSAC & Footpaths Committee	Chair, Vice Chair + 6 Members
Chair - Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Debbie Evans Kay Shaw	Vice Chair - Chris Franks Keith Hatton Vince Driscoll Malcolm Phillips
Advisory Members	Footpaths Warden – Anne Bassett Evans Allotment Rep – Adrian Holcombe
Working Groups	CRUZ SITE/CEMETERY/ASSET TRANSFER To be re-established by COSAC if/when required
Finance and General Purposes Committee	Chair, Vice Chair + 6 Members
Chair - Keith Hatton Jonathan Cowpe John Fanshaw Carolyn Mirza-Davies	Vice Chair - Vince Driscoll Richard Grigg Chris Franks Marianne Cowpe
Halls Committee	Chair, Vice Chair + 6 Members
Chair - John Fanshaw Jon Cowpe Stephen Griffiths Carolyn Mirza-Davies	Vice Chair - Lara Stevens Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Mike Hartrey
Planning Committee	Chair, Vice Chair + 6 Members
Chair - Kay Shaw Debbie Evans Stephen Griffiths Malcolm Phillips	Vice Chair - Marianne Cowpe Lara Stevens Richard Grigg Mike Hartrey
Management Committee	
Chair - Chair of Council	Chair of Cosac Chair of Finance & GP Chair of Halls Chair of Planning

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.

REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARD & COMMITTEE

Dinas Powys Community Council maintain a close working relationship with the Unitary Authority, The Vale of Glamorgan Council.

On occasion advice is sought from Vale officers that might assist the Council in its work. Contact details of relevant departments are supplied and they provide helpful guidance on a range of topics. Local County Councillors attend every scrutiny meeting as well as planning and public protection meetings. 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.

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

Vale of Glamorgan Council Representatives		4 Councillors	Anne Asbrey Marianne Cowpe Chris Franks Vince Driscoll
Community Liason Committee		1 Representative	Malcolm Phillips
		Substitute Representative	Keith Hatton
One Voice Wales		1 Representative	Stephen Griffiths
Fair Trade		1 Representative	Anne Asbrey
Murchfield Community Association		2 Representative	Malcolm Phillips
			Vince Driscoll
Michaelston – Le-Pit Community Council		1 Representative	Marianne Cowpe
Board of Governors	Dinas Powys Primary School		Debbie Evans
	St. Andrews Church in Wales School		Marianne Cowpe
	Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth		Richard Grigg
Notice Boards			
Mill Road	Stephen Griffiths	Longmeadow Drive	Anne Asbrey
Eastbrook	Debbie Evans	Southra	Malcolm Phillips
Vale View	Malcolm Phillips	The Twyn	Chris Franks

TRAINING

A training plan must be established in accordance with the Welsh Government's legislation, specifically the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021. Following the elections in May 2022, elected members have been consistently informed about available training courses, which are designed to enhance their effectiveness as Community Councillors. The Council has adopted a training plan that addresses the specific needs of its Councillors, ensuring that all Community Councillors are able to participate in relevant training sessions. One Voice Wales plays a key role by offering regular training opportunities to support community councillors in their responsibilities.

STAFF STRUCTURE 2024 – 2025

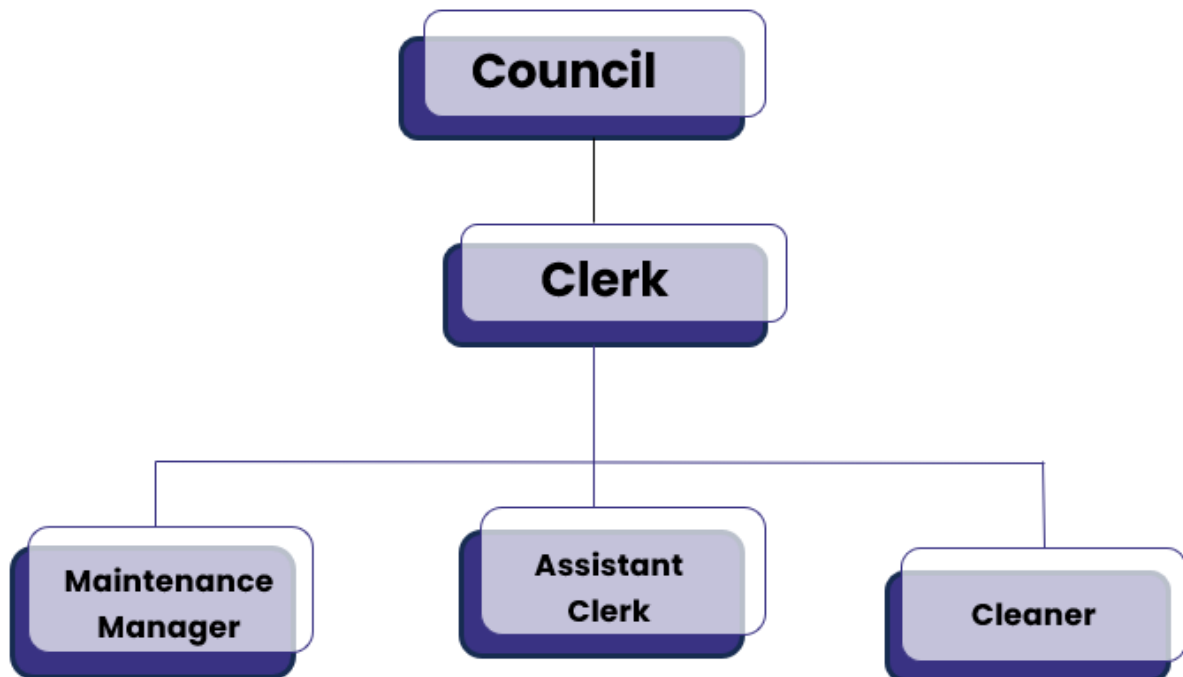
The Community Council's staff contains a team of 2 full time employees and 2 part time employees.

Jeanette Haigh – Clerk – Full Time – 37 Hours per week

Maxine Hadley – Assistant Clerk – Full time – 37 per hours per week

Dave Rogers – Maintenance Manager – Part time – 20 hours per week

Clive Hawkins – Cleaner – Part time – 16 hours per week



Staff are based at the Parish Hall in Dinas Powys.

Opening hours are:

Monday to Thursday 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

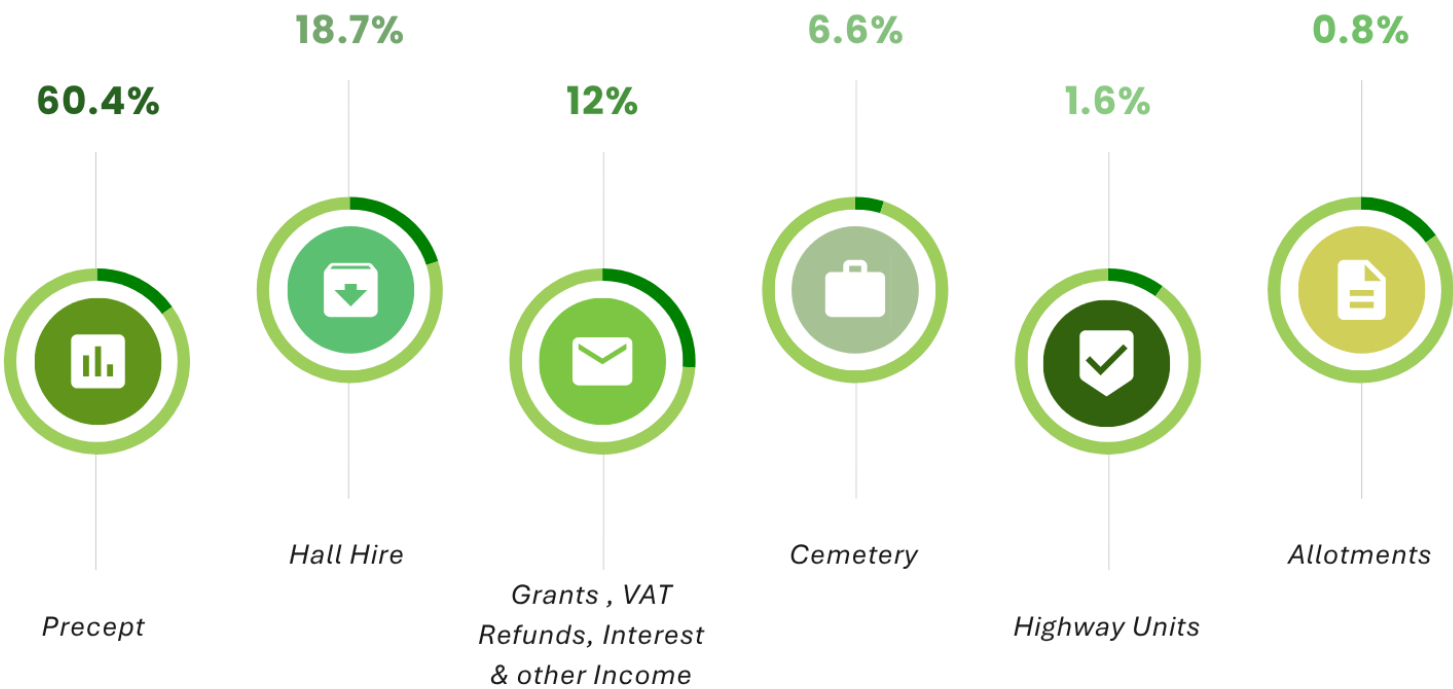
(Hour lunch between 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm)

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 president's council tax bills. The precept is calculated by deducting the estimated income from the projected expenditure. The amount is formally requested to the Vale of Glamorgan Council within a time frame that allows the Unitary Authority to prepare its Council Tax bills, which includes the Community Council Precept.

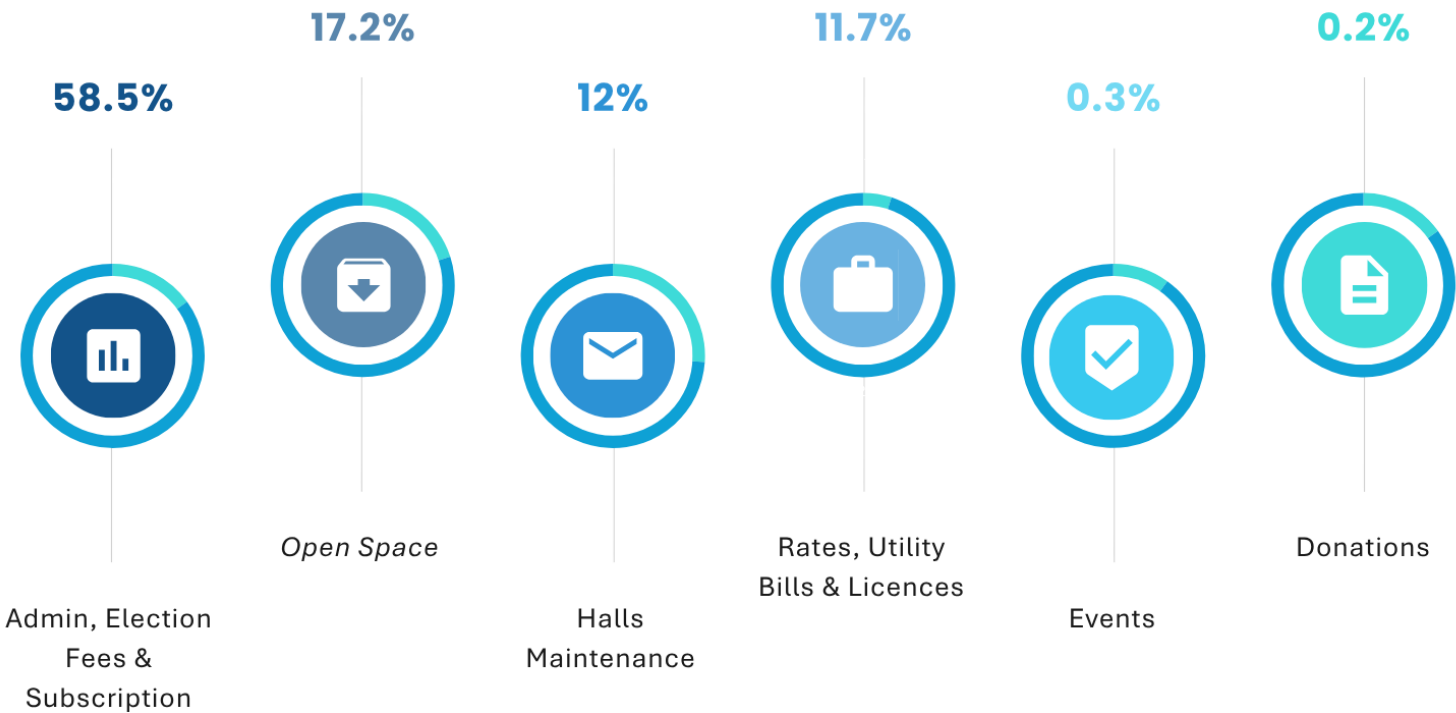
For the financial year 2024-25, the precept was set at £153,470.66, leading to an increase of £2.48 per household, culminating in a total levy of £37.86 for a band D equivalent. Additional income for the Community Council is generated through various sources, including hall rental fees, Highways Unit rentals, burial board contributions, allotment fees, grants, and section 106 funds. For a breakdown of how the precept and other income sources have been allocated, please refer to the items listed below.



The Council’s expenditure is controlled by a budgeting and monitoring process. In setting its budget the Council aims to provide services, manage facilities and meet its priorities. The breakdown is given in the chart below.

In order to effectively manage public funds Dinas Powys Community Council:

- Strives to obtain value for money
- Monitors and controls expenditure as per its Standing Orders and Financial Regulations
- Consider budget versus actual comparisons throughout the year
- Annually reviews its fees
- Identifies future projects



ANNUAL AUDIT

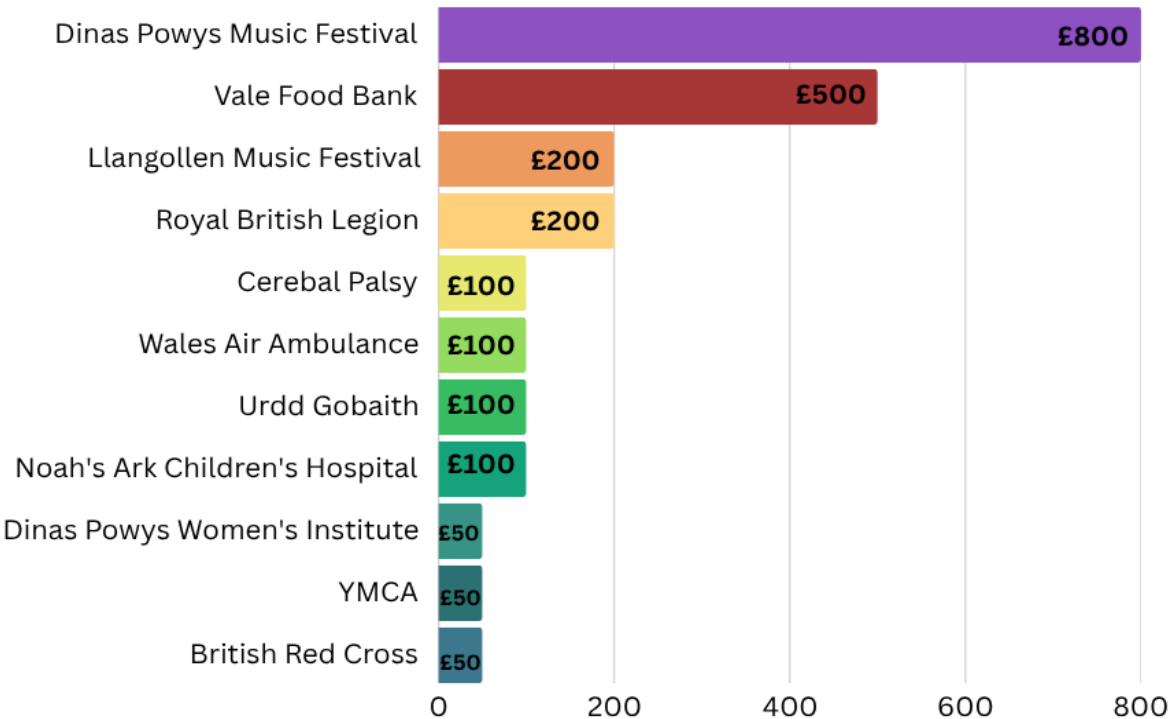
This year, the Community Council’s accounts for 2024 – 25 will be subjected to a ‘basic’ audit. Once they have been approved by Full Council in June 2025. An Audit opinion will be received later this year. They must, therefore, be regarded as ‘Not yet Audited’.

It should be noted that the Annual Audit for 2024-25 was completed and submitted in accordance with statutory guidance and legislation. The audit for this particular year were returned as qualified.



GRANT FUNDING

The Community Council offers financial assistance and donations to a variety of organisations that can clearly demonstrate their positive impact and ability to create or sustain opportunities for local residents, by using the authority granted by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). This year, we have made contributions to eleven organisations and charities that align with our mission. Below is a breakdown of donations made this year.



ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY COUNCIL

The Parish Hall, an Arts & Crafts style building, and the Old Library are Grade II listed buildings (2002). The hall in particular is of special architectural interest. Amongst its notable features, the Parish Hall has a rare, wooden sprung dance floor and a full stage lighting rig. The Lee Hall is a separate building of a 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 the buildings are maintained to a high standard and also to raise income from the hire of the buildings (large community groups, entertainment, private and commercial hirers) which can be used to offset the costs of maintaining these well-loved community assets. During 2024/25, the Halls Committee has made sure that the hire charges for the halls accurately reflect their value while remaining affordable. They have also ensured that all health and safety regulations, along with other legal obligations, are met. Additionally, the halls and gardens are kept in excellent condition.



Highways Unit, Station Road

The Dinas Powys Community Council has leased the units from the Vale of Glamorgan for a period of 25 years, generating a modest income for the council

The Twyn

The War Memorial was erected in 1935 in memory of those who fought and lost their lives during the First World War, and later those who lost their lives in the Second 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.

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



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. A bridle path runs through the Common towards Sunnycroft, earlier this year the path was re-surfaced.

Dinas Powys Common

This community space is highly valued and frequently utilised for a variety of leisure activities, both formal and informal.

The Athletics Club and Cricket Club are situated at the Common's edge, where seasonal rugby and cricket matches take place, alongside year-round training sessions for players of all ages.

The children's area offers a great chance for physical activity and play, while the wildflower and hay meadows serve as both recreational and educational spaces. The Common is sometimes utilized for events like junior football tournaments and charity fundraisers. Additionally, it plays a role in the educational experiences of local junior school and preschool groups.



Parc Bryn y Don Playing Field

Is a valuable community sports facility, annually leased to Dinas Powys Football Club, who utilise the grounds for regular training sessions. In addition to football, the field is also used to play cricket, serving as a venue for matches in the Dinas Powys Cricket Club. This shared use highlights the park's role in supporting local sport groups and promoting active lifestyles.

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.



St Andrews Cemetery

Is a small 'rural' cemetery situated in St Andrew Major. It is 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.

St Andrews Allotments

There are 53 plots on the allotment site, offering stunning views of the surrounding countryside. These allotments are particularly cherished by residents of Dinas Powys, not only for their scenic beauty but also for the health and wellbeing benefits associated with gardening activities. Tenants pay a modest annual fee that helps to cover water rates and the upkeep of the pathways throughout the site. The COSAC Committee conducts regular inspections to ensure the plots are well-tended. Each summer, they recognise the best and most improved allotments, awarding winners with garden gift vouchers which are presented at the annual Village Show, held in the Parish Hall.



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.

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



Dinas Powys Community Council are responsible for other community assets, including 7 notice boards, 5 defibrillators, 2 heritage boards and 20 benches located around the Common. These facilities contribute to the well-being and safety of the community, providing essential information and support for residents and visitors alike.



BIODIVERSITY



In 2021 the Welsh Government introduced a legislation framework to help ensure that nature is protected. They also declared a Nature Emergency. Under Section 6 of the [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#), public bodies in Wales have a 'biodiversity duty' that is set out in legislation. This requires that we 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as so far as consider with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'. We must also contribute to the six objectives of the Welsh Government's national Nature Recovery Action Plan 2020-21. <https://www.gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan> - 'To reverse the decline in biodiversity, for its intrinsic value, and to ensure lasting benefits to society'

- 1: Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.
- 2: Safeguard species and habitats of principal importance and improve their management
- 3: Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation
- 4: Tackle key pressures on species and habitats
- 5: Improve our evidence, understanding and monitoring
- 6: Put in place a framework of governance and support for delivery

All reasonable steps must be taken to maintain and enhance living organisms and various types of habitats. This involves embedding biodiversity into early thinking, business planning, and day-to-day activities, including policies, plans, programs, and projects.

Every three years public bodies have a duty publishing a report. Outlining what they have done or plan to do to comply with the duty.

Our Biodiversity Plan

Biodiversity encompasses all of the plants and animals, habitats and wildlife and rivers that are a part of our living landscape. The State of Nature Wales Report 2023 <https://stateofnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TP26053-SoN-Wales-summary-report-v10.pdf> shows that we are losing habitats and species in Wales at an alarming rate. Wales is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on earth. We need to protect these valuable, natural assets for species survival and human welfare, and to alleviate the effects of climate change.

The local environment and wildlife are important to Dinas Powys Community Council and we are constantly striving to make positive and sustainable changes within our community. We have the potential and capacity to lead by example and work together with local governing bodies to improve the state of our biodiversity and encourage the community to join us.

Other public landowners with an interest in the Village and surrounding area include the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, Network Rail, Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust. Communication channels with these organisations exist. Any issues or concerns are reported as they arise.

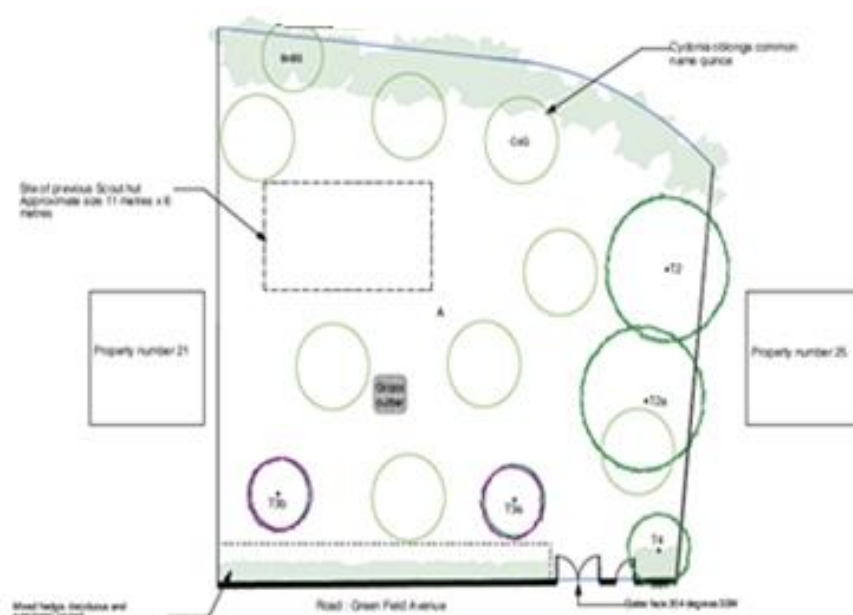
Dinas Powys Community Council takes seriously its responsibilities to the sustainable management of resources and the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment within its ownership / control. A balancing act needs to be maintained in providing habitats for indigenous natural species and 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 there is an economic argument for doing so.**

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). It will be cut back at the beginning of July. WANDP (Wild About Nature) plan to gather the cut grass and dispose of it discretely to enable the area to develop further as a meadow area. Low level maintenance of trees and shrubs, brambles to be undertaken as required to avoid turning the area into shrub land and for H&S of users. Bamboo which has been identified as growing on the Common is to be removed
Cross Common	The site is managed with a light touch. Earlier this year (January 25) following works to restore the Bridlepath that runs through Cross Common, brambles encroaching onto the common were cut back to open up the area. This needs to be maintained Cross Common has in the main been left to its own devices. To help encourage local wildlife in this area, the Community Council plan to commission a survey to find out whether it meets the SINC criteria Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation. Bamboo which has been identified as growing on the Common is to be removed (this may be complicated as its roots appear to be growing amongst underground telecoms services). This needs further investigation
Bryn-y-Don Fields	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 were planted creating a small orchard. WANDP to prune the trees annually (see diagram of Scoutfield below) 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. Andrews Cemetery	Public access is required all year-round. Grass mowed regularly. Cuttings remain in situ. Grass in the older part of the cemetery is left not cut leaving nature take its course. Hedge along the roadside is cut back every two years (excluding nesting season) or as and when required for H&S reasons

St. Andrews Allotments	A Tawny Owl nesto box is to be erected in one of the surrounding trees of the cemetery. Tawny owls are natural predators and this may help to manage the rat populaton at the allotments Footpath maintained by regular mowing – monthly in the growing season. The majority of the allotment tenants grow polinator and bee friendly fruit and vetegtables – e.g. apples, raspberries and comfrey. Hedge along the roadside is cut back every two years.or as and when (excluding nexting season) required for H&S reasons
Lee Hall Garden	Grass mowed regularly. Managed as a lawn. Mix of plantings including pollinator-friendly species. Tree maintenance is undertaken as necessary. Leaf-fall composted to improve soil and provide habitat for wildlife. Logs / tree branches etc laid down in quiet corner to provide habitat piles. Up and coming Action: To plant more bee friendly plant species create a large bee hotel and erect nesting boxes
The Square / Twyn	Grass mowed regularly. Mix of plantings including pollinator-friendly species. Tree maintenance is undertaken as necessary.

Plan of 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



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day - continue to be two of the major events held in Dinas Powys. They continue to be very well attended by members of the community of all ages and backgrounds. It is encouraging to see younger members attending the service. A special thank you goes to members of Dinas Baptist Church who serve up a wonderful display of cakes, teas and coffees in the Parish Hall after the Remembrance Sunday Service.

The Armistice Day Service is a much smaller event where the focus is on inviting children from the primary schools to attend.



VE Day - To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe on 8th May, the community council held a service on the Twyn: Pupils from Dinas Powys, St Andrews Church in Wales and Ysgol Pen y Garth primary schools attended the event. There was also a very strong presence from the community too. After the Service everyone was invited back to the Parish Hall for refreshments, hosted by members of Dinas Powys Women's Institute who went the extra mile by dressing in up WW2 costumes. The Community Council put on a small exhibition of WW2 memorabilia and photos depicting VE Day across South Wales and London. To think, 80 years ago, to the very day, the Parish Hall was the venue for a VE Day Party for the people of Dinas Powys. These commemorations provide a unique opportunity to connect with younger generations with this pivotal chapter in history.



Dinas Powys Summer Evenings Walks 2024 - 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 Hillfort, Cwm George and the Salmon Leaps to name a few. Geraint also arranges a Boxing Day Walk which has grown in popularity.

Date	Walk	Weather	Walkers
29 th May	Hillfort & History	Cloudy	46
5 th June	Salmon Leaps	Cloudy	51
12 th June	St Andrews Ridge	Cloudy/ Sunny	51
19 th June	Cwm Slade	Cloudy/ Sunny	48
26 th June	The Irbic Cross (Llandough)	Sunny	38
3 rd July	Hillford Flanks, Park Wood *	Sunny	44
Total number of walkers: 278 on 6 Walks			
Average number on walk: 46			



Christmas - Dinas Powys was certainly ready to embrace the Christmas spirit this year, with the Christmas tree on the Twyn serving as the centrepiece for the festivities. Earlier, this year the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys had expressed concerns to the Community Council about their ability to host the outdoor event due to a lack of volunteers. However, with encouragement from the Community Council and local residents, they decided to proceed. Unfortunately, heavy rain and strong winds prompted a last-minute decision to relocate the fayre into the Parish and Lee Hall. Despite the quick change, the event attracted a large number of visitors and stallholders. As to whether the fayre in December 2025 will take place on the Twyn is not yet known,

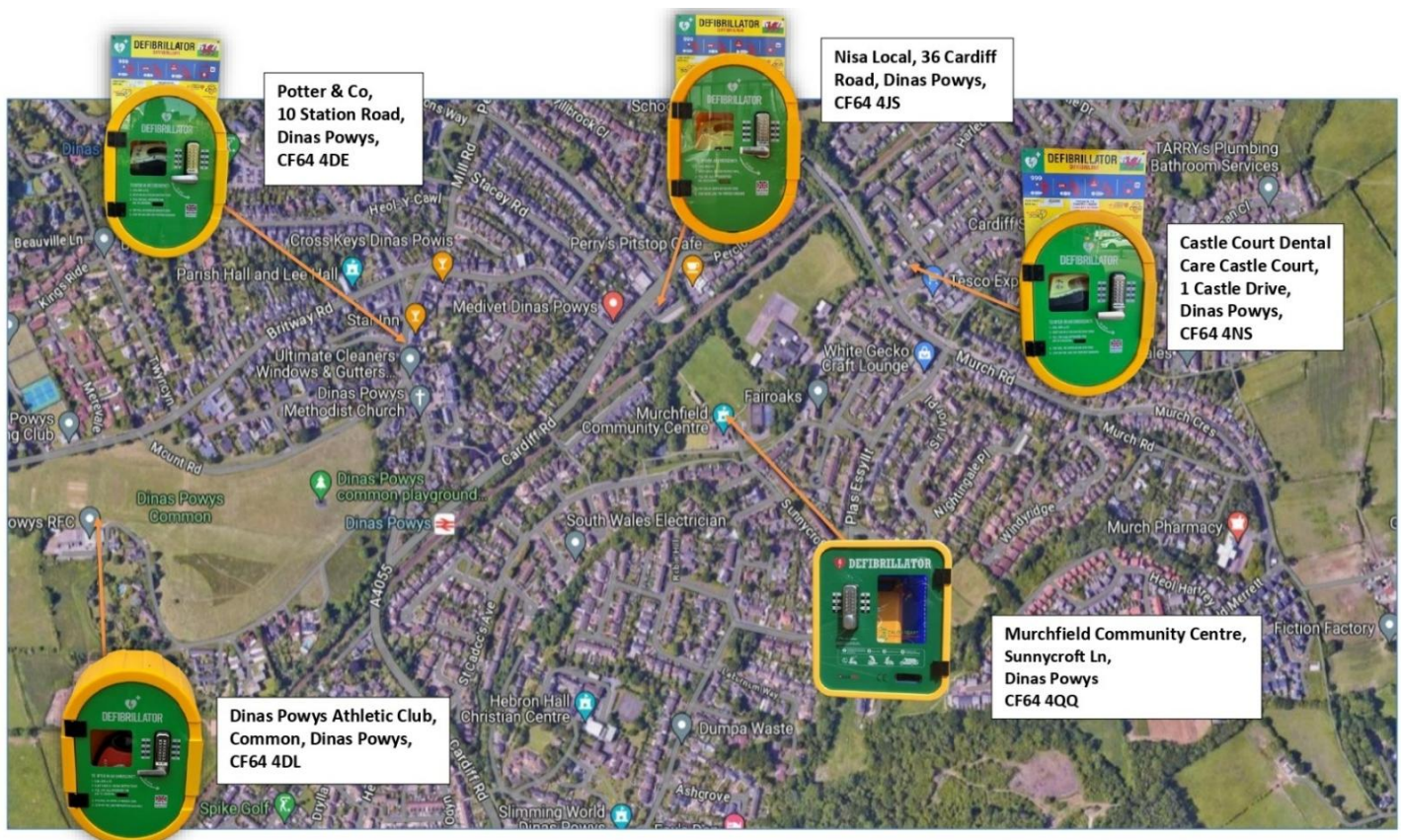
PROJECTS AND KEYS ACHIEVEMENTS

Defibrillators & Cabinets

The Community Council is responsible for 5 defibrillators in Dinas Powys. They are all situated in prominent locations around the community. All 5 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 the Council staff to ensure they are 'emergency ready'.

Last year the existing 'Rotaid' cabinets which were beginning to fall into disrepair were replaced with new ones. The new cabinets are heated and made from polypropylene. They provide protection against harsh weather conditions when storing a defibrillator outside. Every cabinet has code lock which minimises the risk of vandalism. Placing a defibrillator in a cabinet also helps the public easily identify its location.

The defibrillator situated at Dinas Powys Athletic Club was replaced this year with a new one. As the existing one which was donated to the community council was no longer viable.



Highways Unit Replacement Doors

The existing concertina doors were falling to disrepair, coming away from the walls due to rust and were increasingly heavy to open. Earlier this year a decision was made to replace them, with electric shutter doors.



Grant – Towards Cemetery Fence

This year saw significant improvements to the area between the allotments and cemetery in St Andrews, with the erection of a wooden fence. This was made possible by a grant of £3,630 awarded by the Welsh Church Act Trust. The project would not have been possible without the efforts of Cllr Debbie Evans, who played a key role in securing additional support from local trade companies. Thanks to her work, several businesses generously donated materials to enhance the overall construction. The Council extends its sincere thanks to Bruno Timber Merchants, Robert Price, Mon Timber, and F W Morgan Ltd for their valued contributions, which helped to deliver a high-quality result while maximising the use of public funds.



Grant – Towards Halls Enhancements

The community council were successful in being awarded £9879.99 Section 106 Grant Fundings towards enhancements in the Halls.

- Bespoke Cupboard in Old Library – for archive
 - Ladies' toilets cupboards and new work top
 - Roller Blinds in the Old Library and Lee Hall
- Stage Curtains
 - Baby Changing tables
 - Exhibition Panels



Local Hero Award

Dinas Powys Community Council are excited to announce that the winner of the 2024/25 Local Hero Award goes to Mark Thompson. In its second year, the Local Hero Award champions individuals and organisations that go over and above to enrich our community here in Dinas Powys. Please join us in congratulating Mark on receiving this award.

Mark received numerous nominations from all demographics within our community as someone who makes our village a great place to live. A massive thank you to everyone who took the time out to nominate Mark and other members of the community who invest a significant amount of their own time and effort to enrich the tapestry that makes up Dinas Powys.



More Notice Boards

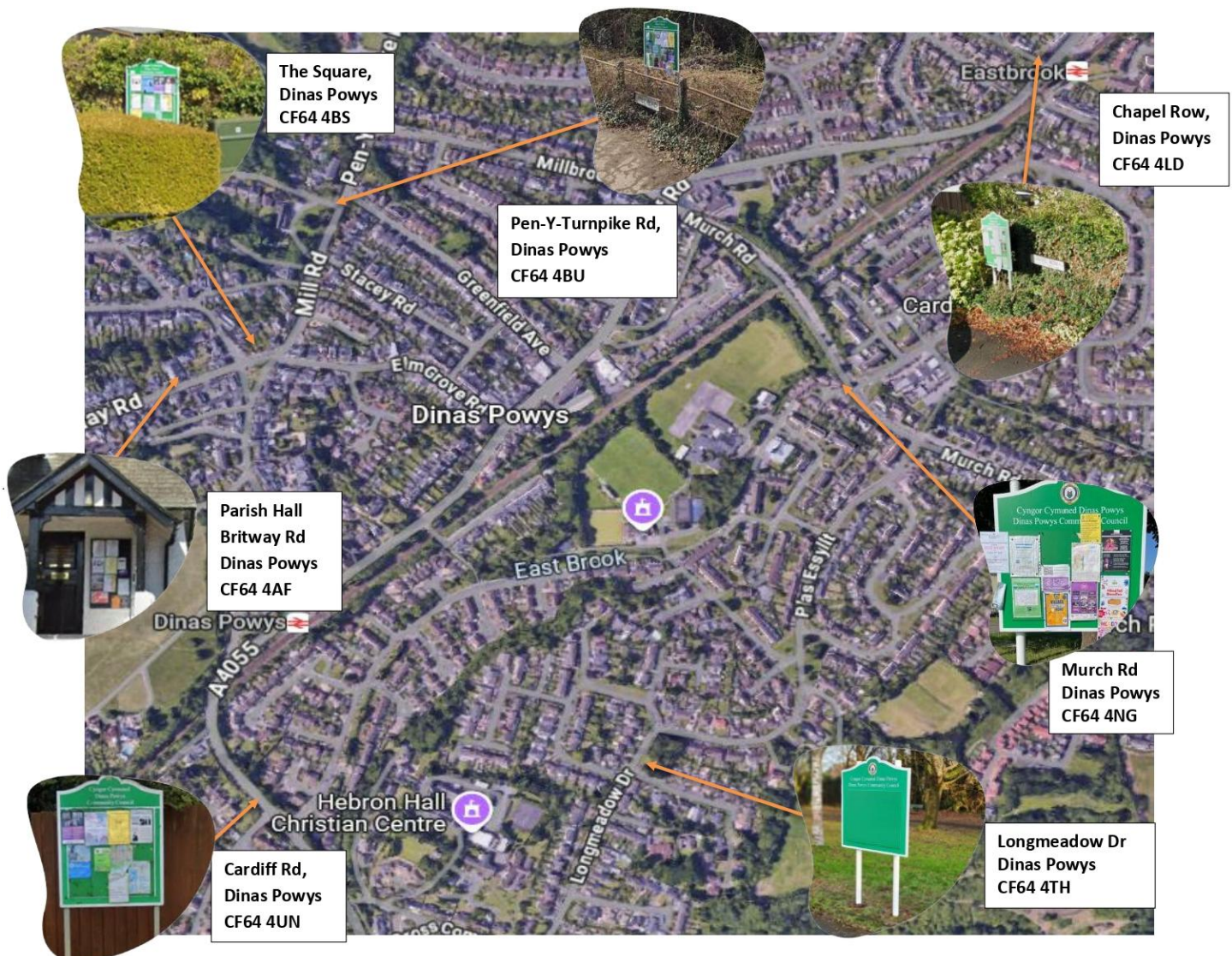
Two additional notice boards were elected this year they are located at Vale View and Longmeadow Drive. All the notice boards serve as valuable community information point, they are well maintained with the help of our dedicated local Cllrs.

- Mill Rd – Stephen Griffiths
- Eastbrook – Debbie Evans / Kay Shaw
- Southra – Malcolm Phillips

Vale View – Malcolm Phillips

The Twyn – Chris Franks

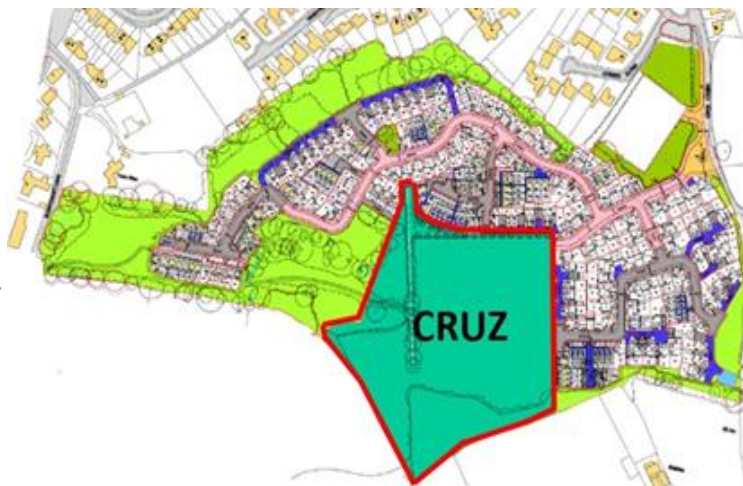
Longmeadow Drive – Anne Asbrey /
Carolyn Mirza-Davies



Cruz Site

The CRUZ site (Community Recreational Use Zone) is a 7.4-acre piece of land situated on the former St Cyres Lower School grounds. 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 set aside for The Vale of Glamorgan Council by virtue of a lease. (subject to Cabinet approval and contract) to the community Council for future management. Remediation works on the CRUZ are taking much longer than anticipated. Councillors Anne Asbrey and Malcolm Phillips met with contractors and officials from the Vale of Glamorgan Council on a number of occasions, at the CRUZ site to discuss the progress of the area. Work is continuing after a delayed start due to the weather conditions and there is still a number of issues which are being addressed during this current scope of works period.

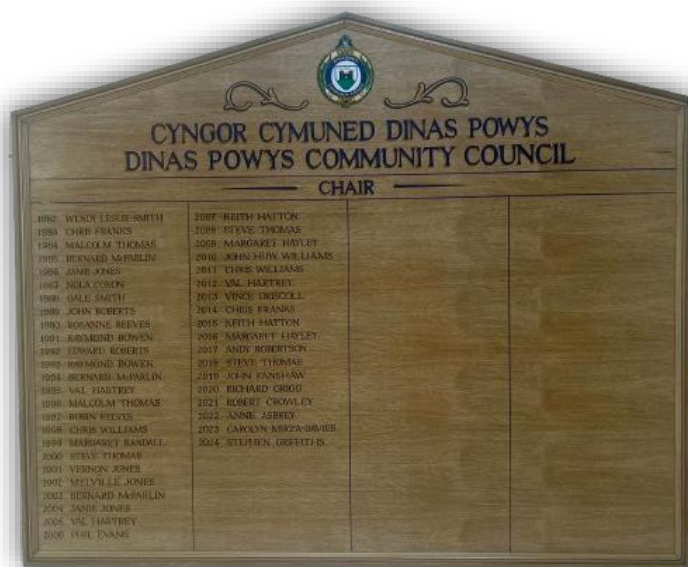
Councillors pressed for a timescale for completion of works and emphasised the council's concerns at the length of time the contractors have taken to get back on site. Every effort is being made to get the site ready for transfer as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Council stressed that no persons should be entering and walking around the site.



Honours Board

This year, we proudly unveiled an Honours Board to recognise all those who have served as Chair to Dinas Powys Community Council since 1982. This acknowledges their dedication and service of to the wellbeing and development of our community.

The Council has recently hung up a collection of old photographs in the old library, showcasing the rich history of the Council and the village. These images offer a fascinating glimpse into the people who have shaped the community over the years, preserving local heritage for residents and visitors to enjoy.



Grant Shared Prosperity Funding

In April this year, the community council applied for a £15k grant via Shared Prosperity Grant fund to go towards replacing the chairs in the Parish and Lee Halls with lighter in weight chairs with trolleys. If successful in being awarded the grant, not only will the new chairs help towards sustaining the future of hall but add a touch of extra comfort and make it much easier for the Hall hirers.



Flail Mower

This year, Dinas Powys Community Council invested in a new flail mower for the tractor to help maintain the grass on the Common. The new mower enhances our ability to manage open spaces more effectively, ensuring the area remains tidy, safe, and enjoyable for all residents and visitors.

Office Computer Upgrades

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving efficiency and service delivery, Dinas Powys Community Council invested in two new computers for the office this year. These upgrades ensure that staff have access to up-to-date technology, helping to streamline day-to-day operations and better support the needs of the community.

Damage to the Lee Hall Fence

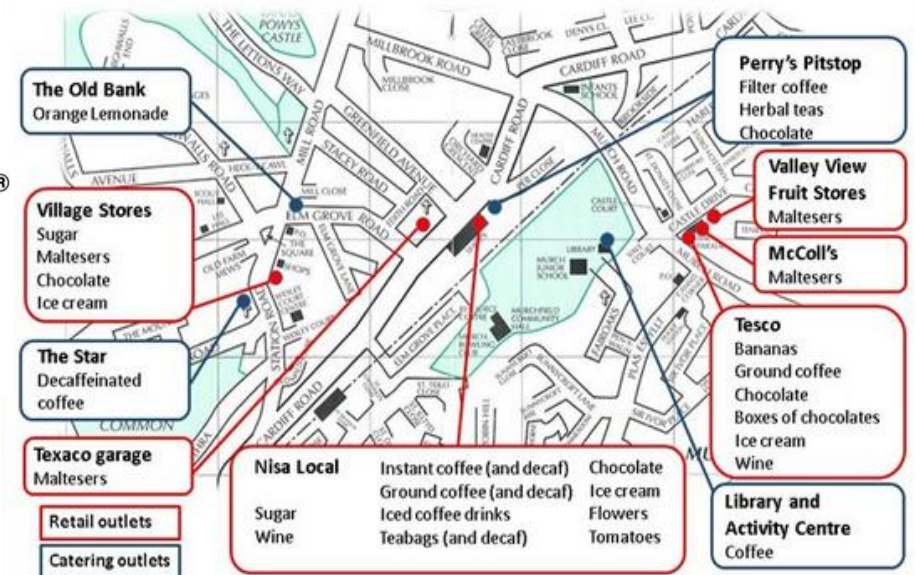
Due to damage caused by strong winds earlier in the year, two sections of fencing at Lee Hall Garden had to be replaced. Dinas Powys Community Council acted promptly to carry out the necessary repairs, ensuring the garden remains safe, secure, and visually appealing for all who use it.



Fair Trade – Dinas Powys

Fairtrade Celebrating 15 years of being a Fair-Trade Village. Cllr Anne Asbrey continues to represent the Council in this important work, regularly attending Fairtrade events such as visiting a local school alongside members of the Fairtrade group, where many parents and guardians were also in attendance to show their support for ethical and sustainable trade.

Where can you buy Fair Trade Products in Dinas Powys?



PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 25-26

05

PARISH HALL ROOF

Last year the Community Council arranged for a Historic Building Surveyor to inspect the Parish Hall roof. The findings showed evidence that the slate tiles on the roof are suffering from nail fatigue. Some of the s lates have slipped off the roof, and leaks in various places. The rear roof recently re-slatted also needs to be revisited as there are many defective broken and slipped slates. The lead valley looks to be coming to the end of its time. The lead flashing detail to the gable also needs amending. The air vent that sits on top of the main hall roof will need to be repaired, with new lead flashings and cleaned out.

The Surveyors recommendations are to re-roof the whole of the main hall including the office and porch. The Council plan to proceed with the first phrase of the process and commission the following.

- Bat Survey
 - Architect plans
- Heritage Impact Assessment

04

GRANT APPLICATIONS

The community council plan to submit grants for the following projects

All Wales Play Opportunities Grant Capital Funding for Play Spaces and Playgrounds 2025-26 To improve the quality of play spaces and playgrounds.

If successful the funding would help make the play area more accessible to children with mobility issues. As part of the proposal, the Community Council would like to include bi-lingual symbol-based boards in the park. The boards are designed by specialist speech and language therapists to help children with speech and language barriers to communicate more easily. Bilingual boards would also help non-Welsh speaking families learn basic Welsh words and at the same time help children in the help to create a friendly and inclusive park that can be used all year round.

Community Facilities Grant - towards enhancing the gents' toilets in the Parish Hall. The Grant is not yet open for applications, but the they plan to open it later this year.

03

CREATING A PLAY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

2025 will see the return of the Playscheme – a 3-day event designed to encourage children between the ages of 5-14 years to take part in open access play opportunities. The event is scheduled to take place Tuesday 29th – Thursday 31st July 2025 – finishing off with a Family Fun Day on Friday, 1st August 2025. The Council has agreed to contribute towards the staffing costs and venue hire. The Scheme will be based over at the Murchfield Community Centre and make use of the playing field and new MUGA site next to it. Qualified play workers will provide all the children with a child-centred, challenging friendly and fun place to play.

02

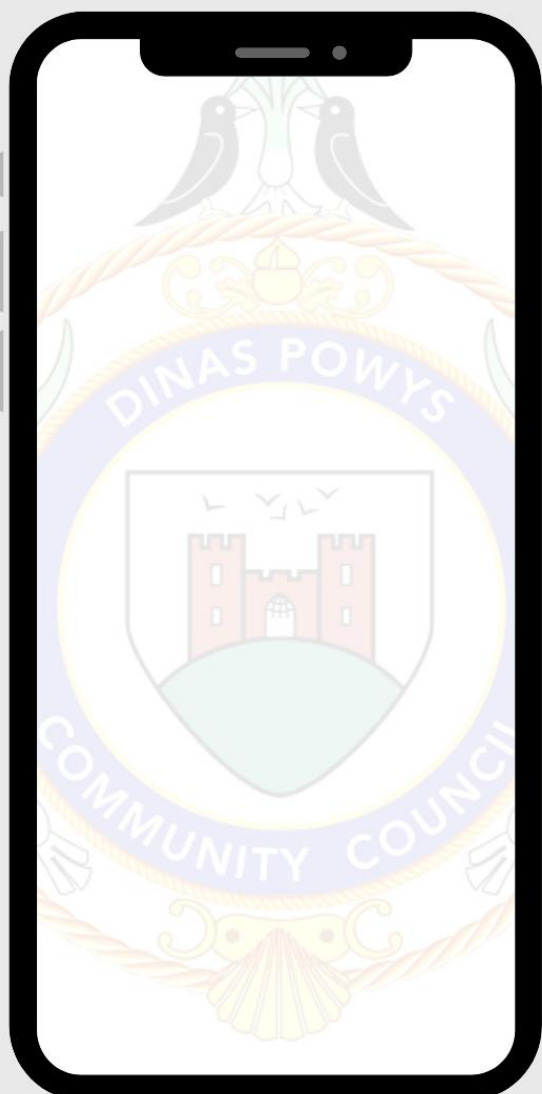
SEEL PARK

The Community Council is still in negotiation with Vale of Glamorgan Council to transfer Seel Park on a 99-year lease to the Council. Seel Park is made up of a play area, playing field and woodland. If the Transfer is agreed, the Community Council in conjunction with the Vale of Glamorgan Council aim register the land with the Fields in Trust, a UK-based charity focussed on protecting and improving parks and green spaces for public recreation. In doing so, it would safeguard the land, protect it from development and encourage community use and enjoyment.

01

PURCHASE OF TAWNY OWL BOX FOR ST ANDREW CEMETERY

The Council are looking to purchase a tawny owl nesting box as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local wildlife and biodiversity matters. It is hoped the box will provide a safe and suitable habitat for tawny owls.



Contact Us



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If you would like to have this information translated into Welsh. Please let us know and we will be happy to arrange a translation to ensure it is accessible to all members of our community.