Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi gormodol. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e. Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog

Swyddfa Cyngor Cymuned
Canolfan Gymunedol Pontyclun
Heol yr Orsaf
Pontyclun
CF72 9EE
Ffôn: 01443 238500
E-bost: clerk@pontyclun-cc.gov.wales
Gwefan: www.pontyclun.net

Community Council Office
Pontyclun Community Centre
Heol yr Orsaf
Pontyclun
CF72 9EE
Telephone: 01443 238500
E mail: clerk@pontyclun-cc.gov.wales
Website: www.pontyclun.net

Mae Swyddfeydd y Cyngor fel arfer ar agor o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener 10am tan hanner dydd ac eithrio Gwyliau Banc
The Council Offices are normally open Monday to Friday 10am to noon except Bank Holidays

Draft minutes

Draft minutes of the monthly Meeting of the Pontyclun Community Council held at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 9th June 2022.

This meeting was held at Café 50, Heol yr Orsaf Pontyclun and remotely via Zoom

PCC Member attendance at public Council meetings

	2022	
Member name	**May**	**Jun**
Wayne Owen		
Jordan Thorne		
Kelly Sherratt		
Rhys Williams		
Susan Owen		
Jamie Daniel		
Helena Sands		
Amanda Sparks		
Paul Binning		
Carole Willis		
Vacancy		
Present		
Gave Apologies		
Absent		

1. To receive apologies for absence
    a. **Apologies received from Councillors Jordan Thorne and Jamie Daniel. Councillor Rhys Williams did not attend**
2. Disclosure of personal and pecuniary interest in items of business listed below in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
    a. **Councillors Wayne and Sue Owen declared they were Patrons of Bosom Pals in relation to item 7 Grants**
3. Public presentations to Council
    a. **None received**
4. To confirm minutes of the Council's meeting of 11th May are a true record and discuss matters arising from them
    a. **Minutes confirmed as accurate.**
    b. **The Council decided to increase their potential grant to Pontyclun RFC towards Fireworks display to £1k**
5. Council Payments
    a. **Council approved payments for repairs in Café 50 kitchen and Office rent.**
    b. **Council confirmed payment to Boverton Nurseries for summer flowers of £1715.60 plus VAT**
    c. **Council agreed that should the Rugby Club toilets not be suitable for Picnic in the Park temporary toilets could be hired. Councillors Sue Owen and Helena Sands advised they have local contacts and the Council delegated them powers to arrange this if needed.**
6. To consider report relating to Café 50
    a. **The Council noted the report on Cafe50, reconfirming that Clerk should resist payment of service charges from RCT as notice was not given as required under the lease.**
7. To review Grants policy and consider grant requests
    a. The Council confirmed existing grant policy would continue
    b. The Council approved the following grants
        i. Yarnmongers £200
        ii. Probus £100
        iii. Ty Hafan £50
        iv. Kids Cancer Charity £50
        v. Bethel Baptist Church summer club £200
        vi. Bosom Pals £200
8. To accept internal audit for 2021-22 and approve annual return for 2021-22
    a. **The Council accepted the internal report for 2021-22. They noted the comments and expressed their gratitude to the Council staff**
    b. **The Council approved the annual return for 2021-22**
9. To consider the Council's policy for Community Infrastructure levy (CIL) receipts
    a. **The Council confirmed that the existing policy on allocation of CIL funds would continue as**
        i. **Improvements to Parks and open spaces**
        ii. **Improvements to Community facilities**
        iii. **Improvement of Parking, Bike racks and Traffic management**
10. To consider report from Councillor tour of Pontyclun
    a. **The Council agreed to the following actions**
        i. **The benches at St Paul's and the Vets which will be part funded by donations to be upgraded from initial proposals and balance funded by Community Council**
        ii. **Quotations for relining car park and replacing doors at public toilet to be obtained**
        iii. **Quotations for signage regarding public toilets to be obtained as well as costs to open toilets all day on Saturdays for a pilot over the school summer holidays**
        iv. **Other possible actions to be referred to relevant working groups for discussion and recommendations**
11. To consider report on engaging residents about Council services
    a. The Council agreed the following actions
        i. Quotes to be obtained for signage at Café 50 – for Council Office & Cafe50
        ii. Report to be prepared on work required to ensure all external assets are marked as Pontyclun Community Council property
        iii. A standard fixed notice to be placed in each noticeboard reminding people of how to access agendas/minutes including asking at Office
        iv. Discussion regarding social media/online options deferred to future meeting

12. To consider report on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging points for Pontyclun
    a. **The Council noted the proposal to add EV charging points in Car park in Heol yr Orsaf. Councillor Paul Binning advised he had been verbally told some may also be being added by the Rugby Club**
    b. **Whilst the Council supports measures to support EV charging, they could not support the proposal at this time due to the loss of parking spaces that would entail as Parking is one of the key problems in Pontyclun.**
    c. **The Council recommends to RCT CBC that they utilise the space to the side of Cafe50 to place the EV changing points. The space is slightly larger than that proposed in the Car park and would not use any existing parking spaces.**
13. Report following Tree inspections in Ivor Woods
    a. **The Council agreed the following actions**
        i. **Orange forestry to be instructed to remove the 2 very dangerous trees identified**
        ii. **Councillor Kelly Sherratt to liaise with Orange Forestry to discuss other proposals for her to report back at July meeting for Council decision**
        iii. **Quotations to be obtained for signage relating to Ash Die-back**
14. Report on footpaths in our area
    a. **The Council noted the report and agreed the following actions**
        i. **Clerk to contact footpath team to advise our contract was being reviewed and as costs had significantly increased we were looking to see how much extra they could provide towards the costs**
        ii. **Councillor Wayne Owen and Paul Binning to discuss with Christian Hannigan of RCT with a view to having this issue (which also effects other Community Councils) at the next RCT Community Council liaison group**
15. To consider report from RCT Neighbourhood Network meeting
    a. **The Council agreed to submit grant funding requests for a Street art project and to replace Chairs/Tables at Café 50**
    b. **If successful they would wish to run the street art project initially as a design competition with the winning designs used for murals**

This is a true copy of the minutes of the Council's June 2022 meeting. The signed original can be viewed at the Council Offices

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Co-option of a member for Pontyclun East

The Council has a vacancy for a member in Pontyclun East.

We will be filling this vacancy by co-option. There are 5 candidates who have put their names forward for co-option.

The process will be –

1. Each candidate will have 3 minutes to present their case for co-option
2. After candidates have finished presenting, members may question each candidate on their presentation
3. After all candidates have made presentations the existing members to select a Councillor using a secret ballot.
    a. If no candidate receives an absolute majority in the first ballot, then the candidate(s) with the least number of votes is/are removed from ballot and members will vote again. This process is completed until a candidate receives an absolute majority

The candidates (in order applications received)

- Sian Assiratti
- Andy Parker
- Martin Ashford
- Steven Rajam
- John Dilworth

Presentations to members will be in this order

Action – Council to co-opt a new member for Pontyclun East

Personal statement Sian Assiratti

I have been made aware that there is a Vacancy within the Pontyclun East Ward, of the Community Council.

My home address is 41 Nant y Dwrgi, Llanharan. I am hoping this is within the 3 mile radius, required to be eligible to apply.

I have 8 years previous experience when I was a Community Councillor on Llantrisant Community Council. I was also elected as a County Borough Councillor representing the Beddau Ward,but stood down due to work commitments.

I moved to my present address over 13 years ago, and lived within RCT all my life.

I have extensive experience through my work within the Community, and as a County Borough Councillor, especially within Childrens Services, Planning, Audit and the Environmental services (which I am particularly interested in).

I would be grateful to be considered for this exciting opportunity.

11 Y Parc
Groesfaen
Pontyclun CF72 8NP

parkerandy@icloud.com

0796 972 3377

Andy Parker

I live in the Pontyclun East ward, Groesfaen to be more precise, and have done so for over 20 years so I know the area very well. My background is in IT and education, I worked in commercial IT on small and large projects, my specialism being networking and mobile technology. I subsequently became a teacher and now work for WJEC the examinations board in charge of Computer Science and Digital Technology examinations. I'm a Welsh speaker, both my children went through Welsh-medium education, and I taught at Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari. I have also served as a governor at Ysgol Gynradd Creigiau and at Brynteg Comprehensive in Bridgend.

I have a wide range of technical skills from website building and delivery through social media, data analytics and project management which I would like to put to use to support the work of the community council.

I'm a Branch Secretary for UNISON the union at WJEC and a member of the Labour party affiliated with the Pontyclun branch.

My union work is all about helping people - the principal reason why I got involved with unions in the first place. I see being on the Community Council as an extension of that by helping the wider community.

All political parties have an interest in supporting people through the cost-of-living crisis - especially the most vulnerable. As well as using all levers available to us through the community council, I want to encourage local people to support local businesses and keep our money in our community. Let's help to keep alive the genuine sense of community that developed throughout the pandemic.

Neighbourhood Watch schemes are something I have an interest in developing. We can do more to protect one another from crime. But these schemes also help people by reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation, which is especially important post-pandemic. I want to support local areas in setting up these schemes, as well as any others that encourage community support and cohesion.

Personal statement Martin Ashford

I am interested in applying for the above position. As you know, I served on the Community Council for the previous five years.

My track record over this period was excellent, both in attendance at meetings and in the contributions I made to the work carried out by the Community Council. In 2021 I became the Convenor of the Environment Working Group.

I have shown that I can work very well with a wide range of individuals, even those at differing ends of the political spectrum.

I have always been first and foremost a team player. As a newly elected Member of RCT Council I very much want to work in tandem with the Community Council. The Pontyclun Central Ward is very clearly linked geographically to Pontyclun East so this would be a natural fit.

Please also note that I am retiring from paid employment at the end of June in order that I can concentrate fully on my new role at RCT. This will obviously mean that I would be better able to serve as a Community Councillor.

Steven Rajam
23 Llantrisant Road
Pontyclun
CF72 9DP

Telephone: 07813 342829
Email: stevenrajam@gmail.com

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to apply to Pontyclun Community Council for the vacancy of Councillor in the ward of Pontyclun East, representing the Welsh Liberal Democrats. I confirm that I am eligible to stand under the rules stated in the Notice of Co-Option.

I have been a resident of the local area for 12 years, and during this time have lived variously in Miskin, Brynsadler and my current residence in Pontyclun. I love living in this community, and I consider myself a passionate supporter of local businesses, causes and institutions: to give just a few examples, my daughter attends Pontyclun Primary School, I am a member of Miskin Manor Cricket Club, and I am well known as a champion of local independent businesses such as The Pipeworks, The Thirsty Elephant, Marcus's Barbershop, Giles Gallery and the Pontyclun Deli.

In the recent local borough council elections I stood for the Liberal Democrats in the Pontyclun East ward, and received 212 votes - just 28 fewer than the winning candidate, in what was an extremely tight three-way race. In addition, in last year's Welsh Parlimentary elections I stood as the Lib Dem candidate for our Senedd constituency of Pontypridd.

Over the course of the local election campaign, and for many months before, I knocked on every single door across the Pontyclun East ward multiple times - listening to residents about what their greatest concerns were for the local area, which issues they'd like to see addressed, and their hopes for the future of our community. I did this - and indeed I stood in the first place - because I truly care about this area and want to make it an even better place to live and work. Listening to people and giving them the chance to explain what really mattered to them, was one of the greatest privileges and pleasures of my recent life - and I want to keep doing that.

I feel the closeness of the final result shows that people clearly felt that I listened, and that they want to see myself and the Liberal Democrats idea reflected in our local community. This makes me very proud, and I'm extremely eager to take that knowledge and passion forward and work with other members of the Community Council: to stand up and represent not just the 212 people who voted for me, but EVERYONE in this area.

Furthermore, all the conversations and campaigning that I have undertaken means that I feel I have gained really powerful, and unparalleled knowledge and insight into what really matters to people in this community and how we can work together to actively and positively address them:

from concerns about new housing developments and building on green space; to traffic calming measures on the Main Road in Groesfaen, the Miskin Estate and at Mwyndy Cross; street lighting and road repairs in country lanes off the A4119; to local transport and parking issues.

On a personal level - and in both my professional life and political candidacies - I believe I'm recognised as someone who EVERYONE genuinely gets along with. I have always maintained a very good relationship with my political "rivals", which I hope demonstrates that I would be a thoughtful, respectful and collegiate presence on the Community Council. I've shown that I believe passionately in causes and ideas but that I'll always listen to and respect others' opinions, and work with everyone. And I think that's really important: one of the reasons I chose to stand for the Lib Dems was that I don't believe in political dogma: what should come first above all is the people that we serve. I truly believe that every single person in the community should have a voice and that no-one should feel left behind - no matter which political party they might support, and ESPECIALLY if that party isn't the one "in charge". I will always listen to another person's views and seek to bring people together through compromise and respect.

Above and beyond the above experiences, I would like to highlight a few personal qualities and experiences that I feel would add real value to the wider Community Council. I am currently in my early 40s - which is relatively young for the typical demographics of a community council - and am a single Dad to a 7 year-old daughter. Both of these I feel would help deliver a wider range of voice and experience to the Council and potentially further help appreciate and recognise residents' views and issues they are facing.

Just as importantly, I am mixed race; my father was from Sri Lanka and I define as British Asian. Pontyclun has a small but significant BAME population that is currently completely unrepresented at a local level, and I've spent a long time talking to local residents of colour about concerns and issues specific to their communities. I feel really passionately about visibility: making sure marginalised or under-represented groups see people like themselves making decisions on the future of a community that belongs to ALL of us. I would feel privileged to - in all sorts of ways - help reflect and empower the diversity of our local area.

Finally, as the co-owner and Director of my own business - I run a successful audio documentaries and podcast production company - I'm used to making collaborative and collegiate decisions and working with a team of people with a wide range of experiences, values and opinions. And with 15 years' experience as a TV and radio producer and interviewer, I'm used to listening to people - and ensuring they feel properly listened to.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Steven Rajam

3, School Street,
Pont y Clun,
Rhondda, Cynon and Tâf,
CF72 9AA.
10th June 2022.

Tel: 01443 228535,
Email: john@jdilworth49.plus.com

Mr Julius Roszkowski,
Clerk/RFO,
Pont y Clun Community Council,
Pont y Clun Community Centre,
Heol yr Orsaf,
Pont y Clun,
CF72 9EE.

Hand delivered to the Council office before 12 noon on the 10th June

Dear Mr. Roszkowski,

In accordance with your Notice of Casual Vacancy, I submit an application for co-option to fill the Casual Vacancy in the Pont y Clun East Ward of Pont y Clun Community Council area and I note the cut-off date is 12 noon on the 10th June 2022.

I can confirm that I have lived in Pontyclun since 1979 and I am a homeowner.

The vacancy occurred since the three-member ward was contested by two candidates who were elected unopposed and therefore a vacancy now exists which I am applying for.

As you are aware the Pont y Clun East Ward is made up of part of the Cefn yr Hendy and Miskin Wards together with the Groesfaen Ward. It is rooted in my mind that the late Councillor Gordon Norman represented the Hendy and I stood with him in 1999. Gordon was a force for the Hendy and indeed the old Pon y Clun Ward.

Having dealt with the preliminaries I move on to what I could bring to Pont y Clun Community Council.

I have served as a member of Pont y Clun Community Council; from 1991 to 1995, and from 1999 to 2004, and for one year I was Chairman and offered one pound for the Tal y Garn house and grounds from the Health Board for the Pont y Clun Community.

I have also served as a Community Councillor on Llanharan Community Council; from 1995 to1999, 2004 to 2008, and 2008 to 2012.

From 1996 to 2019 I served as Clerk on seven community Councils and Town Clerk on two Town Council (and were they different); Bargoed and Pencoed Town Councils and Argoed, Coity, Llangynwyd Lower, Merthyr Mawr, Rudry (now renamed DWR), Old Saint Mellons and Van Community Councils.

Development Officer for the Glamorgan and Gwent under the former Wales Association of Community and Town Councils and now One Voice Wales.

During 2008 to 2012 I tried to motivate Llanharan Community Council to organize an Educational Trust within the legal extremities of Community Councils an Educational trust can be established with a constitution. It would be grass root intervention into the educational provision to help in some way towards the cost of families struggling in this period of escalating costs above an ever-changing horizon. Funds could be provided for traveling books etc. and extended to students pursuing sports. Unfortunately, I was unsuccessful in exiting the Llanharan members to take hold of this mantle, but your council may have more foresight.

Moving on I steered the Cydcoed project (trees for all) at Bargoed in the shadow of the former largest coal waste tip in Europe. But in pride of place in my memory as a Clerk was successfully obtaining permission from Cadw and Bridgend County Borough Council, in a tight time schedule, for the alterations to the War Memorial for the two Welsh Guardsmen killed in Afghanistan; L/Sgt Tobie Fasfous, and L/Sgt Dane Falcon Stuart Elson, 28th April 2009 and 5th July 2009, respectively. Their names are inscribed on the War Memorial and Dane's is also on the Bridgend War Memorial. The work was completed in time for the 2009 Service of Remembrance.

Pont y Clun east is subject to further planning development and I have been involved in a number of development applications but more recently Gwern y Domen in the Caerphilly Basin as a former Clerk (2011 to 2019). Persimmon is now the major player in housing development and applied for planning permission on Gwern y Domen (Candidate Site) for six hundred houses in the Brynau Ward of the Van CC area. Persimmon is now showing interest in land off the A4119. I could help in this area with my knowledge of planning and Persimmon. They appoint a Planning Consultancy to present their application and supporting documentation.

So not wishing to prolong this application I have experience in the usual tools of Community and Town Council administration and as a community councillor.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge this correspondence by email to: john@jdilworth49.plus.com.

Yours sincerely.

John Dilworth.

Cyngor Cymuned PONTYCLUN Community Council

Council payments summary

The payments made in May are provided for confirmation

Action members to confirm these payments

There are some purchases that require authorisation.

Relining car park in Heol yr Orsaf

Council asked to obtain quotes for this work. We have been seeking quotes

- Two firms have declined to quote
- £1450 plus VAT. This quote includes doing all the preparatory work in cleaning etc the Car park. They will also work around parked cars so no need to close the car park
- £885 plus VAT. Plus £200 an hour to prepare and clean the car park surface. They would wish to have unfettered access to car park so the car park will require closing

Action Council to agree relining car park and select quote.

Longer opening hours on Saturdays in summer for Public Toilets

Members asked for an idea of costs to allow public toilets to remain open on Saturday afternoons in the summer for a trial period this year.

Our Cleaner said she would do this for 1-hour additional time.

Our contractors who cover holidays would charge for 1 hour as this is the minimum, they would need to pay their staff. They did say that they might not be able to find a cleaner who was available unless this was to be a long-term contract

Action do members wish to progress with later Saturday opening for the toilets?

Signage quotations

120x 80 cm sign for front at Cafe50 advertising the presence of the Community Council and Café 50 - £84.07

6 x 60 x 40 cm signs to use in Ivor woods at the small paths to advise these are closed due to ash dieback and for end of Riverside walk - £164.34

4 x 50 by 50 cm signs to use at entrances to Ivor woods & Riverside Walk to warn people of risks due to Ash dieback - £115.96

2 x 90 x 60 cm sign regarding toilets to be placed in Pontyclun park and at Pontyclun RFC - £101.02

Action Council to approve purchase of signage above.

Benches for Llantrisant Road

The local groups who are asking for Benches by St Paul's and Shepherds which we agreed to install have confirmed donations of £500 towards each seat.

We believe these would be most suitable

They are similar in style to the commemorative benches that we will be installing at War Memorial and Brynsadler. 2 of these including delivery and fixings are about £1450 plus VAT plus the cost of small memorial plaques (of which £1k will be covered by donation)

Action – Council to confirm purchase of benches using CIL reserve if available

Dog poo bins

There is a dog poo bin at Maes y Wennol that requires replacing.

Based on last years costs this is about £250 plus vat

We are planning to replace 2 other bins in 2023 and to save on delivery costs we recommend purchasing 3 bins now (holding 2 in storage till required)

Action – Council to confirm new Dog bin for Maes y Wennol and to buy 2 more for reserve to be used in 2023

Laptop replacement

The laptop used by Tara our Welcome Officer has broken down. We have been given an indication of about £5-600 to repair, however we can replace for about £350.

This can be funded from the Earmarked reserve designated for replacement of hardware.

Acton – approve replacement of laptop for Welcome Officer

Current Bank A/c General

List of Payments made between 01/05/2022 and 31/05/2022

Date Paid	Payee Name	Reference	Amount Paid	Authorized Ref	Transaction Detail
03/05/2022	Screwfix Direct Ltd	DD	12.99		Sleeve Anchors+Screws
03/05/2022	Screwfix Direct Ltd	DD	11.99		Metal Primer
03/05/2022	Screwfix Direct Ltd	DD	3.99		Gloss Roller Sleeves
03/05/2022	Screwfix Direct Ltd	DD	7.96		Tray Inserts
03/05/2022	Screwfix Direct Ltd	DD	49.16		x3 Sanding Rolls
04/05/2022	Cleanmate Ltd	FPO	112.10		11 to 14 Apr'22/19 Apr'22
04/05/2022	Evolve Corporate Ltd	FPO	114.62		x6 Workwear Trousers
05/05/2022	Tesco	BCARD	26.31		Fuel for Machines
05/05/2022	Tesco	BCARD	98.68		Fuel for Community Van
05/05/2022	Evolve Corporate Ltd	FPO	36.65		Cleaning Materials
05/05/2022	Machine Mart	BCARD	227.98		Drill
09/05/2022	British Telecom	DD	60.54		Offic Phone+Broadband 04/22
10/05/2022	ICO	DD	35.00		Data Protection 22/23
11/05/2022	Virgin Mobile	DD	8.40		Assist Caretaker Mobile 04/22
18/05/2022	Evolve Corporate Ltd	FPO	217.27		Community Caretakers Workwear
18/05/2022	Evolve Corporate Ltd	FPO	23.68		Cleaning Materials
23/05/2022	Swalec	DD	10.59		02 Apr'22 to 03 May'22
23/05/2022	HMRC	BP	1,152.81		Tax+NI Conts May'22
25/05/2022	Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C.	FPO	1,642.37		Er+Ee Pension Conts May'22
27/05/2022	Lloyds Bank plc	PAY	13.31		10 March'22 to 09 April'22
31/05/2022	Toshiba Tec UK Imaging Systems	DD	56.20		PCopier Useage 05/01 to 01/04
		Total Payments	3,922.60		

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

RCT CBC Local development plan 2022-2037

The Borough Councils in Wales prepare a local development plan (LDP) to guide future developments in their area and this should be updated on a regular basis. The current LDP ran from 2006-2021 and RCT CBC have now advised us of the new revision plan

In September 2020, formal preparation began of an initial revision of the LDP for the Plan Period 2020 – 2030. Due to numerous reasons, its preparation did not progress in line with formally agreed timescales.

Various options were considered to address the matter earlier this year. The most appropriate option was **to cease all work on the RLDP 2020 – 2030**. That RLDP will no longer have a status.

The other part of the option was to begin **a new Revised LDP for the Plan Period 2022 – 2037.** This was agreed by RCT Council and then Welsh Government in April 2022.

This new Revised LDP has set out a timescale of preparation as follows:

Key Stage	**Timescale**
Preparation of the Pre-Deposit Stage of the Revised LDP including the Preferred Strategy	From April 2022
Consultation on the Preferred Strategy	June/July 2023
Preparation of the Deposit Revised LDP	From August 2023
Consultation on the Deposit Revised LDP	July/August 2024
Submit Revised LDP to Welsh Government	November 2024
Independent Examination	April/May 2025
Adoption	October 2025

One of the first sub-stages of the RLDP 2022 - 2037 is to issue a 'Call for Candidate Sites'. This is where RCT will seek submissions of sites to be assessed for different land uses in the RLDP and this is now live.

The Call for Candidate Sites is when the Council invites people to submit land or buildings to be considered for inclusion in the RLDP. The sites will be thoroughly assessed, and if appropriate and necessary, they will be allocated in the Plan.

Sites can be submitted by anyone, including private landowners and developers, and for a range of uses. These may include, for example, residential, employment, retail, transportation etc, or for more low-density development such as tourism or renewable energy, or for community and open space proposals.

In-depth guidance has been prepared by the Council relating to Candidate Sites and their assessment throughout the RLDP process. This is referred to as the Candidate Site Methodology. This and further information regarding how to submit Candidate Sites, can be seen on our website at the following location:

Candidate Sites | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (rctcbc.gov.uk)

A Call for Candidate Sites took place in 2020/2021 for a previous Revision of the RCT LDP, that would have been for the plan period 2020 – 2030. That Revision was formally ceased in March 2022. However, many sites and much evidence was submitted in that 'Call' period. It has been determined that these sites can be carried forward to be considered in the new Revised LDP 2022 – 2037; if this remains the wish of those who submitted the sites.

However, any evidence supporting these sites will need to accord with this new plan period of 2022 – 2037. If the evidence previously submitted was time sensitive, then this should be appropriately updated and re-submitted. For example, this may be in relation to the expected delivery of the site.

The previous Council had started work to prepare a Place Plan for Pontyclun. More information about Place plans can be found here This had included a resident survey for their views and the Admin Working Group had been tasked with preparing a plan for approval by the Council.

We are aware that there is a local Facebook group focussing on the LDP and how it would affect Pontyclun. They are considering putting forward candidate sites for "Community and Green spaces"

Action – Members to agree Council planned response to LDP

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Planning Applications

Members may recall that outline planning permission was granted for the building of a housing estate west of the A4119 near to Cefn y Hendy

The developers have now submitted a “reserved matters” application for the development. This effectively fills in all the details that the outline application did not consider.

Original outline planning was for approx. 460 dwellings, a primary school and local centre, though RCT have said a school is not required due to redevelopment of Pen y Gawsi school. The Retail centre appears now to be 1 or 2 shops

The details of this new application can be found on the RCT planning website under the reference 22/0690/16.

The RCT CBC Planning application search pages are here

Action – Council to consider its response to this application

To help members here is some guidance on valid comments on this application

The outline planning permission establishes that the principle of the development of 460 dwellings etc. is acceptable in planning terms so there is no point in pursuing anything that reverts back to the principle of development itself. Additionally the outline consent also established the details of the principal access points from the roundabouts east and west.

Relevant comment would relate to the specifics of what the current application is seeking permission for specifically, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of development along with details relating to the following conditions of the outline planning permission which are also under consideration: -

- 3 - phasing
- 4 - landscaping
- 8 – wildlife protection plan
- 9 – habitat management plan
- 10 - levels
- 11 – agreement of finishes
- 15 – drainage details
- 16 – mitigation for protected species
- 26 – improvements to the Public Right of Way ANT/314/1
- 28 – noise mitigation
- 30 – phase specific construction environment management plan
- 32 – provision of electric vehicle charging points (school and retail elements only)

On conditions that are purely technical matters, RCT will rely on the advice of specific consultees to address. If those consultees are satisfied with what is being proposed then there is no point in pursuing the matter (e.g. if our RCT ecologist tells planning he is content with the details submitted in respect of conditions 8 and 9 then there is no cause to oppose the discharge of those conditions).

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

PCC Asset replacement/ Reserves guidelines

The Council has many assets for which we need to plan how we will replace them over time.

- Larger items will need to be planned for including setting aside Earmarked funds towards replacement costs, so that we do not disadvantage future generations by not doing so.
- Smaller items and regular maintenance will be expected to be funded from annual budget or general reserve.

This document outlines our plan on the way we aim to fund larger known future commitments and the replacement of assets. The Policy document is provided as an appendix.

It assumes that all assets will wear evenly over time and unless stated otherwise the Council will need to fund the full replacement cost.

In fact, this will not happen as –

- Some replacement, due to damage may be covered by insurance so we would only pay the excess
- For the playground & railings/fencing replacement will probably be in part over time rather than in one go
- Some of the replacement costs could be mitigated by grants or donations
- Some of the cost of replacement could be mitigated by voluntary work – e.g., fence painting could easily be done volunteers so our only cost would be the paint.

Because of these variables changes in cost to replace assets over time and the potential long term for asset replacement these guidelines must be reviewed regularly; at a maximum every 5 years following election of the new Council.

Council reserves

We hold 2 types of reserve

- General – as a contingency for overspend or to allow us to take actions for unexpected matters
- Earmarked – for specific planned for actions or replacements

A policy document has been prepared for Council adoption covering General and Earmarked reserves and this is in the appendix to this document below.

General reserve

Welsh government guidelines are that it is up to each Community Council to decide what our reserves should be. This is based on our knowledge of likely expenditure, uncertainties within this and our asset base and earmarked reserves.

They do recommend that the general reserve should be between 3 and 12 months expenditure. If we are not within this our Auditors will ask why this is the case and may comment in the audit.

For us this would be between £36k and £145k and we are currently expecting to reach about £33-35k by the end of this year.

The previous Council considered the various potential risks which could apply and agreed that on the assumption that Earmarked reserves and insurance were adequate we planned, to hold between £25-£50k in General reserves over the course of the 5-year budget cycle. At the time this was about 2.5-5 months of expenditure which would now be about £30k-60k

At the time the general reserve was over £70k and the Council assumed that the bulk of its income was "guaranteed". The recent pandemic has shown that the non-precept, non RCT grant income is not guaranteed so the Clerk recommends that the Council adopt a general reserve target range of 3-6 months budget income over the term of the Council. At this time that would be £36k-72k based on 2022-23 budget.

Earmarked Reserves

These reserves are to be used for known specific purposes and are not a general contingency fund.

In almost all cases these monies are to fund a known future "contracted" cost (e.g., Election costs each 5 years) or to replace assets owned by the Council (e.g., Floral planters)

The appendix identifies the main Earmarked reserves that we hold. In addition, we currently have the following earmarked reserves from specific donations/receipts

EMR Sheds – These were funds granted to us by Local NHS cluster to support specific community groups/activities. The following is left

- Walking Rugby £440
- Digital inclusion £642.02 – some of this will be used to improve our Cafe50 Wi-Fi and the balance then transferred to our Hardware/Software reserve
- General - £183.29

EMR RCT Homes – grant given towards a TV/entertainment at Cafe50 and to support this on an ongoing basis. This fund will be fully spent this year to pay for Music and Film licences

EMR Contact the Elderly – Grant given towards an old people's lunch to be run by the Contact the Elderly charity. Not done due to pandemic (£100)

EMR ICF fund – grant given to support Dementia work. This is being used to fund a support worker at the Monday Afternoon Social group and will be fully spent by the Autumn

EMR CIL – holds our CIL funds until Council decides to spend these. (£4163.77)

According to the Welfare of Future generations act the Council has an obligation to ensure that any actions we take are not detrimental to future generations at the benefit of the current one.

This does not mean we are required to aim to fully fund replacement of assets

Future Councils have the opportunity to stop services, sell assets, delay replacements and make replacements with lower/higher quality assets. They can also increase precept in the years up to major purchases and could also try to fund these purchases with grants and loans.

Our aim therefore is to support the replacement of assets by generally providing funds on the following basis

- To recover the initial purchase price of the assets over the expected lifespan of the asset
- To cover inflation on the original value of the asset assuming an average rate of 3% per annum over this Council term
- The total value of the earmarked reserve pot should not exceed the estimated current value of the assets by more than 10%

For example, if the Council purchased an asset for £10k which had an expected lifespan of 10 years we would need to transfer £1300 annually into an earmarked reserve (£1k being 1/10 of initial cost and £300 being for inflation)

There will be some reserves where there is a special methodology, and this is shown in the policy document.

Each year at the Council's budget discussion the Council will review the Earmarked funds in line with policy and taking into account any special factors we agree an amount to transfer to earmarked reserves

For example, if inflation is significantly more than 3% or if the fund has been used during the year to purchase/repair assets.

The table below shows what translating our policy into actual numbers leads to in terms of how much should be set aside into Earmarked reserves at this time.

EMR Fund	Current Value June 2022	Annual Transfer based on policy	Comments
Pontyclun Park	£23654	£9600	See below
Vehicle	£14000	£2000	
Election Costs	£8850	£1600	Bill for 2022 not received yet so to be recalibrated
Floral Planters	£3249	£700	Approx. £1k will be spent winter 22 to refurbish last planter
Trees	£3810	£2000	
Public Toilets	£4000	£200	
Café 50	£4288	£2500	See below
Machinery/Tools	£3493	Nil	
Hardware/Software	£1976	Nil	
Street Furniture	£1870	£4700	See below
Christmas	£1500	£1000	£500 committed to replace some decorations. Awaiting bill
Other Office	£500	£100	
Total		£24100	

Notes to table

1. Pontyclun Park reserve
    a. **Due to large spending likely to be made shortly, this fund is short of where it needs to be at this time. The above annual transfer figure probably needs an additional £4k per annum over this Council term to raise funding levels to where they need to be by then and this will need to be discussed at Budget time**
    b. This fund has now been extended to include the Riverside walk. There are steps, a bridge and fencing which are in need of replacement, which is likely to cost about £5-10k over next 5 years
    c. The fencing at rear of the park is dangerous and needs replacing urgently at a cost of about £10k which will come from this fund.
    d. The MUGA fence panels are breaking down. We are holding together but quite possible that 9-10 will need replacing in next 2-3 years and expecting this to be about £5k or so.
2. Café 50 Reserve
    a. **Due to large spending likely to be made shortly, this fund is short of where it needs to be at this time. The above annual transfer figure probably needs an additional £2k per annum over this Council term to raise funding levels to where they need to be by then and this will need to be discussed at budget time**
    b. Previous Council did not set aside any funds towards replacement of Kitchen equipment. Most of this is at the end of its useful life and costing quite a bit in maintenance.
    c. This equipment will cost £10-15k to replace. In particular, Dishwasher, Fryer and Cookers will need replacing in this term and will cost about £5-7k
    d. Cookers will be replaced by Electric ones. Our canopies do not meet current safety codes, and should we replace cookers like for like with gas ones, the canopies would also need replacing at a cost of over £10k
    e. Assumes dining tables/chairs are replaced this year.
3. Street Furniture reserve
    a. These figures assume that we will be installing 11 new benches over the next 12 months. Whilst most if not all will be funded by donations, we will need to consider replacement cost

Actions

Council to confirm policy on replacing assets/earmarked reserves

Council to confirm the planned General reserve range for this next Council term

This document summarises the methodology which the Council will use for calculating its reserves

Cyngor Cymuned PONTYCLUN Community Council

Council reserves methodology

July 2022

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Council Reserves

We hold 2 types of reserve

- General – as a contingency for overspend or to allow us to take actions for unexpected matters
- Earmarked – for specific planned future actions

This document forms the Council methodology for setting aside General and Earmarked reserves.

General reserve

Welsh Government guidelines are that it is up to each Community Council to decide what its reserves should be.

This will be based on our knowledge of likely income/expenditure, uncertainties within this, our asset base and earmarked reserves. They do recommend that this should be between 3 and 12 months of annual expenditure and our Internal auditor monitors against this recommendation.

One Voice Wales and the Society of Local Council Clerks make the following comment on reserves in their publication "Governance and Accountability for Local Councils":

"Councils have no legal powers to hold revenue reserves other than those for reasonable working capital needs or for specifically earmarked purposes. Earmarked reserves, which are set aside for specific purposes and for savings for future projects, should be realistic and approved by the Council. It is generally accepted that general (un-earmarked) revenue reserves usually lie within a range of three to twelve months of gross expenditure. However, the amount of general reserve should be risk assessed and approved by the Council."

Why keep a general reserve?

As our budget is set in the winter for the year commencing following April there will always be some uncertainty about income/outgoings which could be up to 18 months after budget is initially prepared.

To reflect this, the Council will hold a general reserve to cover emergency spending, overspends on projects and unknown items approved post budget. The Council will decide on a range that should be kept in General reserve to meet these contingencies.

Main reasons are typically

1. To cover overspend in normal budget
2. For emergency expenditure which is not covered by insurance
3. To cover delay in receiving expected income
4. To cover increase in spending due to matters outside Council control. E.g., Increases in prices which we were not aware of at budget time.
5. To have funds to enable Council to seize opportunities for supporting the community which were not known at time of budgeting.
6. For issues arising out of unforeseen circumstances e.g., recent Covid pandemic

Based on the above, and on the assumption that Earmarked reserves and insurance are adequate we plan, to hold between 3 and 6 months spending (ex VAT) in General reserves over the course of our 5-year Council term.

Earmarked Reserves

The Council has funds set aside for specific purposes. These will be held in earmarked reserves which are typically for -

- Specific future projects/assets for which funds are being set aside in advance e.g., Elections
- Specific gifts or legacies or grants agreed for future payment
- To fund the replacement of existing assets over time.

In this document we outline the way replacement of assets will be funded. We assume that all assets will wear evenly over time and unless stated otherwise the Council will need to fund the full replacement cost. We also note that the Council will have other options to fund replacement such as grants, loans and to increase precept around time of replacement so the earmarked reserves are not designed to be a fund which guarantees 100% of replacement costs.

The following should however be noted–

- Replacement due to damage may be covered by insurance so we would only pay the excess
- For the park & railings/fencing replacement will probably be in part over time, not in one go thereby spreading the cost and potentially increasing overall life of the assets.
- Some of the replacement costs could be mitigated by grants, donations and loans
- Some of the cost of replacement could be mitigated by voluntary work – e.g., fence painting could easily be done volunteers so our only cost would be the paint.
- Pontyclun Park is held on a 21-year lease. If the Council decided not to renew, the decision on replacement of the playground/Muga would fall to RCT CBC

Because of these variables changes in cost to replace assets over time and the potential long term for asset replacement these guidelines must be reviewed regularly; at a maximum every 5 years.

Our aim is to support the replacement of assets by generally providing funds on the following basis

- To recover the initial purchase price of the assets over the expected lifespan of the asset
- To cover inflation on the original value of the asset assuming an average rate of 3% per annum over this Council term
- At any time, the total value of the earmarked reserve pot should not exceed the estimated current value of the assets in that pot by more than 10%

Council reserve "pots"

These guidelines advise on amounts to be set aside for various items, which will be held in "pots" which may cover several items. This will give us greater flexibility for replacement of assets in the event of emergencies.

Reserves will be held as follows –

- EMR Street furniture – for Bins, Benches, Bus shelters, Planters and Noticeboards
- EMR Pontyclun Park – for Park, Fences, Railings, Park Path, Park storage, Cenotaph and Bins/benches in park
- EMR Election
- EMR Café 50 – for Café 50
- EMR Public Toilets – For public toilets at Cafe50 and indoor toilets there
- EMR Trees – for woodland work at Ivor Woods and riverside Walk
- EMR Tools & Equipment
- EMR Van
- EMR Hardware & software – Computer hardware, Office equipment etc.
- EMR Office – for future liabilities under the Office lease (e.g., regular repainting)
- EMR Christmas – for replacement of Christmas decorations
- EMR Training – for training of future staff

Where the Council holds funds in advance for long term projects or from specifically designated grants/donations these will be held in separate reserve funds created for this purpose.

Earmarked reserve pots

We will hold earmarked reserves as follows

Reserves to fund known future commitments (not asset replacement)

1. Election costs. Our aim is to have the estimated next election costs in reserve by the next election.
    a. To do so we will transfer funds annually to reserve
    b. This will reflect the larger of the 2 most recent full election costs plus inflation since that election was held to next elections

   c. Any funds in reserve left from prior Council cycle to be accounted for by reducing the amount to be raised this term
2. Office lease costs. £100 per year to be transferred into a fund to pay for long term obligations under our Office lease, subject to a maximum of £1000.
3. We have some reserves created where funds are set aside in advance for specific future projects or given to us as donations/grants for some specific expenditure which will happen in the future
4. We have a reserve to fund training of new staff at recruitment. This will be funded by transferring unused part of annual training budget each year into a reserve until a maximum of £1000 is reached
5. We have a fund towards cost of tree works in Ivor Woods and Brynsadler Riverside walk. Council sets aside £2k per annum into this fund plus any funds not spent from normal annual budget and this acts to smooth out demands over the years.

Reserves to fund asset replacements

Christmas Decorations

The lights are assumed to have a lifespan of about 10 years

The cost of the lights was £7250 so to cover replacement and inflation we would transfer £770 per annum into the fund.

However, as this fund was only created 2 years ago so Council agreed to transfer £1k per annum into fund. (Lights purchased mainly in 2015/16)

Council Van

The Council sets aside £2k a year into a fund to replace the van. It is assumed this will be when it reaches about 12-15 years old

Based on current prices this is enough to fund a petrol replacement.

Our van usage is ideal for Electric, however, unless electric vehicle prices reduce the amount, we are setting aside will not be enough to purchase an electric van. The assumption made is that prices will fall.

Floral Planters

Small planters to be replaced from annual budget

Larger planters will need a refurbishment at age 20 and full replacement at age 40.

As all these planters will have been refurbished (or are new) spring 2023, we know what this cost and this means fund will need to reach about £15k in 20 years

Public Toilets

This fund is for both the public toilets and toilets inside Café 50.

Our aim is to have a fund of £5k by the end of the current council term (2027) and thereafter increase by inflation

Café 50 fund

Our fund assumes the following lifespans

- Lounge Chairs – 15 years
- Water Dispenser – 10 years
- Kitchen water heater – 10 years
- TV – 15 years
- Tables/Chairs in dining area – 20 years
- Kitchen equipment – 20 years
- Our lease requires us to maintain the premises. This includes
    - repaint inside Café 50 every 5 years
    - Front door replaced by us (fund over 20 years)
    - Café 50 floor (fund over 20 years)

Pontyclun Park

We assume following lifespans

- Picnic benches – 20 years
- Waste Bins – 10 years
- Playground equipment – 20 years
- Fencing/Railings – 50 years (Gates 20 years)
- Storage sheds – 20 years
- Path – 20 years
- MUGA – 20 years for fencing/resurfacing and 7 years for painting

We are also making the following assumptions to mitigate the amount we set aside

1. When we replaced the Park fencing, the Council also replaced the fencing at Rugby Pitches and Football ground adjacent to the park. Whilst these remain our asset, we would expect RCT CBC/ Pontyclun RFC/Pontyclun FC to fund future replacement
2. We also assume that 50% of the cost of replacing the playground/MUGA could be funded by grants

Street Furniture

We assume a lifespan of –

- Stone bush shelters – unlimited except
    - Rooves – every 20 years
    - Facias – every 10 years
- Metal/Glass bus shelters – 20 years
- Waste bins – 10 years
- Dog Poo bins – 6-7 years
- Wooden Benches – 10 years
- Metal benches/picnic tables – 20 years
- Noticeboards – 10 years

Tools and machinery

Small items are purchased from annual budget. The larger items will cost about £3500 to replace and current fund is £3493.

In the past £800 a year has been transferred to this fund and for the term of this Council (to 2027) no funds to be transferred unless fund is below £3k at which time £800 a year will be transferred until fund exceeds £3k

Hardware/Software

This fund is fully funded. The total replacement cost of our kit is about £1500/1800, and the fund is around this level

If the fund is used and drops below £1500 then £300 per annum to be transferred to fund each year until fund exceeds £1500

Otters Brook bridge

There is no fund to replace this bridge as we operate under assumption that RCT will repair/replace as this is a bridge on a public footpath. RCT footpath team have confirmed this verbally but not in writing

Cenotaph

Not really “our asset” but grounds are maintained by us and when this needs replacing it is likely, that if a public subscription is done to fund replacement, the Council will be expected to contribute.

Not likely to be replaced for 50+ years and as it is an RCT CBC asset they are likely to fund this so we will not set aside any funds towards replacement.

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Replacement of fencing in Pontyclun Park

When the Community Council took a lease on the Park, we replaced the existing playground and fencing with the exception of that part of the fencing at the rear of the park (by the houses)

The first section by Maes y Felin crescent was not replaced as the owner of the adjacent property did not wish us to and the section by the Community Garden was not done to save cost.

Both sections are now in very poor condition, and both sets of property owners are asking for it to be replaced as it is dangerous to anyone who might touch it. One owner has young children. Our lease requires us to maintain the fence.

We have obtained permission from RCT to replace fencing on a like for like basis and have obtained 3 quotes

- One quote is £15500 plus VAT
- One is £10500 plus vat. If we wanted it, they would add a pedestrian gate for same price
- One is for £9256

The two cheapest quotes are from South Wales firms. The mid quote from the supplier who provided the new fencing last time

The cost of the replacement will be borne by the earmarked Reserve for Pontyclun Park

Action members to decide which quote to accept so work can be carried out

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Grant request

We have a request for a grant from Fusion gymnastics Wales.

They are looking for up to £500 towards the cost of new leotards for their competition team. They have about 850 members in total.

17 members of their trampoline squad have been selected to compete in the British Championships in September, 16 of these are local and it is these players they wish to get new kit for.

Normally we would look at grants in September, however this would be too late for the Championships

Members should note that the gym is run as a business from Coed Cae lane

Action members to consider request

Application form

Your organisation

Name of Organisation	Fusion Gymnastics Wales
Purpose of organisation	Gymnastics club for the area of Pontyclyn and beyond. To engage children through from pre-school to teenagers.
Number of Participants / members	The gymnastics club has around 850 members, including squad gymnasts.
Number of Participants / members living in the **Pontyclun Community Council Ward**: Pontyclun, Brynsadler, Talygarn, Miskin, Cefn yr Hendy, Groesfaen	
Age group of participants / members	0-18 years

Your application

Why do you need a grant?	17 members of the Trampoline squad, 16 of them from the local area, have qualified for the British championships representing Wales in September. This is a momentous occasion and a privilege to be selected to represent Wales. The gymnasts will be required to order a new club leotard to wear to represent their club and region. We are applying for this grant to be able to purchase these leotards for the gymnasts.
What is the total cost of your requirements?	£500
Will the grant generate revenue? If so, how much is the projected revenue?	No
How much are you asking the Community Council for?	£500
Who will benefit from this grant?	The children who will be representing their club and Wales at the British championships

How will the grant support the achievement of the Community Council	Fusion Gymnastics Wales is the only gymnastics and Trampoline club in the area. The achievement at this level is fantastic and can be celebrated throughout the community.

Cyngor Cymuned Pontyclun Community Council

Engaging with residents

Members discussed various options on engaging residents last month but deferred the discussion on Online engagement to the July meeting

The Council engages online via 4 channels

1. Website
2. Google
3. Facebook
4. Twitter
5. Blog

Council website

Our website is Pontyclun.net

The Council's website is structured more as a "Community website" rather than a "Community Council" website.

The Website was first launched in July 2013 and revamped onto a WordPress platform in summer of 2020. Prior to 2019 management of the site was partly outsourced, mainly reactive and consequently, a lot of information was outdated, and visitor numbers were about 300-500 per month. Following revamp and with better maintenance visitor numbers are now approximately 5 times what they were before relaunch at between 1500-2500 per month.

In addition to information about the Council we also include

- Details about the Community Centre, U3A, Environment group and library
- Things to do including details of local businesses and Community groups
- There is also an online museum of the history of Pontyclun.

"News" articles are published relating to more significant items rather than general information which is left to social media.

Staff do maintain the site, however, to do this properly additional resources need allocation. For example, we could offer an online contact form and even a webchat (during opening hours) but do not have the resources for this.

Part of the site is in Welsh, and the aspiration is that it should go bilingual, however this would require considerable resources.

Potential changes

We publish details of local businesses on our site. The Council may consider this not to be our responsibility and wish to remove these. It would reduce time spent on website maintenance.

Action – does the Council wish to do this?

Council social media

The Council has Social Media accounts on Google, Facebook & Twitter for both the Community Council and Café 50

The main restriction on our activity are the resources needed to generate content to publish and time to upload and manage content going forward.

Residents do contact us via all online channels, and we receive more requests via these channels than by post or in person

Google

We have Google pages for the Council and our main assets.

These are typically published to provide access details, opening hours, photographs and give users the ability to provide feedback and reviews.

There is an option to post but this tends to only be used for things like changes to opening hours, special events and during the pandemic to update our Covid rules.

Any comments/reviews are replied to and where needed actioned.

Current review numbers are

- Community Council 1 review score 4
- Car Park 4 reviews average score 4.3
- Café 50 11 reviews average score 4.9
- Pontyclun Park 29 reviews average score 4.7
- Ivor Woods 52 reviews average score 4.4
- Public Toilets 1 review score 5

There is no page for the Riverside Walk in Brynsadler. There is a page for the Playground which we are trying to take control over

Facebook

The Council uses Facebook for both itself and Café 50. An insight into use is provided below

Community Council

Facebook followers – 1139

Like the page – 942

Post activity

- Typically 1-2 thousand will see our posts
    - Best recent post – 9.5k regarding road closures
    - Worst recent post – 83 regarding fuel costs
- On average we post 4/5 times a month. However in May, there has been a lot more going on so we have posted at least 3 times a week and our reach has exceeded 13,000.
- Our posts mainly include information regarding the Pontyclun area and events and activity
- We also share information from third parties that we believe may be relevant for our residents eg from RCT CBC or local NHS

Café 50

Facebook followers – 509

Like the page – 439

- Posts are less popular than the Council ones though still have a reach in the thousands
    - Best recent post – 8.7k Valentines lunch post and photos
    - Worst recent post – 93 a post about Friday the 13th.
- On average we post 9.5 times a month. May has seen a reach of around 2,500.
- The posts on this page include mainly information about Café 50 or Pontyclun, but may also include information that may be relevant to the demographic of our users. Such as information about scammers, fuel costs..

Pontyclun Hub

The Council Officers do not actively track content on the Hub relating to our us or our services.

If we were tagged into the conversation we will note and if relevant take action (e.g., if some damage was discussed) however we tend not to respond or comment publicly, and if we did it would only be to correct an error of fact. Where relevant we occasionally will directly message people who have posted complaints with our responses.

Twitter

@Cafe50

The Cafe50 twitter pages are not used very much.

They were created when we received a grant from Tesco about 4 years ago – it was a requirement of the grant to publicise via twitter.

We have 19 followers and activity is an occasional tweet about major events at Café 50 and to retweet relevant information from others. We tweet about 10 times a year or so.

@Pontycluncc

The Council's twitter pages are more active doing about 10 tweets a month, though most are retweets of relevant information from others (often RCT CBC). We started using Twitter in Feb 2020 and have 93 followers at this time.

The tweets we generate tend to be updates on actions our Caretakers have undertaken e.g., Putting out floral displays.

Council Blog

The Council's blog is used to publish longer articles relating to Council activities and has a link via our website

These are generated by the Chair and Working Group leads. The Officers could produce factual blog posts about services should members wish us (subject to resourcing) e.g. We often get asked how to manage floral displays to get them looking nice.

Articles have had up to 70 views

Other social media

The Council does not use any other social media.

We appreciate that using only Facebook and Twitter means we do not engage with our younger residents and if we wished to engage with them better, we would need to introduce new channels

As a Google account holder, we have a You Tube page, but it is not active. We could also do Instagram or Tik tok.

In all three cases resourcing would be an issue, particularly to generate content. Instagram could reuse content generated for Facebook/Twitter after slight modification, but You Tube and Tik Tok content would need to be separately created.

Action – do members wish to make changes to social media channel usage