



**VAN COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CYMUNED Y  
FAN**

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## **VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

### **Annual Report**

**2023-2024**

**(Section 52 LOCAL GOV & ELECTIONS(WALES) ACT 2021)**

#### **COUNCILLORS**

*Elaine Forehead CHAIR*

*Anne Broughton-Pettit VICE CHAIR*

*John Pettit*

*Matthew Ferris*

*Sheila Jones*

*Lynne Hughes*

*Sheila Newbury*

*Jeff Grenfell*

*Christine Forehead*

*Sharon Harris*

#### **WARD**

*Lansbury*

*Lansbury*

*Brynau*

*Brynau*

*Porset*

*Porset*

*Porset*

*Lansbury*

*Porset*

*Lansbury*

#### **Month**

#### **Description, Business, Photos and Comments**

#### **May**

*Business as usual! Annual Meeting, followed by the first Full Meeting of Council. Declarations of office signed, and requests made for updated Register of interests.*

#### **July**

*Van Community Council accounts were submitted to External Audit Wales. We are pleased to say we sailed through without any recommendations.*

#### **THRIVING COMMUNITIES-Awarded grant £500**

*At the Van Community Centre funding covered the cost of 5 events –with some providing free light refreshments.*

*1 A free concert to get to know people – a relaxed fun event.*

*2 Self Love workshop (based on Self Positivity Bias in Positive Psychology).*

*3 Self Love for MEN workshop (based on Self Positivity Bias in Positive Psychology).*

*4 Positive Psychology for Parents.*

*5 Minimising Anxiety & Depression.*

#### **UNIFORM EXCHANGE-Awarded grant £500**

*To provide clothes rails.*

#### **CREATE CAERPHILLY -Awarded grant £500**

*Is a Skills and Wellbeing CIC' social enterprise underpinned by the Tallis habits of mind: Inquisitive, collaborative, persistent, disciplined and imaginative. They utilise arts and crafts to enable those of all ages to develop these skills through the creative process, whilst realising the health benefits of creativity, socialising and having some fun along the way. Led by a team of creatives with over 15 years' experience of facilitating workshops and teaching within mainstream and ALN school environments, they offered a vast range of craft projects and techniques for all ages and capabilities at the Van Community Centre. At least 20 young people took part in the sessions!*

**Sunday October 8th**

**Caerphilly Athletic Football Club-Awarded grant £500**



*This funding provided a free football training session for Primary School age children and give them the means afterwards to continue to play, with a free football to all the children participating, along with a certificate. The session was delivered by fully DBS and FAW accredited coaches.*

*It was completely free of charge, highlighting the benefits of exercise and the fun aspect of*

*sport, children participating and enjoying the session and showcasing how as a local organisation can have an active role in community engagement.*

**Thursday, November 16th**

**Community Champion Awards**

*A new initiative to celebrate the contribution residents make to their community. All those who took the time to complete an application form and those nominated were invited to an awards evening at Van Community Centre*



**Runner up  
Vicky Jones**



**Runner up  
Jennifer Jones**



**Winner-Lisa Watkins, Uniform Exchange & Volunteers**

*A grassroots scheme which helps parents meet the costs of school uniforms has been honoured for its work.*

*Caerphilly Uniform Exchange, based on Atlee Court in Caerphilly's Lansbury Park, was named the winner of Van Community Council's inaugural Community Champions Award*

*Jennifer Jones and Vicky Jones were also recognised for their voluntary efforts, with each collecting a runners-up award. The pair also help run the Cwtch cafe at the Van Community Centre.*

**Tuesday 28 November, 2.30pm – 4.30pm**

### **Lansbury Park Book Launch**

*The neighbourhood policing team in Bedwas and the chief constable of Gwent Police, Pam Kelly, invited you to the official launch of 'Llamas, litter picking and the mini police', an inspiring book written by schoolchildren from Lansbury Park!*

*The event celebrates the book, and you saw the schoolchildren who helped write it, author Mike Church and Gwent officers came together for a fun-packed reading and conversation on how the book came to be.*

*You could hear more about the story of Rosie, a young schoolgirl who joins the mini police to find out more about the law and help her community, and then meet the author, officers and children who helped create it and enjoy a range of refreshments.*

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Christmas Grotto**

*This free event held at Van Community Centre, was organised by CSO Sarah Barbour and her colleagues at the station.*

*This was made possible from support by The chair, Cllr Elaine Forehead and Van Community Councils Chairs Fund ;to provide a Christmas tree, decorations and catering.*

*(These have been donated to Van Community Centre)*

*This was an overwhelming success!*



### **January**

*Wales Ambulance*

*Awarded a donation of £50.*

**CREATE CAERPHILLY** *Awarded financial assistance of £480, to build on the success of their project in July.*

*Their aim for 2024 is to establish a programme of 12 monthly teen sessions at Van Community Centre. This funding provided 2 of the 12 sessions.*



## CIL Community Infrastructure projects

### August

#### VAN ALLOTMENTS

Financial assistance was awarded for raised beds to contribute to the wellbeing project £1296.00.

### November £1542.60



#### **A new Notice board was installed on Brookside Crescent, outside Van Allotments**

Notice boards already in situ  
Lansbury Park  
Brynau Road  
Mornington Meadows  
Van Community Centre

### March 2024 £1396.00

With the support from Van Community Council and charity Jack's Appeal, the allotments on Castle Park, Caerphilly, unveiled the potentially life-saving equipment on Friday April 12.

The new defib was unveiled by Ray Hall, Cllr Elaine Forehead, chair Van Allotments Tracey Davies, and founder of Jack's Appeal, June Thomas

Tracey Davies: "We've been trying to sort this for a couple of years now but we didn't have any electric here to charge the batteries. "The solar panels we installed have solved that problem, and we couldn't be happier to have this here." The defibrillator itself is on the outside of the gate on Brookside Crescent and will be available for public use.



June Thomas was also there for the launch and knows the importance of defibrillator accessibility more than most. June lost her son, Jack Thomas, in 2012 aged just 15-years-old to a still unknown heart condition. To date, through Jack's Appeal, June has managed to install more than 260 defibrillators across several counties in south Wales. Speaking to Caerphilly Observer, June said: "We first installed a defibrillator in Oakdale Comprehensive over ten years ago and it's been amazing to see how far we've come. "There's now a defibrillator at every comprehensive school in Caerphilly, and we've also carried out over 1,700 heart screenings in young people which has saved many lives. "This will hopefully never be needed, but it's always good to have one available."

#### VAN ALLOTMENTS

VanCC has agreed to sponsor "Grower of the Year", -this will be included in the award evening scheduled for November

### Summary of Accounts

Summary Accounts	End of year figures 2021/22	End of year figures 2022/23	End of year figures 2023/24
<b>B/F</b>	£52,403	£50,539.00	£ 43,013.44
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	£27,355	£30,277.16	£ 28,587.42
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	£14,619	£20,317.15	£17,851.33
Fees to outside Bodies	£2,597	£5,541.79	£ 2,404.32
Council Allowances/Expenses	£1,966	£1,617.50	£ 1,684.54
Financial Assistance/ Projects	£10,167	£10,023.59	£ 6,121.20
CIL spend		£302.69	£4822.60
<b>CIL TOTAL SURPLUS (restricted)</b>		£7,274.70	£2,452.10
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	£29,349	£37,802.72	£ 32,884.29
<b>OVERALL SURPLUS/ DEFICIT</b>	£50,539	£43,013.44	£ 38,716.57

### Training Record 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024

Name of Councillor	New Councillor induction	Food Hygiene	Digital Skills	Cookery sessions	OVW Chairing Skills
Elanie Forehead					
Sharon Harris	25/5/2023	pass 01/06/23	OCT-DEC 2023	OCT-DEC 2023	
Jeff Grenfell					
Anne Broughton-Pettit					02/11/2023
Matthew Ferris					
John Pettit					
Sheila Jones			OCT-DEC 2023		
Sheila Newbury					
Christine Forehead					
Lynne Hughes					
<b>CLERK</b>	<b>CilCA</b>	<b>Food Hygiene</b>			
Michelle Moore	Pass 5/2/24	pass 01/06/23			

## Recommendations

*The engagement of all Councillors to develop an effective **Action plan** for the next 3 years is crucial. It would also be good practice for Van Community Council to have and **Engagement Policy** in place. Working in partnership with local networks and organisations there is always a constant need to address those who rarely participate, hard to reach and express any views in the community. Van Community Council will continue to use its money allocated in its budget for ring fenced projects-especially CIL funds, which has a time limit (2025)*

*Feeding off the success of the **Van Community Champion Awards**, it has been agreed to try and expand the project and promote the initiative so that it has a far greater reach and impact. Van CC has now incorporated "Grower of the Year" at Van Allotments. This could be achieved by chatting face to face, posters and a better command over social media to advertise and encourage residents in the community to participate.*

*VanCC will strive to embrace with The Digital World we are now emersed in. With this in mind VanCC will endeavour to keep pace with training needs and that all our councillors can be reached via email ,by phone or if and when necessary face to face*