

Annual Report 2023/24

Welcome to the Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn Annual Report

Your Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer / Burial Clerk is Vikki Teasdale (you will know her as “the Clerk”)

Your Community Councillors (you will know us as “Councillors”) for the year have been:

Kim Ellis	Chair	Trefriw Ward
Jasmine Kelly	Vice Chair	Trefriw Ward
Idris Bowen		Trefriw Ward
Bronwen Griffith		Llanrhychwyn Ward
Jackie Jewett		Trefriw Ward
Wil Morris		Trefriw Ward

Stephen White	Resigned October 2023
Gareth Siddorn	Resigned December 2023
Lucy Williams	Resigned January 2024

As we complete this year, there are three Councillor vacancies to be filled – two for Trefriw and one for Llanrhychwyn. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@trefriwcommunitycouncil.co.uk or call 07305 316095 if you are interested in joining the Community Council.

As a Community Council we do our very best to do the following:

- Represent and act as a voice for our communities.
- Work to obtain services that meet local needs and improve the quality of life of our residents.
- Influence, enable and support community groups.

Village amenities that the Community Council monitors, and may also manage, on behalf of the community:

Trefriw Cemetery

The Village Hall

Playgrounds on Gower
Road and at
Bro Geirionydd

The Public Toilets

However, while there will be periodic consultation with appropriate bodies, please note that the Community Council is NOT responsible for the following:

- Roads / Highways / Planning
- Waste / Rubbish Collections
- Council Housing and Benefits
- Education and Schools

What your Community Council has been doing in 2023/24

Trefriw Cemetery We commenced works to bring the cemetery extension on Cowlyd Road into a usable space. Access through the boundary wall has been created and new stock-proof fencing installed. Further ground works will be carried out in 2024/25 to ensure that adequate burial spaces can be provided for our residents in future. Should you need to discuss the interment of a loved one, please contact the clerk at clerk@trefriwcommunitycouncil.co.uk or call 07305 316095.

Trefriw Childrens Play Park We successfully obtained grant funding to install an accessible roundabout in the play park situated on Gower Road. This new piece of play equipment will be installed over summer 2024 and will enhance the play experience of the many children who enjoy playing out. The Park Trustees and Community Council continued to work together with Conwy County Borough Council (CCBC) to inspect and maintain the play equipment.

The Village Hall is available to book for any numbers of uses for both regular and ad-hoc events, and it's great to see this great village amenity being used again after the trials of Covid and lockdown. Whether it's a fitness class, charity cake sale, film club or ceilidh dance contact the clerk at clerk@trefriwcommunitycouncil.co.uk or call 07305 316095 to make enquiries.

Monthly Coffee Mornings with an opportunity to meet your Councillor. These were held in the Village Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month and all are welcome. Come and chat with your neighbours over coffee and cake, and maybe play a game of cards.

Skips were provided each month on Gower Road with free access for residents.

A Christmas Tree and festive lights In 2023/24 a tree was donated to the community, and transport and siting of the tree was carried out by local residents, who we thank for their hard work. The tree was sited in St. Mary's church yard for all to see, and the Community Council helped to support Trefriw Outdoors in providing seasonal mulled wine, nibbles and mince pies in the Village Hall after the tree lighting-up.

Seasonal Newsletters We hope that you will have seen our new newsletters around the village and are finding them informative. If you wish to receive an electronic version of these, please contact jasminekellytcc@gmail.com

Ash Dieback is affecting trees all over Britain, and the Council has been responsible for managing the condition and safety of ash trees on its land in the recreation ground and along Trefriw Trail 1. The Council will build on the current reserved funds to ensure that the necessary tree inspections and works will continue in line with the agreed seven year programme of works.

Trefriw Trail 1 adjacent to Gower Road sadly floods several times a year now and the Council is working with Natural Resources Wales and CCBC to try and restore the trail surface to bring the path fully into use.

Village Benches need regular painting and the Council has been busy doing this on an annual basis. Help to do this is always appreciated.

Litter picks are organised seasonally to keep our lovely village as clean as possible.

Rights of Way were maintained, with part-repayment by CCBC. The Council also continued to work with the Trefriw Outdoors group to keep public Rights of Way clear by walking the paths and reporting issues to the appropriate authority.





So, how does the Council pay for all of this? The Clerk estimates what the Council will need to deliver all the services that it is required to manage for the coming year (the budget) and then works out the level of precept needed taking into account, and deducting, the likely amount of income for the year from things such as Village Hall hire and cemetery fees. This amount is then advised to CCBC who recharge this budget to residents as part of the annual Council Tax (CCBC also include elements such as the Police and the Fire Service).

For the year 2023/24 the annual sum charged for the Community Council budget was £66.68 for a Band D property – that’s just £5.66 per month.

More Information

Your Clerk is employed part-time by the Community Council and receives a salary.

Your Councillors are elected or co-opted to the role and give of their time freely

Your County Councillor is Cllr Liz Roberts who attends our monthly Council meetings and coffee mornings whenever her work schedule allows. Liz can be contacted at cllr.liz.roberts@conwy.gov.uk or on 01690 750246.

Council meetings are held monthly, other than in February and August, and Councillors must attend unless they have a compelling reason not to do so. In 2023/24 these meetings were held virtually via Skype. A meeting code was advertised on each meeting agenda so that members of the public could join our meetings if they chose to do so.

Meeting agendas and minutes are affixed to the Community Council noticeboard, together with any other relevant documents. They are also published on the Community Council’s website www.trefriwcommunitycouncil.co.uk. The website also has a calendar of events, statutory and adopted policy documents, and other community-based news and information.

Facebook TCC has its own Facebook account to share important information. This can be found at “Trefriw Community Council”.

Training Your Councillors and Clerk attend various training modules, and also have opportunities to attend external meetings and webinars to to enhance their working knowledge of the law and other requirements of local government. The Clerk and Chair also attend CCBC Town and Community Council forum meetings to stay in touch with output that is important to our community. The Clerk is in regular contact with a Clerk’s forum.

Planning Applications are reviewed as received, and are detailed in meeting minutes.

Public Toilets We continue to monitor the availability of the public toilets on Gower Road. They are currently managed by CCBC but are under threat of closure due to their budget constraints. It is likely that CCBC will announce the closure of toilets across the county in the near future, meaning that TCC would need to consider the viability and costs of taking these on. Your opinion will be sought at a Community Engagement session in the spring.

Plastic Free We joined the Plastic Free Betws and District group and work together to run events to raise awareness of opportunities to reduce or remove plastic in the area.

Defibrillators in and around the village can be found at The Princes Arms, Roualeyn Nursery, the Village Hall, Llanrhychwyn cross roads, Crafnant Cafe, Llyn Geirionydd, Nant BH and Nant Conwy Rugby Club.

Summary of Account 2023/24	£
Precept	25,353.13
VAT Refund	484.68
Trefriw Village Hall Hire Revenue	1,933.69
Trefriw and Llanrhychwyn Cemetery Fees	4,160.00
Public Footpath Maintenance, part reimbursement from Conwy CBC	1,000.00
Investment monies withdrawn towards costs of (i) cemetery extension works and (ii) (ii) new office laptop	5,825.00
Monies transferred from general reserves to meet unforeseen expenditure	1,193.84
Other Miscellaneous receipts: to include the partial VAT refund from CCBC; annual contribution from the War Graves Commission and HSBC deposit account interest	411.91
Total Income	40,362.25
General Running and Maintenance Costs:	
Administration including employment costs, banking, insurance, office equipment, printing costs, postage, stationery, telephone and internet	14,084.20
Village Hall Maintenance and Operational Costs	2,749.71
General Village Maintenance costs	1,173.90
Cemetery Maintenance and Development Costs	3,808.00
Provision of Community Skips	2,328.00
Public Footpath Maintenance	1,250.00
Tree Maintenance Works - Ash dieback and other safety works	470.00
Governance	
Audit fees, legal/professional advice and fees, training and subscriptions	2,636.95
Public Information	
Website and translation services	208.84
Donations	

(i) Donations made to 3 non-profit organisations; Trefriw Film Club; Wales Air Ambulance; Cwmni Urdd Gobaith Cymru (ii) Annual Donation to The Royal British Legion for providing the poppy wreath for the community Memorial Service	690.00
Miscellaneous	
Chair's Discretionary Fund and Village Festivities	609.85
Asset Transfers / Reserves (balance of monies from 2023/24 budget either pending expenditure or to be transferred to allocated reserves)	
Gower Road and Bro Geirionydd Playparks	1,000.00
Trefriw Cemetery Extension Works	6,825.00
Ash Dieback and General Tree Works	1,530.00
Defibrillators	600.00
Total Expenditure	39,964.45
Allocated Reserves held as at 31/03/2024	48,165.00
General Reserves held as at 31/03/2024	25,582.63