



GWERNYFED COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 / 2025



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Contents

1. Chair's Introduction	3
2. Council Structure.....	3
3.Meetings	4
4. Role and Responsibilities	5
5. Councillors and Their Roles	6
6. Committees and Their Responsibilities	9
7. Gwernyfed Community Council Aims	10
8. Achievements and Activities	11
9. Training and Councillor Development.....	12
10. Financial Summary	13
11. Community Engagement	15
12. Environmental Initiatives	16
13 Future Plans	17
14. Contact Us	18

1. Chair's Introduction

This year has been one of renewal, strengthening and forward planning for Gwernyfed Community Council. We welcomed a new councillor through co-option and appointed a new Clerk following a successful recruitment process and transition period. The creation of a Personnel Sub-Committee has helped us provide more structured support for staffing and governance responsibilities.

Our commitment to accessibility and openness has continued through the delivery of hybrid meetings and ongoing improvements to digital tools and communications, including the launch of a new council logo at the Three Cocks Summer Show and the start of work to refresh our website.

We have addressed a range of important matters affecting our communities — from exploring solutions to ongoing flooding in Glasbury, to progressing the proposed asset transfer of Gwernyfed Park in Three Cocks. We continued to support biodiversity through partnership with Three Cocks Matters and responded to a number of grant requests that supported community venues and local initiatives.

We endorsed a refreshed set of aims and strategic priorities and improved our training records to ensure all councillors are equipped to meet future challenges. I would particularly like to acknowledge and sincerely thank our outgoing Clerk, Mrs Keren Bender, for her dedication and service to the Council over the past six years. Her commitment and professionalism have been a great asset to our work. We also warmly welcome Ms Sue Thomas into the role of Clerk and look forward to supporting her as she settles into this important position.

Thanks to the continued dedication of our councillors, the support of our Clerk, and the active participation of residents, Gwernyfed Community Council remains well-placed to meet the needs of the community in the years ahead.

2. Council Structure

The Gwernyfed Community Council (GCC) is composed of dedicated members who work together to serve the local community. The current council structure includes the following seven councillors and the clerk:

- Cllr. Nick Pritchard (Chair):
- Cllr. Mike Bugler (Vice Chair):
- Cllr. Will Lloyd (County Councillor).
- Cllr. Graham Day
- Cllr. Peter Varcoe.
- Cllr. Chris Jones
- Cllr. Rachel Harding
- Cllr Keri Doell
- Mrs. Keren Bender (Clerk) – Outgoing
- Ms Sue Thomas (Clerk) - Incoming.

3.Meetings

The Gwernyfed Community Council holds regular hybrid meetings, which are conducted both in person at Felindre Village Hall and online via Teams. This hybrid approach ensures greater accessibility and participation from both councillors and the community. Meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Hybrid meetings have allowed us to maintain high levels of engagement and ensure that council business continues smoothly, even when physical attendance is not possible. They are intended to allow both councillors and residents to attend meetings usually in our case using Microsoft Teams to listen to and view Council meetings taking place in real time. Councillors will take full part in the meeting while residents only if invited by the Chair.

Agendas and minutes are posted on the GCC website as well as notice boards at the following locations: Old Railway Line Garden Centre, bus shelters near Glasbury Garage, Gwernyfed Estate in Three Cocks and Felindre.



Figure 1 - Felindre Village Hall

4. Role and Responsibilities

The Gwernyfed Community Council serves as the first tier of local government, representing the interests of the residents of the Gwernyfed ward. Our primary responsibilities include:

- **Community Representation:** Acting as the voice of the community in local government matters, ensuring that residents' concerns and needs are heard and addressed.
- **Local Services and Amenities:** Providing donations to local causes in managing and maintaining local amenities such as parks, community spaces, and public facilities. We also collaborate with county authorities to address local issues such as road maintenance, waste collection, and public safety.
- **Planning and Development:** Reviewing and providing feedback on local planning applications to ensure that any development aligns with the community's best interests and preserves the local environment and heritage.
- **Community Engagement:** Encouraging community involvement through various initiatives, including supporting local newsletters, social media updates, and public meetings. We strive to foster a sense of community and enhance the quality of life for all residents.
- **Financial Management:** Overseeing the council's budget, ensuring that funds are allocated effectively and responsibly to benefit the community. This includes setting the annual precept and managing expenditures for community projects and services.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Supporting projects that enhance local biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental well-being. This includes tree planting, clean-up events, and promoting eco-friendly practices within the community.

The council is committed to working collaboratively to achieve our strategic goals, enhance community well-being, and ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for the Gwernyfed ward.

5. Councillors and Their Roles

Cllr. Nick Pritchard (Chair): Nick Pritchard joined the community council in June 2022. He brings extensive experience in a variety of specialisms from his 15 years of working for Natural Resources Wales in Flood Risk Management at both an operation and strategic level. Outside the day job, Nick is a governor at Gwernyfed High School and (Sept 2023) at Ysgol Mynydd Du primary school in Talgarth. Nick is also the chair of Three Cocks Matters Community Group which has been fundamental over the last 3 years in revitalising the community of Three Cocks. Other groups Nick is involved in include being Vice chair of the Talgarth Walkers and Welcome group which are responsible for delivering the annual walking festival in Talgarth. In being involved in these groups, Nick is able to bring an insight across the community and helps in driving community projects and environmental initiatives aimed at preserving and enhancing the local environment. Nick has successfully led several projects, including the designing of the green spaces and play areas in Three Cocks as well as taking forward the ecology assessment work across the community. His commitment to sustainability is evident in his efforts to promote eco-friendly practices within the community.

Cllr. Mike Bugler (Vice Chair): Mike Bugler has been a dedicated member of the Gwernyfed Community Council since 2017, currently serving as the Chair. Previous voluntary involvement as a Councillor (and Chair) at Talybont on Usk Community Council 2007 to 2017 and Chair of Talybont Energy from 2001 to 2013. Mike is a Chartered Management Accountant starting as a trainee accountant with the North Thames Gas Board in 1965 and served as Managing Director in various businesses since 1977 until retirement as well as a member for 6 years of the CBI Council for Wales and other industry trade Associations. Mike oversees council meetings and represents the council in official matters. He is passionate about reducing dependence on hydrocarbon energy, improving the Community, enhancing community engagement and ensuring transparent decision-making processes. Mike also leads initiatives related to infrastructure improvements and public safety within the community. Previously also involved in grant aided projects including one to improve employment in the Heads of the Valley (£1.25m), replacement of Children's play area equipment, exercise track and bike Hub at Talybont (£250k), and resurrection of electricity production at Talybont from the compensation flow out of the Dam (£113k). Currently he is determined to assist Three Cocks achieve completion of a project to provide landscaping and facilities for children and adults in the Gwernyfed Park area and establish a new Community Hall for Three Cocks and Glasbury (SE of the R. Wye).

Cllr. Will Lloyd Will Lloyd really enjoys getting out and speaking to lots of residents in our area as our local county councillor. Will loves to listen to what people think and want to see locally. Will recognises what a fantastic area we live in and wants to continue working with everyone here to make it an even better place to live and work. Will lives locally and has shown that he is willing to put in the work, getting things done for our residents. Will does this by supporting several different clubs and groups, such as a junior football club, local community group, a hall committee and a wider

regeneration group as well as two Community Councils and he is also a Powys County Council Member, too. Will has recently commissioned a three-centre Play Sufficiency Assessment for the wider area with support from the two Community Councils and an environmental group in my area and he is working towards creating a Place Plan for our area.

Cllr. Graham Day: Grahame's working life experience includes 21 years in the entertainment industry, both in the UK and abroad, 17 years as a trainer, lecturer and schoolteacher in 11yr to 19yr secondary schools and colleges of further education. He has also worked in the hospitality industry locally for 12 years and has been a community councillor for both Gwernyfed CC and Glasbury CC for approximately 18 yrs. Grahame has a desire to bring together some of the community councils, in order to facilitate more integrated and further reaching projects for development. As the national government has a similar wish to reduce the number of community councils, this may in fact come to pass.

Cllr. Peter Varcoe: Peter Varcoe has been a member of Gwernyfed Community Council since March 2020. He is a retired director of a UK wide national children's charity, having worked previously, at a senior management level, in London and Midlands local authority social services departments. *During his long career in social care he chaired the boards of a number of charities and charitable trusts.* A qualified social worker, and having a master's degree in management and corporate ethics, he is well versed in legal, HR and training matters relating to charities, local authorities and charitable trusts. He is a member of the Council's Personnel and Finance Committees, assists in Council finance and budget related matters, the preparation of its annual budget, monitoring of expenditure and ensuring that financial resources are allocated effectively to the benefit of the community. As a resident of Felindre, he is the dedicated lead on bringing local issues to the attention of Gwernyfed Community Council.

Cllr. Chris Jones: Chris has lived in Three Cocks for over 40 years and has established a wealth of local knowledge. Chris has served Gwernyfed Community Council since 2022. For the last 16 years, Chris has been an engineer for Ted Hopkins in Brecon. Outside of work, Chris has been heavily involved in Three Cocks Vintage Society having taken on roles such as Vice Chairman and Chair and remains a director for over 7 years. Chris is also involved with the committee of Three Cocks Matters Community Group which is focused on re-vitalising the local community. Chris has helped various groups in the area with health and safety issues due to an extensive knowledge on this topic and continues to keep updated in any related changes in legislation. Additionally Chris has also been the father Christmas for the foster care association.

Councillor Mrs Rachel Harding Rachel recently joined the Gwernyfed Community Council mid-way through the year. Rachel moved back to Wales and into the area over 15 years ago to be closer to her family nearby. With a keen passion for all things community related she was involved in the development of the play park in Glasbury

(Radnorshire) securing funding of over £45,000, all whilst working full time and managing a small family. Having worked in Wales since moving home, first in the public sector and in the last 9 years in the charity sector, Rachel brings a host of skills into her new role, from governance to project management through to strategic planning. She's proud to represent Glasbury (Breconshire) on the community council and looks forward to the year ahead.

New Councillor Keri Doell: Hello, I became a member of the Gwernyfed Community Council a few months ago. My journey toward community involvement began while I was pursuing my studies in primary education, where I developed a deep appreciation for local engagement and a strong desire to make a positive impact in our area. I currently work full-time at a local nursery, where I have the privilege of nurturing the next generation, and I'm also a proud parent of two young children. This dual role motivates me to actively seek opportunities to enhance not only the environment for my family but also to uplift our community as a whole. I am committed to introducing and implementing innovative community projects that focus on revitalising our shared spaces. One of my primary goals is to create more green spaces that can serve as gathering places for families and individuals, promoting health and well-being. Additionally, I want to establish support groups and activities tailored for young people in our area, aimed at fostering their personal development and well-being. By bringing fresh ideas and a collaborative spirit to the council, I hope to contribute to a thriving and connected community for everyone.

Mrs. Keren Bender (Outgoing Clerk): Keren has served as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Gwernyfed Community Council since April 2019. She holds an Honours Degree in Business and Finance. Has worked in the finance departments and learning & development department within the Steel Industry and is a Past President of Community, the Steel Trade Union. Prior to joining the Community Council, she was the Executive Member for Education for Blaenau Gwent Borough Council. For the Community Council she is responsible for handling a wide range of administrative tasks. Her role requires her to prepare agendas and minutes for council meetings, managing correspondence, and maintaining accurate records. Keren also oversees financial management, including budgeting, invoicing, and compliance with audit requirements. Her organisational skills and attention to detail ensure the smooth operation of council activities. Keren left the role in March 2025 after nearly six years.

Ms Sue Thomas (Incoming Clerk): Sue joined Gwernyfed Community Council as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer in February 2025, following a recent return to Wales. Sue has been a Business & IT consultant, and Director in companies that help public and private sector organisations achieve business and IT transformation, latterly running her own successful consulting company. Sue is also a Non-Executive Director for a company that offers online therapy and counselling for adults with ADHD, and a local social Enterprise company that provides training and employment opportunities for adults with Mental Health Issues and Learning Difficulties. She is currently completing a Post Grad in Strategic Leadership for Directors at Chester University.

For the Community Council she is responsible for handling the administrative tasks. Including preparing agendas and minutes for council meetings, managing correspondence, and advising councillors on the correct governance of the Council. Sue also oversees financial management, including budgeting, invoicing, and compliance with audit requirements.

6. Committees and Their Responsibilities

Gwernyfed Community Council only has two committees.

1. Finance Committee

- Purpose: The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the council's financial health, preparing the annual budget, monitoring expenditures, and ensuring that funds are allocated efficiently. The committee also reviews financial policies and procedures to ensure compliance with regulations. This committee meet only once in late September to prepare the annual budget.
- Members:

Cllr. Mike Bugler (Chair)

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

Cllr. Nick Pritchard

Cllr. Chris Jones

2. Personnel Sub-Committee

Purpose: Established in early 2025, the Personnel Sub-Committee supports the council in managing staffing and employment matters, including recruitment, performance management, and staff wellbeing. Its creation followed the recruitment of a new Clerk and ensures appropriate oversight of employment responsibilities in line with current legislation and best practice.

Members:

Cllr. Rachel Harding (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Jones

Cllr. Peter Varcoe

7. Gwernyfed Community Council Aims

In July 2024, these aims were updated to reflect the council's aims for year.

N.	Theme	Aim
1.	Administration	To have a clear financial plan with future commitments
2.	Biodiversity	Support the assessment and delivery of projects that protect or enhance Biodiversity across our Gwernyfed
3.	Communication	Develop and implement a Communication & Engagement Strategy with Action Plan
4.	Communication	Commission an upgraded website for GCC.
5.	Community Assets	To support the survival of Felindre hall and use of the recreation field
6.	Community Assets	Support the regeneration of community green spaces and play areas in Gwernyfed.
7.	Community Assets	Support the regeneration of community green spaces and play areas
8.	Community Assets	To support the creation of a dedicated community space for Three Cocks.
9.	Events	To offer or coordinate events for training to local residents
10.	Events	GCC to attend and support a few local events
11.	Local Economy	Encourage local initiatives and Innovate business to the area
12.	Local Economy	To encourage community shops and services to local areas where lost
13.	Local Economy	To support and encourage sustainable Housing development across Gwernyfed
14.	Local services	To support and encourage sustainable Housing development across Gwernyfed
15.	Local services	Assess and promote the Well-being of residents across Gwernyfed looking at services and facilities
16.	Resources	To have a full complement of Councillors
17.	Services	To have sufficient gritting services across the ward.
18.	Travel	To improve the safety and management of all highways across Gwernyfed, especially areas requiring speed reduction like Three Cocks
19.	Travel	Increase the active travel across communities where possible and missing, for example from Hay to Llanigon
20.	Travel	To support the management and use of public footpaths across Gwernyfed
21.	Flood Risk	Support residents in Gwernyfed where needed to the risk of flooding

The council has progressed a number of these. However, the council recognises more needs to be done around these aims.

8. Achievements and Activities

During the period of 2024–25, Gwernyfed Community Council has delivered a broad range of activities in line with its aims and themes. These are summarised below.

Projects and Strategic Initiatives:

- **Governance Improvements:** The Council endorsed updated Financial Regulations in March 2025 and received an *unqualified audit opinion* from Audit Wales for 2023/24, demonstrating improved compliance and governance (Links to Aims: 1 – Administration).
- **Logo Launch and Website Refresh:** A new council logo was launched publicly at the Three Cocks Summer Show, supported by new banners and a community engagement drive (Aims: 3 – Communication, 10 – Events).
- **Digital Assessment by One Voice Wales (OVW):** As part of a pilot scheme, Gwernyfed Community Council participated in a digital capability assessment led by One Voice Wales. The Council scored over 75% compliance with current digital standards. The Council has since taken steps to address these issues through a planned website refresh (Links to Aims: 3 – Communication, 4 – Communication).
- **Green Spaces and Asset Transfer Project (Three Cocks):** Submitted an Expression of Interest to Powys County Council's Strategic Asset Board for the asset transfer of Gwernyfed Park. The Council agreed to hold the lease in principle (Option 2), working in partnership with Three Cocks Matters (Links to Aims: 6 – Community Assets, 8 – Community Assets).
- **Appointment of New Clerk and Creation of Personnel Sub-Committee:** Successfully recruited a new Clerk, Mrs Sue Thomas, with a formal handover completed by March 2025. A Personnel Sub-Committee was established to oversee staffing matters and provide structured support to the role (Links to Aims: 1 – Administration, 16 – Resources).

Community Engagement and Local Issues are picked up in section 11.

9. Training and Councillor Development

This year, the Council made significant progress in upskilling and supporting councillors through a structured training matrix. A wide range of training modules were attended, ensuring that councillors are well-equipped to carry out their responsibilities.

Training modules completed by councillors in 2024–25 include:

New Councillor Induction	Code of Conduct (Module 9)
The Council (Module 1)	Chairing Skills (Module 10)
The Councillor (Module 2)	Creating a Community Place Plan (Module 12)
The Council as an Employer (Module 3)	Equality & Diversity (Module 14)
Understanding the Law (Module 4)	Effective Staff Management (Module 18)
Local Government Finance (Module 6)	Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015 / Sustainability (Module 20)
Health & Safety (Module 7)	Finance & Governance Toolkit (Module 24)

A bursary was secured through One Voice Wales to reduce the cost of some courses, and handouts were made available to all councillors via the Council's Teams folder to support continuous learning.

Courses not yet attended by any councillor but identified for future development include:

Information Management (Module 15)	Biodiversity Part 1 (Module 25)
Making Effective Grant Applications (Module 17)	Biodiversity Part 2 (Module 26)
Advanced Understanding of Local Government Finance (Module 21)	Nature Project Management (Module 28)
Community Asset Transfer (Module 23)	

This strong training commitment directly supports the Council's aims to strengthen governance (Aim 1 – Administration), ensure a full complement of councillors (Aim 16 – Resources), and develop community-focused expertise (Aims 6, 9, 11).

10. Financial Summary

2024 / 2025	Budget	Actual
Income	£23,710.00	£24,540.53
Precept	£23,710.00	£23,710.00
Reclaimed VAT	£0	£110.15
Contribution from Topographical Survey refund	£0	£583.33
Reserve Account interest	£0	£137.05
Expenditure	£14,410.00	£14,518.07
Support for local Organisations	£2,650.00	£3,450.00
Brecon Advice Centre	£200	£0
Felindre Village Hall	£450	£0
Love Glasbury	£0	£0
St Peter's Church Hall	£750	£0
Dial A Ride	£500	£0
Other/Contingency	£0	£0
Donation – Talgarth and District Community Library	£0	£250
Donation – Glasbury Arts	£0	£2,400
Donation - Penyrheol Baptist Chapel	£250	£300
Donation - Wales Air Ambulance	£500	£500
Central Costs	£5,110.00	£4,530.31
Audit	£300	£619.75
Internal Audit	£80	£80
Conference Fee	£200	£95
Insurance	£350	£300
Advertising	£100	£251.96
Councillors' Allowance	£1000.00	£1,092
Teams Meetings & Microsoft	£650	£406.91
One Voice Wales	£200	£388
Hall heating	£50	£33
Training	£300	£558
Broadband & Website Hosting	£600	£632.40
Stationery	£0	£73.29
Employment	£6,550.00	£6,611.05
Clerk's Salary	£5,500.00	£5,287.25
Social Media Service	£900.00	£0
Payroll service	£150.00	£224
HMRC	£0	£1,099.80
Equipment	£100	£0
Notice Board	£0	£0
Defibrillator and Pads	£100	£0
IT and Scanner (including cables)	£0	£0
Surplus/Deficit from annual finances		-£181.36

- **Income and Expenditure:** Over this period the council has continued to support local groups and venues that benefit residents. The key groups to receive our support have been.
 - Penyrheol Baptist Church
 - Wales Air Ambulance
 - Talgarth and Community Library
 - Glasbury Arts

While our central costs and salary costs remain the main part of our budget. *Our greatest challenges remain the flood relief costs which have cost us £2,052 over the last year. We are looking to resolve this through discussions with Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales and Powys County Council.*

- **Financial Health:** A key aspect of the Gwernyfed Community Council budget has been to create a sustained reserve. This has gone from £10,907.08 at the beginning of April 2024 to £9,874.81 at the end of March 2025. The purpose of this reserve is to cover any unforeseen expense as well as be able to invest into local projects brought forward to the council. *This will be detailed further in the next annual report from the council.*

11. Community Engagement

Gwernyfed Community Council is committed to meaningful engagement with residents across the ward. This year, the Council strengthened its public presence through community events, digital communications, and responsive action on local concerns.

Community Presence and Events

- At the **Three Cocks Matters Summer Show**, councillors hosted a tea and coffee stall, officially launched the new **Council logo and banners**, and engaged residents in conversations around local issues and Council priorities (Aims: 3 – Communication, 10 – Events).
- Councillors attended **One Voice Wales Quarterly Area Meetings** for Brecon and Radnorshire, contributing to regional dialogue on community council governance, funding challenges, and future collaboration opportunities.
- The Council played an active role in supporting the future of **Felindre Hall**, engaging with trustees and helping to establish a new Board to ensure the building remains a key community asset (Aim: 5 – Community Assets).

Responding to Local Issues

- In response to ongoing **flood risk at The Gro in Glasbury**, the Council liaised with Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Water, and Powys County Council. While some remedial works were carried out, the issue remains under close monitoring (Aim: 21 – Flood Risk).
- The Council continued to advocate for improvements in **transport and active travel**:
 - **Speed reduction** measures through Three Cocks remain a priority, and councillors have engaged with PCC and Welsh Government to support progress.
 - The Council promoted a **new bus service** connecting Talgarth to Hay via local villages and raised concerns around the **limited eligibility of Dial-a-Ride**, particularly its inability to serve isolated residents (Aims: 18 – Travel, 19 – Travel, 20 – Travel).

Communication Channels

- Meetings remained fully **hybrid**, enabling both physical attendance at Felindre Hall and remote participation via Microsoft Teams.
- Information is shared regularly through the **Council's Facebook page**, public **noticeboards**, and the publication of agendas and minutes on the website.
- The Council launched a procurement process for a new **accessible website**, aiming to enhance digital transparency and public access to records and updates (Aims: 3 – Communication, 4 – Communication).

Public Involvement and Feedback

- Residents are welcome to **raise questions or concerns directly** with the Council, either through public meeting participation or via the Clerk.

- The Council has introduced a **grant application form** to ensure fair, transparent, and structured support for local groups and projects for 2025/26.
- Ongoing dialogue is maintained with the local **County Councillor**, who regularly attends meetings and assists in raising matters at Powys County Council level.

Gwernyfed Community Council remains committed to building a more visible, responsive, and inclusive relationship with residents across the ward.

12. Environmental Initiatives

Gwernyfed Community Council recognises the urgent need to address the **climate and nature emergency in Wales** and is committed to playing its part through local support and collaboration. In line with its responsibilities under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Council must and does seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems in all its decision-making.

Ecological Assessment in Three Cocks

In partnership with Three Cocks Matters, the Council supported the delivery of a detailed ecology and biodiversity assessment of community green spaces within the Three Cocks area. The findings, presented in December 2024, have given a robust evidence base to guide biodiversity improvements, inform planning, and shape project funding bids in the years ahead (Aims: 2 & 6 – Biodiversity and Community Assets).

The Council considers this an exemplar project and is exploring how similar approaches could be expanded to other parts of the ward.

Commitment to Supporting Community-Led Action

The Council is keen to support groups and organisations that actively protect, restore, and enhance biodiversity in Gwernyfed. Whether through practical conservation work, land management, education, or ecological surveying, the Council sees community involvement as vital to delivering Wales' environmental goals locally.

This includes working with partners to:

- Encourage sustainable use of public spaces.
- Promote native and pollinator-friendly planting.
- Improve community access to nature.
- Raise awareness of environmental responsibilities.

Training and Environmental Capacity Building

The Council recognises that delivering its biodiversity duty requires the right knowledge and tools. While no councillors have yet completed the Biodiversity or Nature Project Management training modules, these are identified as development priorities for 2025/26 (Aims: 2, 25, 26 & 28).

Future training will help ensure that decisions are informed by ecological understanding and contribute positively to nature recovery.

Digital Communication and Transparency

Planned improvements to the Council's website will enhance its ability to:

- Share biodiversity action plans and updates.
- Promote eco-friendly practices and grant opportunities.
- Publish progress toward environmental aims (Aims: 3 & 4 – Communication)

13 Future Plans

Looking ahead to 2025–26, Gwernyfed Community Council will continue to work towards its strategic aims while adapting to emerging challenges and community needs. The Council is committed to delivering projects and improvements that make a tangible difference to the lives of local residents and the environment we share.

Delivering Against Our Strategic Aims

In July 2025, the Council will review and reaffirm its **set of 21 strategic aims**, covering themes such as community assets, biodiversity, communication, local services, and infrastructure. These aims will continue to guide the Council's decision-making and priorities.

In 2025–26, we will place greater emphasis on the practical delivery of these aims by assigning clear ownership to councillors and reviewing progress every six months. This includes:

- Supporting the **asset transfer of Gwernyfed Park** and enabling community-led delivery of green space improvements and play facilities (Aims: 6 & 8 – Community Assets)
- Finalising the procurement and **launch of a new Council website**, making Council information more accessible and improving transparency (Aim: 4 – Communication)
- Continuing to advocate for **speed reduction measures in Three Cocks** and improved **footpath and travel links** across the ward (Aims: 18, 19 & 20 – Travel)
- Strengthening the Council's **biodiversity knowledge and action**, including future training uptake and support for local groups tackling the climate and nature emergency (Aims: 2, 25, 26, 28 – Biodiversity)
- Establishing more **robust financial planning** to ensure sustainability as responsibilities grow (Aim: 1 – Administration)

Growing Our Capacity and Community Voice

- Supporting the transition of the new Clerk and embedding improved HR and governance through the **Personnel Sub-Committee**
- Encouraging ongoing councillor training and ensuring all members have the skills needed to meet evolving responsibilities (Aims: 9 & 16 – Events, Resources)
- Developing a **Communication and Engagement Strategy**, alongside launching the new logo and digital assets to build public awareness (Aim: 3 – Communication)

- Introducing a more structured **grants process** to ensure fairness, transparency, and alignment with Council priorities

Being a Voice for Gwernyfed

The Council will continue to represent local interests at regional and county level, working constructively with **Powys County Council**, **Welsh Government**, and wider partnerships. This includes contributing to consultations, supporting strategic projects, and exploring longer-term opportunities such as a **potential community council merger** where appropriate (Aim: 15 – Local Services).

14. Contact Us

We welcome feedback, questions, and suggestions from all residents of the Gwernyfed ward. If you would like to raise an issue, request information, or attend a future meeting, please get in touch.

✉ **Email:** clerk@gwernyfed.co.uk

🌐 **Website:** www.gwernyfed.co.uk

📍 **Meeting Venue:** Felindre Village Hall, typically the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM

📌 **Stay Updated:** Follow our Facebook page and check local noticeboards in Three Cocks, Glasbury, and Felindre.