



# Gilfach Goch Community Council

## Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch



### Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report 2022–23

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## Cyflwyniad

*Dyma adroddiad blynyddol Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch ac mae'n grynodeb o waith y Cyngor Cymuned dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf hyd at 31 Mawrth 2023.*

*Mae'r adroddiad hwn yn cynnwys adran ar lesiant sy'n trafod yr amcanion llesiant a gyhoeddwyd gan Fwrdd Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cwm Taf o fewn gofynion fframwaith Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015.*

## Introduction

Gilfach Goch Community Council's Annual Report is a summary of the work of the council in the year to 31 March 2023.

This report contains a well-being section which addresses the well-being objectives as published by Cwm Taf Public Services Board within the framework requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## Cefndir a neges gan Liz Price, Cadeirydd Background and message from Liz Price, Chair

*Croeso i adroddiad blynyddol Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch.*

*Rwyf wedi cael yr anrhydedd o fod yn Gadeirydd y cyngor am y flwyddyn ddiwethaf a hoffwn ddiolch i fy nghyd-gynghorwyr, Aurfron Roberts (Cynghorydd Sir) a Dawn Walters (Clerc) am eu cefnogaeth barhaus.*

*Bu'n flwyddyn ddiddorol; wrth i gyfyngiadau Covid gael eu codi, roeddem yn gallu dychwelyd i elfen o normalrwydd. Roedd hyn yn golygu ein bod yn gallu cynyddu'r gweithgareddau a oedd ar gael i'n plant yn y Ras Rhedeg, a oedd yn llwyddiant ysgubol. Rydym wrth ein bodd yn gallu parhau i gynnig y digwyddiad hwn am ddim i blant y cwm bob blwyddyn.*

*Roeddem yn gallu cynnig cyllid i gefnogi partïon stryd, gan dynnu'r gymuned ynghyd i ddathlu Jiwbilf Platinwm y Frenhines. Roeddem hefyd yn gallu ariannu parti arbennig i oedolion hŷn yn y Ganolfan Ddydd ar Stryd Fawr.*

*Roedd parti Pasg yn Sŵn yr Afon a digwyddiad Te Prynawn ymysg y digwyddiadau roeddem yn gallu eu hariannu yn y gymuned. O'r diwedd, roeddem yn gallu dadorchuddio ein mainc goffa ac roedd hi'n fraint croesawu Prif Weinidog Cymru Mark Drakeford i draddodi'r seremoni.*

*Rydym yn parhau i gynnal ein grantiau cymunedol ym mis Medi ar gyfer unrhyw grŵp yn y gymuned a fyddai'n gwerthfawrogi swm bach o gymorth ariannol i gefnogi eu prosiect.*

*Rydym yn parhau i wella'r rhandir, gan gynyddu'r tir y gall deiliaid llain ei ddefnyddio, darparu man gwyrdd er lles ein cymuned. Rydym wrth ein bodd ein bod wedi plannu Perllan Gymunedol ym Mharc Stryd Fawr, a thrwy weithio gyda Chymdeithas Gymunedol Gilfach Goch mae Perllan gymunedol wedi'i phlannu yn y rhandir hefyd, a fydd yn darparu ffrwythau i'r gymuned.*

*Mae gennym gynlluniau cyffrous ar y ffordd eleni, gan gynnwys ein prosiect Pŵer Hydro a pharc newydd. Byddwn hefyd yn parhau i ddarparu ein haddurniadau Nadoligaidd gan wneud y Nadolig yn oleuach ar gyfer y gymuned.*

*Diolch am eich cefnogaeth.*

Welcome to the Gilfach Community Council annual report.

I have had the privilege of being the Chair for the council for the past year and would like to thank my fellow councillors, Aurfron Roberts (County Councillor) and Dawn Walters (Clerk) for their continued support.

It has been an interesting year; with the Covid restrictions lifted, we were able to return to a semblance of normality. This meant we were able to increase the activities on offer for our children in the Fun Run, which was an amazing success. We are delighted to be able to continue to offer this free event for the children in the valley annually.

We were able to offer funding to support street parties, bringing the community together to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We were also able to fund a special party for the older residents in the Day Centre, High Street.

An Easter party in Swyn yr Afon and an Afternoon Tea Event were among the events we were able to finance in the community. We were finally able to unveil our commemorative bench and were honoured to welcome the First Minister Mark Drakeford to officiate.

We continue to run our community grants in September for any group in the community who would appreciate a small amount of financial assistance to support their project.

We are continuing to improve the allotment, increasing the useable area for plot holders, and providing a green space for the wellbeing of our community. We are delighted to have planted a Community Orchard at the High Street Park and working with the GGCA a community Orchard has also been planted in the allotment that will both provide fruit for the community.

We have some exciting plans in the pipeline for this year including our Hydro Power project and a new park. We will also continue to provide our festive decorations making Christmas brighter for the community.

Thank you for your support.

Liz Price

Chair

## Cynghorwyr / Councillors

Following the 2022 election, the seven councillors were: Joan Abbott, Richard Price, Daljinder Athwal, Julie Rees, Andrew Draper (vice chair), Allun Warren, Elizabeth Price (chair).

An elected member acts on behalf of the whole community and takes an interest in all issues. They listen to you and represent the views of the community when discussing council business and working with outside bodies. Members play an important part by thinking creatively about what they can do together to improve the lives of local people. The community council meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month other than August. These meetings are open to the public and media to observe.

### The following payments were made to councillors in 2022–23

Councillor name	Payments for costs incurred – telephone, broadband etc. (max. £150 per member)	Other	Total
Cllr Allun Warren	150		
Cllr Elizabeth Price	150		
Cllr Daljinder Athwal	150		
Cllr Joan Abbott	150		
Cllr Julie Rees	150		
Cllr Richard Price	150		
Cllr Andrew Draper	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>£900</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£900</b>

In accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, community and town councils must publish within their authority area the remuneration received by their members by 30<sup>th</sup> September following the end of the year to which the payment relates. This information should also be sent to the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales by the same date. Nil returns are also required. See Annex 4 of the Panel's report for more information.

## *Staffio / Staffing*

Dawn Walters	Clerk and responsible finance officer	20 hrs per week
Huw Jones	Outdoor assets caretaker	12 hrs per week
Russell Scully	Groundsperson Holly Street allotment	20 hrs per week

## Ein blaenoriaethau gwariant / Our spending priorities

### Sut rydym yn cael ein hariannu / How are we are funded?

The council is funded mostly by the council taxpayer. Other sources of income are the rental of plots at the Holly Street allotment, ground rent for garages and windfarm grants.

### Ble mae'ch arian yn mynd / Where does your money go?

The council agreed a precept of £107,430 to spend on the provision of services in 2022/23. For the council taxpayer the Band D tax levied was £102.65

The council's budget for 2021–22 was as follows:

INCOME	BUDGET
Balance 31st March 2022	64,782.00
Precept	107,430.00
Allotment rent	500.00
Ground rent	630.00
Misc. income	100.00
Windfarm	7,600.00
VAT received	2,085.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183,127.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
<b>PERSONNEL</b>	
Wages – clerk inc. oncosts	14,600.00
Wages – c/taker inc. oncosts	5,500.00
Chair's allowance	300.00
Employer's NI payments	1,200.00
Windfarm	7,600.00



<b>ADMIN.</b>	
Office/misc.	2,384.00
Ground rent	5.00
Audit	2,000.00
Insurance	1,300.00
Water charges	150.00
Electricity	2,000.00
BT phone	360.00
Council tax	1,111.00
Remunerations	1,050.00
<b>PUBLIC SERVICES</b>	
Allotment	17,000.00
Bus shelters	3,000.00
S137 grants	7,000.00
Donations:	1,000.00
Memberships	850
Dropped kerbs	5,000
Basketball area	40,000
Fireworks	3,000.00
Christmas	7,000.00
Fun run	3,000.00
<b>MISC.</b>	
Office refurbishment	30,000.00
Election costs	1,000.00
VAT PAID	2,085.00
CONTINGENCY	23,632.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>183,127.00</b>

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## Gilfach Goch community council training plan

This year the clerk had to provide a five-year training plan for all councillors and staff.

The purpose of the training plan is for Gilfach Goch community council to be as effective and efficient as possible when exercising its functions. It is important that the council should regularly review opportunities to improve administration and governance so that we are better able to perform our responsibilities to serve our community.

Section 67 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 2021 requires community councils to make and publish a plan about the training provision for its members and staff. The first training plan had to be ready and published by 5 November 2022.

### Training for councillors

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council offered a code of conduct training session on 20 June 2022 via Zoom.

Councillors are provided with access to:

- The Good Councillors Guide produced by One Voice Wales.
- Basic presentations prepared by One Voice Wales including:
  - Induction
  - Code of conduct
  - Local government finance
  - Health and safety
  - The council as an employer
  - Understanding the law.

All councillors should complete the initial training above within six months of taking office. A training needs analysis was to be completed with councillors in early 2023.

In addition, councillors are encouraged to request online / face-to-face training by visiting the One Voice Wales page to see the current training schedule. Councillors receive these training opportunities frequently via e-mail.

Welsh lessons were available from week commencing 12 September 2022. A 32-week course costs £45.

Office-based employee – clerk and responsible finance officer

The following training is applicable to the above post:

- Certificate in Local Council Administration at a cost of £410.
- Introduction to Local Council Administration (not required if someone holds a CILCA qualification) at a cost of £120.

Other employees – outdoor assets caretaker / grounds person. Training for equipment needed at the allotment was provided by Orange Forestry Ltd Treforest for £175.

### Training costs

£1,000 will be budgeted each year for the next five years.

Training plan written: 7 July 2022

Review date: July 2023

Statutory review date: three months after council elections

Approved by full council: 12 October 2022

## Adroddiad Llesiant / Well-being report

The Well-being of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015 by the Welsh Government with the aim of improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The act seeks a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The organisations that make up Cwm Taf Public Services Board are:

• Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	• Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
• Community Rehabilitation Company	• Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
• Interlink	• National Probation Service
• Natural Resources Wales (NRW)	• Public Health Wales
• South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	• South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
• Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)	• Welsh Government

### Amcan 1:

*Hyrwyddo cymunedau diogel, cryf a ffyniannus sy'n gwella llesiant trigolion ac ymwelwyr ac yn adeiladu ar ein hasedau cymunedol*

### Objective 1:

To promote safe, strong and thriving communities improving the well-being of residents and visitors and building on our community assets



The community council will continue to invest in the allotment at Holly Street and will work alongside the Allotment Association. Additional fencing has been erected and areas cleared to make more plots available. A groundsperson at the allotment was appointed for 20 hours a week, on a one-year contract in the first instance.



## Biodiversity plan 2022



A biodiversity plan is in place. Gilfach Goch is a rural village with farms, forestry, streams and the Ogwr Fach river, as well as an abundance of green spaces. Wildlife and fauna thrive here. There is an abundance of biodiversity within the area which we seek to protect and develop. The RCTCBC ecology officer confirmed on a site visit that biodiversity is improving in Gilfach Goch, despite the adverse effects of global warming.

## The present

The community council manages the land at the Holly Street allotment. Gilfach Goch Community Association has two large areas at the allotment and the community council works closely with it on its projects. Work done so far includes the construction of two raised beds and a second polytunnel. Various planting is underway inside and outside the polytunnels. There are wildflower meadows, fruit tree planting and growing of willow to make willow hedges and domes. Compost bins have been erected, and wildlife-friendly plants and shrubs are encouraged.

## Community orchard – free for all

The community council was successful with an application to Keep Wales Tidy for a community orchard. The area originally earmarked for this was along the old disused railway line that runs along the bottom of Holly and Llewellyn Street. Several factors meant the orchard was in fact planted on land next to the play area in High Street.

The project provides:

- 12 fruit trees including stakes, guards etc
- 320 native bulbs
- two bug boxes

- two hedgehog boxes
- three recycled plastic benches.

The location and spacing of the trees are such that biodiversity of insects, birds, other trees and fauna is encouraged and not harmed.

Another community orchard is to be installed at the Holly Street allotments under the stewardship of the Gilfach Goch Community Association, which is separate to the community council. They will be looking at a full programme of growing in the coming months to utilise the two polytunnels and raised beds and have wood in place to construct three or four raised beds.

The Japanese knotweed at the allotment is being treated to prevent its spread.



*Planting the community orchard, left to right: GGCC groundsperson Russell Scully, Cllr Allun Warren, Cllr Andrew Draper, Simon Adshead, Clair Gwilliam, RCT Project Officer Keep Wales Tidy Maria Toogood.*

## Protecting and encouraging wildlife

One resident in the village has owl boxes. We are seeing an increase in the bird population, especially kites and buzzards, although we are discouraged from feeding these birds. Herons, dippers and goldcrest are seen regularly. A community councillor is a member of the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, and when walking checks that cattle grids have hedgehog escape ramps in place.

There are otters in the Ogwr Fach river. Foxes, rabbits, hares, moles and other small mammals have also made a home in Gilfach Goch.

The waterways are home to frogs, newts and countless insects, as well as plants such as Canadian pondweed.

## Actions within the next three years to ensure biodiversity

The community council is working towards further actions within the next three years aimed at a wider range of activities to protect, enhance and create the habitats required to ensure biodiversity within the village:

- the community council will be applying for nature packs via Keep Wales Tidy
- a working group has been set up to advance plans for emissions-free hydropower in the village. It will, if realised, necessarily respect and encourage biodiversity and wildlife, and help take our community towards net zero and electrification
- a wildlife pond will be considered at Holly Street allotments
- the village will be encouraged to set up a wildlife and biodiversity group.

The planned works at the allotment for 2023 are to clear an area and make good for six plots. The work was due to take place before the end of February 2023 to protect the birds and dormice during their breeding season.

A part-time groundsperson was to be employed, primarily at the allotment. Tasks include encouraging biodiversity, for example:

- brush and log piles for insect and wildlife habitat
- bat boxes high in the trees
- bird boxes in trees
- small bird boxes around the site.

Gilfach Goch community council works closely with Miskin Tree Services. They regularly work alongside qualified ecologists and have a keen interest in protecting the environment. They:

- only use biodegradable chain oils and splash trays
- check all tree splits, twists and cavities for bats before working on them
- check for nests
- check the ground for wildlife – aquatic, dormice, bumblebees etc. around the drop zone before work.

## Walking the footpaths around Gilfach Goch

Many Gilfach Goch residents are keen naturalists. During the pandemic, walking the footpaths around the area was a popular pastime. Many people expressed an interest in walking all the mapped footpaths. There was talk of footpaths being undesignated if not actively used but we understand the proposal has been withdrawn by the Welsh Government. However, walking interest remains.

An organised walking group or – more likely – individual walkers could be asked to report on biodiversity issues which the community or county borough council could address.

Biodiversity projects – such as establishing bird boxes and nature corners – could be encouraged and developed in the village schools and with community organisations. One school in the village has undertaken forest-based learning activities.

### Festive afternoon tea dance

The community council funded a festive afternoon tea dance at the OAP Hall. It was an enjoyable and successful event. It was the first time that some of the members had visited their much-loved hall since the pandemic.

The purpose of hosting this local event was to bring together members of our community and create memorable moments through joyful shared experiences, as seen below.





## Jubilee street parties



The community council funded an event at the Day Centre in High Street for the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations and contributed financially to several street parties.











## Death of Queen Elizabeth, proclamation of King Charles



On 8 September 2022, at 3.10pm, Elizabeth II, Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms, and the longest-reigning British monarch, died of old age at Balmoral Castle in Scotland aged 96. She was succeeded by her eldest son, Charles III.

The proclamation of the new King was read outside the community council office at 1.30pm on Sunday 11 September. A book of condolences was circulated within the village.

## Gilfach Goch community council memorial bench inaugurated



First Minister Mark Drakeford unveiled a special Covid memorial bench in Gilfach Goch on 23 November and said the need to remember is “very real”.

Addressing a crowd of locals in torrential rain accompanied by rumbles of thunder, Mr Drakeford said not a family in Wales had been untouched by the pandemic: “The need to remember is very real. The fact that there will be a place here in Gilfach Goch where people can come and do that simple act of remembrance will be important in many, many lives for many, many years to come.”

Gilfach Goch community council had wanted a bench as a permanent tribute to the more than 50 people in the village who sadly died during the coronavirus pandemic.



The bench is also testimony to the way in which the village residents came together to support one another. “This bench is sited in a beautiful location where we can sit and pay tribute to those who lost their lives in our community and to pay tribute to those who worked so tirelessly to support us through the pandemic,” said community council chair Liz Price.

RCT Councillor Aurfron Roberts said: “The bench is very significant in that it’s bringing together two parts of the community that lost loved ones during the pandemic. I think it’s good for our community that we’re united over it and let’s hope it’s onwards and upwards for our community.”

The council’s intention is that the bench should offer a place for reflection and remembrance, and it encourages its use by the public.

Production and delivery were repeatedly delayed, partly because of the pandemic.



## Fireworks display

A bonfire night fireworks display was held at Ty'n y bryn park by Tonyrefail Leisure Centre in conjunction with Tonyrefail community council. Both community councils funded the event. Tickets were sold for £1, and all proceeds went to the Fire Service Benevolent Fund. Gilfach Goch fire station crews were the organisers. It was a well organised event and a truly enjoyable family evening with Rhondda Radio entertaining the spectators. Urban Markets, Beefy's Baps and Sian's Snax To Go were in attendance.

The event was cancelled the previous year due to the pandemic and next year's event will be on Hendreforgan Field.



## Community grants

The community council makes some community funding – S137 community grants – available to local organisations. In the review year, they went to the following:

• Garden Village Ladies Guild	£300
• Garden Village Ladies Arts & Crafts	£300
• Gilfach Goch First Scouts Group	£300
• Moriah Welsh Baptist Chapel	£500
• Hendreforgan School	£400
• Messy Monsters Day Nursery	£200
• Gilfach Goch Community Singers	£300
• Gilfach Goch Old People's Welfare	£500
• First Responders Group	£565
• Gilfach Goch Watercolour Society	£100
• St Barnabas & Llandyfodwg Mothers Union	£100
• Bethel Methodist Church	£500
• St Barnabas Church	£100
• Gilfach Goch Bushu Kai Karate	£500
• Community Defibrillators	£1,000
• Swyn Yr Afon	£150
• Lil Amigos	£750
• Gilfach Goch Ladies Bowls	£190
• Food Bank	£245

## Remembrance Sunday

The community council, along with the Gilfach Goch Community Association, ensured that a Remembrance Sunday service took place at the cenotaph in Evanstown Welfare Park. The Reverend Margaret Maund of St. Barnabas church led the service and pupils from Hendreforgan and Abercerdin schools took part. Refreshments were provided at the pavilion afterwards.



Community councillor Joan Abbott decorated an area of the village with poppies.



The war memorial bench, which was purchased by the community council, was in place at the cenotaph. Delivery had been delayed due to the pandemic.



The community council decorated the village with remembrance plaques.

### Amcan 3:

*Tyfu economi leol gref â seilwaith sy'n denu pobl i fyw, gweithio a chwarae yn RhCT /*

### Objective 3:

To grow a resilient local economy with infrastructure that attracts people to live, work and play in RCT.

Gilfach Goch has grown rapidly over the past few years. Further progress on dualling parts of the A4119 means the attractiveness of the village due to its transport links and the beautiful surrounding countryside is likely to increase.

## Infrastructure

The community council has shown a continued commitment to investing in the provision of bus shelters to encourage more people to use sustainable transport. Gilfach Goch community council works closely with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and this year over £140,000 has been spent on dropped kerbs, new bus shelters and improved bus stops.



We also invest in benches. They provide much needed respite for people walking around our community and increase the likelihood of people walking instead of driving. The community council is a consultee of the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council planning department for all planning applications in the community. This provides another local voice to ensure residents' voices are heard. There are plans to provide benches at the waterfall area at the top of the valley. This will be in conjunction with Ogmere Valley community council and Osborne Estates.

The community council contributes towards the local playgrounds in conjunction with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. There are plans for a new play area at the top of High Street.

## Local businesses

Where possible, the community council utilises local businesses and contractors to undertake any work needed. This circular economy approach gives the maximum boost to the local economy.

## Christmas lights

The council provides and funds the supply and maintenance of the Christmas features on lamp posts for a pleasant, festive environment. This year the council provided Christmas trees to local businesses, shops and public houses.



## An MBE for Cllr Aurfron Roberts



His Majesty the King's 2023 New Year's Honours List included Borough Councillor Aurfron Roberts (seen left), who was awarded an MBE for her political and community services. She has been a county borough councillor for 38 years and was a community councillor for more than 20 years. She represents Welsh Labour.

## A greener and more sustainable place



Gilfach Goch community council has a vision of making the village a greener and more sustainable place to live and work. Climate crisis, soaring energy bills that are hitting the poor the hardest, the urgent need to reduce reliance on climate-harming fossil fuels demand we redouble our efforts to find alternatives.

The allotments in Holly Street are being developed and expanded and are already a **sustainable source of community food**. An enquiry relating to keeping bees at the allotment was made and the community council developed a plan to make this happen and help biodiversity in the process.

We have begun investigating the **potential for generating hydropower** from our river, the Ogwr Fach. We are aware it has been attempted before and we will learn the lessons of history. What was unviable before may be viable now. Renewable energy sources are more important than ever as they reduce the impact of fossil fuel-based energy.

The Welsh Government's Energy Saving Trust sets out 30 steps to be achieved in any successful hydropower project. Each step should be completed before passing on to the next. That means the project can be halted at any stage if it is found to be unviable. We have a working group and are moving forward.

Protecting our biodiversity is also key for a greener society. A collection of 12 mixed fruit trees went into a **community orchard** on land next to the play area off High Street.

When fully mature in around 10 years' time, each tree will produce up to 40lb of fruit per year. The first fruit should appear from next autumn onwards.

There is a mix of apple, pear and cherry trees. Andrew Draper, vice chair of the council, said the planting was the culmination of a lot of work of community engagement and working with the landowner, RCTCBC, and Keep Wales Tidy, who generously funded the scheme.

He said: "The project will be a great community resource, providing a source of free fruit for local residents. Parents will be able to pick and eat an apple while watching their children play. It has even been suggested we invest in a fruit press to make fruit juice."

The site has been made available on licence by RCTCBC.

Our thanks go to Keep Wales Tidy for providing the trees, flower bulbs and benches, and to Gilfach Goch Community Association for their help too. They also have a community orchard in the village.

One bench was to be sited at the orchard. Two others will be placed near the waterfalls and the bulbs will go elsewhere.

## *Edrych ymlaen i 2023/43* Looking forward to 2023/24

We have planted the community orchard we talked about for a while and this has led our focus to the matter of wider biodiversity management.

We know the air is cleaner in Gilfach Goch than in many places, because RCT's ecology officer, Richard Wistow, told us so on a visit to Gilfach Goch in July. We are further from the air pollution of the M4 motorway and we are higher up.



We have begun to consider and understand the story. Plants grow in Gilfach Goch that you don't find elsewhere, such as bell heather. Lichen is plentiful – a sign of clean air quality. Plants grow in Gilfach Goch from seeds that have been dormant from before the mining era. New species have begun to colonise due to warmer weather and from seeds blown in from coastal areas.

*The story is that Gilfach Goch is something of a nature reserve. We have dippers, goldcrests, skylarks and otters live in or around the Ogwr Fach. Red kites thrive.*

Rare grass types are growing here that only an ecologist would recognise. The valleys of south Wales are full of ecologists from England because of the tremendous and interesting biodiversity here. And the valleys contain fauna and wildlife that people outside the valleys would not believe.

We know the climate emergency is causing more severe weather and shortening our winters, and biodiversity is collapsing in many parts of the UK. A lack of intensive land use and plentiful wildlife habitat, plus a wet climate, mean biodiversity is healing and thriving here.

We will be seeking to understand this unique, unfolding story better so we can tell it. Look out for an information board by the waterfall area which we intend to install.

A new website is under discussion too. We'll be sharing the nature story there, along with all the statutory stuff, like minutes and financial records.



We decided at our September 2023 meeting to ask community organisations to send us one good idea. I want you all to do the same. If it's a good idea that will make Gilfach Goch a better place to live, I promise you it will be on the agenda and we'll discuss it. Contact us on [GilfachGochCommunityCouncil@outlook.com](mailto:GilfachGochCommunityCouncil@outlook.com).

*Andrew Draper*  
Chair 2023–24



**Gilfach Goch Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch**