

Community Councillors

John Wagstaff – Chair

Kyle Park – Vice Chair

Jan Bartlett

Viv Blandford (retired
May 2023)

Rebecca Hughes

Bryn Harries

Keith Jones

Michael Weekes

Community Councillors are elected every five years. As vacancies arise in between elections, residents can apply to become a Community Councillor. Vacancies will be advertised on the village noticeboards and on the Penhow CC website
www.penhowcommunity.org

Councillors can be contacted through the clerk on
clerk@penhowcommunity.org
or 01633 401106.



Penhow Community Council Annual Report September 2023

Welcome from John Wagstaff, Chairperson

Welcome to the Annual Report of Penhow Community Council. In this report you will find details of some of our activities during the financial year 2022-23 along with details of how we have spent the Precept funding that we have received.

The main purpose of our Council is to embrace the community and their ideas/suggestions where possible. We recognise that communication is important and as such, initiatives and issues which arise are communicated to the community via the noticeboards around the village and through our website.

I would like to thank all of our Community Councillors for the expertise and dedication that they bring to this voluntary role.

This year, Cllr Viv Blandford retired from the Community Council in May. Viv had been a member of the Council since 2019 and one of her very first actions was to create the beautiful headed paper that is used on all Council communications. She was also the initiated the annual Remembrance display on Greenmeadow Drive, working with the W.I. to create the unique display each year. We thank Viv for her hard work and commitment to the Community Council.

John Wagstaff

The work of the Community Council

The Community Council meets monthly (usually on the 1st Wednesday of each month) at St John's Hall in Penhow. Residents are welcome to attend these meetings.

There is always a public participation section on the monthly agenda. If there is an item that you would like to have discussed, please contact the clerk, or attend the meeting in person.



Parc Seymour Park

The walking path in the park has been extended and is now a circuit of the whole park. Local company, WM, carried out this work for the Community Council. The aim was to make the path more accessible to all users of the park (meaning that people with pushchairs, wheelchairs or with limited mobility can use the park more easily).

The complete circuit of the walking path is approximately 400m, so four laps make a walk of just over one mile. We are delighted to see so many people making use of the park each day and feedback from users has been very positive.

The junior playdeck has been completely refurbished ensuring that this part of the park can be safely enjoyed for many years to come. Local company, ALS, carried out this work.



A Picnic in the Parc was held in 2022. This event was enjoyed by many local residents and supported by local groups including the 1st Wentwood Scouts and the Art Group.

Park security continues to be a high priority since the unauthorised encampment in 2022. Additional hedging has been planted to complete the boundary of the field. Some new bollards have been installed at the Greenmeadow Drive



Newport City Councillors

Will Routley

Ray Mogford

The Community Councillors work closely with the elected City Councillors. Will and Ray regularly attend the monthly CC meetings where they are updated with any concerns or issues that need further action by Newport City Council. They also update the CC with ongoing work that they are involved with.

William.routley@newport.gov.uk

Ray.mogford@newport.gov.uk

entrance. The left over soil from the construction of the walking path has been used to create soil bunds either side of the Market Road entrance. These will be seeded with wildflowers that should flower in 2024.

Park security is now a regular agenda item. It is also reviewed annually at the Annual Meeting held in May.

The park in Parc Seymour is a fantastic asset for our community. The Community Council maintain the park for use by residents. The maintenance includes:

- Grass cutting
- Weeding
- Maintenance and repair of the play equipment, fencing, benches and all other items in the park

Where possible we try to use local companies to support our work. We are proud to be able to work in partnership with local companies WM and ALS to help maintain and develop our beautiful park.



Other Community Council Activities

The beautiful Jubilee bench was purchased to mark Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. The bench is installed in the park.

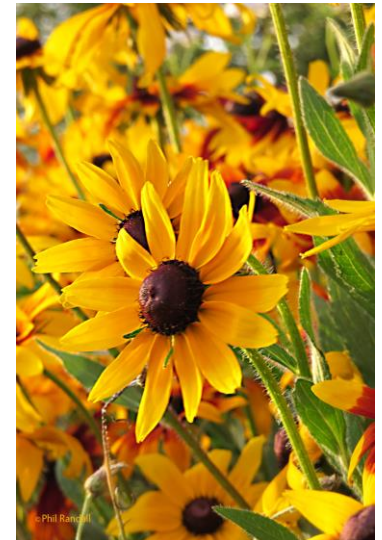


The **King's Coronation** was recognised in Penhow by the local area being decorated with bunting and flags. The Community Council were also delighted to be able to support the one street party that applied for funding to help them celebrate the event.

The Community Council have identified a space in the park to plant a memorial oak tree to also recognise the King's Coronation. It is hoped that the tree will be planted during the Autumn of 2023.

Several of the tired and faded street name plates have been replaced during the year. Rockfield Glade and Greenmeadow Drive are now clearly marked by new name plates.

The Community Council work to actively increase the bio-diversity of our locality. There are now five wildflower beds in the village and a further section of wildflower planting in the park. These areas are purposely planted with a variety of wild flowers to support pollinators and also to look beautiful. This year, seeds that were harvested from our flower beds were used to help create the displays that we have been enjoying this year.



Flower planters are located on Market Road, Rockfield Glade, Greenmeadow Drive, Meadowlands Close and on the A48 by St John's Hall.

Two bird feeders and a small area of wild plants are also maintained, adding to the biodiversity of our area.

Thank you to the many volunteers who work to plant, maintain and water the planted spaces throughout the year.



The November Remembrance display was installed in collaboration with the local Women's Institute group.



The beautiful Christmas lights around the village are installed by the Community Council. The lighting of the Christmas tree at the Baptist Chapel and the fireworks display were all supported by grants from the Community Council.

The **Community Defibrillator** is located outside the shop on Market Road. This is funded by the Community Council and is intended for anyone to use in an emergency. No training is necessary. When removed from its housing and switched on, it is fully automatic and will give audio instructions telling the user what to do. The defibrillator has been used twice during the last year.

Many thanks to Brian Dunford who regularly checks this vital piece of equipment, making sure that it is always ready for use.

Planning

The Community Council is a statutory consultee on local planning applications. Planning applications are part of the meeting agenda and all decisions made are recorded within the meeting minutes.

Grant Funding to the Community

Penhow Community Council regularly supports local good causes with grants each year. Grants must be applied for, in writing, using the grant request form. You will need to demonstrate a clear need for financial support to benefit local residents. Due to the very limited amount of funds available, there will be one round of funding each financial year and the date will be announced on the news page of our website.



Budget Funding

The Community Council is funded by a Precept Request to Newport City Council who raise the funds through the collection of the Council Tax. The Precept for 2022-23 was £22990.00 (which was the equivalent of £49.50 per year for a Band D property in Penhow).

The Community Council also has a small amount of savings that are used to support the planned works each year.

Overview of spending for 2022-23 below:

Community Services	Grass cutting, playing equipment maintenance, Christmas lights, wildflowers etc (This includes £8339.16 of expenses for the removal and clean up of the illegal encampment)	£21450.54
Council Costs	Office supplies, staff, insurance, website etc	£8188.83
Grants and Donations	Grants to the community	£2750.00
Capital Expenditure	New noticeboard on Market Road	£1940.08
Total		£34329.45
All Councillors waived their annual £150.00 allowance in 2022-23		

Future Events

D-Day Anniversary

We have ambitious plans to hold an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 2024. The main event will take place in the field and we have already secured military vehicles to form a showcase and we expect to hold a picnic, with entertainment and stalls and much more. If you have any ideas for items or would like to help with the organisation of this day, please get in touch.

Penhow D-Day Commemoration

Saturday, 8th June 2024 – save the date!

In 2022-23 the following grants were given:

- £1000.00 **St John's Hall** – support to help with the running and maintenance of the hall
- £500 to **Penhow Village Shop** – to help with the costs associated with the move into the new shop building
- £500.00 – 1st **Wentwood Scouts**
- £500.00 – 1st **Wentwood Scouts firework display**
- £250.00 – towards the lighting of the **Christmas tree** at the chapel

Reporting your concerns to the Community Council

Residents bring many concerns to the Community Council and these are always acted upon or reported to the appropriate authority for action. Over the last year we have reported the following concerns raised by residents to NCC:

Concern	Number of different concerns reported
Potholes and raised drains	15
Anti social behaviour	1
Fly tipping	6
Parking	1
Street Lighting	4
Stiles (broken or blocked)	3

As a direct response to the concerns that we have raised with Newport City Council, the damaged drain at the Greenmeadow Drive entrance to the park has been replaced and the CCTV has been reinstated on the A48 to monitor the recycling bins and help to reduce the amount of fly tipping here.

Did you know that you can report items directly to Newport City Council using the Report It! App on their website? This is very easy to do.

Go to the Newport City Council webpage www.newport.gov.uk

Once the page comes up on the screen, click on the Report It button.



You do not need to set up an account, just log in as a guest. Click on the topic link, they are in blue text and underlined and follow the instructions.

Here is a list of some of the topics that come under NCC responsibilities and can be easily reported using the Report It App.

- Bins, fly-tipping and litter
- Roads and pavements (pot holes)
- Street lights
- Parking

With more residents reporting issues directly as they occur, the Community can achieve a fast, effective outcome.

Useful Information:

Penhow CC –

clerk@penhowcommunity.org
www.penhowcommunity.org

Penhow Village Shop
 07726 936214

St John's Hall – booking enquiries Mrs L Stephens
 01633 400888 or see website
www.stjohnshallpenhow.co.uk

1st Wentwood Scout Group
 01633 892126

Grayhill Surgery, Caldicot
 01291 420282

Ringland Medical Practice
 01633 277011

Underwood Health Centre
 01633 413258

Newport City Council
 01633 656656

Newport and Gwent Samaritans
 0330 094 5717

Newport Citizens Advice
 01633 222622

Childline
 0800 1111

NHS Direct 111
 Emergency services 999
 Emergency services non-emergency number 101

Operation Harley is Gwent Police's response to targeting off-road vehicles that damage land, cause disturbances in communities and put other road users and pedestrians at risk.

Residents can report any concerns to Gwent Police by reporting online, via social media or by calling the control room on 101. An anonymous report can also be made via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 11.

St John's Hall, Penhow

The Community Council hold the monthly meetings in the hall. A new hall committee has recently been formed and a new website created www.stjohnshallpenhow.co.uk. Booking information can be found on the website or by telephoning Mrs L Stephens on 01633 400888.

Penhow Village Shop

Penhow Village Shop Ltd is now in its 15th successful year of trading. Operating in Parc Seymour for the benefit of the Community it is run entirely by volunteers. The shop is managed by a committee who are elected annually by shop association members at the AGM each March. For more information search penhowvillage.shop. Penhow Community Council have been pleased to assist with asset purchases in the past to support this valuable community enterprise.

If you have an item that you would like to be discussed at the monthly Community Council meeting, please contact the clerk so that it can be included on the agenda.



Meeting agendas and minutes can all be found on our website www.penhowcommunity.org and in the village noticeboards.

Thank you to Phil Randall (CardsofQuality.com) for the beautiful wildflower photographs used in this report.

