

PENHOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT



2025 - 2026

Penhow Community Council

Beverly Cawley:
clerk@penhowcommunity.org
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Yr Hen Berllan,
Common-y-coed, Magor
NP26 3AX

www.penhowcommunity.org

Councillors:

Cllr John Wagstaff
(Chair)
Cllr Andy Pedder
(Vice-Chair)
Cllr Keith Jones
Cllr Dayna Hayes
Cllr Jan Bartlett
Cllr Lewis Morgan
Cllr Paula Fouweather
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

City Cllr Ray Mogford
Ray.mogford@newport.gov.uk

Welcome from Cllr John Wagstaff



In May 2025, I was re-elected Chair of the Community Council, with Cllr Becky Hughes appointed as Vice Chair. Following Becky's resignation as a councillor, Cllr Andy Pedder took on the role of Vice-Chair.

In May 2025, Cllr Lewis Morgan filled the casual vacancy, and Cllr Paula Fouweather joined the Council following Becky Hughes's resignation. We warmly welcome them both and wish them every success as they work with fellow councillors to serve residents across Penhow.

Shortly before the Annual Meeting in May 2026, Cllr Bryn Harries stepped down due to external circumstances. We are sorry to see Bryn leave, wish him well for the future, and look forward to welcoming a new councillor in due course.

I would like to thank all Community Councillors for their continued support and hard work throughout the year. Their commitment to Penhow and its residents is greatly appreciated.

While many matters fall outside our remit, we will always do our best to help and, where possible, direct residents to the appropriate source of support.

During 2025/2026, casework handled by me, fellow councillors and the Clerk included concerns about overhanging vegetation, faulty lights, fly-tipping, potholes, signage, parking, speeding, disabled parking, flooding and planning matters to name but a few.

John Wagstaff

About Penhow Community Council

Penhow Community Council is one of around 732 town and community councils in Wales, and one of 13 community councils within the Newport City Council area.

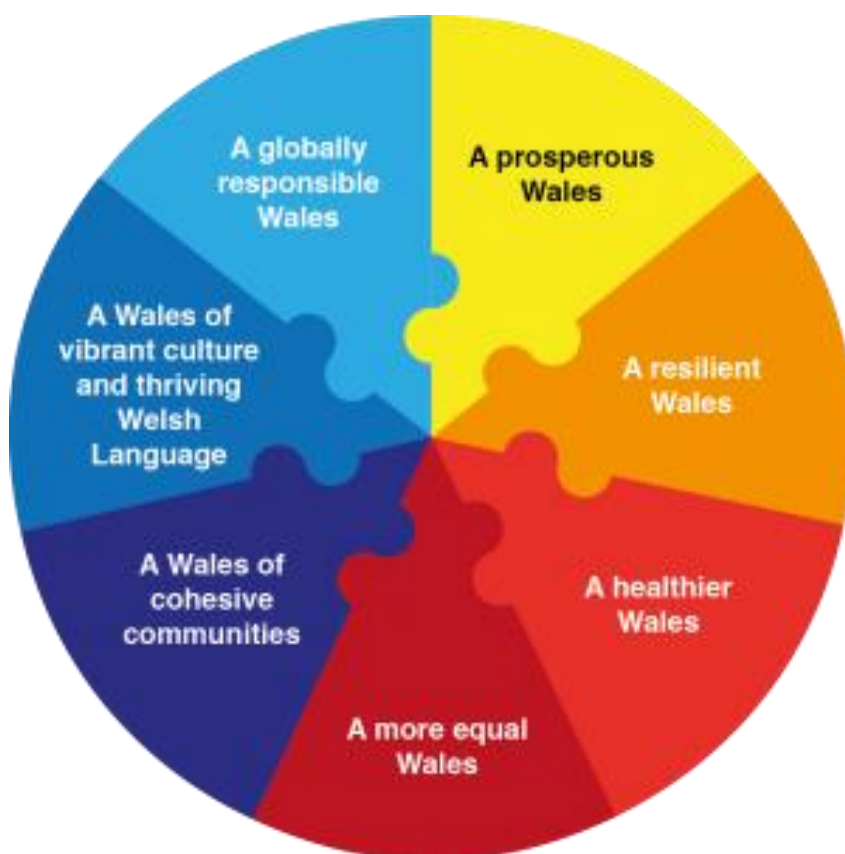
Councillors have an important and responsible role. Penhow Community Council has eight councillors, with one vacancy at present, who were either elected or co-opted. Each councillor has a strong interest in Penhow and is committed to improving local quality of life and the environment. The following provides a brief overview of the Council's actions and achievements during 2025/2026.

Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015

The Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015 sets out seven goals for local authorities to work towards. Every level of local government in Wales is responsible for helping to achieve them.

Penhow Community Council is committed to supporting as many of these goals as possible while continuing to take care of the community.

In doing so, the Council considers how the goals will be delivered, including whether actions are long or short term, preventative, based on integration and collaboration, and who will be involved.



We have achieved these goals by:

- Supporting and using local businesses and suppliers wherever possible to reduce our carbon footprint
- Working with partner agencies and participating in city and regional meetings
- Supporting Penhow's local economy through grants to local organisations and societies
- Maintaining and improving Penhow's natural environment in partnership with Newport City Council, Keep Wales Tidy, Social Farms and Gardens, and local residents
- Encouraging wildlife and pollinators to support healthy ecosystems
- Providing dog waste bag dispensers to help keep the playing field clean and accessible
- Sharing useful contact numbers on our website and in the Annual Report
- Sharing health information and promoting mental health and wellbeing through our Facebook page
- Maintaining and inspecting the exercise equipment in the Playing Fields
- Keeping Parc Seymour Playing Fields accessible to all, with outdoor space for play, exercise, events and dog walking, including inclusive children's play equipment
- Engaging with community members and offering an Open Forum so residents can share their concerns and views at Council meetings
- Providing staff and councillors with training on the Council's Code of Conduct, values and equal opportunities, including staff diversity training
- Promoting courses, activities and opportunities suitable for residents of different ages and abilities
- Creating opportunities for residents to volunteer within the community and beyond
- Working with local groups and organisations to help residents take part in activities that matter to them
- Encouraging young people to take part in local activities
- Becoming a Keep Wales Tidy Hub for litter picking equipment.

Have we met our Well-being Goals at Penhow?

The Council is making good progress towards the Well-being of Future Generations goals. As these are ongoing commitments, councillors will continue to review and improve their work while keeping the needs of the community at the centre of their decisions.

Projects and Actions during 2025/2026

During 2025/2026 we gave out several grants to organisations within the community and a few donations:

- 1st Wentwood Scouts—£500— (grant) towards new fire doors for the 'Pike Den' Scout Hut
- St John's Hall—£500—(grant) towards new blinds and roof repairs
- 1st Wentwood Scouts—£500—(donation) towards their Firework Display Fundraising event.
- Penhow Village Shop—£390— (grant) towards a new shelving unit adjacent to the counter
- Penhow Chapel—£250—(donation) towards the cost of electricity for the Christmas Tree on the A48
- Coed Gwent Ladies Group - £150 (start-up grant) toward hall hire for meetings

The Council has agreed to support the Village Shop wherever possible as it seeks to purchase the property, which is currently for sale.



St John's Church requested support for a village notice board to promote events. As the Council's powers to support the Church directly are limited, it agreed instead to replace the Greenmeadow Drive bus stop notice board with a new double-sided board. One side is available for the Church and other local organisations to advertise events.

The new notice board on Greenmeadow Drive

The 1st Wentwood Scouts are working to update and refurbish the 'Pike Den', their long-standing headquarters. The Council supported this work with a grant towards new fire doors to help meet fire safety regulations.

One of the new Fire Doors at the Pike Den



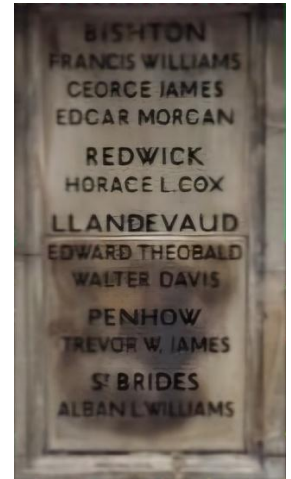
In May 2025, to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe, we lit the beacon on the Playing Fields. Thank you to the 1st Wentwood Scouts for setting up and lighting the beacon, and to our bugler for sounding the Last Post and Reveille. In August 2025, Cllr John Wagstaff represented the community at a service at Magor War Memorial for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, which marked the end of the Second World War. On Remembrance Sunday, he and Cllr Lewis Morgan attended the service in Magor Square and laid a wreath on behalf of the Penhow community in memory of Trevor W James of Penhow, who died during the First World War.



Cllr John Wagstaff at the lighting of the Beacon for VE Day



Cllr Lewis Morgan laying a wreath at the War Memorial in Magor Square on Remembrance Sunday



Magor War Memorial Plaque listing Trevor James of Penhow

During the financial year, the Council completed several projects. These included replacing the fencing around the Children's Play Park, which had deteriorated.

New fencing around the Children's Play Park area



The Council also installed a second dog waste bag dispenser near the Market Road entrance. The free bags have encouraged dog owners using the Playing Field to pick up after their dogs.

As children use both the Playing Field and Play Park, it is important that all dog waste is collected and disposed of responsibly.



Second Dog Waste Bag Dispenser in the Playing Field sited near the Market Road entrance.



New Lectern Style Notice Board situated in the Playing Fields

Using a grant secured from BUPA in 2024/2025, the Council also installed a new lectern-style notice board beside the Playing Field path. This will soon display information about mammals, birds and pollinators found in and around the park and may also be used to promote future events and walks.

The Council again provided two Christmas trees and installed small festive lighting displays around the village in the run-up to Christmas. It also hosted a Carol Service led by the Severn Tunnel Silver Band, where residents enjoyed hot chocolate and mince pies provided by Councillors.



Residents joining in singing carols



The Severn Tunnel Silver Band at the outdoor carol singing



On Sunday 8 March 2026, communities across the nation marked the National Day of Reflection, remembering those who died during the Covid-19 pandemic, those who lost loved ones, and those still affected physically or mentally. To mark the occasion, the Council decorated its commemorative seat beside the Greenmeadow Drive bus stop with daffodils – yellow being the colour used across the nation to remember and reflect.

Covid-19 commemorative seat adorned by daffodils on Reflection Sunday

The Council remains committed to improving biodiversity across the village. It continues to maintain several wildflower areas, which were well used by bees and other pollinators in June 2025. These efforts show how small actions can help protect the natural environment. The Council has also updated its Biodiversity and Resilience Report and prepared a new three-year plan, with further details available on its website.

Check out this video taken in June 2025 of the pollinators in action:

penhowcommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Pollinators-in-Playing-Fields-2025.mp4



Collage of photographs of the wildflower areas across the village

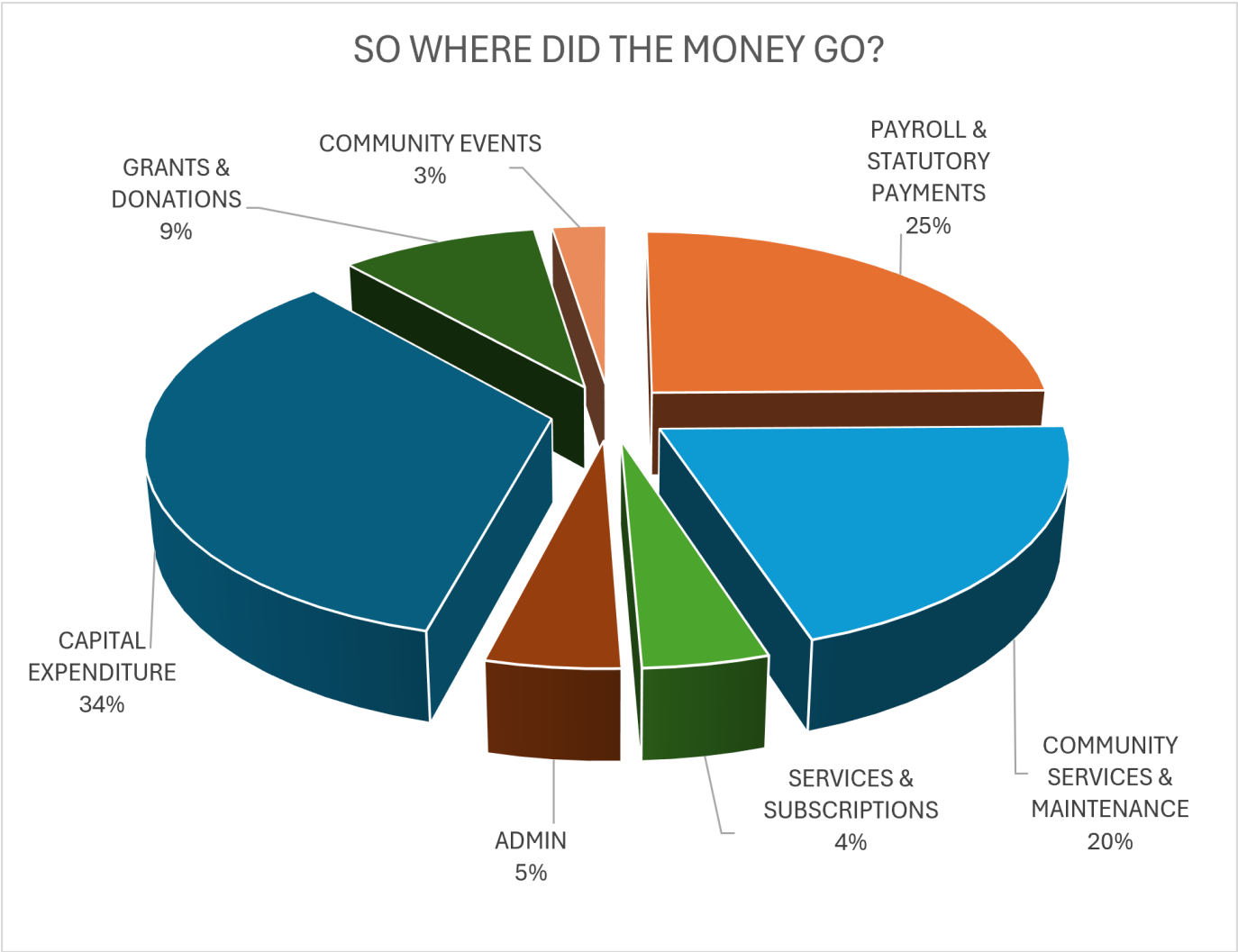
The planned Family Fun Day in June 2025 was cancelled due to an approaching storm. The safety of exhibitors and attendees was the priority, and heavy rain was also expected to damage the Playing Field.

The Council also has ongoing responsibilities, including maintaining the Playing Field and ensuring the Play Park remains safe for users. Any issues with the Play Park have been resolved promptly, with user safety treated as the priority.

The Council has continued to work with partner agencies, including our City Councillors, Newport City Council, the South-East Wales Trunk Road Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Keep Wales Tidy, to address local issues such as speeding, parking, flooding, grass verges and litter.

FINANCES

The Council funds its services and maintains its assets through an Annual Precept. The budget and Precept are agreed each December for the financial year beginning on 1 April, with the Precept collected through residents’ Council Tax bills.



Pie Chart showing where money was spent in the financial year 2025/2026

Councillors are responsible for ensuring the Precept is spent wisely and provides best value for public money. These funds cover costs such as the Clerk's salary and statutory payments, IT, membership of the Council's advisory body, health and safety inspections of play equipment, Christmas trees, grass cutting and litter bin emptying. They also support Council projects, community events, and grants or donations to local groups and organisations that provide facilities and amenities for residents.

Unspent funds from the 2025/2026 budget remain on deposit to cover emergencies and support future projects.

In 2026/2027, the Council plans to develop a Five-Year Development Plan to guide future spending. The plan will identify community needs and priorities, assess what can be achieved, and help decide when changes should be introduced. Interested residents and community groups are invited to join a working group to help take this forward.

The Five-Year Development Plan will support future planning and budgeting, help ensure responsible spending, and enable the Council to respond to residents' needs and expectations.

Penhow residents and community groups who would like to help shape the community's future are encouraged to join the Five-Year Development Plan workshop. To get involved, please contact a councillor or email the Clerk at 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.





PENHOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL



- ☐ Would you like to join a working group to help plan for the future of Penhow?
- ☐ To help shape your community?
- ☐ To help the Community and City Council understand what the needs of Penhow residents are?

FIVE YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN Working Group

Are you interested?

Then let us know by contacting one of the Councillors, or contacting the Clerk on clerk@penhowcommunity.org



