



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

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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 Residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis,

It is a privilege to present this year's Annual Report for Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council, reflecting a period of significant community engagement, improvement, and service.

This year, we strengthened our foundations through the formal adoption of updated standing orders, financial regulations, asset registers, risk assessments, and committee terms of reference. Our meeting schedule for 2024-25 was also confirmed to support transparency and effective governance. At the Annual Meeting in May 2024, members were appointed to various committees covering HR, biodiversity, community events, and standards, ensuring we continue to deliver for all areas of community life.

We are proud to have taken over and successfully delivered the 'Glo in the Park' event, ensuring this much-loved tradition continues. We also hosted a Christmas Fayre at RockUK, which brought families together to celebrate the festive season, alongside other free events throughout the year aimed at bringing residents together in a safe, inclusive environment. Our weekly Community Hub continues to thrive and has become a vital space for residents to access support, socialise, and engage with local initiatives.

One of the highlights of the year was celebrating our 50th anniversary with a major community event, which was attended by dignitaries and partners including ITV Wales, One Voice Wales, and local political representatives. The event highlighted our vibrant community spirit and received widespread praise.

We were also delighted to be recognised by One Voice Wales for our environmental initiatives, including new raised planters and expanded allotments in Parc Nant Llwynog - strengthening our commitment to biodiversity and community wellbeing.

The Council worked to improve community infrastructure through the restoration of vandalised features and enhancements to local green spaces. We supported grant applications from local organisations.

This year has been one of meaningful action and renewed connection. From infrastructure to events, from governance to inclusion, our work continues to reflect the needs and aspirations of residents we serve.

I would like to thank my fellow Community Councillors, our Clerk, volunteers, partners and most importantly, our community for your continued trust and engagement. I look forward to another year of progress and achievement.

Councillor Richard Searl.

MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK



As Clerk to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council, I am pleased to support the publication of this Annual Report for 2024-2025. The past year has seen the Council continue to deliver projects and services that make a real difference in our community, whilst ensuring we meet our statutory responsibilities and maintain sound governance.

Behind the scenes, much work has been carried out to ensure the Council operates transparently and efficiently. This has included supporting Councillors in their decision-making, managing the Council's finances responsibly, and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. I am also proud to have supported the Council in securing and administering funding that has enabled local initiatives and community events to take place.

I would like to thank the Chair and Community Councillors for their commitment and dedication, as well as community volunteers and partner organisations who have worked alongside us to achieve positive outcomes for Bedlinog and Trelewis.

Most importantly, I would like to thank residents for their continued engagement and support—your input helps shape the priorities and actions of the Council.

I look forward to continuing to support the Council in delivering for our communities in the year ahead.

Ryan James

Clerk to Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

CONTEXT

During the year 2024/25, 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 are available via the following link:

<https://bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/councillors/>

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 (Vice Chair)

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.
- Taf Bargoed Partnership Board - Councillor Gillian Preston and Councillor Jeff Beard.

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 2025 is summarised as follows:

	£
Balances brought forward from 2023/24	19557
Income from local taxation	40314
Receipts other than from local taxation	47485
Sub-Total	107356
Staff Costs	18321
Total of all other Payments	72138
Sub-Total	90459
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2025/26	16897

The value of fixed assets of the Council is £278,418.25.

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 (RFO), 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. This is reviewed on an annual basis.

GRANTS

During 2024-2025, Council awarded the following grants to community organisations:

- **Neighbourhood Watch Trelewis and Bedlinog** - to support their Family Fun Day.



- **Trelewis Primary School** - providing funding for rugby training tops for the children.



- **Trelewis Bowls Club** - funding towards a digital score board.



- **Bedlinog Primary School** - to purchase a fruit trolley for the children's fruit tuck shop.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2024/25

Social Media

The Council regularly updates residents on its work via social media. You can follow our work via the following social media channels:

Facebook: @BTComCouncil

Instagram: @BTComCouncil

X: @BTComCouncil

Community Hub

Our weekly Community Hub has become a vital part of life in Bedlinog and Trelewis, offering bingo, friendly conversation, free refreshments, and access to support services in a warm and welcoming setting. The free bus from Trelewis is well used and ensures that everyone can take part, remove transport barriers and help to bring people together. More than just a social gathering, the Hub plays a significant role in tackling social isolation, strengthening community connections, and providing a central space that residents look forward to each week. Its success reflects the value of creating opportunities where people can feel supported, included, and part of a thriving community. Members of the hub have also thoroughly enjoyed day trips to Porthcawl and Cwmbran. Join us Thursday's 2-4pm at Bedlinog Community Centre.



Cozy Corner Warm Hub

This year, we were proud to successfully deliver our *Cozy Corner* warm hub, providing a welcoming and safe space for residents to come together during the colder months. The

hub offered warmth, comfort, and companionship, helping to reduce social isolation and support wellbeing within our community.

To make the hub as accessible as possible, we provided free transport for residents, along with free refreshments and hot food, ensuring that everyone could benefit from the service. Alongside this, *Cozy Corner* offered a wide range of activities including board games, bingo, and crafting sessions, which encouraged people of all ages to socialise and build connections. We also hosted support services during the winter months to give residents practical advice and guidance when they needed it most.

We were delighted to work in partnership with *Multiply*, who ran engaging activities to help improve literacy and numeracy skills in a fun and supportive way. In addition, the hub organised a number of enjoyable day trips, providing opportunities for residents to explore new places, make memories, and strengthen community bonds.

Winter Warm Packs

This year, we provided 60 Winter Warm Packs to residents most in need. These packs were a vital source of support, helping people to stay warm, safe, and comfortable during the coldest months. By offering practical essentials, we were able to provide reassurance and relief at a time when many households were facing increased pressures.



Glo in the Park

This year, the Community Council proudly took over the running of the much-loved *Glo in the Park* event at Taf Bargoed Park. The event was a tremendous success, attracting over 400 attendees and bringing families together to celebrate the festive season.

Children lit up the park with their glo sticks, creating a magical atmosphere, and enjoyed a visit to Santa's grotto where each received a selection box. The evening was made even more special with a wonderful performance by the Treharris Male Voice Choir, adding festive cheer to the celebrations.

Glo in the Park was a tremendously successful and enjoyable family event, strengthening community spirit and creating lasting memories for all who attended.



Christmas Fayre

In 2024, the Community Council hosted its Christmas Fayre at the RockUK Summit Centre – a festive celebration on a much larger scale than anything we had organised before. The event was a fantastic success, drawing an excellent turnout and bringing the community together to celebrate the season.

To make sure everyone could join in, we provided free return transport, helping residents get to and from the venue with ease. The fayre itself was packed with festive cheer – from Christmas activities, a lively tombola, and a magical grotto where children visited Father Christmas for their treats, to entertainment and face painting that kept families smiling throughout the day.

The event also highlighted a wide range of local businesses and stalls, giving people the chance to buy unique gifts and support traders within our community. A raffle was held, with proceeds going to Glyn Bargoed House, ensuring the fayre not only spread joy but also supported a valued local cause.



Christmas Meals to the Community

The Community Council appreciates 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 2024 we provided our annual 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 ongoing mission to increase biodiversity and support sustainable growing in the community, the Council delivered several key improvements during 2024-25.

At Manor View, we enhanced the allotment beds with new fencing, providing both security and a better environment for growers. At Nant Llwynog Park, we created new growing beds and installed a 'bug hotel,' encouraging wildlife and supporting biodiversity in the area.

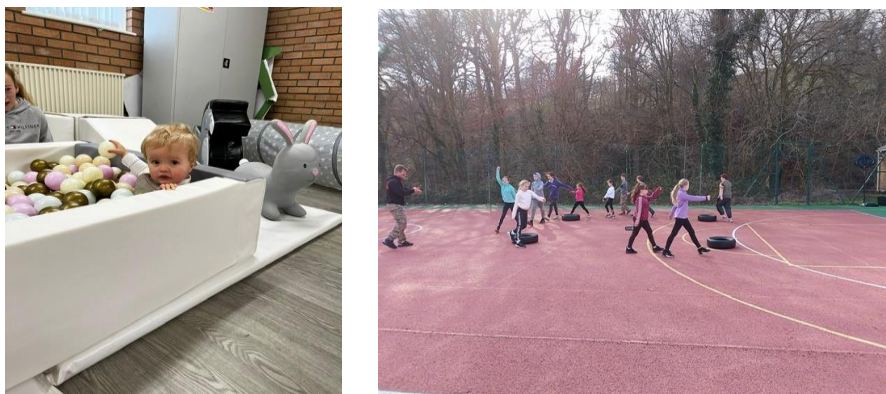
We also invested in improvements to other existing allotment sites, including the addition of secure storage facilities for tools and seeds – helping local growers to work more confidently and safely.

These initiatives are part of our wider commitment to creating greener, healthier, and more resilient community spaces for residents to enjoy.



Young People Events

Great fun was had by the children in Bedlinog and Trelewis during our annual 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 and Aerial Adventure at RockUK as well as sensory play, which was enjoyed by all.



We also had our day trips to Porthcawl which was a wonderful day out for all the family to enjoy, with free packed lunches for everyone provided.

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.



Award Recognition

We were delighted that the Community Council's work was recognised at the One Voice Wales Annual Awards, where we received three separate commendations for our efforts on behalf of residents.

- Commended for Best Governance Initiative - recognising the strength of our governance setup, ensuring that the Council operates in a clear, accountable, and effective way.
- Commended for Best Use of Digital Resources - highlighting our successful implementation of digital systems to hold hybrid council meetings, making our work more open and accessible to the community.
- Highly Commended for Best Initiative Addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis - acknowledging our continued commitment to supporting residents in challenging times. This included running a weekly community hub, providing free hot food, refreshments, and transport, delivering Cozy Corner and Winter Warm Packs, and offering access to support services. We also supported residents directly affected by the Trelewis floods, providing a £50 support payment to help them recover.

This recognition reflects the Council's dedication to good governance, innovation, and practical support that makes a real difference in our community.



Community Issues

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

- Public transport
- Litter bins
- Street cleansing
- Potholes
- Overgrown vegetation
- Road signage
- Parking issues
- Green path/safe route to school improvements

Organisations with which we have worked.

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
- One Voice Wales
- Older People's Commissioner for Wales
- South Wales Police

- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Dwr Cymru
- Transport for Wales
- Bedlinog Youth Club
- Bedlinog Miners Welfare Association
- RockUK Summit Centre
- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership

ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for managing various assets and services. A full list of Council assets can be found on our website.

[Asset register](#)

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 in Appendix 1.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Our annual Community Consultation was held with residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis and the top four areas once again 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 2025/26

Looking ahead, the Community Council has an exciting programme of activities and projects planned for 2025/26, aimed at enhancing community wellbeing, engagement, and local spaces:

- **Community Hub & Family Activities:** We will continue to develop and enhance our community hub, offering more family-friendly activities, including our popular Glo in the Park and Christmas Fayre events, alongside other festive celebrations.
- **Sports & Recreation:** Plans include improving the MUGA in Trelewis and organising football sessions and other sporting opportunities for young people. We will also host our Summer Play Day, celebrating National Play Day.
- **Heritage & Commemoration:** The Council will mark the 100-year anniversaries of the cenotaphs in Trelewis and Bedlinog, supporting their regeneration and creating lasting tributes to local history.

- **Winter Support:** We will continue running warm hubs and other initiatives to support residents through the colder months, providing practical help, food, transport, and access to support services.
- **Community Engagement & Governance:** Greater opportunities for residents to engage with the Council will be delivered through enhanced consultation activities, supported by our new Events and Consultation Committee. We will also continue working with the local Policing team and supporting PACT meetings, strengthening community safety and involvement.
- **Community Centre Improvements:** Plans include introducing a new online booking system for Bedlinog Community Centre, improving accessibility, and creating a new ICT computer suite for residents to access digital resources and training.
- **Environment & Allotments:** We plan to develop more allotment beds and continue our commitment to improving green spaces and biodiversity in the community.
- **Supporting Residents:** The Council remains dedicated to helping residents with local issues and providing support wherever it is needed.

These plans reflect our ongoing commitment to building stronger, greener, safer, and more connected communities, celebrating local heritage, and creating opportunities for everyone to take part in community life.

APPENDIX 1

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Reporting on Section 6



<i>Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6</i> <i>The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report 2022</i>	
Name of Town or Community Council: Bedlinog and Trelew Community Council	
Introduction and Context Bedlinog and Trelew Community Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity. The Council provides one community building and is joint owner of sports changing facilities. It provides and maintains a recreational area where a range of sports can be played.	

It provides allotment facilities in Bedlinog and Trelewis, where biodiversity can be enriched, with land cultivated to produce vegetables, fruit, and flowers. The Council provides community support and awards grants for community projects in the Council's area.

The Council promotes the principle of sustainability and biodiversity by pursuing sustainability goals and sustainable practices whenever possible.

The Council is aware of the climate emergency and will consult with government advisory bodies, websites, partner organisations, agencies, and individuals across the Council's administrative area.

In everything we do, we will look to:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Use energy more efficiently.
- Switch to low carbon fuels.
- Prepare for climate change.

Over the next 12 months we are aiming to conduct the following:

- Create more allotment plots in Trelewis (Manor View).
- Provide twenty-two allotment bed holders with compost bins to increase recycling/renewability.
- Install solar powered security lighting at three allotment sites.
- Plant fruit trees, install bug hotel and insect towers and beehives for pollinators in local parks.
-

Action Report

Action carried out to:		Monitored by:
-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	• Reflected the commitment to biodiversity in the Council's annual report. • Embed consideration for biodiversity and carbon footprint into procurement protocols. Assess suppliers' commitment to the carbon footprint of their products, services, or business management. • Purchase energy from green suppliers. • Reduce energy consumption and improve efficiencies of buildings. Smart controls etc. • Council comment on Planning Applications in support of biodiversity.	Commitments made in documents, reports etc. Consideration of biodiversity demonstrated in all decisions.

-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	• Organise awareness raising and training sessions for members and staff. • Support Keep Wales Tidy who undertake community biodiversity projects, planting, maintaining etc. • Encourage the community to volunteer in the context of supporting and promoting biodiversity and reducing carbon footprint. Publish awareness videos on social media. • Developing community growing space gardens with eco/biodiverse initiatives. • Promoting community events on website and social media such as wildlife walks, supporting litter picking groups.	Through feedback from Council members and residents.
-safeguard principal species and habitats	• Ensured no negative impacts on protected species and the environment. • Natural pollinators planted wherever possible. • Reduce or remove the use of herbicides.	Records of sites or species safeguarded.
-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	• Plant native pollinator friendly flowers and bedding plants. • Only use true annual plants (pollinators) in planting schemes where possible. • Introduce new pollinator opportunities in parks, amenity/sports areas. • Introduce new tree and hedgerow planting wherever possible. • Design landscaping at various sites to encourage a diverse wildlife population, especially pollinating insects such as bees and butterflies. • Increasing areas at all sites to support biodiversity and reduce carbon footprint.	Area of habitat increased. Improved biodiversity.
-tackle negative factors: for e.g., reduce pollution, use nature-based	• Sustainable procurement policies. • The use of more environmentally friendly tools and equipment. Considering battery powered. • Recycling waste.	Policy documents, reports, Council minutes.

solutions, address invasive species		
-use improve and share evidence	Consulting with the Biodiversity Officer at Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council to ensure use of best practice and to increase knowledge of local issues.	Link into the objectives of the County Council's Biodiversity Plan.
-support capacity and/or other organisations	- Appoint a Biodiversity Member Champion. - Support of organised litter picks, provision of loan equipment with other partners and volunteer groups. - Require any organisations receiving grant from us to demonstrate how their project will contribute to supporting health and wellbeing, biodiversity, and effect on carbon footprint.	Partnerships formed to deliver biodiversity benefit.

Review of s6 duty

- What has worked well?**

The creation of plant areas throughout the community has been a success, especially as it has proved attractive to the public in addition to helping biodiversity.

- What have the barriers been?**

Technology for battery powered tools and equipment is still in its infancy. Equipment presently available is limited considering the heavy-duty nature of the rural environments we work in. Reduction in moving where the public wish to see all areas "tidy" – further education and inform programme needed.

- What will you change?**

Local Biodiversity Officer to seek advice, and attend seminars etc. Continue to seek suitable solutions to support the Council initiatives.

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?**

The duty will be monitored at Council meetings on the success or otherwise of the actions taken through the usual management and statutory Council reporting protocols.

The s6 plan will be reviewed annually or sooner if there is a business requirement to do so and/or any other evidence made available to the Council.