

LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Llanpumsaint Community Council ('LLCC') for the year 2024/25 (the period running from 1 April 2024 and ending 31 March 2025).

1. Composition of LLCC

LLCC is essentially a non-political Community Council. All members agreed to remain as councillors at the May 2024 AGM, though 2 councillors have since stood down. By the 31st March 2025 the council has two vacancies to fill. Co-option notices are in force, that is, anyone wish to become a councillor does not need to be elected. They just need council approval.

At the 1st April 2024

- Cllr Arwel Nicholas (Chair)
- Cllr Kumi Ariyadasa (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Derick Lock
- Cllr Ann Pettitt
- Cllr Clare Bishop
- Cllr Dylan Jones
- Cllr Felix Merry
- Cllr Lyn Thomas

At the 31st March 2025

- Cllr Arwel Nicholas (Chair)
- Cllr Clare Bishop
- Cllr Derick Lock
- Cllr Ann Pettitt
- Cllr Felix Merry
- Cllr Lyn Thomas

Sub-committees have been created for finance, personnel and biodiversity. A planning working group is convened as and when required to 'review planning applications and any planning issues relating to the community of Llanpumsaint, make site visits where this is considered appropriate, and prepare any representations to be submitted in response, for approval by the Council. An Assets Committee has been created to look after the maintenance of LLCC's physical assets like Ty Hyrs and the bus shelters.

Councillor Bishop and Cllr Pettitt continue as the Council's representatives for the One Voice Wales Carmarthen Area Meeting which acts as a forum for exchanging ideas and experiences between Community and Town Councils in the County.

2. Meetings

LLCC holds regular bi-monthly Council meetings on the second Tuesday of every other month. During 2024/25, LLCC met on the following six occasions:

Ordinary meeting	14th May 2024
Annual meeting & Ordinary meeting	9th July 2024
Ordinary meeting	10th September 2024
Ordinary meeting	12th November 2024
Ordinary meeting	14th January 2025
Ordinary meeting	11th March 2025

3. Relationship with Carmarthenshire County Council

LLCC's main communication with the County Council is through County Councillor Bryan Davies.

Clerk

Angela Bearman was recruited as clerk in February 2024 and has now completed a year of service. She attained her first qualification (ILCA- Introduction to Local Council Administration) in October 2024 and hopes to attain the CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) soon.

Budget

LLCC's main source of income is the Precept. This is the amount that Carmarthenshire County Council collects from Llanpumsaint residents through the Council Tax. The Precept in 2024/25 is £10,271. For the typical household (Band D) in Llanpumsaint this amounts to around £30 per year.

LLCC's main items of expenditure during 2024/25 were:

Translation	£648.60
Street lighting	£2250.74
Llanpumsaint Heritage Walk website	£60.00
Air Ambulance	£100.00
Toy Box Appeal (Carmarthen County Council) Donation	£100.00
Welfare and Recreation Committee Donation	£500.00
Community Events (Funday and Christmas Tree Event)	£328.38
Clerk's Salary	£3265.00
Assets	£1033.10
Insurance	£466.13
Gwili Radio Donation	£50.00
Membership Fees (One Voice Wales & SLCC)	£205.00
Internal Audit Fees	£168.00

Full details are available in the Annual Return for 2024/25, which is published on the Council's website in the Finance section.

All Councillors waived the annual allowance of £156 each, set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales, as well as any additional entitlements for the Chair. The total remuneration paid to Councillors during 2024/25 was nil.

4. Assets

The Council's assets were reviewed and valued during 2023 and the Asset Register was updated. The Council's assets include the following:

- Ty Hers, Gwili Terrace
- 4 bus stops
- 6 benches
- 2 telephone boxes
- 30 Street lights (the final upgrading was completed during 2022).
- 2 Noticeboards (Hall and Railway Inn Bus Stop*)
- Historical Information Board (at the hall*).
- Dedicated laptop & software.

A repairs and maintenance programme is being developed by the Assets Committee.

5. Standards Committee

The Council has received no complaints about the conduct of Councillors, nor any references to the Standards Committee in relation to the conduct of any of its Councillors.

6. Training Plan

LLCC has continued its membership of One Voice Wales, which enables Councillors to access a range of training courses to support the effective discharge of the work of the Council.

Councillors have taken up limited opportunities for free training provided by One Voice Wales and attended training courses on the Members' Code of Conduct, employment, planning, community engagement, local government finance and biodiversity duties. A bursary was received from One Voice Wales to contribute towards the training fees.

7. Language policy

Historically, the Council has conducted its business in Welsh and engaged a simultaneous translator for Council meetings. This practice continues with a simultaneous translation

service. However, the Council has agreed that its administrative documents will routinely be produced and published only in English until a bilingual Clerk is appointed.

8. Audit

The Annual Return for 2024/25 has been published on the Council's website, it has been internally audited (Ashmole & Co) and submitted to Audit Wales.

9. Biodiversity

The Council's ongoing Biodiversity Plan, fulfils its statutory duty to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and Cllr Bishop continues to be the Biodiversity Chair. Cllr Bishop hosted a Biodiversity information event at the annual Funday. It was agreed such a success this will be repeated in 2025.

10. Key Activities Undertaken in 2024/25

This has been another busy year for the Council seeking to take the Council forward.

Several requests for financial assistance were considered and the Council was pleased to approve grants for the Welfare and Recreation, Air ambulance, Gwili Radio and The Toy Box Appeal run by Carmarthen County Council.

The Council has continued to consider various highways concerns and planning applications affecting the village and submitted representations to the Highways Department and the Head of Planning respectively, where appropriate. It has also received reports to keep up to date with relevant policy and practice and put forward views on behalf of the local community.

The Council put up a Christmas tree outside the Village Hall again and organised a well-attended lights switch-on and carols event, despite the weather, in December 2024. This popular event will be repeated in 2025.

The Llanpumsaint Heritage Walk website has also been maintained, to attract visitors to the area and give them a flavour of the history of the village.

A Mission Statement has been produced and can be viewed on the main page of the website.

11. Priorities for 2024/25

- Consider any identified needs within the community and ways for the Council to address these within the available resources.
- Continue to develop the biodiversity plan and whether there are any opportunities for the Council to maintain and enhance biodiversity within the community.
- Prepare a repairs and maintenance programme for Council assets to ensure they remain safe and fit for purpose.
- Continue to recruit new councillors.
- Secure relevant training for all Councillors and the Clerk.
- Continue to build on improvements to the Council's governance arrangements.