

Llanyre Community Council Annual Report 2024/2025

A note from the Chairman

As Chairman of Llanyre Community Council, I am pleased to present our annual report, highlighting the achievements and developments that have taken place over the past year. It is an honour and a privilege to represent the residents of Llanyre and Newbridge-on-Wye, especially as I live in Llanyre

Throughout the year, Llanyre Community Council has remained committed to engaging with our community, ensuring that the voices of our residents are heard and their concerns addressed.

We have successfully completed several projects, including the Aberithon Turbary Community Nature Reserve and improvements to the Llanyre Play Area safety surface.

As we move forward, the Council is dedicated to continuing our work in improving the quality of life for our residents. We have set goals for the coming year, including further biodiversity projects, community initiatives, and continued local services such as grass cutting and recreation spaces. We remain committed to serving our community with dedication and integrity.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow councillors for their continued support and help throughout the year. I would also like to thank our Powys Councillors and staff for their support and for the hard work of our own clerk.

Finally, thank you to the residents of our community for their support and collaboration throughout the year. Together, we have achieved remarkable progress, and I look forward to continuing the community council work in the year ahead.

*Penni Stevenson
Chairman*

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1. Llanyre Community Council: The Council was formed in 1974 under the Local Government Act 1972.

The Council provides grass roots services to all parts of its community. The Council's strategic direction is set by elected Councillors (Members) and aims to reflect local priorities. The Clerk is responsible for day-to-day administration of the Council.

Details of the elected members and how to contact them are available at <https://llanyre.org.uk>

Notices of meetings, agendas, reports and minutes can also be viewed there, along with many governance documents and other information about the Council.

The Council derives almost all of its funds from its precept. The precept is an amount added to Council Tax bills (issued by Powys County Council) which is based upon the Council's estimated expenditure.

For the financial year 2024/2025 the Council budget was £17,102.44. The precept contributed £16,627.79 towards this with the remaining amount from funds already set aside.

The Council is responsible a number of local services including council notice board and some street furniture (such as seats and flower boxes) along with other minor responsibilities which contribute to the well-being of and the community. The Council cares for the Recreation Field and Pritchard's Patch along with the play area in Llanyre. Some public area grass cutting and ground maintenance is arranged by the Council in Llanyre and Newbridge on Wye. A tenancy agreement with Powys County Council is in place for the Public Toilets in Newbridge-on-Wye and Llanyre and although both closed during the Covid-19 pandemic the Llanyre public toilets re-opened this year through the efforts and ongoing management by community volunteers.

The Council's prime responsibility is to represent the Community including being a statutory consultee regarding planning matters.

The Community Council The Full Council publishes a list of scheduled meetings after the Annual Meeting in May each year. Meetings are usually held on Tuesday evenings. Ad hoc meetings may be called to discuss urgent planning applications and other urgent business. All meetings are publicised on the Council Website and local notice boards

The Council has a compliant Website with other community information along with the Community Council pages

2. Information about the Council Area: Llanyre is a community in Powys, Mid Wales. Consisting of a tract of undulating land directly north east of Llandrindod Wells, the community consists of the settlements of Llanyre and Newbridge-on-Wye and also covers the surrounding, outlying farms and other dwellings.

There is a church and church Hall in Llanyre. While in Newbridge-on-Wye are a church, a chapel, a primary school and community centre, two public houses, a shop with post office, a garage and several other small businesses. Both communities have bus services.

3. Councillors and Clerk: The Council has two wards with seats for 11 Councillors. There were 4 vacant seats at the end of the year.

- Llanyre (Llanfihangel Helygen & Lanyre ward) / Llanllyr (ward Llanfihangel Helygen a Llanllyr
- Llanyre (Newbridge ward) / Llanllyr (ward Pontnewydd)

Councillors are individuals who are elected to the Council through the democratic process under Section 16 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 every 5 years. A Councillor can also be returned by local by-election or by co- option. Either way, before acting as a Councillor, they must sign a declaration of acceptance of office undertaking to observe the Council's Code of Conduct.

Councillors have a responsibility to attend council meetings when summoned to do so and act on behalf of the whole electorate. Councillors prepare for meetings by studying the agenda and ensuring that they are properly informed and prepared for the issues being discussed. It is the individual Councillor's duty to declare an interest and leave the meeting if any matter being discussed could be perceived as securing any type of advantage to that Member.

Councillors contribute to the work of the Council by:

- Suggesting ideas
- Engaging in constructive debate
- Interacting with their electors
- Behaving in an ethical way
- Voting – enabling the Council to make decisions

Councillors cannot make decisions/promises individually, this has to be done by the Council as a corporate body. Councillors actively and constructively contribute to good governance and encourage community participation and residents' involvement in the work of the Council

Councillors are not paid and have not claimed any allowances during the year ending 31 March 2025.

Councillors who served during the year to 31st March 2025 were:

Mrs P Stevenson (Chairman), Mr G Rees (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Davies, Mrs J Owens, Mr M Watkins, Mr S D Powell, Mr M Davies. Mr S Jones attended only two meetings and as a result is listed as having resigned. For the year, the Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer was Vanessa Garwood. Details of the Councillors and Clerk and how to contact them can be found on the Council's website at <https://llanyre.org.uk>

The Chair is elected by the members at the Council's Annual Meeting and serves for 12 months. The Chair is responsible for presiding at meetings ensuring all Councillors contribute to discussions and that effective and lawful decisions are taken with the advice of the Clerk. The Chair summarises debate and has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote under the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chair is the public face of the Council and promotes the decisions and views of the Council and not their personal view. The Chair cannot legally make a decision/promise on behalf of the Council.

An Annual Meeting is held in May each year and this is where the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the forthcoming year takes place.

As a corporate body the Council sets an annual budget and receives almost all its funds from its precept. A small amount of income is collected from wayleaves, bank interest, and the Llanyre clothes bank, grant applications are made for specific projects.

Ordinary meetings are normally held on the third Tuesday of the month. Agendas, minutes, annual accounts and more can be viewed on the Community Council's website.

At the end of 2024/25 year, the Council had 4 vacancies for Councillors. These can be filled by co-option. If you have a passion for your community and wish to support the Community Council in its work, please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors to find out more and discuss the vacancies.

4. External Membership: The Council has continued its external interest in the following: Newbridge on Wye Community Centre and Primary School (represented during the year by County Councillor Brighthouse), Newbridge-on-Wye Community Centre, Aberithon and Bedw Turbaries and Llanyre Recreation Ground.

5. Bi-diversity Plan: The Council has a bio-diversity plan and a three year report for the period to the end of December 2022 was published, the report was posted on the community notice board and can be seen on the website. The plan will be reviewed during the coming year and a report for the period ending 31/12/2025 will be issued. The wild flowers in the Llanyre Play Area and the natural areas of Pritchard's Patch, Llanyre recreation field and the Turbaries continue to support pollinators and create stepping stone havens for insects, birds and other wildlife.

6. Training Plan has been adopted and published. Training is ongoing with regular briefing notes used to keep members up to date with legal and financial issues that affect the way the Council works

7. Complaints: No complaints were received about the work of the Community Council during the year.

8. An overview of the year: Council Facts and Figures

- 12 Meetings were held during the year including the Annual Meeting.
- 8 planning applications were received for comments
- The Council received an Unqualified Audit from Audit Wales – this means that the Council accounts, governance documents and working practices were all correct and in order.

9. Things in the community to which the Community Council contributed during the year:

- Councillors laid wreaths on behalf of the community at the annual act of remembrance held in Newbridge on Wye and Llanyre in November
- Support was given to the carnival in Newbridge-on-Wye.
- Support was given to Llanyre Church Hall to help towards running costs including wi-fi.
- An area of Aberithon Turbary was set aside for children from Newbridge on Wye Primary School to plant an orchard.
- A coffee morning was held at the Community Centre in Newbridge to celebrate the completion of the Aberithon Turbary Community Nature reserve project which was part funded by the National Lottery.

- Llanyre and Newbridge-on-Wye communities both enjoyed Christmas lights and decorations.
- Safety matting was replaced at Llanyre Play area
- Grass and hedges were cut and tidied, including a mowed path within Llanyre Recreation field.
- Renovations to the path in Pritchard's Patch.
- The Community Council asked for support from Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations to review and revise the management arrangements for Newbridge-on-Wye Community Centre
- A public meeting was held to discuss the future of the Community Centre and this resulted in a new group of volunteers coming forward to take over the management of the Community Centre which is a registered Charity.

The Council are hugely grateful to the efforts of volunteers from the community that make so much happen including the NoW Carnival, Llanyre Sports, the conservation work at the Turbary, the day to day running of Llanyre Toilets and now also the NoW Community Centre. All these are key things among many that make and keep our villages 'a community'.

The Council gave charitable grants of £25.00 each to SSAFA Wales and Wales Air Ambulance.. Both had made general funding requests to the Community Council and it was felt that both provided action that had/may potentially benefit community members.

10. Annual Return and Financial Statement: A copy of the annual return and financial statement is posted on the Council's website at <https://llanyre.org.uk>

11. Reserves: The monies held by the Council at the end of the year are represented by:

Earmarked reserves of £5,226.92 - these are specific to projects and cannot be used for the day to day running of the council and a General reserve of £2,037.26 which is a buffer for council costs.

12. Plans for 2025-26: During the next financial year, the following projects and activities are planned:

The activities in no order of priority are listed below

- Conservation work on community land.
- Support for community Events
- V E Day commemorations
- V J Day commemorations
- Annual Remembrance Day Commemorations
- Review of play and recreation areas
- Grass and grounds maintenance
- Christmas Lights
- Support for community organisations and activities