

An important message from your

Community Council

Dear Resident.

We are so lucky to live in such wonderful location, good schools, good sport facilities, good communication links and beautiful walks. Ynysawdre ward really is a lovely place to live, the Community Council's aim is to enhance that experience.

2022 is an important year for Councils. On the 5th May local elections took place and it presented an opportunity for any resident, who feels passionate about where they live, to stand for election as a Community Councillor. While the elections have now taken place, interested parties can still become a Councillor through the Co-opted option. This message is about how to become a Community Council, how is the Council funded and what it does.

How to become a Community Councillor

A Community Council is set up by statute by the Local Authority and run by local residents or public spirited individuals who have a shared interest in the area. There are 5 vacancies for the Ynysawdre ward available. A council has the option to co-opt new members to ensure a balance of fair representation and shared opportunity. There are no special qualification to becoming a CC, loving where you live and having time to commit to the role are important. Training is available for elected members. The role is unpaid, the rewards come from the opportunity to make a difference and serve the interests of your communities. This is no place for party politics. It's all about the Community. The only paid post is the Clerk to the Council. The Clerk is vital to the smooth working of the Council. They advise Councillors on all matters of public administration. While the Clerk is essential in ensuring the proper processes are followed all decisions on policy can only be made by the Councillors. So if you feel you would like to take an active role in helping to shaping your community, we would love to hear from you. Contact us: ynysawdrecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

How is the Community Council funded?

The CC is funded by us the residents and is shown on our BCBC council tax bill as payment to Ynysawdre CC, currently £32.97/annum or £2.80/month. It's one of the lowest precepts in the County and totals £45k across the base of 1400 homes. It has not been increased for over 6yrs. Being the lowest is not necessary a good thing because a lower precept equals lower ambitions for funding community projects.

The precept is agreed at a finance budgeting meeting and is calculated against previous charging demands and future community project ambitious.

How does the Community Council serve the residents?

While we are limited in our reach compared to the County Council's responsibilities. We are a good gateway to seeking authority or clarity on any resident's concerns or ideas. We certainly have the scope to manage all things in regard to community projects. As an example, the Community Council awards the funding of all the hanging baskets, the barrel planters and the pyramid planters during the summer months and any Christmas projects. We would offer support for local events (sadly lacking in the past 2 years due to Covid), but want to encourage these endeavours in 2022/23. We support a number of green landscaping initiatives where they can add value to the biodiversity of the area and support the well being of the local community.

Last year we introduced the Neighbourhood Plan and we have been working with residents, where possible, to landscape green areas near their homes. This initiative has now developed into a new 5 year plan and is available on the Council's website for your interest. We want to install new Welcome signs that reflect a friendly neighbourhood. We are responsible for the Council's allotments. The Parish Hall presents a sizeable project over the next 4 years. This lovely historical building needs some attention befitting of its place at the heart of the community.

During this new elected year, we want to encourage young people to engage with the Council, possible through a 'Ynysawdre Youth Representative. We need young people to feel part of the community by listening to their ideas and thoughts. It would be a good introduction to working within the public sector and potentially inspire them to train to be become a Clerk, which is a highly regarded career option. Contact: ynysawdrecommunitycouncil@hotmail.com

Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales notes an estimated 70,000 households in Wales are eligible for, but do not claim, Pension Credit. Pension credit is worth £58 a week on average, as well as acting as a passport for other entitlements such as council tax discounts, free dental care and help with housing costs. www.agealliancewales.org.uk



Concerned about your local Surgery

Many thanks to council member Tim Thomas who engaged with Cwm Taf Health Board for clarity on what is happening at our local surgeries and what can residents expect from this essential service. Please see attached response.



Community spirit is working well.

Well done to members of Ynysawdre CC, Tim Thomas Terry Nicholls and Leanne Teahan-Dyer and Borough Cllr Mark John who responded to a request from Tondu Rugby club to help with the removal of unpleasant graffiti on the back of the Robins stand. The Council were pleased to supply the paint and some willing manpower. It was a great show of community spirit.



Our first Gardening Competition

Congratulations to Mrs Kay George, our first winner with the £50 voucher. The judges were very complementary and impressed with the standard of the owners' gardens. They were generous comments from competitors to the value this type of competition brings to the community. We look forward to running it again next summer. Look out for the announcement.





Residents working together preparing the new flower beds as part of Bryn Rd Green landscaping project. This is a joint initiative between the Council and the residents.



Christmas Donations

- £400 to our local primary school for help with children's party
- £200 to our local food bank
- Christmas hampers to our 3 local Care Homes

Litter Picking Volunteers

The Council are keen to support volunteers who are able to help. We can supply equipment and bags just need your support. We need to change peoples behaviour but it has to start somewhere. So join us - contact us



Christmas Lights.

Councils across the UK are having to make unwanted cuts to the services they provide due to unprecedented increases in costs. Unfortunately, Ynysawdre Community Council are not immune to these financial pressures. Our utilities bill alone has risen by over 600% which supports the use of affordable childcare.

We have taken the difficult decision not to provide Christmas lights for this year and to provide them only on tub planters and on the hall. The cost to hire the Christmas lights would have been £6,000, which equates to almost 14% of our total budget.

For this saving, we will be allocating some of the money towards Christmas hampers to residents at Ynysawdre care homes, a donation to a Christmas fete, a donation to a food bank and to support the the Playgroup with the alarming cost increases for gas and electricity.

Volunteers on the community council stress, that lights could potentially return for the following Christmas, and we would like to hear the views of local people if the money should be reallocated back for Christmas lights rather than supporting the projects named above. We would also like to remind the public that there are vacancies for volunteers on the community Council.

We are sorry for this bad news, but hope you understand, and we would like to wish you and you families a very Merry Christmas and an improved New Year.

Contact: ynysawdre-community-council.co.uk/wl/vacancies

or go to the Ynysawdre CC Website - vacancies