

# **LLANFIHANGELESCEIFIOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



## **Annual Report 2025 / 2026.**

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

This report is split into two sections:

- Part 1 – information about the Community Council and its' responsibilities.
- Part 2 – information and more detail about the activities undertaken by the Community Council over the last year.

## **Part 1 - About the Community Council**

Councillors are office holders who sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office upon their election or appointment – they are therefore part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers and are entitled to a mandatory allowance as determined by the Democracy & Boundary Commission for Wales. Llanfihangellesceifiog Community Council has the capacity of having 11 seats to serve the communities of Gaerwen & Pentre Berw. At the time of writing this report, there are 2 vacant seats.

### **The Community Council:**

- are statutory consultees and are invited to respond to local planning applications received by the Local Authority Planning Department. Planning Issues are normally overseen by a meeting of the main Full Community Council unless a response is required urgently or it requires more detailed observational feedback,
- Receive information about Local Authority & Welsh Government statements and consultations and to respond when appropriate,

- Responsible for the upkeep, maintenance and improvement of the 2 play areas, namely the Cae Chwarae Mawr on Lon Groes, and one located in Gaerwen Uchaf,
- Responsible for the strimming and cutting of the footpath network in the area,
- Responsible for the benches and bus shelters,
- Plays an active role in ensuring the road infrastructure and network is safe for its residents by working closely with the Anglesey County Council's Highways Department,
- Responsible for the War Memorial in Gaerwen,
- Currently negotiating a new lease over Cae Rhosfain on Lon Groes, and a subsequent sub-lease in partnership with Gaerwen Football Club.
- Responsible for arranging the annual Christmas tree and lights.

At the head of the Council is the Chair, who is elected on an annual basis from amongst its serving Councillors. The Chairperson for the start of the 2025/2026 was Councillor Mr Einion Parry Williams, and the Vice-Chair was Councillor Mr Ian Owen, both of whom were elected in May 2025.

The Council is supported by the Clerk, Mr J Alun Foulkes, who is also the Responsible Financial Officer. During 2025/2026 the Community Council met face to face ten times (with the option to meet remotely) at the Gaerwen Community Centre on the third Tuesday or Thursday evening of every month except for August & December.

These are structured meetings with full agendas. It is a working meeting rather than a public presentation and any member of the public is entitled to attend in person or virtually. Meeting agendas are published in advance on the

notice board in Gaerwen and on the website. Minutes, once endorsed, become available at: [www.esceifiog.co.uk](http://www.esceifiog.co.uk)

The Community Council sends representatives to meetings of the following external organisations and/or bodies:

1. Ysgol Esceifiog Board of Governors,
2. Bodowyr Alliance,
3. The IOACC Town & Community Council Forum,
4. One Voice Wales (Anglesey Branch)

The Community Councillors for the year 2024/25 were as follows:

Mr Einion Parry Williams (Chair)

Mr Ian Owen (Vice-Chair)

Ms Kirsty Williams

Mr Deiniol Jones

Mr Rhodri Williams

Mr Cynrig Jones

Ms Linda Jones

Mr Derek Hughes

Mr Gerallt Hughes

## **Budget / Precept**

For the financial year ending 2025-2026, the Community Council's income amounted to £33,291 of which the precept from the Council Tax was £25,500 (3% or £750 increase from 2023/24).

The Community Council's income was also supplemented by other funding including a repayment for public footpath maintenance and an open space grant to upgrade equipment in both play areas.

The Community Council's total expenditure for 2025-2026 totalled £41,843.

In line with the Community Council's statutory and non-statutory commitments, most of the expenditure was spent on new play equipment, the ongoing maintenance of both play areas, footpaths, administrative costs, the Christmas tree and lights and annual donations to local organisations under the relevant statutory powers. All the financial and audit information is available at [www.esceifiog.co.uk](http://www.esceifiog.co.uk)

## **Welsh Language Scheme**

Esceifiog Community Council has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public service in Wales, it will treat the Welsh & English on a basis of equality. The Council will always aim to:

- Enable everyone who receives or uses the Council's services or contributes to the democratic process to do so through the medium of Welsh or English, according to personal choice,
- Promote the use of the Welsh language in the community, and
- Encourage others to promote and use the Welsh language in the community.

## **Part 2 – Activities during the Year 2025 / 2026.**

### **A Environmental & Biodiversity Plan**

In line with the Environmental (Wales) Act 2016, Part 1, Section 6, the Council finally adopted a new three-year plan to embed and include biodiversity within its decision making and procurement processes.

### **B Highways & Footpaths**

The Community Council constantly works alongside IOACC Highways Department to highlight issues requiring attention. These include fixing potholes, fallen signage, fallen trees, line painting, resurfacing and maintenance of the grass verges. The Council also refer matters such as damages to boardwalks to the network of paths it is responsible for.

The Community Council rigorously opposed the implementation of the 20mph speed limit around the village and submitted a strong representation to the IOACC Highways Department.

The Council is also focussed on submitting a strong case for a safer route along Lon Groes and Stryd y Capel under the Active Travel Network Grant funding.

The Council has made several representation to the IOACC regarding the continuing use of the Park & Ride site on the A55 (Junction 7) by Gypsies & Travellers and is pressing hard for the designated site in Star to be developed and completed as a matter of priority.

## **C Planning**

The Community Council received and responded to 9 planning applications during the financial year. Responses require appropriate comments based on local knowledge, material considerations and reference to the current JDLP. It is noted that one applicant submitted an appeal (Old Station, Pentre Berw) to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate whose decision was to dismiss this appeal.

## **D Parks & Open Spaces**

The Council prides itself on maintaining both play areas to a high standard and is always on the lookout for grants to either improve or replace the existing equipment. Following the receipt of its Annual Inspection, major improvement work has been carried out to the slide and rocket equipment with the assistance of D Hughes Welding & Fabrication Limited and the Council will always be committed to carry out any repairs, where needed. The Council removed the previous small- sided goals and replaced/ upgraded them with the aid of a £10,000 Play

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Space Grant from the IOACC. Moving forward to 2026, the Council hopes to carry out much needed improvement and

upgrade to the Millennium Garden and is currently in the process of registering this piece of land with the HM Land Registry.



## **E War Memorial**

The Community Council maintains the War Memorial located on the A5 in the centre of Gaerwen and carries out any necessary works in preparation for the Annual Remembrance Day service in collaboration with Eglwys St. Mihangel



## **Celebration & Events.**

The Community Council arranges two notable celebration and events every year. In July, the Council donated gifts to those pupils who left Ysgol Gynradd Esceifiog for Secondary education.



Then, a month before Christmas, the Council and the Community came together to enjoy it's 6th Annual Christmas Tree & Lighting at the Millennium Garden and to sing carols led by the Rev Emlyn Williams who also switched on the lights.



Contact Details & Further Information.

To find out more about the work we do as a Community Council, search the meeting minutes, financial reports and anything else, please visit our website:

[www.esceifiog.co.uk](http://www.esceifiog.co.uk)

**Get in touch with the Clerk:**

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