



7 Liaison with External Bodies

The community council appointed members to sit on the following external bodies:

RCT/Town and Community Council Liaison Committee.

Llanharan Community Development Project.

One Voice Wales Area Committee.

One Voice Wales Larger Council's Committee.

School governing bodies for Dolau Primary School, Llanharan Primary School and Brynnau Primary School.

The Wildlife Trust (Brynna Woods).

8 Staff and Assets

The council employed the following staff:

A Council Clerk.

A Responsible Financial Officer.

A Senior Groundsperson.

The Council owns or leases a number of assets, including:

Allotment sites at Bridgend Road, Jubilee Street and Pendre (near Llanharan Primary School).

Land at Grove Terrace, Meadow Rise, Brynna Gwynion and Oakbrook.

Shower block at the Welfare Ground.

Play equipment at Brynna Gwynion and Oakbrook skatepark.

An electric van.

Two tractors/grass cutters.

A water bowser.

Various tools and equipment.

Various office and IT equipment.

Two memorial clocks.

'The dram' at Enterprise Way.

Defibrillators.

Noticeboards.

Bus shelters.

Benches.

Planters and hanging baskets.

Equipment and fittings for the Christmas trees and lights.

The Telephone Box at the High Corner.

The Chair's Chain of Office.

The Deputy Chair's Chain of Office.

Carvings at Brynna Woods.

A full list of the Council's assets can be found in the Council's 'Asset Register', available from the Clerk.



9 Maintenance work

The community council's maintenance team carried out a number of activities during the year, including:

Summer grass cutting, strimming and litter picking at Brynna fields, The Welfare ground, the Mountain Hare park and the Meadow Rise open space.

Strimming, litter picking and general maintenance work on the local network of public rights of way.

Watering and feeding of the plants for the summer floral displays.

Maintenance of shared pathways, boundaries, borders, clearance works and other maintenance tasks at the Council's three allotment sites.

General upkeep of the War Memorial on Hillside Avenue.

General upkeep of the council's assets including bus shelters, benches and planters.

Cleaning of benches, bus-shelters and roadside furniture.

10 Finance

10.1 Financial Governance

All councils must have in place Standing Orders and Financial Regulations which govern the processes and oversight of the council's financial management.

The council has an appointed Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) responsible for financial administration.

The Council's Audit Committee scrutinises the detail of the council's financial management.

The council is subject to an annual internal audit by an independent auditor and a periodic external audit carried out by

The council as a whole and its members are ultimately responsible for the management of public money.



10.2 Income and expenditure 2024/25

Note: This section does not include Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income or expenditure.

Llanharan Community Council derives the majority of its income from the Precept. The precept is a tax that community councils charge their local electors in order to meet their budgetary requirements. Community councils do not receive any direct funding from central government and rely on their precept and other income they generate from lawful services of facilities they provide.

In 2024/25 Llanharan Community Council derived its income from the following sources:

Precept	£271,894
Public Sector Deposit Fund Re-invested dividend	£53,450
Grants	£15,999
Hall hire fees	£11,567
Other Income (e.g. Allotments, Bank interest, Pantry, RCT Rights of Way)	£11,274
Total income 2024/25	£364,184

In 2024/25 Llanharan Community Council expenditure was as follows:

Staffing costs	£99,670
General Grants awarded	£40,913
Christmas Lights and Xmas Trees	£30,404
Office costs	£14,097
LED lights (Bryncae Community Centre)	£12,594
Insurance	£7,799
Firework Display	£7,413
Plant/equipment/fuel	£7,263
Hanging Baskets & planters	£6,204
Christmas Dinners	£5,840
Llanharan Pantry Expenses	£4,933
Civic allowances	£4,264
Bryncae Community Centre Costs (Gas,electric,cleaning,bband,rates)	£4,048
Election costs	£2,997
Audit Fees	£2,987
Professional and Legal Fees	£2,951
Electricity (Including streetlights)	£2,749
Subscriptions and Memberships	£1,963
Parks/Skatepark/Open Space maintenance	£1,877
Allotment costs	£717



Public Clocks - Maintenance	£440
Bank Charges	£162
Storage Space Rental	£120
Training	£120
Benches and tables maintenance	£20
Bus shelter - Maintenance	£10
Total expenditure 2024/25 excluding CIL	£262,555
General reserves held at year ending 31 March 2024	£146,930

10.2.1 General grants awarded 2024/25

During the 2024/25 municipal year the council awarded the following general grants to community groups in line with its general grants policy:

Llanharan Community Development Project	£25,000
The Wildlife Trust (Brynna Woods)	£10,000
Llanharan OAP association	£1,946
Dolau Primary School PTA	£1500
Llanharan Horticultural society (Annual show)	£750
1 st Llanharan Brownies	£500
Bryncae FC Seniors	£499
Llanharan FC	£495
1 st Brynna Brownies	£100
1 st Llanharan Guides	£100
1 st Brynna Rainbows	£92
LRGT Unspent Grant	£-70

10.2.2 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) report 2024/25

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge which local authorities levy on new development in their area.

In practice this means that for each new property that is built, RCTCBC levy a tax on the house builder (CIL).

15% of the proceeds of that CIL Levy are paid to the local community council. Given the extent of new development in the Llanharan Community Council area this has resulted in significant CIL income to the council.

CIL monies must be used for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. To ensure that all CIL monies are spent in line with the regulations, Llanharan Community Council liaises closely with RCTCBC on CIL projects prior to spending any money.



In the financial year 2024/25 Llanharan Community Council received £296,947 of CIL income from RCTCBC.

£637,821 was carried over from previous years.

In total the Council spent £63,945 from its CIL funds in 2024/25 on the following projects.

Welfare ground Rugby posts and installation
4 Large planters for 2025 summer display expansion
Accessible gates at Meadow Rise play area and Meadow Rise Bench
Electrical wall fittings at the War Memorial on Hillside
Replacement distribution board, Llanharan Cemetery
Gas Safety Inspection & Boiler Service at the Shower Block
Electrical Safety Inspection of the shower block
Work to ensure legionella compliance - Shower Block
Civils work for festive display expansion
Enterprise Way - resurfacing of the footpath from pavement to gate
Drainage of top field at Brynna Football Fields
Defibrillator for Trens Gardens
Purchase and fitting of 3 x benches in the community. From Ground Control to Llanharry Road.
To provide an all-user bridge over the river Ewenny
Improvements to Bryncae Community Centre
Refurbishment of red telephone box in the square
Improvements to equestrian access on PSM40/4. Bethlehem Way to Brynna Woods.
Improvements to the Welfare Field Shower block
Reopening of Footpath RAN17/5 adjacent to the Bryncae Arms
Memorial Garden / Garage at Grove Terrace

For a full list of previous, current and planned future CIL projects please contact the Clerk at Clerk@Llanharan-cc.gov.wales

10.3 Income and expenditure 2025/26

10.3.1 Precept for 2025/26

Llanharan Community Council resolved to increase its council tax charge for 2025/26.

This constitutes a 6% increase on the 2024/25 Community Council tax band D rate resulting in a £4.75 per year increase and a resultant Community Council band D rate of £83.92 per year raising a precept of £300,409.26

10.3.2 Budget for 2025/26

The 2025/26 Llanharan Community Council budgeted income is derived from the following sources:

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Precept	£300,409
Public Sector Deposit Fund Re-invested dividend	£20,000
Allotments	£3,150
Other Income (e.g. Bank interest, RCT Rights of way payment)	£2,330
Total budgeted income 2025/26	£325,889

In 2025/26 Llanharan Community Council budgeted expenditure is as follows:

Staffing costs	£147,774
General Grants	£45,000
Christmas Lights and Trees	£35,000
Office&meeting venue costs (inc stationery, IT,council tax, utilities etc.)	£19,650
Bryncae Community Centre Overheads and Maintenance	£16,450
Firework Display	£10,000
Insurances	£9,750
Hanging Baskets & Planters	£9,500
Maintenance/Groundworks total costs	£9,200
BCC Business Rates	£8,500
Professional, Legal and Audit Fees	£8,415
Community events	£7,250
Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunches	£6,500
Member's Allowances	£4,912
Staff & Member Training	£2,800
Skateboard Park, MH park and other Outdoor Play Maintenance	£2,750
Rights of Way	£1,330
Allotments	£1,022
Chain of Office maintenance	£1,000
HR Expenditure	£1,000
Public clocks Maintenance	£500
War Memorial maintenance	£500
Street Lighting Electric	£500
Total budgeted expenditure 2025/26	£349,303
Budgeted general reserve at end 2025/26	£181,980

Actual Gen reserve at 31st March 2025 : £236,423
 2025/26 budgeting to use £23,413 of reserve so 236423-23413 = £213,010



11 2024/25 Achievements

***Incorporating statutory contribution to Cwm-Taf well-being plan and our biodiversity action plan.**

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015 by the Welsh Government with the aim of improving the social, economic, environments and cultural wellbeing of Wales. The Act is seeking a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long-term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

Llanharan Community Council is not a member of the Public Service Board but has a duty to take reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives as set out in the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and publish an annual report of the progress which we have made. We have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report and demonstrate on the progress which we have made towards the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2023 – 2028

The objectives of the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2023 – 2028 are shown below:

Cwm-Taf Well-being plan 2023-2028 Objective One - Healthy local neighbourhoods

The Cwm-Taf well-being plan states:

To feel connected - During lockdown our local communities came together with voluntary organisations and partners to make sure that everyone had the support they needed. We are proud of our culture and heritage and our strong local communities, but we know that loneliness can affect anyone, and young people said they felt disconnected. We know that taking part in our community is good for our mental health, and there are great local activities and opportunities but some people, including those with disabilities, feel excluded and cost and transport can be a barrier.

Healthy places - There are great opportunities to keep fit and healthy in our community, but physical activity rates are low, we have high levels of diabetes and obesity, and people in more deprived neighbourhoods are less likely to make use of the green and blue spaces around us. Having safe local spaces and affordable opportunities to be active is important, including play for children and young people. Having access to healthy food locally is also important.

To live our lives locally: Local hubs and support are really valued. We want to enable more local living that would build on strengths and benefit community members, provide local training, local access to services, and offer shared use of local buildings to bring services closer to communities. This approach would reduce the cost of journeys and encourage active travel and support accessing affordable, quality food locally.



Cwm-Taf Well-being plan 2023-2028 Objective Two - Sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods

To protect and enjoy our natural green and blue spaces responsibly: - We love green and blue spaces around us but we could be managing and using them better for a wide range of benefits such as climate adaption, physical exercise, coming together or just being outside. When we do use them, and in all the things we do and the decisions we make, we want to make sure that we are not doing anything that could negatively impact on the spaces around us. We need a healthy ecosystem for water and food however many of our local species of plants, animals and insects are in decline.

To increase opportunities for active travel and using public transport: - We find that travelling for work, shopping, appointments, and socialising can be costly and difficult without a car. Where more of the services, businesses, and activities we use are in our local neighbourhoods, we can use active travel like walking and cycling to get to them, which can improve our health and reduce the number of journeys that rely on vehicles.

To reduce carbon use and waste: - At present, we are using our resources in an unsustainable way, and this is contributing to the climate and nature emergencies. We already have good rates of recycling but there is more we must do to reduce the amount of waste we produce. There are good examples of how we are reducing carbon and we must all support plans to become carbon neutral. We all have a role to play in global climate mitigation: reducing our consumption and waste and energy use to create a cleaner, greener Cwm Taf Morgannwg

To tackle Climate Change and its impact: - We are already seeing the impact of Climate Change in our communities. Many residents have experienced devastating flooding and we are also seeing rising temperatures in the summer. Wales has declared both climate and nature emergencies and we know that extreme weather has greater impact in areas with a lower income. Climate adaptation is needed to make our most vulnerable communities resilient. We must change how we use and manage our urban and natural spaces to help us respond to climate change and the risks it poses.

Community councils also have a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act (2016) which states that every public body must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales. To comply with this duty we must publish a report on what we have done to comply with the duty.



In the municipal year 2024/25 Llanharan Community Council contributed to the Cwm-Taf well-being and our duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the following ways:

The Community Council has successfully completed the Community Asset Transfer of Bryncae Community Centre. The Council will commence a program of capital works to improve the centre and ensure it is available for community use over the following years. The Council has invested £15,000 to alter all internal and external lights from standard to LED low energy fittings and has committed £100,000 for further redevelopment and refurbishment.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2)

The 2024 Senior citizen's Christmas lunches at Llanharan RFC in December 2024. Providing over 200 local senior citizens with an opportunity to socialise, enjoy a community event and to receive a Christmas lunch.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)



The annual fireworks display held at the Welfare ground in November 2024. Providing a community event open to all, fostering community cohesion. For the first time the Council made specific provision for disabled access and provided a quiet display prior to the main display for those with sensory issues.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)



The provision of over 100 allotment plots over our 3 sites. Providing the opportunity for members of the community to grow their own fresh produce. Allotments can also provide an opportunity for exercise and play a part in enhancing well-being. The Council is assessing demand with a view to potentially increase the number of available plots at its Pendre allotment site and is committed to providing 'mini plots' to encourage community growing. **(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)**



The provision of the Llanharan Pantry, providing subsidised basic food in the community. The pantry also provides an opportunity for social interaction and volunteering opportunities with a large number of diverse volunteers from all sections of society including those with additional needs. **(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)**



The upkeep of the Oakbrook skateboard park and the Mountain Hare play area. Both areas are well used and provide the opportunity for younger people to congregate and play in a controlled and safe environment. The Council has now earmarked funds for a full replacement and the potential provision of a second skatepark or other play provision at Llanilid fields. **(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)**

The tree planting strategy around Oakbrook Skate park has also been considered. The Community Council has engaged with RCTCBC in order to ensure native species are planted. RCTCBC have agreed to pause their planned planting of non-native species in order that this can be addressed. **(Biodiversity plan)**



The community council provided £10,000 of grant funding to The Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales who own and operate the Brynna Woods and Llanharan Marsh nature reserve. The funding was provided for the maintenance and upkeep of the reserve.

The council's support for the reserve aims to offer the public an opportunity to exercise, attend events and to simply enjoy the beautiful outdoor environment and biodiversity available on our doorstep.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)



The community council provided £25,000 of grant funding to Llanharan Community Development Project (LCDP) to support the provision of a cook for the community café and to support the 'Happy Dayz' support group. This contributed to the facilities that provide the opportunity to socialise and carry out activities for local groups and others at a central community hub, including those with additional needs.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)



The council has provided a number of extra benches in the community at certain points to help ensure there are adequate resting points for those who need them and at local play areas. This helps to promote exercise and facilitates the enjoyment of outdoor spaces.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2)

The council has continued to play its part in the maintenance of the network of public rights of way in our community comprising over 37 miles of paths. Our maintenance team have worked hard to keep paths strimmed, clear of litter and in a reasonable condition whilst acting in an ecologically sympathetic manner and maintaining the biodiversity of these routes.

(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)





The community council has provided significant grant funding for a number of projects and organisations that facilitate and encourage exercise, play and sport in our community, including:

The Llanharan Welfare Ground – Installation of floodlights for football and Rugby pitches.

Brynna Community Centre – Installation of drainage for the top football pitch.

(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2)

****See also general grants and CIL grants***



The community council provided an analysis showing where Japanese knotweed (identified in the survey undertaken in 2020/2021 by volunteers) is present on RCTCBC land to the RCTCBC Invasive Species Officer.

(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

The Council has also provided grant funding to a number of local groups which facilitated aspects of the stated aims of the well-being plan, including the provision for members of the public to participate in local activities, access to opportunities to exercise and shared use of community facilities.

***See General grants awarded 2024/25 for details.**



The community council's 'Trenos Crossing Working Group' comprising community councillors, Network Rail, Persimmon Homes and other interested parties helped to facilitate the design and construction of a multi-user railway crossing bridge from Llanharan into Brynna woods, replacing the ground level pedestrian crossing that was considered unsafe. The crossing is now in place providing safe access for all user groups and in the future to open up access to Brynna woods for members of the community who are currently excluded. (For example those with mobility issues). This includes the Community Council constructing a multi-user specification bridge over the River Ewenni. **(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)**

Other achievements during the year

The community council provided large community Christmas trees at various locations in the community, smaller Christmas trees on business premises and Christmas lights and motifs. For Christmas 2025 the festive display was expanded to incorporate Lanelay estate and the new housing developments in Llanharan to the South and West.





The community council provided summer plants and floral displays around the community during the summer.

12 2025/26 Action plan

***Incorporating statutory contribution to Cwm-Taf well-being plan and our biodiversity action plan.**

To investigate the feasibility and practical implementation of 'Cut and Collect' mowing techniques.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To issue a tender for CIL project LCC23/01 'Bridge over the River Ewenny'.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To complete CIL project LCC19/07 'Garage and Memorial Garden refurb'.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To begin planned capital improvement to Bryncae Community Centre.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)

To explore the possibility of leasing the green space around Bryncae Community Centre.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To facilitate delivery of CIL project LCC23/Lan1 'Community Garden at Lanelay estate'
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To complete CIL project LCC23/Lan 2 'Picnic benches at Lanelay estate'
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2)

To facilitate delivery of CIL project LCC23/Ynys1 'Community Garden at Ynysmaerdy'
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)



To complete CIL project LCC22/04 'Improvements to equestrian access on Bridleway PSM40/04, Bethlehem Way to Brynna Woods.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)

To deliver the 2025 Over 60's Christmas lunches.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)

To deliver the annual fireworks display and to increase access for disabled people.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1)

To increase the number of allotment plots available to the public by 5 plots
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To provide 'mini allotment plots' allotment plots to the public on each allotment site.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To carry out surveys of plants in flower at Meadow Rise and Mountain Hare play areas as part of the One Voice Wales, Places for Nature Pilot Survey.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To explore options to set aside an area of the Mountain Hare play area as a wild meadow.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To explore options to enhance biodiversity in the wooded area at the Meadow Rise play area
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To place appropriate bird boxes in the wooded area at the Meadow Rise play area. Boxes by the RCT Local Nature Partnership.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

To introduce an Environmental and Biodiversity policy for the Council.
(Biodiversity plan)

To deliver grant funding for appropriate groups contributing to Objectives 1 and 2 and the council's biodiversity action plan subject to the receipt of appropriate applications.
(Cwm-Taf Well-being plan Objective 1 and Objective 2. Biodiversity plan)

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