

Pendine Community Council

Annual Report 23/24

A warm hello to all the residents of Pendine.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, introduced as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, that a community council must prepare and publish a report (an “annual report”) about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year.

This is our report for 2023/2024, Pendine Community Council hopes this will be of heed to you. There were four appointed Councillors of Pendine Community Council in 23/24. Councillors are office holders who sign a declaration of acceptance of office upon their election or appointment - they are therefore a part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers.

At the head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from among its serving Councillors. The Chairman for 2023/24 was Councillor Andrew Shaw, the Vice-Chair was Councillor Sara Bruce-Goodwin. The council has the opportunity to appoint 7 councillors and two Youth Representatives. A Community Youth Representative represents the youth sector and is a ‘voice’ on the Community Council for local issues affecting young people. There was no Youth Representative for 23/24, but councillors would welcome further youth representation in future.

Historically, the council met on the third Tuesday of the month but due to venue availability, we currently meet formally on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm at Llanmiloe Resource Centre or other communicated venue. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

These are very structured meetings with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity at the start for public questions, but it is a working meeting rather than a public presentation. Depending on what projects are being dealt with, in order to be more proactive, members may meet in between monthly meetings and bring matters back to the full council.

Your Community Council

The Community Council owns the foreshore from the MOD sign right through to the New Inn at Amroth, the play area by St Margaret's Church (at the top of the hill) , Hafan y Mor Motor Home Park, Beach slipway and top car park and the grass areas on the hill. The Council provides promenade lighting, seats throughout the community and Christmas lights.

Organisations can apply to the Council for small grants to organise community events and activities. The Council works with Carmarthenshire County Council and as a statutory consultant, comments on planning applications. The Council is not responsible for Rights of Way, but regularly brings access issues to the notice of Carmarthenshire County Councils Rights of Way Officer.

Your Community Councillors for 23/24 were:

Cllr Andrew Shaw - Chair

Cllr Sara Bruce-Goodwin – Vice Chair

Cllr Steve Rundle

Cllr Hayley Thomas

Message from the Chair for 23/24 – Cllr Andrew Shaw

Whilst I did say it last year, it still remains an honor and privilege to have served Pendine Community Council as Chair for the second year.

We have built on the successes of last year and again appreciated a significant amount, for which the annual report will cover.

We have introduced systems which ensures governance in the way we manage our budgets and decision making process.

My thanks to all Councillors, volunteers, beach collectors, businesses for the support provided. Also to the members of the public who have attended our monthly meetings.

Thank you to Llanmiloe Community Association for supporting us with their venue for our monthly meetings.

We have a very busy year ahead of us, building on the familiar annual events and looking to develop new ones.

Let's hope for some sunny weather to help ensure the events are well represented and a rounding success.

Myself and other councillors look forward to meeting with, working alongside all the familiar faces and new ones, as we look to collectively make a difference to our fantastic village.

Andrew Shaw

Chair – Pendine Community Council

Achievements for 23/24

- In May, we had a bit of a clean-up of the top car park. We moved the shipping container to the Motorhome park and relocated the bottle bank to open up 5 additional parking bays. The Car park was re-lined, courtesy of Andrew Scott Ltd. The additional spaces resulted in an increased parking income of £1440.12 to £22,067.14(vs. prior year).
- In May, the monument on the Green was cleaned and repainted courtesy of Malcolm Roberts and Beryl Bowen.
- In June, we organised a “Picnic on the Green” to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Kath Grisedale together with Graham Thomas unveiled a plaque on the monument to commemorate the event. We had a lovely Picnic in Morfa Bay Hall after rain stopped play. Thank you, Jenny and the Morfa Bay team for coming to the rescue and ensuring the day was a success.
- In June, we decorated the village with flags and beautiful bunting (made by the Pendine ladies craft group) to welcome the Hot Rods for their 10th Anniversary at Pendine. All agreed, it was the best event yet in terms of visitors and festivities. Local businesses had a bumper weekend. We parked over 1000 cars on the beach and made £11,274 from the event for the community!
- In June, Alison Moody and Alex Holland resigned as Clerk and Beach Warden respectively. We would like to recognise their contributions and thank them for their services to the Council and the Community of Pendine.
- In July, Emily Bevan-Jones joined the Council as the new Clerk. Emily hit the ground running by conducting a complete gap analysis of all our financial systems vs our legal obligations to ensure we are compliant in all our processes and accounting systems. Emily also responded to any recommendations that came out of last year’s internal audit. This will put us in good shape for the triennial audit by Audit Wales in 2024. Thank you Emily.
- During the Summer peak, Councillor Steve Rundle acted as our Warden, supported by Chair Andrew Shaw and together with our Beach Collector Team(Nicola, Rylan, Megan, Rob and Terence) kept the beach open when possible. Earnings were slightly down on prior year at £16,844.83. This was a good result considering the very poor summer weather. Our special thanks to Steve for giving up so much of his free time.
- Filming income came in at £10,011.61. We were pleased with this result as many of the recent filming events were low budget programming e.g Bargain Hunt. The biggest filming event was the £4,000 we received from the Marros/Morfa Bychan Film event. It was always going to be difficult to achieve prior-year levels after the major series “Willow” in the prior year.
- In November, we finalised negotiations and wording on the “Deed of Release” with the Ministry of Defence, in order to remove the restrictive covenant on the site to

enable use for a commercial enterprise i.e. a Motorhome Park. A cost of £12,000 was agreed, to be paid in equal installments over 3 years. The new documents were signed by both parties and the 1st instalment of £4,000 was paid in December.

- Also in November, we completed the purchase of the slipway and top car park from the Ministry of Defence for the cost of £130,000. We are so grateful to Mr Donald Holmes of Belle View Pendine, for providing an interest-free loan for the full amount. The loan will be repaid over the next 24 years (£5416.67/annum) with the first repayment due in September 2024.

The slipway comes with a free right of way over the Carmarthenshire County Council(CCC) Roadway from the main road to the slipway (1982 Conveyance signed between CCC and Secretary of State for Defence). This means that there are no payments required to CCC, for access to and from the beach.

This was a time consuming project for Councillors this year, what with the negotiations with Carmarthenshire County Council, the Ministry of Defence, applications to Welsh Government for loan approval to purchase the land, plus the various dealings with solicitors.

- In December, we invested in additional Christmas lighting and electrical works to bring a more festive feel to the village. We held a Christmas light switch-on event (including a visit from Santa) at the Motorhome park. It was fabulous to see so many villagers at the event on a wet December evening, making it a huge success. We are looking forward to next year already!
- In January, Pendine Community Council froze the Precept again at 21/22 levels. e.g. £45 on a band D property.
- In March 2024, we completed all remaining works on the Hafan y Mor Motorhome Park, to get it operational and utilised all remaining grant money from the Coastal Lottery Fund. We applied for and received our operating license from CCC. We set up a booking system on PITCH-UP platform, with the Clerk as administrator(additional duties). The Motorhome park opened for business in time for Easter 2024.
- In March, we welcomed onboard our new Beach Warden Andrew Couzens and Assistant Warden Rylan Alcock to the team. They are already having a great impact.
- Also In March, we held another successful beach cleaning event before the Easter Holiday. Our thanks to all the volunteers who supported the event.

Vision Statement

The Community of Pendine is at the heart of everything we do. The needs and wishes of the residents are at the forefront of Pendine Community Council's priorities. Our aim is to foster community spirit and engagement to ensure Pendine is a safe, welcoming place to live and visit. Our objective is to enhance the facilities where possible for the well-being and benefit of all our residents and visitors.

Budget/Precept

The Precept for 23/24 was £7404.75. Pendine Community Council's objective is to keep the precept as low as practically possible. We intend on keeping the Precept at current levels for 24/25.

The Precept is a Tax that the Community Council charges their local residents in order to cover spending on services delivered in the community. The Precept remains static at 22/23 levels for 24/25.

Audits

Each year an audit is conducted on all the council's financial activities.

Internal Audit

An Internal Audit was carried out in September 2023 for the year ending 31st March 2023. The following recommendations were made:

- *The monthly minutes need to be more detailed and comprehensive. This will ensure more transparency in Council affairs and will demonstrate good governance to the wider public. All expenditure is approved for payment at the monthly council meetings.*
- *The Council needs to ensure that all items of expenditure are listed on the monthly Financial Statements in the future as evidence of approval.*
- *All items of expenditure should be supported with some form of documentary evidence. This not only supports the justification of the expenditure, but it also demonstrates only legitimate expenditure is being incurred.*
- *The Council should carry out a risk assessment on an annual basis. A risk assessment identifies risks to an organisation which in turn allows the implementation of reasonable control measures to remove/reduce the risk. Good budgetary control helps organisations stay on track to meet its financial goals and to deliver objectives. It is recommended that the monthly actual results are compared against the budget to demonstrate good budgetary control. It is recommended that the 2022/23 actual figures are compared against the budget, variances are investigated and recorded in the monthly minutes.*
- *It is recommended that all car park machine receipts are retained and reconciled to the cash physically paid into the bank. Agreed rates of staff remuneration must be minuted each year/change in member of staff.*

All recommendations have been implemented in full as part of our *financial governance improvements*.

External Audit

We still await the external audit return from Audit Wales for 22/23

Every three years, Audit Wales conduct a full (in-depth) Triennial Audit. There will be a Triennial Audit in 2024.

Street Lighting

The council is responsible for several streetlights throughout the village. A number are under the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council. We kindly ask, any issues arising with the streetlights are reported to www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/report-a-problem-on-a-road/report-a-faulty-street-light/.

In the event of an emergency please call 01267 234567 during office hours or 0300 333 2222 outside normal office hours.

Police

Pendine Community Council maintained strong links with Dyfed Powis Police and our Community support officers. We try to obtain regular updates on crime statistics for our area which are relatively low.

The current PCSO's for our area are:

Hefyn Davies

Sarah Thomas

They are contactable by calling 101 and asking to be transferred to Whitland Police Station.

Key Council objectives and priorities for the year 24/25

- 1. Putting the Community at the heart of all we do with more community events e.g May Picnic, Christmas, Produce Market.**
- 2. Making Pendine a village to be proud with the development of a 5 year plan based on the resident's feedback, to include:-**
 - Targeted enhancement projects with the support of our volunteer group -
 - Small and main slipway repairs - chains and posts, the addition of a barrier to the small slipway.
 - Upgrade Pay & Display machine.
 - Play Park - Improve leveling of ground/removal of molehills.
 - Improvements to greywater disposal at Hafan y Mor

- Explore toilet/shower Facilities at Hafan y Mor
 - Fence painting at Hafan y Mor
 - Replace Bin by Point Cafe on Cliff Path
 - Clean up area opposite bus shelter on the entrance to beach
 - Exploration of grant opportunities to improve facilities e.g. Village Hall, Car park upgrade.
3. **Increasing community revenue to enable further investment in community facilities:-**
- Making Hafan y Mor a profitable new asset.
 - Increasing Beach and village income through more events (including Malcolm Campbell's centenary in 2024) and beach opening schedule for 2024 season.

Recognition and Thanks

Pendine Community Council would like to express their sincere thanks to:

- **To Mr Donald Holmes for providing the loan to purchase the Slipway, which will be a huge asset for the community.**
- **Shane Swale for all the work he put in to assist the council with the application to the Welsh Government for the loan application for the Slipway purchase, plus the work he has done at the Carmarthen archives to support various Council projects.**
- **Nicola Bellarby and Tony Pugh, for attending all meetings to provide the community with a meeting summary via the local newsletter.**
- **All involved with the production and distribution of the Local Newsletter.**
- **All the volunteers who have assisted in events throughout the year for their hard work. We look forward to your continued support in 2024/25 and beyond.**
- **The RNLI lifeguards, for doing a great job keeping the beach safe for swimmers this summer season.**
- **Parkdean for their funding of the RNLI lifeguards for 2024 and allowing us to use the Scoops car park for events.**
- **Llanmiloe Community and Jamie Rugg for allowing Pendine Community Council to use the resource Centre for meetings.**
- **Jenny Kelly of Morfa Bay for allowing the community to host their coronation picnic in the hall at Morfa Bay due to the unpredictable Welsh weather.**
- **All the local businesses who donate raffle prizes for our community fundraising events.**