

Vale of Grwyney Community Council

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



The Vale of Grwyney Community Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2025/26. This document provides residents with a clear and transparent account of the Council's activities, decisions, and priorities over the past year, together with an overview of how public funds have been managed to support local services and community wellbeing.

Throughout the year, the Council has continued to uphold high standards of governance, strengthen community engagement, and respond to matters raised by residents. Key areas of work have included highways and road safety concerns, environmental maintenance, planning consultations, and support for local organisations and initiatives that enhance community life across The Vale.

The Council remains committed to openness and accountability. This report summarises the actions taken, progress achieved and sets out the Council's intentions for the year ahead.

INTRODUCTION

The Vale of Grwyney is the most south-easterly community in Powys, shaped by two upland valleys: the Grwyne Fechan to the west and the Grwyne Fawr to the east. Both rise in the Black Mountains before converging near Llanbedr.



The eastern boundary follows much of the Grwyne Fawr River, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and marks the border between Powys and Monmouthshire.

The northern part of the community consists of open moorland and the extensive Mynydd Ddu Forest, an area of remote upland landscape. To the south lie the principal settlements of Llanbedr, Llangenny and Glangrwyney, with additional homes dispersed throughout the two valleys and the small historic hamlet of Partrishow. The entire community sits within the Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park.

There are public houses in each of the three villages, and places of worship located in Glangrwyney, Llanbedr, Llangenny and Partrishow.



The community is 11.3 miles (18.2km) in length and 4.25 miles (6.9km) at its widest point, with a population of just under 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 Councillors elected to serve the community in which they live or work.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2025 the Council re-elected Cllr Elaine Lusted as Chair and Cllr John Morris as Vice Chair.

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

The Council strives to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the community it serves. Although it 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 part-time member of staff, the Clerk who is also the Responsible Financial Officer.

Council Activities

Activities fall into three main categories:

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

The Council has established strong partnership links with Powys County Council and other organisations, influencing other decision makers to ensure services 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, it must operate within the powers and duties laid down in statute and cannot spend money if there is no statutory power to do so.

MEETINGS

The Council has held multi-locational meetings, which could be attended physically in one of the three village halls, or remotely via Zoom/Microsoft Teams. Meetings have usually taken place on the third Monday of the month at 7:30pm.

The dates of future meetings are displayed on the village noticeboards and on our web site: www.valeofgrwyney.org, together with agendas, remote access details, and agreed minutes.

Members of the public are welcome to attend our meetings and may request permission to speak by contacting the Clerk.

Contact: the Council can be contacted via the Clerk:

Email: valeofgrwyneycc@gmail.com

Tel: 01873 890777

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The precept is the main source of Council income and represents the portion of council tax allocated to the Community Council.

The annual precept in 2025/26 was £11,000 (equating to £21.95 per household per annum based on a Band D property).

Expenditure 2025/26

Salary	5,528.40
Office Expenses	300.00
Administration	195.92
Web Site	43.20
Hire of Halls/Zoom	529.08
Members Allowances	624.00
Professional Fees/Subscriptions	692.81
Water Charges	233.45
Donations	1,315.00
Travelling Expenses	75.60
Community Projects/Events	600.00
Nature Garden	349.97
Training	92.00

The Council retains general reserves of £5,000 for unforeseen contingencies and emergencies and has earmarked reserves for publicising the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Walk and Llangenny Water Fountain.

COUNCILLORS

Members are elected for a five year term (from May 2022). The Vale of Grwyney is split into two wards: **Llanbedr** (4 members) and **Llangenny & Glangrwyney** (5 members).

	Cllr Colin Alford Llanbedr Ward
	Cllr Roger Bridgwater Llanbedr Ward
	Cllr John Morris (Vice Chair) Llanbedr Ward Llanbedr Allotment Representative One Voice Wales Representative
	Cllr Roger Llewelyn Llanbedr Ward
	Cllr Phillip Bowker Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	Cllr Dean Christy Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	Cllr Jeff Greenidge Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward Glangrwyney Village Hall Representative
	Cllr Elaine Lusted (Chair) Llangenny & Glangrwyney Ward
	Cllr David Sharman 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. The Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru sets determinations on pay, expenses and benefits.

All community and town councils must make available:

- £156 per member per year (general costs and expenses)
- £52 per member per year (stationery/communication costs)
- Reimbursement of care costs for dependent children or adults

In 2025/2026 the total claimed amounted to £624.

Statement of Payments made to Members of the Vale of Grwyney Community Council for the Financial year April 2025 to March 2026

Local Authority Area	Powys County Council
Date return submitted to the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru	4 August 2026
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 essential to ensure councillors and employees have the skills and knowledge needed to fulfil their roles effectively.

In 2025/26 councillors attended training provided by One Voice Wales, the national representative organisation for Community and Town Councils throughout Wales, covering:

- Understanding the Law
- Finance and Governance
- Information Management

Training is continuous, and the Council remains committed to ensuring Councillors and the Clerk, possess the knowledge required to operate effectively.

WHAT WE (HAVE AND) CONTINUE TO DO

The Council remains committed to acting in the interests of residents. In 2025/2026 we:

- Commented on 17 planning applications;
- Held site meetings with Powys County Council officers to identify highway issues including potholes; roadside slippages; blocked culverts, damaged bridleways, unsafe tree growth; speeding and faulty street lights;
- Reported more than 30 highway defects using the PCC online system. The majority of these have been repaired by PCC, with a few of the major issues planned for completion in 2026.
- Responded to Welsh Government consultations
- Successfully opposed BT's plan to remove payphones in Llanbedr, Grwyne Fechan and Llangenny.
- Consulted with residents to see what they would like to see happen in the community, and what they would like included in the Council's plans.
- Supported the campaign to retain a Sixth Form at Crickhowell High School
- Supported Llangattock Green Valleys and Black Mountains Community Energy application for funding towards its renewable energy project
- Introduced a small grants policy to simplify applications from smaller organisations
- With the permission of Powys County Council and the help of volunteers, the roundabout and slide in Llanbedr playground were cleaned and painted. Work to refurbish the climbing frame and other equipment is ongoing.

- Asked Welsh Government and Powys County Council to introduce a cross-border agreement to allow residents in South Powys to use the Llanfoist Recycling Depot. This was declined due to cost.
- 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.
- Pressed Welsh Government to fit static speed camera signs in Glangrwyney, following their refusal to allow mobile speed cameras.
- Encouraged residents to report dangerous driving via the GoSafe web site.
- Donated £250 towards Llangenny School Hall's Community Day.
- Donated £500 towards Crickhowell Volunteer Bureau's running costs.
- Donated £425 to Glangrwyney Village Hall towards the cost of installing a hearing loop in the hall.

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO

The Council continues to explore ways to improve and encourage use of the community orchard/nature garden in Llanbedr. A beech hedge has been planted, and we intend creating a dedicated wildlife area. Suggestions on how the community would like to see this area develop are welcomed.



We are also looking into how we can help improve our highways and working with Powys County Council to investigate whether a Lengthsman Scheme should be introduced to deal with minor highway defects.

We are also exploring the feasibility of creating a Place Plan for the Vale of Grwyney to identify matters important to our community. The Brecon Beacons/Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority and Powys County Council would then have to respect these matters in their decision making.

WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

Each year the Council sets aside funding to support local, not for profit groups and charities that benefit the area and its residents.

If your organisation, group or charity is contemplating an application for funding, the Council's grant policy and conditions are available at: www.valeofgrwyney.org)

The Council welcomes ideas from residents on how it can continue to support and improve the community.

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