

CYNGOR CYMUNED
BRYNCRUG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

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CHAIRMAN'S END OF YEAR REPORT

2023/2024 started with seven elected Council members from the 2022 elections. New Councillors are needed but due to the responsibilities put upon them with both the Council and the Charity, this is proving somewhat difficult to achieve.

We have worked tirelessly this year to maintain Dolgoch Falls (R J Roberts Charity) which is quite demanding at times. This year in particular saw over £100,000 spent in new bridges and maintenance costs. The Falls encourage many visitors to the area which generates substantial income, and benefits many of the businesses in the locality which are dependent on the seasonal trade.

We have recently transferred Brynchrug Playing Field to the R J Roberts Charity which will make it considerably easier to run. Maintenance has been relatively straightforward this year and we have successfully installed additional play equipment for the benefit of all ages within the Community.

With five historic water pumps and two inherited bus shelters in the village, all in need of attention, maintenance has proven somewhat challenging and expensive.

Internal Audits for Brynchrug Community Council (21/22 and 22/23) are now complete, but we await the certificates from Audit Wales in respect of the External Audits. The 2023/24 Audit, which is a full audit, is prepared and ready for submission to Gwynedd Council.

The 22/23 Audit for the R J Roberts Charity has been undertaken and figures will be submitted shortly to the Charity Commission. The 23/24 audit is complete and about to be submitted to Gwynedd Council.

For the year 23/24 all Councillors were entitled to an annual allowance of £208. This was £156 towards home working expenses and £52 towards office consumables. This year saw some of our Councillors waive their right to the annual allowance showing a willingness to give their time to the Community for free.

Our Precept for 23/24 remained the same as 22/23 as our finances showed a stable position, which ultimately meant we could hold off any increase. With the current climate as it is, things are not easy for many people and therefore any small saving on the Council Tax bill is beneficial.

We continue to pay £2,000 per year to Gwynedd Council to keep the public toilets in Brynchrug open and maintained throughout the summer months, which benefits both tourists and locals.

We have had several meetings with National Resources Wales regarding flooding in the area and lack of maintenance to their own assets, but unfortunately have received no feedback nor has anything been done.

Hopefully we will continue to provide the community with the level of service you would expect in the 2024/25 year and can continue to make Brynchrug a better community.

Alan Jones - Chairman of Brynchrug Community Council Date 9th July 2024

BRYNCRUG

The Area is covered by Brynchrug Community Council along with the community ward of Dolgoch.

Brynchrug falls within the Snowdonia National Park and has a population of 622 on its Electoral Register (2011) with the community ward covering Dolgoch. The River Fathew flows through the village and into the River Dysynni. To the southwest of the village stood Ynysmaengwyn, a mansion built in 1758 but now demolished. To the south stood Cynfal motte-and-bailey castle, built in 1137 by Cadwaladr ap Gruffydd, brother of Owain Gwynedd. Mary Jones, famous for walking to Bala at the age of sixteen to buy a Bible, lived in the village when older, and was buried in the village after her death in 1864. The football club, Tywyn & Brynchrug FC play their home matches in the village.

Brynchrug Community Council are Trustees for the R J Roberts Charity, referred to locally as the Dolgoch Charity. The Charity is responsible for the maintenance of land open to the public. There are walking trails, bridges and a series of three waterfalls. Dolgoch is listed 4th on Trip Advisor as an attraction within the Snowdonia National Park and is within a 10- minute drive of Brynchrug.

1. Brynchrug - Our Area and Community Council Annual Report Community Council Annual Report 2023/24

In February 2021 the Community Council was advised of the introduction of a new duty under the Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act, to produce an annual report as soon as practicable after the 1st of April 2022 and annually thereafter.

There is no template for a community council annual report as the format and level of detail is expected to reflect the size and scope of council activity. However, the overarching purpose of the report is to provide the Community Council with an opportunity to detail its governance and financial arrangements, and demonstrate the work undertaken to both address any local concerns and improve the local area.

This is the third Annual Report for Brynchrug Community Council, which covers the financial year 2023/24.

2. Councillors and sub committees

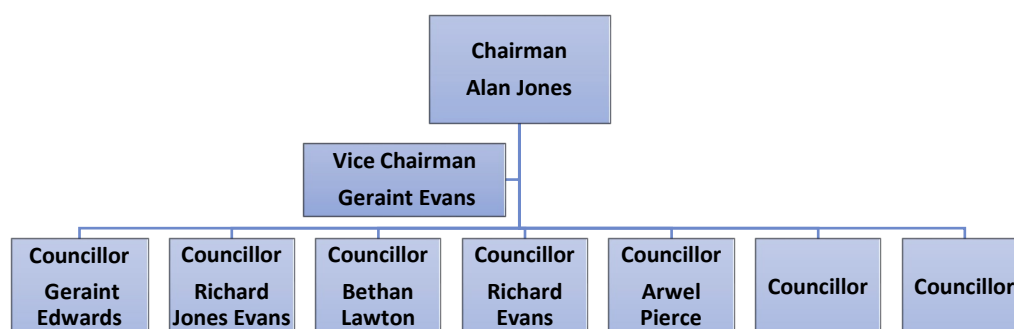
Bryncrug Community Council has seven elected members who hold ten to eleven formal meetings a year. The meetings take place on the third Monday of the month except for August when there are no meetings.

A Chair and Vice-chair are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting in May. Community Councillors are elected every five years. The next election will be in 2027. The present Councillors are members of the Community Council until May 2027.

The County Councillor for the ward is invited to attend every meeting.

2.1 Our Councillors in 2023/24

During 2023/24 the elected members comprised: - further details on page 12



County Councillor for Bryncrug – Mrs Bethan Lawton

Email: cynghorydd.bethanwynlawton@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Tel: 01654 711000

Clerk to the Council – Up until 30th April 2024 – Bedwyr Gwilym

From 15th May 2024 – Mrs Jane Jenkins

2.2 Meetings in 2023/24

In 2023/24, there were twelve formal meetings held on the following dates: -

April – 17.04.23	May – 15.05.23	June – 19.06.23 & 26.06.23	July –26.07.23
August – <i>no meeting</i>	September – 18.09.23	October –16.10.23	November – 20.11.23
December – <i>no meeting</i>	January – 15.01.24	February – 19.02.24	March –18.03.24 & 22.03.24

Dates of Meetings along with Minutes of the meetings held are made available on the village notice board, in Y Ganolfan and on the Bryncrug Community Council website.

2.3 Sub committees

There were no sub committees held during 2023/24.

3. Key contact and information

The key contact for the Community Council is

Clerk– Mrs Jane Jenkins

2 Tal y Bont

Dolgellau

Gwynedd

LL40 1UA

 - clerc@cyngor-bryncrug-council.org.uk

Website – Homepage Bryncrug Community Council

4. Governance and Compliance

Bryncrug Community Council has several policies to support the governance of the Council which are updated and/or reviewed annually.

Code of Conduct for Members

Standing Orders

Financial Regulations

S6. Environmental Policy

Donations Policy

GDPR – Data Protection

Asset Register

Risk Assessment Register

Training Policy

Language Policy

5. Our finances and how we spend the annual Precept

5.1 INCOME - The total income received in 2023/24 was **£20,548.32**.

Precept	£13,084.00
VAT	£ 4,938.84
Interest	£ 142.81
Maintenance	£ 103.23
Other (Admin)	£ 2,279.44

5.2 EXPENDITURE – In 2023/24 the total expenditure was **£16,317.80**

Administration	£ 8,609.17
Utilities/Services	£ 1,065.98
Maintenance	£ 5,682.27
Donations	£ 100.00
VAT	£ 860.38

The administration and the running costs for the Community Council form part of the highest spend in the year and includes insurances, audit payments, clerk's expenses and wages, licences and membership of the One Voice Wales.

The second largest area of spend relates to maintenance works and this includes grass cutting, public footpaths, and the playpark, replacing benches, maintaining defibrillators and a contribution of £2,000.00 to Gwynedd Council to keep the public toilets open throughout the summer months in Bryn-crug.

5.3 Grants and Donations 2023/24

There were no grants obtained in this period.

Bryn-crug Community Council made charity donations in 2023/24 totalling £100.00 to help support important local services and local organisations.

The donations in 2023/24 were to:

Dail Dysynni **£50**

Wales Air Ambulance **£50**

5.4 Audit and Compliance

Audit for financial year 2023/24

As a small Community Council there are several annual financial actions that are required to be completed throughout the year. In 2023/24 the audit actions comprised of preparation

of the budget, receipt of the Audit Notice, close and balance the cash book for the year, complete the annual return, arrange an internal audit and when complete and signed arrange the external audit. The internal audit is carried out by the Auditor's Office of Gwynedd Council and the external audit is carried out by the Audit Wales Office.

Written confirmation of completed Audits for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 has not yet been received from the Audit for Wales Office.

6.Our Activities and Achievements in 2023/24

The activities and achievement of the Community Council in 2023/24 to improve the local area were many and include: -

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

- Responding to Snowdonia National Park planning applications.
- Responding to planning notifications from Gwynedd Council Planning.
- Responding to licensing matters from Gwynedd Council.
- Responding and Reviewing of Government consultations as requested.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- Reviewing of Gwynedd Highways works programmes.
- Liaising with Gwynedd Council, Highways Department on highway issues, including road closures and traffic management issues

SAFETY

- Arranging for annual ROSPA inspection to be carried out at play park.
- Reporting of overgrown trees and weeds, drainage issues, boundary wall damage, blocked footpaths, road marking refurbishment to Gwynedd Council
- Dealing with overgrown trees and weeds on public footpaths.

REPRESENTING COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Site visits with organisations i.e. Gwynedd Highways/ /ROSPA/Welsh Water/National Resources Wales
- Continuation of partnership with Gwynedd Council, and contribution made, for the provision of public toilets in Brynchrug.
- Maintenance of Dolgoch Falls
- Maintenance of the Playing Field and Pavillion
- Installation of new play equipment in the Playing Field
- Attending Remembrance Sunday to represent the local community.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

- Successful Internal Audit achieved for 2021/22 and 22/23.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- No increase in local precept for 2023/24 due to a stable financial situation
- Updated Asset Register, Risk Assessment Register for insurance purpose.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Updating and reviewing Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct for members, Donation Policy, S6 Environment Policy, Training Policy, Asset Register, and Risk Assessment Register.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

- Represented the Brynecrug area at Remembrance Sunday Church Service.
- Representation on local committees (Y Ganolfan) and events.

ASSET MAINTENANCE

- Playpark equipment and matting maintained and updated where required

REPRESENTATION

- Approximately 70% of Council meetings achieved 100% attendance.