

# Vale of Grwyney Community Council

## ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

### INTRODUCTION TO THE VALE OF GRWYNEY



The community of The Vale of Grwyney is the most south-easterly community in Powys. The area is defined by two valleys: the Grwyne Fechan (to the west) and the Grwyne Fawr (on the eastern boundary) which rise in the Black Mountains and converge near Llanbedr before joining the River Usk, which forms the southern boundary of the community.

The northern half of the community comprises largely uninhabited moorland and the extensive Mynydd Ddu Forest. To the south Llanbedr, Llangenny and Glangrwyney are the major villages, with the remainder of the population living in scattered farms and dwellings in the two valleys and in the small settlement of Partrishow. The whole of this community lies within the Bannau Brycheiniog/Brecon Beacons National Park.

The eastern boundary mostly follows the Grwyne Fawr River (an SSSI) which acts as the border between Powys and Monmouthshire.

Llanbedr and Llangenny have a public house, but there are no shops in the community. There is a chapel in Glangrwyney and churches in Llanbedr, Llangenny and Partrishow. Llanbedr Primary School closed in August 2023.

The community is 11.3 miles (18.2Km) in length and 4.25 miles (6.9Km) at its widest point. It has a population of around 700.

## THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Community Councils are local authorities created by statute to represent the communities they serve. As the first tier of local government in Wales they are closest to the people and therefore able to represent local views and support their communities by providing local services and facilities.

The Vale of Grwyney Community Council consists of nine people (Councillors) elected to serve the community in which they live or work.

Each year in May the Council holds an Annual Meeting in which it elects a Chair.

In 2024/25 the Council elected Cllr Elaine Lusted as Chair and Cllr John Morris as Vice Chair.

Cllr Jeff Greenidge was appointed the Council's representative on Glangrwyney Hall Committee and Cllr John Morris as the Council's representative on Llanbedr Allotment Society and One Voice Wales.

The Council strives to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people and community it serves.

Whilst the Council does not own any premises and has limited tangible assets it leases an area of ground off St Peter's Close in Llanbedr to provide a nature garden and community orchard. The Council is supported by one member of staff, the Clerk, who is employed on a part-time basis.

Its activities fall into three main categories:

- Representing the local community;
- Delivering services to meet local needs;
- Striving to improve quality of life and well-being.

The Council has established strong partnership links with Powys County Council and other organisations and influence other decision makers for delivery of services to meet local needs. It aims to represent the community by:

- campaigning on local issues
- commenting on planning applications
- organising community events
- improving the local environment
- supporting local organisations/activities

Whilst the Council has an extensive range of discretionary powers which enables it to provide and maintain a variety of important and visible local services, it cannot spend money if there is no statutory power to do so, it must operate within the powers and duties laid down in statute.

## MEETINGS

The council holds multi-locational meetings, ie meetings which can be attended physically (in the village hall) or remotely (via the video conferencing platform Zoom). Meetings take place on the third Monday of the month and start at 7:30pm.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and may request permission to speak on a relevant topic by contacting the Clerk. The agenda, details of how to join remotely, and minutes of meetings can be found on our web site:

[www.valeofgrwyney.org](http://www.valeofgrwyney.org)

The Council can be contacted via the Clerk:

Email: [valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com](mailto:valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com) Tel: 01873 890777

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The precept is the main source of council income and represents the amount of council tax paid by households in the Vale of Grwyney that is allocated to the Community Council.










The annual precept in 2024/25 was £11,000 (equating to £22.02 per household per annum based on a Band D property). During 2024/25 Council expenditure was:

Salary	5,040.00
Office Expenses	300.00
Administration	267.35
Web Site	253.19
Hire of Halls/Zoom	547.08
Members Allowances	624.00
Professional Fees/Subscriptions	1,156.41
Water Charges	67.83
Donations	90.00
Travelling Expenses	81.90
Community Projects/Events	280.80
Nature Garden	331.00
Training	215.00

The Council retains general reserves of £5,000 to deal with unforeseen contingencies and emergencies and has earmarked reserves to cover the cost of completing the “Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Walk” in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II’s 70 year reign.

## COUNCILLORS

Members are elected to serve a period of 5 years (from May 2022).

	<b>Cllr Colin Alford</b> Llanbedr Ward
	<b>Cllr Roger Bridgwater</b> Llanbedr Ward
	<b>Cllr John Morris (Vice Chair)</b> Llanbedr Ward  Llanbedr Allotment Representative One Voice Wales Representative
	<b>Cllr Roger Llewelyn</b> Llanbedr Ward
	<b>Cllr Phillip Bowker</b> Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	<b>Cllr Dean Christy</b> Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	<b>Cllr Jeff Greenidge</b> Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward  Glangrwyney Village Hall Representative
	<b>Cllr Elaine Lusted (Chair)</b> Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	<b>Cllr David Sharman</b> Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward

## COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

Payments to members are made available to encourage a diversity of willing and able people to undertake local governance through their elected, appointed or co-opted roles. These expenses are determined by an independent body, the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

The Panel determined all community and town councils must make available a payment to each of their members of £156 per year as a contribution to costs and expenses and £52 for stationery allowance. It also mandated the council must reimburse costs for the care of dependent children and adults.

In 2024/2025 the total claimed amounted to £624.

### **Statement of Payments made to Members of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council for the Financial year April 2024 to March 2025**

Local Authority Area	Powys County Council
Date return submitted to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
Group - 1 to 5	Group 5 (Electorate less than 1,000)
Total cost of allowances paid to councillors each in receipt of £156 payment - to recognise councillors incur costs to do their role.	£468.00
Total cost of allowances paid to councillors in receipt of £52 payment - payments for costs incurred in respect of telephone, broadband etc.	£156.00
Responsibility Payment (up to £500 to a maximum of 5 members) - £	Nil
Chair / Mayor of the Council allowance Chair or Mayor's Personal Payment	Nil
Vice Chair / Deputy Mayor of the Council allowance. This excludes any Civic Budget for their extra work.	Nil
Financial Loss Allowance	Nil
Travel & Subsistence expenses	Nil
Total Attendance Allowance paid to all members (£30 per member, per Council meeting)	Nil
Contribution to Costs of Care and Personal Assistance (CPA)	Nil
Other	Nil
Total	Nil
TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS declined £156 allowance - for costs incurred in respect of working from home	Six
TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNCILLORS declined £52 allowance - for costs incurred in respect of telephone, broadband etc.	Six

## TRAINING

The council believes ongoing training is necessary to ensure councillors and employees are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to enable them to fulfil their roles by delivering the council's services efficiently and safely.

In 2024/25 councillors attended training provided by One Voice Wales, the national representative organisation for Community and Town Councils throughout Wales, topics covered included:

- Code of Conduct
- Finance & Governance
- Community engagement
- The Council Meeting
- Charing Skills
- Accounting Basics
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act/Sustainability
- AI (Artificial Intelligence)
- Understanding the Planning System

Training is continuous, the council is keen to ensure that councillors and the clerk, possess the knowledge and awareness needed to operate effectively.

## WHAT WE DID IN 2024/2025

- Reported parents' concerns and asked Powys County Council to install "slow down" signs at the school bus pick-up/drop-off point in Llangenny;
- Held consultation events to find out what residents think of the 20 mph speed limit – the results of which were fed back to Welsh Government;
- Offered to paint the play equipment in Llanbedr playground (with permission and supplies from Powys County Council);
- Supported residents' objections to an application to build a 25 metre Telecommunications Tower at the Henbant (*wrongly identified as Partrishow Hill*);
- Opposed unauthorised use of agricultural land as a caravan site
- Supported Llangattock Green Valleys' "Black Mountains Community Energy scheme";
- Donated a portrait of King Charles III to the village halls (for display in each hall on an annual basis);
- Offered to sponsor a community event in each of the village halls;

- Following refusal of permission to erect a mobile speed camera asked Welsh Government to erect a speed camera sign in Glangrwyney to tackle speeding issues;
- Undertook a consultation on ways to improve parking in Glangrwyney;
- Opposed the closure of Crickhowell Fire Station;
- Obtained residents views on the Options Report prepared by Powys County Council for repair of Old Chapel Road, Grwyne Fechan
- Met with County Councillor Jackie Charlton and Lyn Parry (senior highways operational manager) to discuss highway issues;
- Laid wreaths at the cenotaph in Crickhowell and Llangenny Church to reflect and remember the sacrifices of our armed forces, and all those whose lives have been lost in conflict and acts of terror.
- Commissioned a map of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Walk, showing the co-ordinates and What3Words location of each of the seven trees planted in honour of Her Late Majesty's 70 year reign along footpaths through the Vale of Grwyney, from Glangrwyney to Partrishow Church.

A commemorative plaque identifies the location of each tree.



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE WALK



## THE QUEEN'S TREES

- 1 GLANGRWYNEY: *Flowering Cherry***  
What3Words: polished.tonality.elbowed  
Co-ordinates: 51.840974,-3.106984
- 2 LLANGENNY: *Silver Birch***  
What3Words: candy.snake.bandwagon  
Co-ordinates: 51.855582,-3.104101
- 3 BELLFOUNTAIN: *Rowan***  
What3Words: slime.political.camps  
Co-ordinates: 51.860002,-3.117379
- 4 LLWYNON near FFAWYDD entrance: *Oak***  
What3Words: runs.spillage.detained  
Co-ordinates: 51.890295,-3.112356
- 5 PEN YR HEOL: *Oak***  
What3Words: surfer.scripted.tearfully  
Co-ordinates: 51.876873,-3.100520
- 6 DYFFRYN BEUSYCH: *Walnut***  
What3Words: pronouns.spare.crumbles  
Co-ordinates: 51.878409,-3.077197
- 7 PARTRICIO: *Oak***  
What3Words: warthog.race.hurry  
Co-ordinates: 51.895739,-3.048720

Commissioned by The Vale of Grwyne Community Council

## WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

Whilst the apple and pear trees are flourishing in the community orchard/nature garden in Llanbedr we think the area would benefit from further funding, attention and plan to ask the community what they would like to see happen there. We intend doing a leaflet drop and a drop-in event in Llanbedr Hall to find out what how the community want to see the nature garden develop.



## WHAT WE CONTINUE TO DO

The Council is committed to working for its residents. We regularly take action in the interests of the community.

In 2024/25 we:

- commented on 18 planning applications and 1 appeal;
- held site meetings with Powys County Council to identify highway issues needing repair (potholes, faulty street lights, roadslips, blocked culverts, damaged bridleway, speeding, etc)
- arranged for a sign to be erected warning vehicles of the narrow bridge in Llangenny (which has been hit by lorries trying to negotiate it).
- responded to Welsh Government consultations

## WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

Every year the council sets aside a sum of money to support local not for profit groups and charities which benefit the area and a significant number of its residents.

If your local organisation, group or charity is contemplating an application for funding, the council's grant policy and conditions can be viewed on our website ([www.valeofgrwyney.org](http://www.valeofgrwyney.org))

We need to know what the council can do to help you

**We care about our community and want to continue to make it a great place in which to live.**

**If you have an idea or plan which you think will benefit the community, either socially or environmentally please let us know.**