Llanelly Community Council

Annual Report 2024-2025

Two new councillors were coopted during the year-one who lives in Clydach South and has taken on responsibility for the Ward there. A second councillor who lives in Gilwern has accepted responsibility for a Gilwern Ward. The Council now has 11 councillors with two wards remaining unfilled. Despite this the Council yet again managed to successfully complete a number of projects.

Councillors and Staff

Mr N James continued in the role of Clerk and the arrangements for key duties and security remained as last year. The cleaning contract remained with Monmouthshire County Council for the whole year and will continue for 25/26.

Gilwern Community Centre

The Centre continued as a popular venue for local groups with hirings regularly throughout the year, both from weekly groups to one-off events. New clubs – Taekwando and Table Tennis -have now become a regular feature of the weekly activities, there is the U3A History Group meeting regularly to add to the number of U3A activities in the Centre, and the number of birthday parties held at the Centre continued to increase during the year. The Centre continued to host Slimming World, U3A, pilates, tai chi, yoga, bridge and arts/craft classes and the Gilwern Roots café continues to thrive and prove a very popular event within the Centre each week. The Welsh Blood Service continued to operate its blood donor facility to local residents several times during the year and the Centre continues to be used by Monmouthshire County Council for consultation events and as a polling station.

The Library and Community Hub run by Monmouthshire County Council continued to operate within the Centre for four days each week.

Although the Council was unsuccessful in 23/24 in obtaining a grant for the Centre towards a new roof and cladding it did manage to secure a small grant towards recladding of the Centre and this was completed in the early part of the year. The new cladding has refreshed the external façade. Unfortunately the Centre was unsuccessful in its lottery bid for funds for a new roof.

Gilwern Playing Fields

The excellent facilities for activities for all ages within the playing fields continued to receive praise from local residents and they continued to prove very popular and the floodlit MUGA was hired for January and February by a local sports club.

The new Public Spaces Protection Order(PSPO) was introduced by Monmouthshire County Council which ruled that the dogs could only be exercised on the fields on a lead or not allowed in some areas eg football field and MUGA. Hopefully this will enable all users to enjoy these facilities. The Council is waiting for approval from Monmouthshire County Council to open a new dog-exercising area adjacent to the woods in Gilwern.

A new survey was undertaken of the trees in the woods and surrounding the playing fields and various remedial work was completed.

LCC continued to contribute to maintain the Bowls Club grounds.

Clydach Village Hall & Playing Fields

LCC continued to pay Clydach AFC to maintain the grounds. The PSPO was also introduced on the Clydach playing fields.

The Council also funded additional grounds maintenance and shrub/hedge clearance.

Community

The Council gave a grant to Gilwern Roots for the 2024 Gilfest which once again proved a popular event in the village. It also gave a grant to Llanelly Village Hall Committee to help fund two new notice boards in the village, and a small grant to the new Speedwatch Awareness Group in Gilwern to purchase an additional speed gun in their endeavours to assist the local police in deterring speeding through Gilwern. Another grant was given to Maesygwartha village to help fund the refurbishment of the telephone box there and to install a defibrillator.

The Council purchased a bench for residents to use at the junction of Church Road and Maesygwartha Road in Gilwern; the bench should be installed in the new financial year.

This year there were even more Christmas lights installed throughout the area following requests from local residents.

Accounts

Bank account as at 31 March 2025:

£

Balance at 1 Apr 24 38821

Receipts 154298

TOTAL 193119

Less Payments 168653

**BALANCE AT 31 Mar 25 24466**

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2024/25

1. Recladding of Gilwern Community Centre.
2. Provision of funds for new notice boards in Llanelly Village.
3. Provision of funds for the refurbishment of the Maesygwartha telephone box and installation of a defibrillator.
4. Increased coverage of Christmas lights provision.