



Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch / Gilfach Goch Community Council

**Adroddiad Blynyddol / Annual Report
2021/22**



Etna Terrace, Gilfach Goch CF39 8SU

**01443 673415
ggcc.co.uk**

GilfachGochCommunityCouncil@outlook.com

Cynnwys / Contents

<i>Cyflwyniad</i>	3
Introduction	3
<i>Cefndir a neges gan Allun Warren, Cadeirydd</i>	3
Background and message from Allun Warren, Chair	4
<i>Cynghorwyr / Councillors</i>	5
<i>Staffio / Staffing</i>	5
<i>Ein blaenoriaethau gwariant / Our spending priorities</i>	6
<i>Sut rydym yn cael ein hariannu / How are we are funded?</i>	6
<i>Ble mae'ch arian yn mynd / Where does your money go?</i>	6
<i>Adroddiad llesiant / Well-being report 2020/21</i>	7
<i>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.</i>	8
<i>Amcan 2: Helpu pobl i fyw bywydau hir ac iach a goresgyn unrhyw heriau / Objective 2: To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.</i>	12
<i>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.</i>	16
<i>Edrych ymlaen i 2022/23 - lle gwyrddach a mwy cynaliadwy i fyw a gweithio / Looking forward to 2022/23 – a greener and more sustainable place to live and work</i>	18

Cyflwyniad

Dyma adroddiad blynyddol cyntaf Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch ac mae'n grynodedb o waith y Cyngor Cymuned dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf hyd at 31 Mawrth 2022.

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.

Arweiniodd pandemig COVID-19 at ohirio'r arddangosfa tân gwyllt arfaethedig mewn cydweithrediad â Chyngor Cymuned Tonyrefail, ond roeddem yn gallu cynnal y Ras Coedwig / Diwrnod o Hwyl blynyddol. Roedd yn llwyddiant ysgubol ac yn braf i gynyfer o deuluoedd pan oedden nhw'n gwybod, yn ôl canllawiau Llywodraeth Cymru, bod y digwyddiad yn sicr yn digwydd ar 25 Awst.

Introduction

This is Gilfach Goch Community Council's first Annual Report and is a summary of the work of the Community Council over the last year to 31 March 2022.

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic saw the proposed firework display in conjunction with Tonyrefail Community Council postponed, but we were able to hold the annual Forestry Run / Fun Day. It was a great success and a delight to so many families when they knew that, according to Welsh Government guidelines, the event was definitely taking place on August 25.

Cefndir a neges gan Allun Warren, Cadeirydd

Daeth Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch i fodolaeth ym 1985 pan rannwyd y Cyngor Cymuned Llantrisant blaenorol. Fi oedd Cadeirydd cyntaf y Cyngor.

Yn ystod y 12 mis diwethaf neu fwy mae Covid wedi effeithio ar sut mae'r Cyngor wedi gweithredu ac yn ystod y cyfnod hwn mae cyfarfodydd y Cyngor wedi'u cynnal yn bennaf ar-lein drwy Zoom.

Mae hyn wedi bod yn heriol i aelodau'r Cyngor sydd wedi gorfod mynd i'r afael â'r dechnoleg newydd hon.

Hoffwn i fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i fy nghyd-gynghorwyr am eu cydweithrediad a'u cefnogaeth yn ystod y cyfnod anodd hwn.

Oherwydd y pandemig, bu'n rhaid canslo llawer o weithgareddau'r cyngor, gan gynnwys ein Ras Coedwig hirsefydlog. Fodd bynnag roeddem yn gallu cynnal y digwyddiad hwn eto fis Awst diwethaf pan gafodd y rheolau ar gyfer digwyddiadau awyr agored eu llacio.

Dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf o ganlyniad i gyllid ar y cyd rhwng Cyngor RhCT a ni, rydym wedi gallu gwella ardaloedd chwarae y plant, gan gynnwys parc y Stryd Fawr y bu'n rhaid ei ailadeiladu'n llwyr, a gwaith mawr i le chwarae Holly Street.

Un prosiect mawr y mae'r Cyngor yn rhan ohono ar hyn o bryd yw'r gwelliannau i'n rhandiroedd, sy'n parhau ac a fydd yn parhau am gryn amser.

Rydym hefyd yn parhau i ariannu'r broses o brynu a gosod y goleuadau Nadolig sy'n cael eu codi yn y pentref bob blwyddyn.

Unwaith eto, hoffwn i ddiolch i fy nghyd-aelodau am eu cefnogaeth yn ystod fy nghyfnod yn y swydd.

Background and message from Allun Warren, Chair

The Gilfach Goch Community Council came into being in 1985 when the former Llantrisant Community Council was split up. I was the first Chair of the Council. During the last 12 months or so Covid has had an effect on how the Council has operated and during this period Council meetings have been mainly online via Zoom. This has been a challenge for Council members who have had to get to grips with this new technology.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow councillors for their cooperation and support during this difficult period.

Due to the pandemic, many council activities had to be cancelled, including our long-standing Forestry Run. However, we were able to hold this event again last August as there was a relaxation of rules governing outside events.

Over the last few years due to joint funding between RCTCBC and ourselves we have been able to upgrade our children's playgrounds including the High Street park, which had to be completely rebuilt, and major works at Holly Street playground.

One major project that the Council is currently involved with is the improvements to our allotments, which are ongoing and will be for some time to come.

We also continue to fund the purchase and installation of the Christmas lights that are put up in the village each year.

Once again, I would like to thank my fellow members for their support during my term of office.

Cynghorwyr / Councillors

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 to observe. The seven councillors are:

Aurfron Roberts
Allun Warren
Andrew Draper
Elizabeth Price
Joan Abbott
Melvyn Whitter
Richard Price

Staffio / Staffing

Dawn Walters	Clerk and responsible finance officer	20 hrs a week
Huw Jones	Outdoor assets caretaker	12 hrs a 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 budget of £21,000 to spend on the provision of services in 2021/22. A very small precept as there was a considerable underspend from the previous financial year due to COVID-19. For the council taxpayer the Band D tax levied was £20.80

The Council's spend was budgeted as follows:

Staffing	£27,617
Administration	£5,946
Public services	£65,426
Events	£8,000

Adroddiad Ilesiant / 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 is now responsible for the allotment at Holly Street. A considerable amount of money has been spent to improve the land. There are 18 current plot holders and with proposed future work there will be more plots available to the community to grow flowers and vegetables.

Our plot holders have expressed their gratitude that they were able to access the allotment during the lockdown period and for the works that have been carried out there. There is an allotment association which includes the community council clerk and outdoor assets caretaker, three councillors and four plot holders. There are plans for raised beds and improved accessibility to make plots available for all.



View of the allotment alongside Holly St



Allotment looking to Oak St

The Community Council funded an Easter celebration at the Swn Yr Afon sheltered housing scheme. It was a much-needed post-COVID celebratory event and involved a few community members helping to coordinate the residents' event.

It brought together members of our community and created memorable moments through shared experiences, which in turn will leave all involved with good feelings and great memories promoting:

- Maximum uptake by residents as there was no cost to them to attend as most are on low income.
- Perfect opportunity for mostly single residents to celebrate and socialise with their co-residents.
- A positive change in our community.
- Shared life experiences and interesting intergenerational conversations.
- Bringing the community closer together.
- Awareness about local issues in an ever-changing and thriving community.
- Keeping spirits high for local residents.
- Connecting with individuals who may enrich your life.
- Developing and nurturing relationships that can last for years.
- Healthy relationships and enhanced mental well-being.
- A positive state of mind and improved quality of life.
- Keeping old traditions alive and creating new ones.
- A strong identity which will foster a greater sense of pride within the community.

- Sharing thoughts, ideas and goals with individuals, irrespective of age, culture or religion.
- Relationships that add value to life.



Swn Yr Afon residents celebrate and socialise



A place for social connections



Keeping spirits high



Sense of pride within the community

The Community Council contributes to local authority works. The dropped kerb works have made it easier to access and use local roads and pavements, especially for pushchair and wheelchair users.

Amcan 2:

Helpu pobl i fyw bywydau hir ac iach a goresgyn unrhyw heriau /

Objective 2: To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

The Community Council holds an annual forestry fun run in August. It is a popular physical event for all children up to the age of 15. It takes place at Evanstown Welfare Park and continues to be a flagship event.



Community Council Chair Allun Warren (centre) with presentation medals. Joined by mayors of RCT and Bridgend: Cllr Jill Bonetto (left) and Cllr John Spanswick



Bridgend Mayor John Spanswick presents the Under-8s Runner-up award to Verity



Rory was overall winner and won in the under-16s



A medal to everyone for taking part. Tally getting hers from Huw Irranca-Davies MS



Nearly Wild animal show



Rugby training with the Ospreys



Face painting and glitter tattoos with Paris Amy Beauty



The Mini Mayhem bouncy castle was a big hit

A memorial bench has been commissioned and will be placed in the village in memory of those who lost their lives due to COVID-19 and how the village came together to support each other during the pandemic.

The allotment at Holly Street is much used by the plot holders and access to the land has been improved for disabled people.

Sports groups are supported via the S137 grant awards.

Four new defibrillators have been put in place.

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 only going to increase.

Infrastructure: The Community Council has shown a continued commitment to investing in the provision of bus shelters in order to encourage more people to use sustainable transport. Gilfach Goch Community Council works closely with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and is hoping for some significant improvements to be made to a number of bus stops and bus shelters in 2022-23.

We also invest in benches. They provide much needed respite for people walking around our communities 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.

The Community Council contributes towards the local playgrounds in conjunction with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

Holly Street playground has a colourful court with games and a bench. This play area is probably one of the best doorstep sites in RCT.



A colourful rocket in Holly Street playground



Snakes and ladders



Holly Street looking colourful

The Hill Street / Fern Street playground extended for toddler play

Local businesses: Where possible, the Community Council utilises local businesses and contractors to undertake any work needed.

Christmas lights: The Council provides and funds the supply and maintenance of the Christmas features on lamp posts for a pleasant, festive environment.

The Community Council makes money available under the Small Grants Scheme (Section 137 Local Government Act 1972), which can be applied for by small local community groups. In the financial year 2021/22, £6,000 was allocated to 18 applicant community groups.

Edrych ymlaen i 2022/23 - lle gwyrddach a mwy cynaliadwy i fyw a gweithio /

Looking forward to 2022/23 – a greener and more sustainable place to live and work

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. We have begun investigating the potential for capturing hydropower energy 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.

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.

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said, in a '[State of the Global Climate 2021](#)' report, that "the only sustainable future is a renewable one", adding it should not be held up by red tape.

Protecting our biodiversity is also key for a greener society. We have sought funding from Keep Wales Tidy for a community orchard. If successful, it will aid biodiversity and wildlife, as well as provide a free source of healthy food for all to enjoy.



Gilfach Goch Community Council

Cyngor Cymuned Gilfach Goch

July 2022