

VAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual Report

2024-2025

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

COUNCILLORS

Elaine Forehead CHAIR

Anne Broughton-Pettit VICE CHAIR

Sharon Harris

Sheila Newbury

John Pettit

Matthew Ferris

Sheila Jones

Lynne Hughes

Jeff Grenfell

Christine Forehead

WARD

Lansbury

Lansbury

Lansbury

Lansbury

Brynau

Brynau

Porset

Porset

Porset

Porset

MEMBERSHIPS:

One Voice Wales (OVW)

The Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC)

Month

Description, Business, Photos and Info

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.

June

In collaboration with volunteers, Van Community Council provided new fruit trees for the orchard on Van terrace

July

Van Community Council accounts were submitted to External Audit Wales. We received QUALIFIED. We are pleased to say we have addressed all recommendations.

September

in partnership with Skateboard Academy Uk

Van Community Council funded free sessions in the Easter holidays, April 2024 at the skateboard park, Clos Guto





*October Half Term 2024
Free sessions were offered to everyone in the ward!*

December 2024

Christmas at the Caerphilly Uniform Exchange

This event was held at their premise and Lansbury stretch

This was made possible from support by chair, Cllr Elaine Forehead, Van Community Councils Chairs Fund.

Father Christmas handed out age-appropriate gifts and a selection box to all children who came along. He posed for photos with everyone who attended.



Local business, Chunky's Chips donated a freshly cooked, turkey crown, which was accompanied with apple or cranberry sauce.

This was offered to everyone that attended along with mince pies.

This was an overwhelming success!

January 2025



January 20th, 2025

“Blue Monday”

Cllr Sheila Jones played an integral part in organising the event in The Van Community Centre.

Van Community Council provided a comprehensive contact list that represented all the organisations and network partners that work within the ward.

February 2025

Van Community Council have continued to support Wales Air Ambulance and generously donated £500

March 2025

Due to the limitations proposed from the Lawn Tennis Association, this project was not viable for summer 2024.

Going forward, Van Community Council are in the process of finalising a new tennis project for 2025.

In partnership with Caerphilly Tennis Club, and their head coach Jonathan Morgan this will be open to the whole ward, and based out of the Van Community Centre

Community Infrastructure projects

June 2024

Van Orchard-Fruit trees £64.98

September 2024

Van Allotments Financial assistance was awarded for £11411.60 to refurbish polytunnels

Summary of Accounts

Summary Accounts	End of year figures 2022/23	End of year figures 2023/24	End of year figures 2024/25
B/F	£50,539.00	£ 43,013.44	£38,716.14
TOTAL INCOME	£30,277.16	£ 28,587.42	£33,283.96
General EXPENDITURE	£20,317.15	£17,851.33	£24,570.67
Fees to outside Bodies	£5,541.79	£ 2,404.32	£3,413.02
Council Allowances/Expenses	£1,617.50	£ 1,684.54	£1,404.00
Financial Assistance/ Projects	£10,023.59	£ 6,121.20	£4,215.81
CIL spend	£302.69	£4822.60	£1,836.08
CIL TOTAL SURPLUS (restricted)	£7,274.70	£2,452.10	£615.67
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£37,802.72	£ 32,884.29	£35,439.58
OVERALL SURPLUS/ DEFICIT	£43,013.44	£ 38,716.57	£36,560.52

Training Record 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024

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

Recommendations and Conclusions

Van Community Council will strive to embrace with The Digital World we are now emersed in. Acknowledging the need to be digitally aware, Van Community Council are continuing to move forward with a Cyber Security Strategy, a necessary asset to the community council's governance. In January 2025 Van Community Council adopted a new Data Protection Policy

Van Community Council also recognise that it would be good practice for 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. The engagement of all Councillors to develop an effective **Action plan** for the next 3 years is also crucial.

Van Community Council will continue to use its money allocated in its budget for ring fenced projects-especially those that benefit all residents in the ward. All projects will benefit from our members better promoting the ward: chatting face to face, posters and a better command over social media to advertise and encourage residents in the community to participate.

Feeding off the success of the **Van Community Champion Awards**, it has been agreed to and expand the project and promote the initiative so that it has a far greater reach and impact. Van CC will continue to support Van allotments "Grower of the Year"

Van Community Council are committed to keeping pace with training needs and that all our councillors can be reached via email, by phone or if and when necessary, face to face