

LLANPUMSAINT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Llanpumsaint Community Council ('LLCC') for the year 2025/26 (the period running from 1 April 2025 and ending 31 March 2026).

1. Composition of LLCC

LLCC is essentially a non-political Community Council. All members agreed to remain as councillors at the May 2025 AGM, though 1 councillor has since stood down. By the 31st March 2026, the council had three vacancies to fill. Co-option notices are in force, that is, anyone wishing to become a councillor does not need to be elected. They just need council approval.

At the 31st March 2026

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

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 such as 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 2025/26, LLCC met on the following six occasions:

Ordinary meeting & Annual meeting	13th May 2025
Ordinary meeting	9th July 2025
Ordinary meeting	10th September 2025
Ordinary meeting	12th November 2025
Ordinary meeting	14th January 2026
Ordinary meeting	11th March 2026

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 2 years 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) in due course.

Budget

LLCC's primary 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 2025/26 is £11776. For the typical household (Band D) in Llanpumsaint this amounts to around £34.50 per year.

LLCC's main items of expenditure during 2025/26 were:

Street lighting	£2154.10
Clerk's Salary	£4199.57
Assets (new bench at Railway Inn Bus Stop)	£702.00
Insurance	£532.13
Membership Fees (One Voice Wales)	£142.00
Audit Wales (fees 23-24 and 24-25)	£433.00
Internal Audit Fees	£180.00
Community Events (Funday and Christmas Tree Event)	£269.54
Air Ambulance Donation	£100.00
Toy Box Appeal (Carmarthen County Council) Donation	£100.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru Donation	£100.00

Full details are available in the Annual Return for 2025/26, which is published on the llanpumsaint.org.uk website in the Finance section under the Council tab.

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 2025/26 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
- *5 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.

The Assets Committee is developing a repairs and maintenance programme.

*The Graig bench was removed in 2025. The wooden bench had gone rotten and would have been dangerous to sit on if the overgrowth of brambles were removed. It was decided not to replace it as it clearly had not been used for some time.

**The Railway Inn noticeboard is in disrepair and needs to be replaced.

*** This is not available to view now but will be attached to the Village Hall wall at some point.

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. Also, the Council as an employer. 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. Due to the lack of Welsh speaking councillors, it was decided to discontinue the simultaneous translation services for ordinary meetings, until more Welsh speakers are recruited onto the council. As the Clerk is also a non-Welsh speaker, it was agreed that the agendas and minutes would be produced in English only. However, from September 2025, by using an online app, the Clerk is now able to publish the agendas and minutes bilingually.

8. Audit

The Annual Return for 2025/26 has been published on the Council's website, it has been internally audited by 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. Cllr Bishop continues to be the Biodiversity Chair. Cllr Bishop hosted a Biodiversity information event at the annual Funday. It was agreed as this was another success, this event will be repeated in 2027. The tri-annual Biodiversity report for Llanpumsaint is now available on llanpumsaint.org.uk/communitycouncil/plan-policies.

10. Key Activities Undertaken in 2025/26

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 Llanpumsaint Welfare and Recreation Association, Air ambulance, and The Toy Box Appeal run by Carmarthen County Council. Also, the Urdd Gobaith Cymru.

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 2025. This popular event will be repeated in 2026.

The Llanpumsaint Heritage Walk website has been discontinued for the time being.

The Welsh Language Scheme has been updated to better reflect the current council. This is available to view on the Village Voice website and is subject to change.

11. Priorities for 2025/26

- 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.