

# PENHOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT



**2024 - 2025**

## Penhow Community Council

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[www.penhowcommunity.org](http://www.penhowcommunity.org)

### Councillors:

Cllr John Wagstaff  
(Chair)  
Cllr Rebecca Hughes  
(Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Keith Jones  
Cllr Bryn Harries  
Cllr Andy Pedder  
Cllr Dayne Hayes  
Cllr Jan Bartlett  
VACANCY

### Newport City Council

Penhow forms part of the  
Bishton & Langstone Ward of  
Newport City Council.

There are two Ward  
Councillors:

City Cllr Will Routley  
[william.routley@newport.gov.uk](mailto:william.routley@newport.gov.uk)

City Cllr Ray Mogford  
[Ray.mogford@newport.gov.uk](mailto:Ray.mogford@newport.gov.uk)

## Welcome from Cllr John Wagstaff



In May 2024 I was re-elected as Chair to the Community Council, with Cllr Rebecca Hughes taking on the role as Vice-Chair.

Cllr Kyle Park who left the office of Councillor to move on to pastures new, has been ably replaced by Cllr Andy Pedder who joined the team in November 2024.

Earlier this year, Cllr Michael Weekes retired from the role of Councillor. This is a significant loss to the Community Council as not only was his experience valuable during the everyday workings of the Council, but he was the instigator of the wildflower areas within the village. He seeded and maintained the areas as well as managing the weed control of the path around the playing field. We wish him the best for the future.

Although sometimes taken for granted I must also mention the efforts of all the Community Councillors who have shown an elevated level of commitment to the Community of Penhow. The Community Council aims to always work for the Community, delivering the needs of its residents.

We cannot always deliver residents' expectations, as some things are out of our remit and jurisdiction, but we will do our utmost to assist where we can.

This has been a particularly good year for Penhow Community Council and for Penhow itself.

## About Penhow Community Council

Penhow Community Council is one of approximately 732 Town and Community Councils across Wales, and one of 13 Community Councils that come under the auspices of Newport City Council.

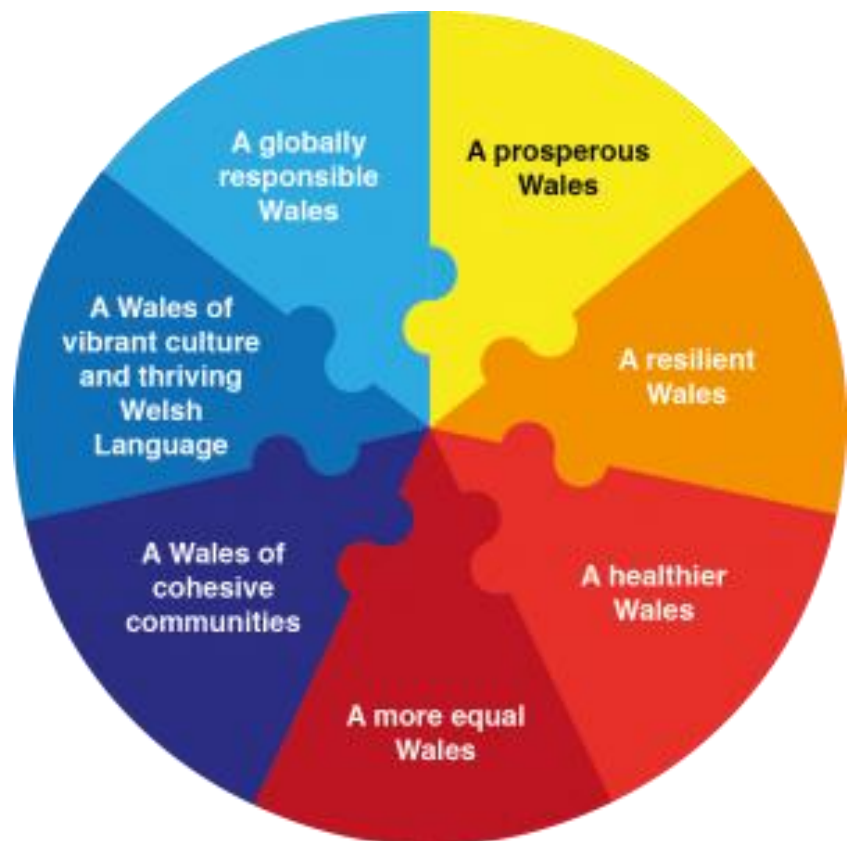
The role of the Councillor is a responsible one. Penhow Community Council have 8 Councillors (currently one vacancy) who were either elected or Co-opted to the role. Each one has an active interest in the Penhow Community, and they are dedicated to improving the quality of life and the local environment. The following are a snapshot of the actions and achievements of your Community Council in 2024/2025.

## Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 sets out 7 goals for Local Authorities to aim for. Each level of Local Government in Wales is responsible for meeting these goals.

Penhow Community Council is no different, and it aims to meet as many goals as it can, whilst 'Taking Care of the Community'.

Penhow Community Council also looks at how it will deliver the goals, taking into consideration whether they are long or short term, whether they consist of preventative measures, whether they are by integration and collaboration, and who will be involved in delivery.



## A Prosperous Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- By using local businesses to undertake work whenever possible
- Working in Partnership with other agencies and participating in City and regional meetings.
- By supporting a thriving local economy in Penhow and awarding local funding grants to organisations and societies within the Penhow area.



Above: Local contractors laying wildflower turf  
Below Left: Ragged Robin coming up in the turf.



With the same grant, we planted 150 Wild Daffodils bulbs, 100 wild bluebell and 100 snowdrops. These should start to show during winter/spring 2025/2026.



Right: Cllr Pedder, a representative from Keep Wales Tidy and The Clerk planting wild-flower bulbs on Greenmeadow Drive



During 2024/2025 we gave out several grants to organisations within the community and a few donations:

- 1st Wentwood Scouts—£500— (grant) towards new tables
- St John's Hall—£500—(grant) towards new chairs
- 1st Wentwood Scouts—£500—(donation) towards their Firework Display Fundraising event.
- Penhow Village Shop—£319— (grant) towards the cost of a new vegetable stand/display
- Penhow Chapel—£250—(donation) towards the cost of electricity for the Christmas Tree on the A48

## A Resilient Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Maintaining and enhancing the natural environment of Penhow, through our partnership with Newport City Council, Keep Wales Tidy, Social Farms and Gardens and residents.
- Creating healthy functioning eco-systems by planting a native hedge with a grant from BUPA and volunteers
- Providing dog waste bag dispensers within the playing field area.



*Above: Over two Sundays, over 40 volunteers and Councillors turned up on Parc Seymour Playing Field to plant a native hedge to encourage pollinators and wildlife in future years.*

*Right: A new dog waste bag dispenser provided within the Playing Field boundary.*

We provided each child who assisted in planting the hedge with a certificate of participation.



## A Healthier Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Providing access to useful phone numbers on our website and in our Annual Report.
- Ensuring the exercise equipment in the Playing Fields is maintained and checked.
- Providing health information and raising awareness of mental health and wellbeing via our Facebook page
- · Providing outdoor activities/events and outside spaces, which lead to better health and well-being.



Council received a certificate and plaque via Social Farms and Gardens from the Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) Award for the Community Council's management of the Parc Seymour Playing Fields. Check out the video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o4PhvSGIGpY>

*Above: The plaque presented to Council by Social Farms and Gardens for management of the Playing Fields.*

*Right: Cllr John Wagstaff and the Clerk Beverly Cawley receiving the certificate and plaque from Social Farms and Gardens.*





*Left: Certificate received from Social Farms & Gardens for management of the Parc Seymour Playing Fields.*

Penhow Community came together to remember D-Day 80 at a Family Fun Day on the playing field. With a 'Just for Fun' Dog Show, Bouncy Castle, a large Slide, a band, and lots of stalls.



Council was delighted that our City Councillor the Rt Worshipful, the Mayor of Newport, Ray Mogford graciously judged the dog show categories.



*Above: Just for Fun Dog Show*

*Right: General view of D-Day 80 Fun Day*

On D-Day 80 itself, Cllr John Wagstaff, Chair of the Community Council laid a wreath on behalf of the Community of Penhow at the War Memorial in Magor Square. Whilst in the evening, the beacon was lit on Penhow Playing Field, with the bugler playing Last Post and Reveille.

*Below Left: Cllr John Wagstaff laying a wreath at Magor War Memorial.  
Below Right: The Beacon lit as one of thousands around the country.*



## A More Equal Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Engaging with members of the Community whenever we can
- Giving people an equal opportunity to participate at Council meetings, offering an Open Forum for residents to put forward their concerns, views
- Ensuring training is provided to staff on the importance of equal opportunity. Staff have completed diversity training.
- Advertising opportunities for courses, activities etc. that apply to residents of various or limited ability and ages.
- Giving residents the opportunity to volunteer within their community.
- Providing a variety of children's play equipment including several pieces of 'inclusive' equipment.



*Left: Children's inclusive basket swing*

## A Cohesive Community of Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Providing an enclosed space for children to play, people to exercise and dogs to be walked
- Providing a space for people to come together in
- Making the Parc Seymour Playing Fields accessible to all
- By working with local groups and organisations to create the conditions where people in the community can do the things that matter to them

We work with the local uniformed organisation where when we can to support the youth of our community by way of grant funding and donations, similarly we support the St John's Hall in their endeavour to provide a warm, secure local meeting place for residents.

Council maintains the Playing fields with its fitness equipment, benches, and wildflower areas by keeping the paths clear and tidy, undertaking health and safety checks on equipment and keeping the grass cut and signage clean.



*Left: Clearing away the risings from the Wildflower areas*

*Right: Park signage recently cleaned.*



## A Vibrant and Thriving Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Supporting and using local businesses
- Planting native hedging and trees within the community
- Encourage the youth to participate in local activities.

Below: New tables in the 'Pike Den'



Council assisted the 1<sup>st</sup> Wentwood Scouts with a grant towards new tables to ensure they have the necessary fixture and fittings to support their expanding numbers. Council also made a donation of £500 to enable the Firework display to be enhanced in order to provide entertainment to both young and old in the community whilst raising funds which help to subsidise the 'Summer Camp' as well as booster the Pike Den refurbishment fund.



Council continues to use local suppliers and businesses where possible. It recently financially supported the Penhow Village Shop, which provides a service to the community, by granting monies to buy a new shelving system for fruit and vegetables. St. John's Hall provides a safe space for meetings and groups, and Council again were able to assist them financially with monies toward new chairs.

*Left: New shelving unit outside the Penhow Village Shop*

## A Globally Responsible Penhow

We have achieved this by:

- Planting a new native hedge
- Providing dog waste bag dispensers
- Supporting Wildlife and pollinators
- Reducing the carbon footprint by using local suppliers where possible.



Council with the assistance of volunteers in February and March 2025 planted over 1000 native hedge slips, of 7 different varieties, along the boundary of the Parc Seymour Playing field, with a view to providing a future haven for small nesting birds, bats, mammals and pollinators.

Above: New native hedge slips along the boundary line of Parc Seymour Playing Field

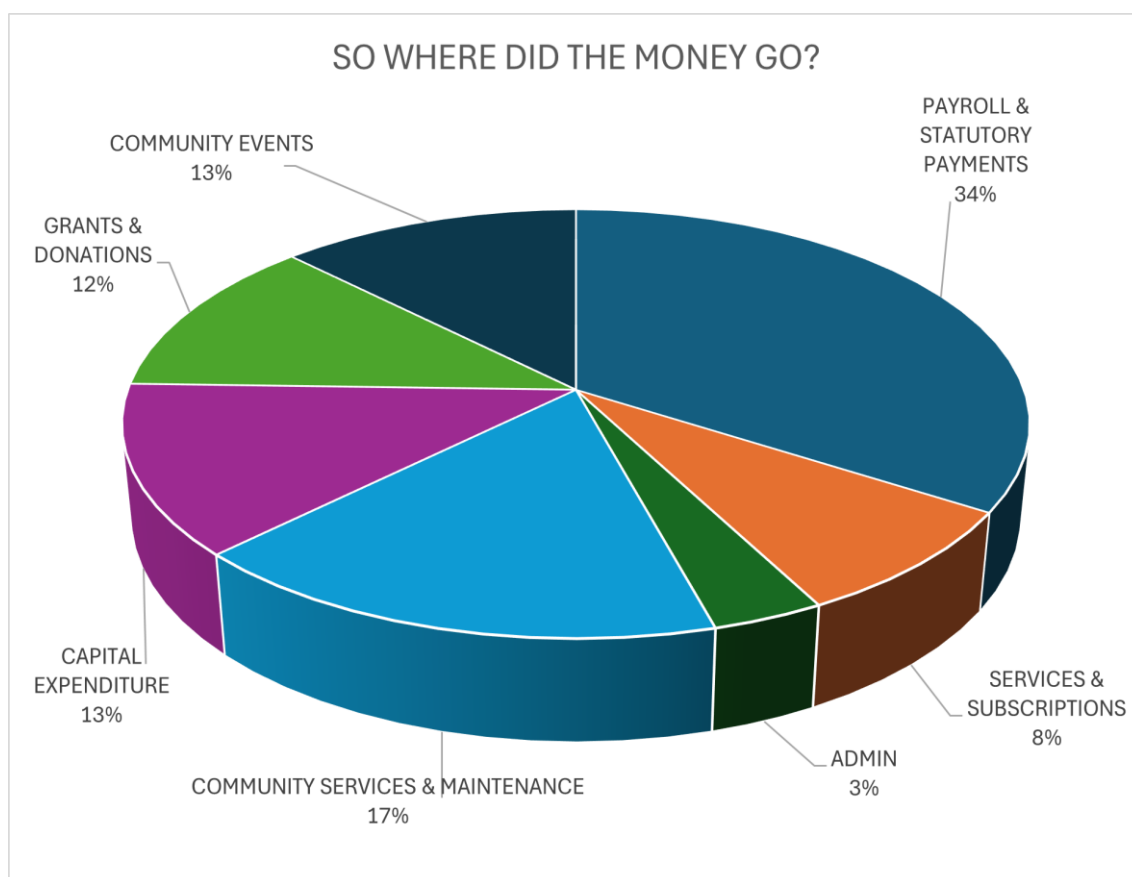
## Have we met out Well-being Goals at Penhow?

Council is well on the way to meeting the Well-being of Future Generations goals, but these continue year in year out, and Council needs to meet and improve on them as time moves on.

Councillors will continue to look at and meet these goals whilst bearing in mind the needs of the community at all times.

## FINANCES

The money used by the Council to provide services and maintain its assets is funded by an Annual Precept. The budget and Precept is agreed in December each year, for the next financial year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April. This precept is funded via a portion of each resident's Council Tax bill.



*Above: Pie Chart showing where money was spent in the financial year 2024/2025*

Councillors are responsible for how the Precept is spent. It is public money, and they will endeavour to spend the money wisely whilst obtaining best value for money. The monies pay the wages of the Council Clerk, pay for IT, membership to the Council's advisory body, Health and Safety inspections of play equipment, Christmas trees, grass cutting, emptying of litter bins to name but a few. It also pays for any projects or events the Council runs for, or in the Community, as well as donations or grants to local groups and organisations to assist them in providing facilities/amenities for the community.

Unused monies from the 2025/2026 budget remain on deposit, building up a pot to fund any emergencies that arise, or towards future projects.

During the financial year 2026/2027 the Council will be looking at setting up a Community Place Plan to assist Councillors in planning for the future, detailing the needs or wants of the community, what is feasible and when to implement any changes. Council will be inviting members of the community to join a working group to get this underway.

This Community Place Plan will assist the Council in planning and budgeting for the future, making sure that it spends its monies wisely, whilst trying to meet the expectations and needs of its residents.

If you are a resident of Penhow and are interested in shaping the future of the community, then why not join the Community Place Plan workshop. Get in touch with one of your councillors, or email the clerk on [clerk@penhowcommunity.org](mailto:clerk@penhowcommunity.org)

## **COUNCIL DUTIES UNDER LEGISLATION**

Under legislation, the Council has many duties that it must fulfil. These include meeting deadlines for publication of minutes, opening meetings up to the public, publishing accounts, auditing the finances and operation of the Council as well as producing and publishing a report on Biodiversity and the resilience of eco-systems. Council undertakes to meet these duties as a matter of course.

If you would like any information about the Community Council, what it is doing, or what it has done in the past, then please do contact a member of the Council, or the Clerk to the Council and they will do the very best to answer any questions you may have.

