



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

Email address: clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

Website: www.bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

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MISSION STATEMENT

“Serving our community, preserving our identity.”

The Council will always strive to:

- Be open and accessible.
- Be accountable in all our Council activities.
- Be responsive to the needs of the community.
 - Encourage community participation.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Dear Community Members,

As we reflect on the past Council year, the Community Council is pleased to present their Annual Report. Which highlights the collective efforts and achievements of our community. It has been a year of growth, collaboration, and resilience, and I am honoured to have witnessed the dedication and passion that each of you brings to the community.

This year, we have made significant strides in various initiatives. These accomplishments are a testament to what we can achieve when we work in unison, with a shared vision for the betterment of our neighbourhood.

However, our journey is far from over. The challenges we face require ongoing commitment and innovation. As we move forward, I encourage each of you to participate actively in our volunteer projects, community projects, events, meetings, and consultations. Your voice and involvement are crucial in shaping the future of our community.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the Community Council, and the Clerk, and every resident who has contributed to our successes over the last year. Your hard work and dedication have made a significant difference, and together, we will continue to build a vibrant and thriving community.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to another year of progress and achievement.

Councillor Richard Searl.

CONTEXT

During the year 2023/24, the Council comprised of 9 Councillors who volunteered and were fully committed to representing the residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis, providing them with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community. The Councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:



Cllr Richard Searl



Cllr Jeff Beard



Cllr Sherelle Jago



Cllr Gillian Preston



Cllr Deborah Brown



Cllr Ian Thomas



Cllr Vanessa Matthews



Cllr Christopher Frayne



Cllr Edward Dawson

Contact details of Councillors is available via the following link:

<http://www.bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/YourCouncillors.aspx>

The Council has a standing HR Committee. Members of the Committee during the year were:

- Councillor Jeff Beard (Chair)
- Councillor Richard Searl
- Councillor Vanessa Matthews

The Council had representatives on several outside body committees as follows:

- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership - Councillor Sherelle Jago (Community Council Governor)
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Standards Committee - Councillor Jeff Beard
- One Voice Wales Area Committee - Councillor Deborah Brown, and Councillor Edward Dawson (Deputy).
- Taf Bargoed Partnership Board - Councillor Gillian Preston

The Council has a member champion for biodiversity - Councillor Edward Dawson.

The main contact for all Council business is Ryan James, Clerk to the Council:

clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2023 is summarised as follows:

	£
Balances brought forward from 2021/22	8315
Income from local taxation	38985
Receipts other than from local taxation	47091
Sub-Total	94391
Staff Costs	16394
Total of all other Payments	58441
Sub-Total	74835
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2023/24	19557

The value of fixed assets of the Council are £267,018.25.

An independent auditor has internally audited the accounts.

The accounts have been submitted to Audit Wales and an audit opinion will be received later in the year. They must, therefore, be regarded as 'Not yet Audited.'

The Council's finances are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk). The Council publishes all payments and schedules taken to Full Council every month on our website, and Council approves the payments. Full Council also monitors the budget. At the end of the financial year, a balance sheet is prepared by the RFO, and Full Council approves this before it is passed for audit.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Community Council has a [charter](#) in place with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - it sets out the way in which both aim to work together for the good of the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis whilst recognising their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies.

A representative of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council also acts as Liaison Officer modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and County Councils.

The Community Council are consulted on planning applications in Bedlinog and Trelewis and represent the community in responding to these applications based on residents' feedback, and Councillor's thoughts on the best course of action for the community.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code.

TRAINING

The Council has a statutory duty under section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to implement a plan setting out what it proposes to do to address the training needs of its Councillors and staff.

The purpose of the training plan is designed to ensure that collectively, Councillors and staff, possess the knowledge and awareness needed for the Council to operate effectively. It is not necessary for all Councillors and staff to have received the same training and develop the same expertise.

In October 2022, the Council published its Training Plan 2022-2027, to reflect the training needs of the Council.

GRANTS

During 2023-2024, Council awarded the following grants to community organisations:

- Bethel Gospel Mission



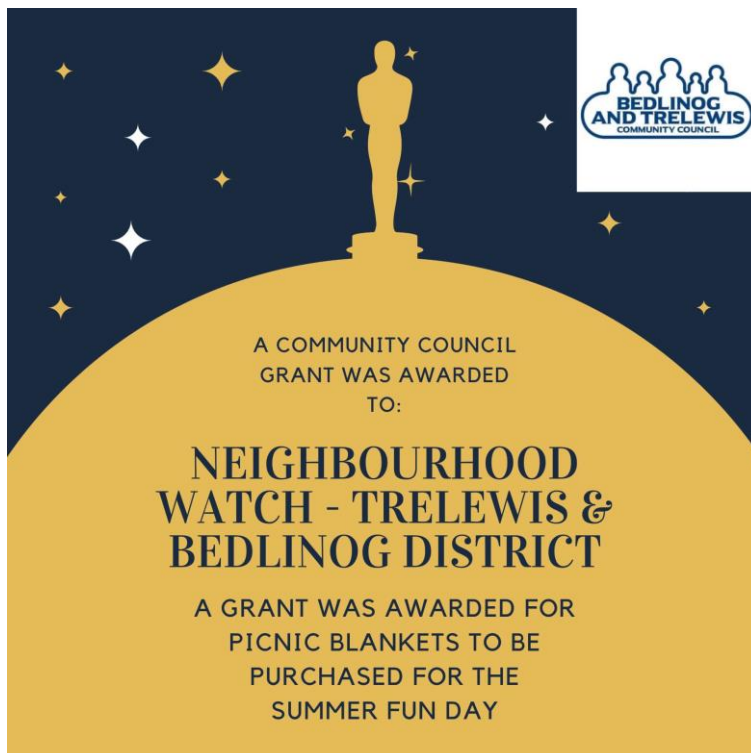
- Bedlinog RFC



- Foxes Family School Partnership



- Neighbourhood Watch - Trelewis and Bedlinog District



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2023/24

Newsletter

In Spring 2024, we were pleased to publish our newsletter - this is available on our website, and we also left copies in local shops in Bedlinog and Trelewis, Bedlinog Doctors Surgery, and Rock UK, for residents not on social media to pick up a copy. There will be a newsletter published each year, along with our annual report, to update residents on our work.

Community Hub

Following the closure of Trelewis OAP Hall, we moved our Community Hub to Bedlinog Community Centre. We provide a free return bus for Trelewis residents to attend each week. The Community Hub is extremely successful, and we have regular attendance each week of up to thirty people. It is an opportunity for residents to come together once a week and have free refreshments, and a game of bingo, in a safe, warm, environment and a have friendly chat with others. Join us Thursday's 2-4pm.



Christmas Fayre

2023 saw the Community Council's first Christmas Fayre take place at Bedlinog Community Centre. It was a huge success and extremely well attended. It was a free event, with treats from Father Christmas for the children, face painting, children's entertainment, and local businesses selling their products. We held a raffle with proceeds going to the local charity, 4TOM, with £111 raised.



Christmas Meals to the Community

The Community Council appreciate that not everyone in the villages of Bedlinog and Trelewis would be able to have Christmas lunch, whether that be due to social isolation and/or cost of living. So, in Christmas 2023 we provided free Christmas meals to those that needed them. We hope it eased the pressure that Christmas brings for some and made their day that little bit easier and more enjoyable.

Allotment Improvement

As part of our plan to increase biodiversity we want to make as many allotment beds available as possible for community use, and it allows residents to grow their own food. Every year we aim to increase the number of allotment beds available to residents in Bedlinog and Trelewis. This year we created new beds land adjacent to Manor View, Trelewis. In the next financial year, we will be further developing this site with fencing around the new allotment garden.



Young People Events

Great fun was had by the children in Bedlinog and Trelewis during our half term and Easter holiday events. We had soft play, magic shows, and provided refreshments and a healthy lunch. We also funded sessions of climbing at RockUK as well as sensory play, which was enjoyed by all.



We also partnered with Urdd Gobaith Cymru to deliver an event for 3-6-year-olds.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

The Community Council held a Macmillan Coffee Morning. Residents highlighted their baking skills, and we raised £150 for Macmillan Cancer Support. A great morning of socialising for residents whilst raising money for a fantastic charity.



Christmas Lights

We once again installed Christmas lights around Bedlinog and Trelewis. As always, it was fantastic to bring some festive cheer to the community.

Street Planters and lamppost baskets

Our street planters and lamppost baskets were once again 'blooming' with colour throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis. As well as increasing biodiversity, it improves the look of the community and brings some colour and brightens up Summer (even when it is raining!)



Environmental Work in the Community Commendation

The Community Council was delighted to receive commendation for our environmental work in the community at the One Voice Wales conference awards. Cllrs Brown, Searl and Preston represented the Community Council with the Council Clerk at the awards.



Community Issues

Community Councillors have dealt with a number of issues on behalf of residents over the year, some of these include:

- Public transport
- Litter bins
- Street cleansing
- Potholes
- Fence repairs
- Overgrown trees on public paths
- Road signage
- Parking issues
- Green path/safe route to school improvements
- Campaigning for PACT meetings to be held in both villages.

Organisations we have worked with

Over the year, we have worked with several organisations for the benefit of residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis, including:

- Llais
- Groundwork Wales
- Merthyr Valleys Homes
- Multiply Merthyr Tydfil
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Fir Tree Centre, Quakers Yard
- Dwr Cymru
- Transport for Wales
- Bedlinog Youth Club
- Trelewis Community Centre
- Trelewis OAP Welfare

ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Bedlinog Community Centre
- Bedlinog Allotments
- Allotment Beds, Trelewis Primary School Grounds
- Kickabout Area, Hylton Terrace
- Part-ownership of Rugby Changing Rooms at Bedlinog Recreational Ground

A full list of Council assets can be found on our website.

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

The Community Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity. It provides allotment facilities where biodiversity can be enriched, with land cultivated to produce vegetables, fruit, and flowers. As well as planting pollinators throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis.

In everything we do, we look to:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Use energy more efficiently.
- Switch to low carbon fuels.
- Prepare for climate change.
- Embed consideration for biodiversity and carbon footprint into procurement protocols.
- Ensure no negative impacts on protected species and the environment.
- Plant natural pollinators wherever possible and native friendly bedding plants.

Our Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6, report can be found on our website.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Our annual Community Consultation was held with residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis and the top four areas that residents feel are priority for Bedlinog and Trelewis were:

1. **More opportunities and activities for young people**
2. **More services for older people**
3. **Community support for cost-of-living crisis**
4. **Enhancement of green spaces**

The biggest crime and anti-social behaviour issues residents were aware of in the community were:

1. **Substance misuse**
2. **Road scramblers**
3. **Vandalism**
4. **Opportunist theft**

We will be working to deliver on the priority areas on behalf of residents over the coming year.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2024/25

These include:

- Continue supporting Warm Hubs in the community.
- Create more allotment plots and make site security improvements to existing allotments.
- Glo in the Parc event.
- Christmas activities.
- Christmas meals for those in need.
- Community events and raise money for charity.
- Engagement with partners for more services for older people.
- Increased opportunities for young people.
- Finalise arrangements for MUGA transfer and development in Trelewis
- Conduct a further engagement exercise with the community.
- Other activities identified from community feedback.