

Dinas Powys
Community Council

Annual Report

Financial Year

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026



www.dinaspowys.org



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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

As Chair of the Dinas Powys Community Council, I am delighted to introduce this year's Annual Report. It is a privilege to provide a contribution to this Council's support for the community of Dinas Powys. I have had the pleasure of living in this attractive and vibrant community for over thirty years. In my short time as a councillor, representing the Twyn ward and the wider community, it never ceases to amaze me that this village is blessed with a wide variety of cultural and sporting facilities and activities. These thrive because of the commitment of those who live in Dinas Powys and attract visitors and contributors from far and wide.

The Council continues to work closely with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, not least through four of our councillors, Anne Asbrey, Marianne Cowpe, Vince Driscoll and Chris Franks who sit on the Vale Council. We continue to work with the Vale to support the needs and requirements of the residents of Dinas Powys. The Council, in consultation with the Vale Council, have now agreed on the asset transfer of Seel Park. The overgrown boundaries of the allotments and cemetery opposite St Andrews Major church have been cleared and re-planted with a beech hedge. The council's new maintenance manager, Dave Rogers who joined us in April last year, has made a significant contribution covering the village community's open space commitments. Following an anonymous donation the council were able to place a Christmas Tree at the junction of Mill Road and Cardiff Road opposite the Murch Infant School. The chairs in the Parish and Lee Halls have been replaced along with more user-friendly trolleys.

The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) has exercised everyone across the village community, not least the proposals for a substantial housing development off Argae Lane and still in the mix, the Eastbrook site. This Council has endeavoured to support local residents who have been vociferous in providing evidence to challenge these proposals. This Council has itself provided a substantial response in objecting to the ongoing proposal for additional housing in Eastbrook, having hosted four open meetings to share their views and to hear the views of the residents whom they represent. The 'Eastbrook residents' group' have the full support of the

council and are to be applauded for the measured way in which they have lodged their objections. We all wait with some trepidation to see what will happen in the next stage of the process.

Parish Hall Roof renovation is now one of the council's main priorities and hopefully will be achieved in the not to distant future.

The development of a memorial to reflect the sacrifice of women and men, during the wars and to also include those who gave their all on the Home Front is work in progress. The meadow area of the common will continue to be reviewed annually. The Council continues to promote and protect the wonderful open spaces across the community of Dinas Powys including facilitating the maintenance of existing public rights of way (PROWs) and supporting new PROW initiatives, in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, for the benefit of the community and its residents. Councillors, continued to support residents during the heavy weather events in the latter part of 2025, particularly in sites of flooding over the past year and with Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) endeavouring to resolve flooding occurrences and disturbances in water supplies to local residents. The Council remains willing to engage with the Flood Action Group which involves local residents, Vale Officers and NRW staff. Councillors have been involved in litter-picking across the community including those led by Wild about Nature.

The Council continues to support the Village Show, organise the Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services on the Tywn and Carols around the Christmas tree, sponsor the Dinas Powys Music Festival primary schools' events, and facilitate the annual Dickensian Fayre run by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys. In June 2025, Council supported the Vale of Glamorgan Play Development Team's Play Scheme event over three days and their family fun day in early august. At this year's Annual Meeting, the Council will provide certificates of recognition and the Local Hero Award, which is in it's third year. As usual it ceases to amaze me the number of residents who are nominated for their significant contribution to this village's community and further afield.

The October meeting of Full Council was attended by a Vale Council Standards Committee representative, and it was gratifying to receive positive feedback about the conduct of the Council's activities and actions. Over the year, Council approved Health & Safety Policy, Lone-Working Policy, Habitual & Vexatious Complainants Policy and Social Media Guidelines. All examples of good practice. The Well-being for Future Generations report was updated in June 2025. In December 2025 the Biodiversity & Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report and Action Plan was updated as required by Law under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 Section 6 Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty.

The Council has invited speakers to their meetings over the last year. In January 2026, Council welcomed the new PCSO which provided an opportunity to raise issues including, inappropriate parking, criminal and antisocial behaviour. He was receptive to the issues raised and stressed the importance of residents reporting all incidences via 101 as repetition of such reporting can be best followed up as a result of 'occurrence number' records. The 'Cuppa with a Copper' opportunity has been re-introduced at the Dinas Powys Library and Activity Centre. In April 2026, Mike O'Brian shared information about the organisation, ADFOCAD, which aims to address the needs of the substantial numbers of unpaid carers across Wales.

During the year our Assistant clerk, Maxine Hadley commenced her maternity leave, and it was a delight to congratulate her and Owen on the birth of their daughter. We look forward to welcoming her back into the fold later this year. We welcomed Julie Brooks and Ben Harvey who were appointed to job-share in replacement of Maxine during her leave period. Ben has recently moved on to further opportunities. We thank him for his contribution and wish him well in his next challenge. Clive Hankins has been employed as cleaner by the community council for 15 years. He underwent knee surgery in July 2025 and has returned briefly before finally deciding to hang up his cleaning gear in June 2026. We wish him well for a lengthy retirement.

I had the pleasure of attending a number of events over the year including Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern (DPVC) AGM and coffee mornings which included Barry Ladies Choir performances. As part of the National Garden Scheme, I enjoyed visiting the Dinas Powys Gardens on show. In addition, further highlights included being in the congregation for 'Songs of Praise' in St Augustine's church, Penarth shown on BBC on St David's Day and at the end of my tenure being invited to attend the 'Codi Llais - Raise your Voice' event in the Utility Arena organised by Cardiff & Vale Music Education. 1500 school children from across Cardiff and Vale raising the roof in song to a number of Rock and Pop Classics – incredible! Being involved in the 25th Anniversary Gwyl Gerdd Dinas Powys Music Festival (GGDPMF; dpmusfest.co.uk), in May 2025, was a pleasure as always. In mentioning GGDPMF, it's important to highlight this popular village annual event in May 2026, to which the council continues to support the Primary Schools festival learning event. Finally, and importantly I want to express my personal gratitude to our Clerk, Jeanette Haigh, her staff and my councillor colleagues for all their hard work and commitment over the last year and to the residents across the community of Dinas Powys.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at <https://dinaspowys.org/>. Notices of meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can also be viewed here, along with governance documents and other Council information.

Jonathan Cowpe
Chair of Dinas Powys Community Council
May 2025 / 2026

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.

THE ROLE OF THE COUNCILLORS

Community and Town Councillors in Wales are legally considered holders of public office, rather than volunteers.

The role of a Councillor is a responsible one. 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 and become an official tier of local government. No salary is paid. The Community Council makes available £156 per member (equivalent to £3 per week) towards extra household expenses (including, heating, lighting, power and broadband) for working from home. They are also paid %3 a year towards the cost of office consumables required to carry out their role.

All Councillors have an active interest in the community and are dedicated to improving the quality of life and the local environment

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.

OUR SIXTEEN COUNCILLORS

Dinas Powys Community Council has 16 elected community councillors who serve the 4 wards, Twyn, Cross Common, Murch and Eastbrook : Each councillor, their political affiliation including the 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 – 2025-26

The Chairman of Council is an ex-officio Member

COSAC (Common, Open Spaces, Allotments and Cemetery) Committee	
Chair - Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Debbie Evans Kay Shaw	Vice Chair - Chris Franks Keith Hatton Vince Driscoll Malcolm Phillips
<u>Advisory Members</u>	Allotment Rep – Adrian Holcombe Footpaths Warden – Anne Bassett Evans
Working Groups	CRUZ SITE/CEMETERY/ASSET TRANSFER
To be re-established by COSAC if/when required	
Finance and General Purposes Committee	
Chair - Keith Hatton Jonathan Cowpe John Fanshaw Carolyn Mirza-Davies	Vice Chair - Vince Driscoll Richard Grigg Chris Franks Marianne Cowpe
Halls Committee	
Chair - John Fanshaw Jon Cowpe Stephen Griffiths Carolyn Mirza-Davies	Vice Chair - Lara Stevens Anne Asbrey Colin Asbrey Mike Hartrey
Planning Committee	
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 Vice Chair sits in a non voting capacity Representative of Minority Party (SG)	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.

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
			Vince Driscoll
			Chris Franks.
Community Liaison Committee		1 Representative	Macolm Phillips
One Voice Wales		Substitute Rep	Keith Hatton
		2 Representatives	Stephen Griffiths
			Jon Cowpe
Fair Trade		1 Representative	Anne Asbrey
Murchfield Community Association		2 Representatives	Malcolm Phillips
			Vince Driscoll
Michaelston-le-Pit & Leckwith CC		1 Representative	Marianne Cowpe
Board of Governors	Dinas Powys Primary School		Debbie Evans
	St Andrews Church in Wales Primary School		Marianne Cowpe
Notice Boards			
Mill Road	Stephen Griffiths	Longmeadow Drive	Anne Asbrey & Carolyn Mirza-Davies
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 and Planning Aid Wales play a key role by offering regular training opportunities to support community councillors in their responsibilities,

STAFF STRUCTURE 2025-2026

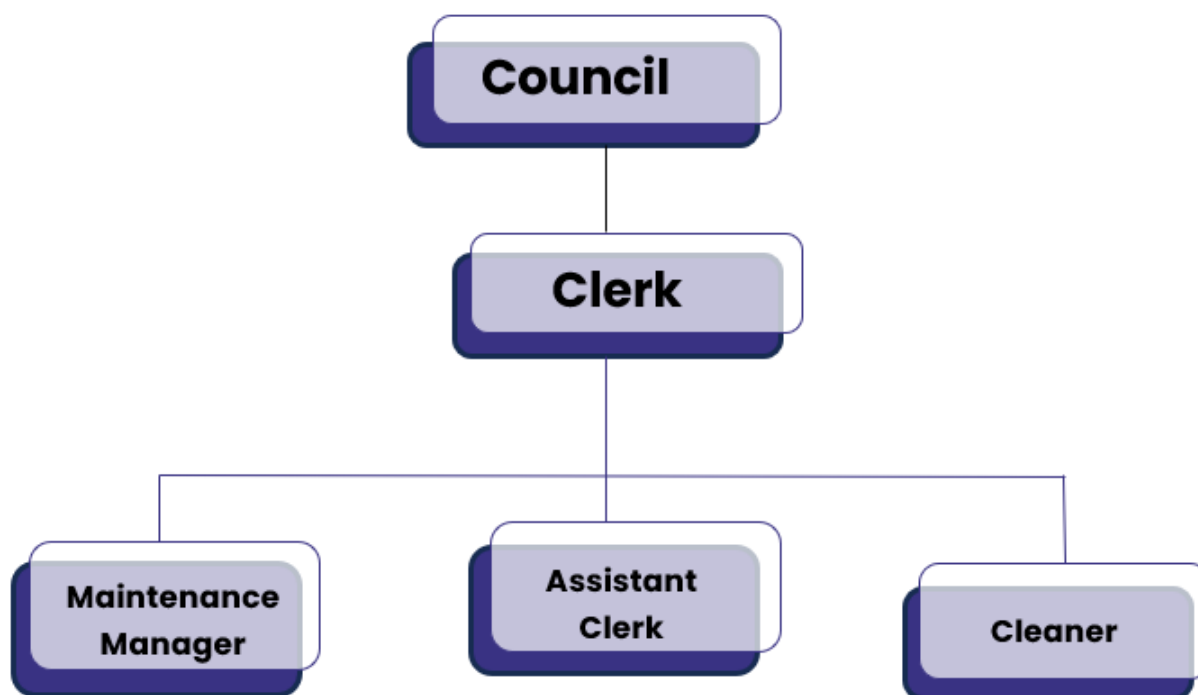
The Community Council's staff contains a team of 2 full time employees and 2 part time employees.

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 Hankins – Cleaner – Part time – 16 hours per week



Staff are based at the Parish Hall in Dinas Powys.

Office hours are:

Monday to Thursday 0900 hrs – 17:30hrs

Friday 0900hrs – 17:00hrs

Opening hours for members of the public are 10:00 – 12:00hrs and 14:00 – 16:00hrs

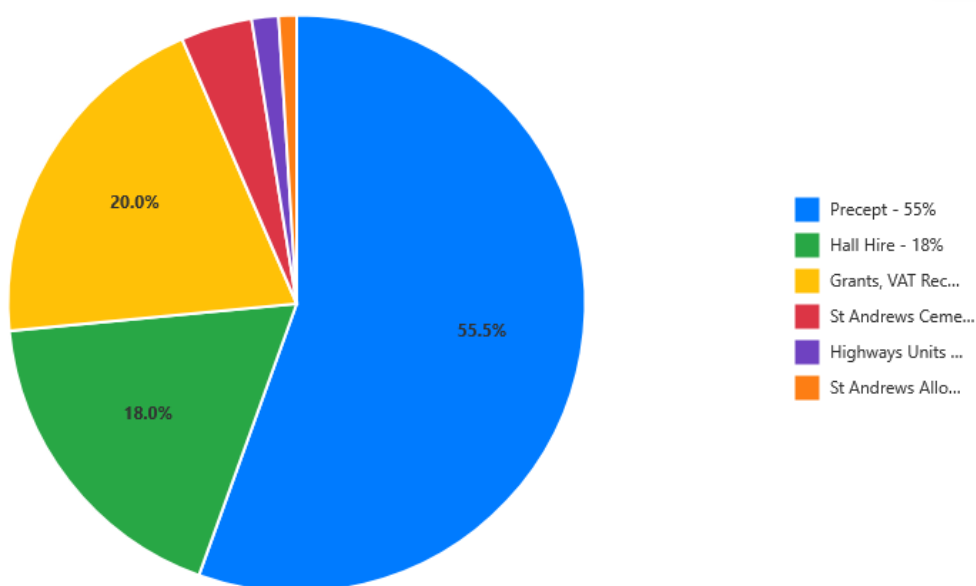
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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 resident'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 2025-2026 the precept was set at £153471, 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

INCOME = £276161



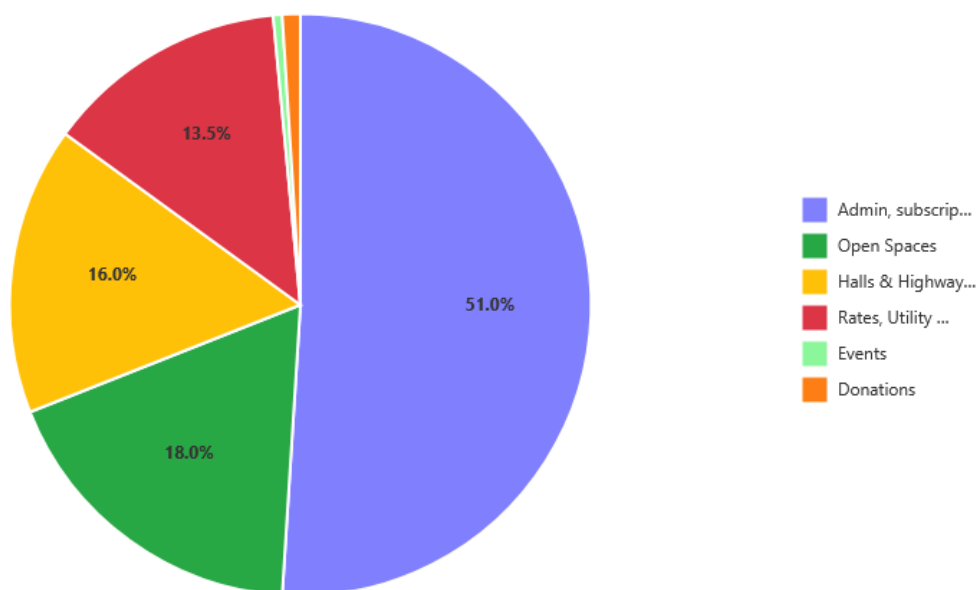
Label	Value	Percentage
Precept	£153471	55%
Hall Hire Fees	£49691	18%
Grants, VAT Reclaims, Bank Interest and other income	£55298	20%
St Andrews Cemetery	£11664	4%
Highways Unit	£4298	1.5%
St Andrews Allotments	£1736	1%
(percentage figures are rounded up to closest value)		
Total Value: 100%	Largest Category	Precept: 55%

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

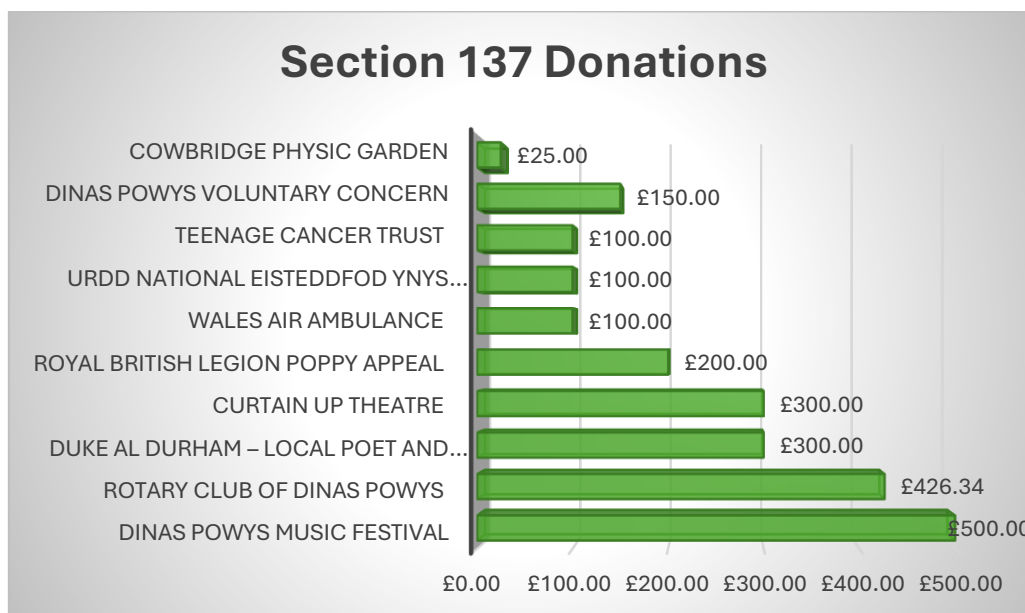
EXPENDITURE= £274869



Label	Value	Percentage
Admin, subscriptions, election fees	£140310	51%
Open spaces, commons, cemetery, play areas and allotments	£51499	18%
Halls & Highways Unit Maintenance	£43705	16%
Rates, utility bills, licence fees	£38068	13.5%
Events	£1710	0.5%
S137 Donations	£2201	1%
(percentage figures are rounded up to closest value)		
Total Value: 100%	Largest Category	Admin, subscriptions, election fees: 51%

S137 Donations: £2201.34 = 1%

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 ten organisations and charities that align with our criteria. Below is a breakdown of donations made this year.



ANNUAL AUDIT

This year, the Community Council's accounts for 2025-26 will be subjected to a 'basic' audit. Once they have been approved by Full Council in May 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 un-qualified.

ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

Parish & Lee Halls



The Parish Hall, an Arts & Crafts style building, and the Old Library are Grade II listed buildings (2002). The Parish Hall in particular is of special architectural interest. Amongst its notable features it 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 well maintained for hire to raise income which can be used to offset the costs of maintaining these well-loved community assets. During 2025/26, 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.

Highways Unit, Station Road

The Community Council leases three Highways Units from the Vale of Glamorgan Council on a 25 year lease agreement and generate 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 VIII.**

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.

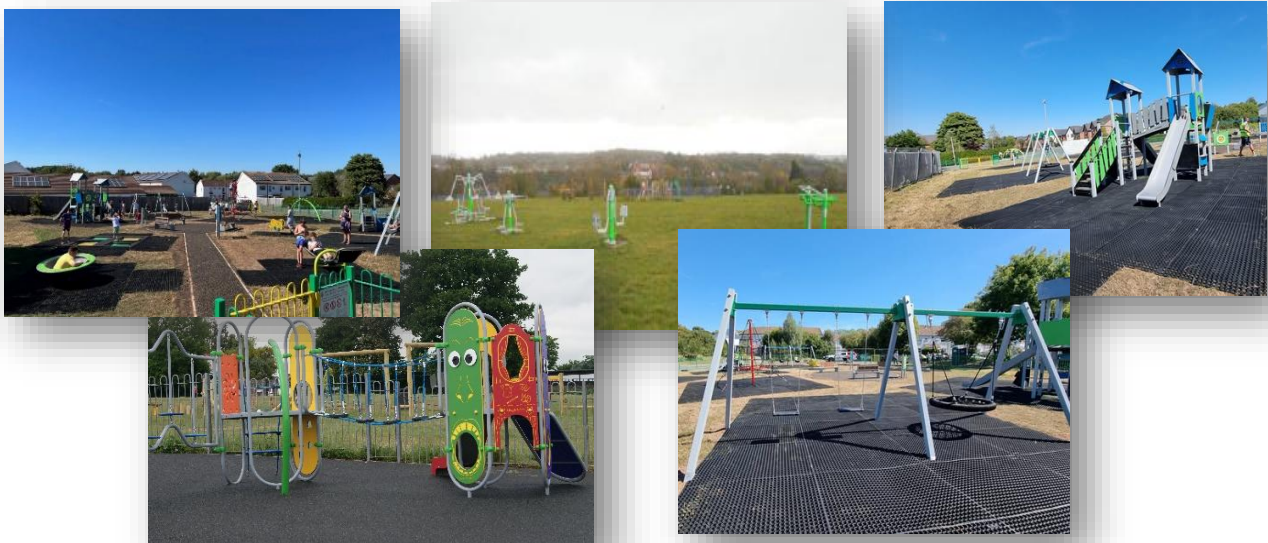
The children's area offers a great chance for physical activity and play, while the wildflower and hay meadows serve as both recreational and educational spaces.

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

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.

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. This shared use highlights the park's role in supporting local sport groups and promoting active lifestyles.

Play Areas (Dinas Powys Common and Caerleon Road) 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. Illustrated below are the Dinas Powys Common play area and exercise equipment and the Caerleon Road play area



St Andrews Cemetery



The cemetery is a small 'rural' cemetery situated in St Andrew Major. It is directly opposite the medieval church, St Andrew's. There are two Commonwealth War Graves located in the cemetery which commemorate a local serviceman and woman who lost their lives during the Second World War.

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 54 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.



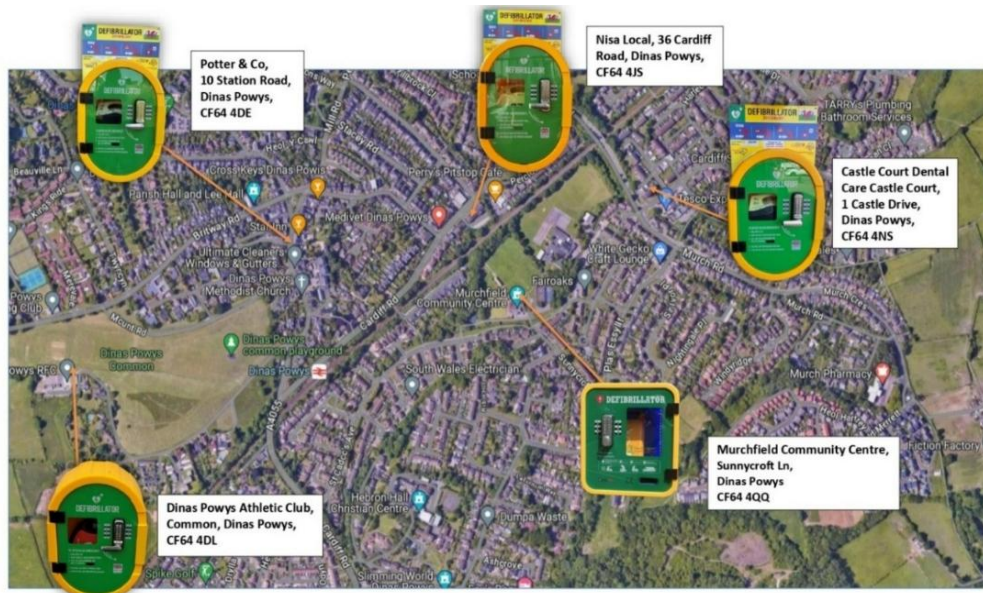
Scout Field

The 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.

OTHER ASSETS

Dinas Powys Community Council are also responsible for 5 defibrillators, 2 heritage boards and 20 benches located around the Common and 8 notice boards. These facilities contribute to the well-being and safety of the community, providing essential information and support for residents and visitors alike.

DEFIBRILATORS



NOTICE BOARDS



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Events held in Dinas Powys continue to be very well attended by members of the community of all ages and backgrounds.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AND ARMISTICE DAY

Both anniversaries continue to be two of the major events held in the Dinas Powys calendar. They continue to be very well attended by members of the community of all ages and backgrounds.

It is encouraging to see younger members of the community attending the services. A special thank you goes to members of the Dinas Powys Baptist Church who serve up a wonderful display of cakes, Tea and coffee in the Parish Hall after the Remembrance Sunday Service.



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

VE DAY – VJ DAY



To commemorate the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe on 8th May, the community council held a service on the Twyn: Pupils from St Andrews Church in Wales, Ysgol Pen y Garth and Dinas 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.



This year, the Community Council put on a small exhibition of WW2 memorabilia and photos depicting VE Day in Dinas Powys, 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.

LITTER PICKING

Councillors joined up with Wild About Nature to litter pick throughout the year and some undertake this individually.

DICKENSIAN FAYRE

The Dickensian Fayre was held in the Parish and Lee Halls again last December which the Community Council supported

DINAS POWYS BOXING DAY AND SUMMER EVENING WALKS - 2025



Every Boxing Day, Geraint Thomas arranges a walk across the local countryside taking fellow walker past local landmarks such as the Hill Fort in Cwm George woods and the Salmon Leaps to name a few.

A series of walks for the summer of 2026 have already been scheduled. (See up and coming events)

LOCAL HERO AWARD

This is the third year since the Local Hero Award was launched. It is a great opportunity for the community to nominate fellow residents in recognition of their contribution to this village. It always ceases to amaze us how vibrant this village is and all the activities that go on throughout each year and the many people who contribute to all the successes many of whom remain unheralded.

Once again, this year it has been a difficult task to single out one individual or group for certificates and the award of the local hero shield. The Community Council encourages those who made nominations to consider doing the same for their chosen person/group in future years.

The winner of this year's Local Hero Award Shield is **Colin Wedgwood Turner**. Over the



past 50 years he has had a significant number of volunteering roles both locally and internationally. Colin has volunteered and taught overseas, and made a significant contribution to students with special educational needs, locally. He has been on local school's PTA and acted as school governor. He has assisted the Dinas Powys Women's Institute and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute. His scouting contributions are immeasurable. Annually he has officiated on remembrance memorial events in the village not least the recent centenary memorials and VE, VJ days and D-day landings milestones. He has been described as the Community Helper'.

The Local Hero Certificates of Recognition has been narrowed down to three individuals this year.

Guy Chapman. Every Christmas Guy transforms his garden into a winter wonderland including Santa's sledge and reindeers as well as his helpers and a landscape worthy of the north pole which has brought so much joy to families over the years. The main motivation for this spectacular sight is to raise money for Ty Havan, a local charity in Sully, for children living with life limiting conditions. There is the wishing well in the garden and over many years through donations into this well and in other ways thousands of pounds have been raised in aid of Ty Hafan.



The late Dr Haydn Jones, OBE – in recognition of his extraordinary and significant contribution to this village. Dr Haydn Jones, who sadly passed away last year dedicated his life to the caring of others. His list of volunteering contributions is immeasurable. Many residents in the Village will be aware of his involvement with the local Civic Society, Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, the annual Village Show, Dickensian Fayre and the New Year's Day Concert, which sadly did not take place this year. His music talents were immense and demonstrated not least through his musical groups; the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band and the Ecumenical 7. Members of Dr Haydn Jones family accepted the certificate in acknowledgement of the significant contribution to the community over many years

This year, the Chair instigated a certificate of recognition to a young persons (under 16) local hero award. **Sophie, aged 11** regularly sends out positive vibes to passers-by - by leaving positive messages in the window for people to read. Having started using paper – Sophie now leaves messages on a black board outside the family home. For example *'why fit in when you were born to stand out'* and *'every star shines a little differently'*

The council hopes this inaugural award will also encourage our younger residents to be nominated for in future years.



For the group or organisation this year's certificate of recognition goes to the **Gerd Gwyll Dinas Powys Music Festival**. This annual musical extravaganza was the brainchild of a small group in an upper room 26 years ago and the volunteer-run committee celebrated the Silver Jubilee last year. As always events include stars from far and wide as well as local talent which have contributed to these celebrations of musical talent over the years. Each year the Council sponsors the Schools Music educational events, as part of the annual festival. This year's events took place in each of the for local primary schools.

PROJECTS AND KEYS ACHIEVEMENTS

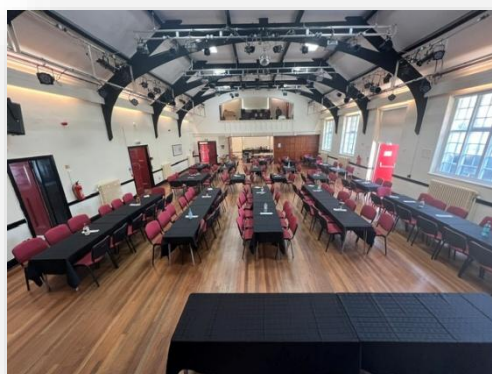
GRANT FUNDING

This year the Council were successful in obtaining two grants:

£11212 – from the Strong Communities Grant Fund

Towards new chairs and trolleys for the Parish and Lee Halls

This grant successfully funded the replacement of worn-out seating in the Parish Hall, upgrading to lightweight, upholstered chairs that match the original seat in colour and design. Paired with new trolleys, the setup and storage of the chairs are now significantly faster and require much less physical effort for volunteers and staff.



£20000 – From All Wales Play Opportunities Grant Capital Funding for Play Spaces and Playgrounds

This grant went towards improving the quality of the play area situated in Caerleon Road, by resurfacing areas around some of the play equipment, making it more accessible to children with mobility issues, whilst at the same time enabling the park to be used all year round.



Christmas Tree at the Junction of Mill Brook Road and Cardiff Road



Last December a fresh Christmas tree was planted at junction of Cardiff Road and Millbrook Road in a large planter where it could be seen by the children in the school directly opposite, along with drivers and as passers by. It was not possible to plant the tree directly into the soil due to various utilities network infrastructure underground. As a result, it was planted in a large tree planter, purchased with the help of a generous anonymous donation. A special thank you goes to JDW Landscapers and his team and Dave Rogers, the Maintenance Manager, for all of their hard work in installing the tree.

ST ANDREWS CEMETERY - Maintenance work on the hedges



Last Summer the maintenance manager, began clearing the hedge running up the right hand side of the cemetery. Councillors Anne Asbrey, Debbie Evans and Colin Asbrey spent a day litter picking rubbish from the hedge. In total filled up over 12 large waste bags.

This winter, the Council made the decision to work on, the hedge running alongside St Andrews Road and the cemetery has fallen into disrepair due to neglect. What was left of the hedge had outgrown itself and in one area, causing an obstruction along part of the road. The Council agreed to replace it with a more manageable hedge



The work to clear the hedge took Dave Rogers, the maintenance manager, much longer than anticipated due to the build-up of deposited items such as concrete, stones, dead tree stumps, dead flowers and plant pots deposited there over decades. Once cleared, the maintenance manager set about replanting a beech hedge. In time the leaves will begin to unfurl and the hedge grow.

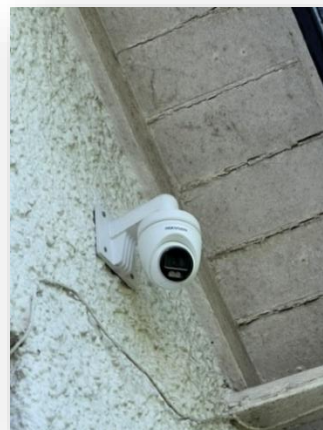


Tawny Owl Box The Council purchased a tawny owl nesting box as part of its ongoing commitment to supporting local wildlife and biodiversity matters. It is hoped the box will provide a safe and suitable habitat for tawny owls.

NB: The Council's Biodiversity Report and Action Plan 2025 can be found on the Council's Website <https://dinaspowys.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/BIODIVERSITY-REPORT-ACTION-PLAN-2025.pdf>

NOTICE BOARDS

The council's notice boards have been given a colourful uplift with new planters fitted around the feet of the trees.



CCTV FOR THE HALLS

Last August the Council installed CCTV cameras around the Parish and Lee Hall, enhancing the security of the Halls while acting as a deterrent against vandalism, theft, and antisocial behaviour. Other Key benefits include boosting public confidence. In the likelihood of criminal activity the footage would provide crucial evidence for police investigations.

REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The proposed 250 housing development at Eastbrook brought the Community Council and residents together for a series of meetings. The council wanted to understand the feelings of their residents and how to respond. A opposition group of residents was formed at one of these meetings.



Within a week a leaflet was produced and delivered to every house in Dinas Powys informing residents of the meetings and the intended development. The community council arranged four public meetings. Two either side of the consultation organised by the Vale of Glamorgan. There was an additional meeting arranged and run by the Opposition group and the community council for residents who found the online objecting for difficult to find and complete. This session resulted in 120 objections being completed during the 3 hour period. In addition to objections a petition

with 1400 signatures was handed into the Vale of Glamorgan.

It was a very worth while exercise with the Community Council objecting along with residents submitting their objections.

DINAS POWYS PLAY SCHEME

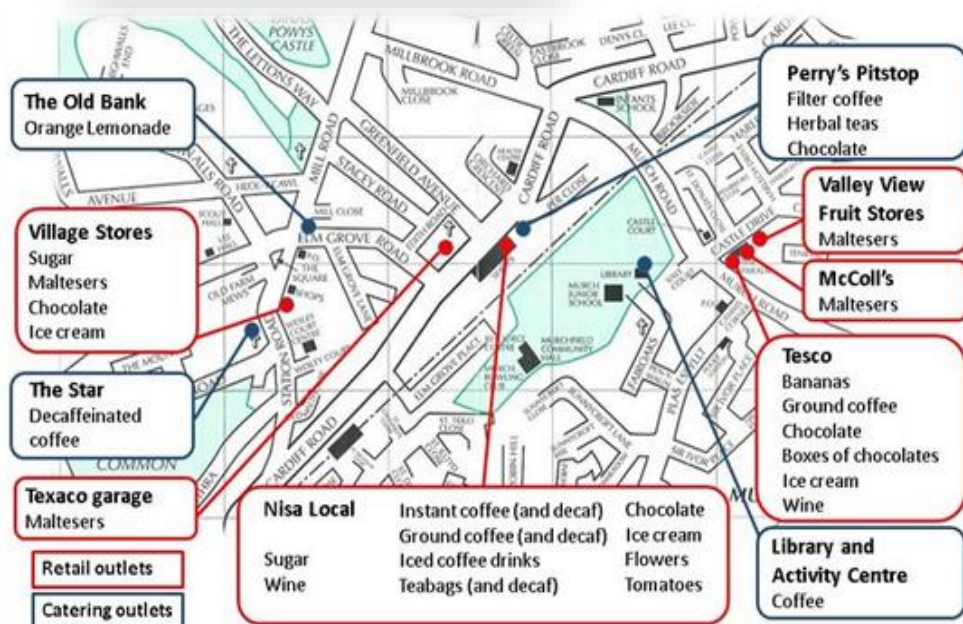
2025 saw the return of the Playscheme – a 3-day event held at the Murchfield Community Centre. A popular, open-access summer scheme featuring games, outdoor activities, and play rangers for children. The Scheme is designed to encourage children between the ages of 5-14 years to take part in open access play opportunities. The event took place between Tuesday 29th to Thursday 31st July 2025, finishing off with a Family Fun Day on Friday, 1st August 2025.

The Council contributed £1500 towards the staffing costs and venue hire. The Scheme made good use of the playing field and new MUGA site next to it, including the Murchfield Community Centre. Qualified play workers provided all the children with a child-centred, challenging friendly and fun place to play. The event is scheduled to return during the school summer holidays in 2026.

FAIR TRADE

Many farmers who grow things we take for granted such as tea, coffee, cocoa and cotton live in poverty. Fair Trade is an international movement to ensure that producers in low income countries get a fair deal. Dinas Powys is proud to have been a Fairtrade Village for over 15 years.

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.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

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 slates 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 a Tender for the works via Sell2Wales, the national advertising portal for Welsh public sector contract opportunities, primarily used to ensure compliance with legal requirements and to provide a centralized, transparent platform for businesses to find tender opportunities. It is essential for accessing contracts over £30,000, promoting local business engagement, and managing tenders effectively

SEEL PARK - COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT)

A decision has now been formally agreed on the transfer of Seel Park ON a 99 year lease to the Community Council. There are still some negotiation and legal procedures to go through before it is handed over.

Vale of Glamorgan Council have also agreed to resurfacing the children's play area, which will go out to tender later in 2026. A Senior Landscape Architect at Vale of Glamorgan Council will work on the specification of works. They will work on an accurate footprint, taking into consideration the contours / topography of the play area. the Community Council will be across the final specifications before it goes out to Tender. The Council will also be involved with the Scoring process. Vale of Glamorgan Council aim to complete job by the end of the summer. The CAT (Community Asset Transfer) will run alongside the Tender process



As part of the Transfer, the Vale of Glamorgan Council plan to 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 for years to come.

Seel Park is made up of a play area, playing field and woodland. For many years, Friends of Seel Park Group have been instrumental in seeking improvements to the Park. The Group will continue to work with the Community Council once the transfer is complete with aims of improving these areas to support nature conservation and enable people to further enjoy the open space.

MEMORIAL INSPECTION AT ST ANDREWS CEMETERY

During the Summer/Autumn of 2026, the Council will implement a 5 year rolling Memorial Safety Test Programme, at St Andrews Cemetery. Burial authorities have a general duty under "Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order" to maintain the burial ground in good order. By doing everything that is reasonably practicable that visitors and those working in burial grounds are not exposed to risks to their health and safety will make St Andrews Cemetery a much safer and better place to visit.

NEW WATER CONNECTION ON THE TWYN

The Council applied to Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water for a new water connection for irrigation purposes around the Twyn. The Council will need to dig out a trench and lay a supply pipe. Once this work has been carried out and inspected and passed by Welsh Water they will instruct their contractors to carry out the new connection. If all goes to plan, it is anticipated the tap will be operational later in 2026.

ECOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CROSS COMMON

During the Spring/Summer of 2026 Cross Common will undergo an Ecological Survey to identify and evaluate the habitats, plants, and animal species present.

Dinas Powys
Summer Evening
Walks 2026

Organised by Dinas Powys Community Council

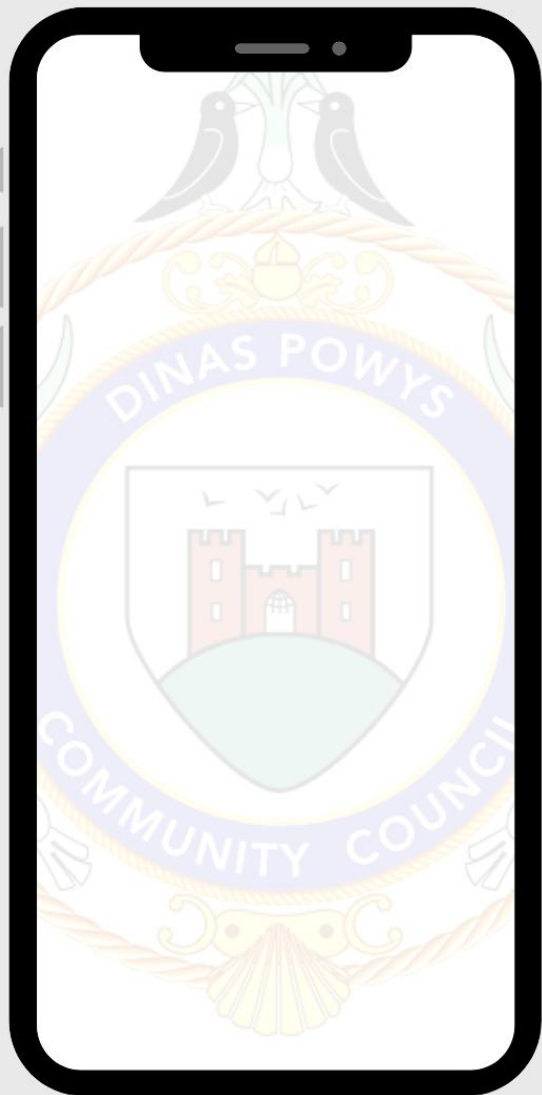
Wed 27th May – St Andrews Major Ridgeway
Wed 3rd June – The Salmon Leaps
Wed 10th June – Cwm Slade (The Pylon Field)
Wed 17th June – Llandough and The Irbic Cross
Wed 24th June – The Ice House

All walks start at 7:00 pm from the Junction of
Mill Road & Millbrook Road

All walkers welcome on these free guided
countryside walks

Walks are around 3.5 miles to 4 miles and last
around 2 hours

Fields may contain livestock



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.