

VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Annual Report (Section 52 LOCAL GOV& ELECTIONS(WALES) ACT 2021
2022-2023

COUNCILLORS	WARD
Elaine Forehead CHAIR	Lansbury
Ann Broughton -Pettit VICE CHAIR	Lansbury
John Pettit	Brynau
Matthew Ferris	Brynau
Sheila Jones	Porset
Lynne Hughes	Porset
Sheila Newbury	Porset
Jeff Grenfell	Lansbury
Christine Forehead	Porset
Sharon Harris	Lansbury
John Leek	Lansbury (ceased to hold office from December 2022)

Month	Description and Comments		Total spend month
April		Little business and no full council meeting due to Elections taking place the following month	£2,794.59
May	Election £3222.18	AGM, followed by the first Full Meeting of Council. Declaration of office signed and requests made for Register of interests to be returned within the statutory 28days	£3,244.18
June	Queens Jubilee	A large donation £500, by Cllr Elaine Forehead,enabled Bridging Together,to hold a party for all local residents in the ward,on the grounds of Van Community Centre	£1,115.74
July	Training	The clerk obtained her ILCA qualification	£1,109.27
August	Tennis Lessons £734.79	22 Pupils from St James school signed up to the project, at Caerphilly Tennis Club ,over the summer holidays.	£6,443.42
	Playpacks £1172.90	In collaboration with parent network,pupils at St James school were given a pack of age appropriate educational books	
	Bursary Award	The clerk was succesfully awarded a bursary to cover training and qualification for ILCA to CILCA	
September		With the lifting of covid restrictions,this was the first face to face Full Council Meeting at Van Community Centre	£2,464.69
October	Grant Awards £500	Bridging Together, were awarded financial assistance,to fund Halloween & Christmas Party in Van Commnuty Centre for all the residents in the ward	
	£100	Caerphilly Twinning Association were awarded financial assistance to help towards costs for host familys and their guests	

		The police were granted funding to take a small number of pupils, from St James School, to Meadow Farm. The police commissioner rejected part of the funding needed to help the trip go ahead, so the project had to be cancelled	£2,386.81
November	A New Duty was introduced	Section 67 The Local Gov Act & Elections (Wales) 2021 The council adopted a new training policy, plan and record, This is required to be published on the website	£2,342.04
December	Christmas Lamppost Motifs £5732.83	6 new lamppost motifs were installed outside St James School, alongside those already on the Lansbury stretch. Unfortunately both sites had problems and delays. This meant that the lights were only illuminated for only a fraction of the Christmas period	£2,845.82
	Grant Award £500	New Beginnings, residents at Cole Court were awarded funding, to enhance their wellbeing and this has enabled them to organise a theatre trip	
	A donation for Christmas Selection Boxes	At 'Breakfast with Santa' in the Van Community Centre, every child was given a selection box. VanCCouncil offered £80 to cover the costs	
January	Internal Auditor	In light of the problems with the delays of the annual audit, it was agreed to appoint Huw Jones as the new internal auditor for 22-23	£8,497.15
	Biodiversity	Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (S6 Duty) A new Biodiversity report was submitted and published on the VanCC website. It will also be published- https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Biodiversity-Duty-Reporting	
	Grant Award £244	CSO Sarah Barbour submitted another application, and was awarded funding for the total costs to Meadow Farm. 10 lucky pupils were selected. Photos are posted on the website	
	£500	Welsh Air Ambulance were awarded financial assistance	
	John Leek £150	After an absence of more than 6 months Cllr John Leek was disqualified from the community council. His Cllr remuneration was accepted in full. VanCCouncil are in the process of developing a policy to account for the new allowances being introduced in April 2023 and to establish lawful parameters on future payments	
	Orchard pack	VanCCouncil was successful in its bid for a grant from Keep Wales Tidy, a Local Places for Nature initiative. This was received by the volunteer residents on Van Terrace, who have taken on the project for the next 5 years. Through sheer determination and hard work, we can thank Cllr Sheila Jones, that this was achieved.	
	Training	Clerk obtained ILCA-CILCA qualification	
February	Casual Vacancy	The casual vacancy for the Councillor in Lansbury ward was advertised on the website and on its notice boards	£2,198.62

March	Casual Vacancy	Sharon Harris,an independant candidate was nominated after a majority vote to become the Lansbury Ward Councillor	
	Email Licenses/Microsoft 365 Business package	The council took the bold decision to cancel microsoft councillor email licenses,and use individual generic outlook .com ,making £600 saving	
	Local Champion Award	This new iniative will be actioned in April to take into account the new financial year and budget (First award £50 x2 Runners up £25) Award presentation date still to be confirmed	
	Internal Auditor	Due to unforeseen circumstances, Huw Jones the newly appointed internal auditor had to withdraw his services and it was agreed to continue using Mike Fisher	
	Grant Award £500	Bridging Together -for all the resident children in the ward to enjoy Easter bonnet making,easter hunt and party	
		VanCCouncil approved a Grant evaluation form to be included with all approved financial requests- to assess the benefits to the community,merits and to identify gaps for improvement	
	Bursary Award	The clerk was succesfully awarded a bursary to cover training and qualification portfolio for CILCA to start in the new financial year	£2,360.39
	CIL Infrastructure projects		
December	VanCCentre	St Helens school adopted the raised beds outside the community centre and were kitted out with tools and ppe	£302.69
Total income		£30,277.16	
Total expenditure		£37,802.72	