
CYNGOR CYMUNED TONGWYNLAIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Tongwynlais Community Council has no political affiliation and has the best interests of the Community in mind.

The Community Council has nine seats for Community Councillors.
At the May 2024 Annual Statutory Meeting the seats were filled as followed: -

Mike Jones-Pritchard – Chair
Caryn Hill – Vice Chair
Linda Morgan
Ceri Lane
Graham Walters
Ana Waite
Owen Thomas
Simon Underdown
Rob Wiseman

The Community Council has no committees but has created working parties to assist with various local projects including the Community Garden, Festive Lights, and Tanyard management.

Representatives are in place as follows: -

Caryn Hill – Health and Safety Representative,
One Voice Wales Representative
Ceri Lane – One Voice Wales Representative,
Peeter Tiidt – Allotments Manager

During the year, Cllr Ana Waite stood down from her role as Pear Tree Primary School Federation Community Council Governor due to work commitments, and the position is yet to be filled.

The Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer is Mrs Nadine Dunseath who completed the Certificate in Local Council Administration in early 2023.

The Community Council also employs a litter picker and groundsperson, waterer for summer flower planters, and cleaner for the Tanyard Hall.

The Community Council is a member of One Voice Wales who provide advice and guidance on statutory requirements expected of a Community Council. The Clerk is a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks who also provide advisory services.

Cardiff City Council entered into a charter agreement with all Community Councils in the County and the Clerk attends meetings with neighbouring Clerks and the Cardiff City Council Monitoring Officer.

ASSETS

The Community Council owns and manages the Tanyard Hall. This is rented by various local groups and residents and is used as a meeting place and location for family parties. The hall has a small area to the rear used by Cardiff Libraries and is open to the public every Friday afternoon. The Tanyard has achieved the status of a Keep Wales Tidy hub and litter picking equipment can be hired free of charge to help keep the

village in good condition. The hall has become a hub for residents to collect recycling bags and sacks, following the roll-out of new waste collection arrangements by Cardiff Council. Improvements works during the year to the Tanyard Hall have included new carpets for the annex and library area.

The Community Council owns allotments situated on Castle Road, and the adjacent woodland area. The Community Council owns Sparrows Field situated to the rear of Castle Road, although the access lane is maintained by Cardiff City Council. The Community Council owns the grass area by the bus stop on Merthyr Road and has a long-term lease agreement with Cardiff City Council for the adjacent Merthyr Road Gardens.

MEETINGS

Meetings took place on the following dates: -

April 29th 2024
May 28th 2024
June 24th 2024
July 29th 2024
No meeting in August
Sept 30th 2024
Oct 28th 2024
Nov 25th 2024
No meeting in December
January 27th 2025
February 24th 2025
March 31st 2025

Meetings will usually be held on the last Monday of the month and are regularly attended by residents. During the year meetings have also been attended by PCSO's, and representatives from other organisations such as Sustrans Cycle Network and Aion Chapel.

FINANCES

The Community Council receives an annual Precept from Cardiff City Council which is a Council Tax levy charged to each household within the ward. The Annual Precept for 2024-25 was £28,900. Other income is received from Tanyard Hall Lettings, Allotment Fees and annual rental of land used for an occasional overflow car park.

Main expenditure for the Community Council is for staff salaries, costs for Tanyard Hall maintenance and Utilities, Annual memberships of external bodies, Website Hosting, Council Insurance, and the Annual Festive Lights.

Donations were given to the summer festival events, Christmas Hamper project and to the Primary School Gardening Club.

A full breakdown of the Community Council accounts can be viewed on the Community Council website.

AUDIT

The Community Council received a complimentary audit report from the Internal Auditor for 2023-24 annual return with no issues raised by the Wales Audit Office. The transaction-based audit for 2022-23 was completed by Wales Audit Office with no issues raised.

ACHIEVEMENTS

As in previous years, the Community Council has financed the village hanging baskets that are placed along Merthyr Road each Summer. The baskets are created by members of Tongwynlais Primary School Gardening Club. A new polytunnel cover was purchased for the Gardening Club and thanks to Breedon Ltd for donating aggregate to create pathways around the area and improve safety and access for the children.

The Community Council continue with work to improve the Merthyr Road gardens and shed following the successful application for a community garden pack funded by Keep Wales Tidy Local Places for Nature scheme which has been installed behind the bus stop on Merthyr Road. Thanks to the Bear Valley Community Church from Texas, and Aion Chapel for their help in clearing vegetation.

Flower displays under the village welcome signs have been improved with thanks to Pughs Garden Centre for creating new colourful displays. Thanks to Coed Caerdydd for donating trees for the village.

Following the discovery of rare bee orchids in the grass area at the entrance of the village near Coryton interchange by local biodiversity group "Nature by the Taff", the Community Council requested that the area was left for wildflowers and only cut once per year. Cardiff Council have placed a notice board providing information on the flower species growing at the site.

Lamppost poppies were again displayed along Merthyr Road featuring names of past residents from Tongwynlais who died in service during World War I and II and thanks to a local artist for decorating the poppies which have received many compliments.

With thanks to Calon Hearts, the Community Council hosted a defibrillator and CPR training session for residents to attend.

Following the success of the previous year, the Community Council again hosted a free event during December at the Village Hall bringing residents young or old "Together at Christmas", which was well attended. Thanks to Wales and West Housing Association for funding a magician to provide entertainment.

At Christmas time, the Community Council funded festive lighting for the Village Hall and St. Michael's Church, as well as lamppost motifs along Merthyr Road. Energy Efficient LED Christmas trees were placed at St. Michael's Church, Bethesda Chapel, the Village Hall and in Merthyr Road Gardens, although some difficulties were experienced due to storms and strong winds, Community Councillors worked well together to resolve the issues as best as possible. The Community Council would like to thank local businesses who donated towards the cost of the festive lighting. As in previous years, the Christmas lighting competition was a great success, and prizes were awarded to the winners.

The Community Council frequently receive reports from residents and assist with liaising with Cardiff Council to arrange pothole repairs, to empty overflowing litter bins, to fix broken streetlights and to remove fly tipping, and much more besides.

AIMS FOR 2025-26

The Community Council aims to complete work on the Merthyr Road Gardens which has historically been named "Rest Park". Building work is currently being arranged to help renovate the allotment shed with the view of using this space for community groups.

A tree management survey has been completed with the Community Council working towards removing some Ash trees suffering from dieback disease.

The Community Council aims to provide relevant and useful information to residents by regularly updating and improving the information and content on the Council website, and regularly producing village newsletters that can be delivered to each household.

The Community Council website
www.tongwynlaiscommunitycouncil.gov.wales

To contact the Clerk to the Council please email: -
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or telephone: - 07955341292