



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Bedlinog and Trelewis Community Council

Email address: clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	3
Context	4
Financial Summary	5
Relationship with the County Council	6
Code of Conduct	6
Training	6
Grants	7
Key achievements during 2022/23	7
Assets and Services managed by the Council	10
Biodiversity Plan	10
Planned Activities for 2023/24	11

MISSION STATEMENT

“Serving our community, preserving our identity.”

The Council will always strive to:

- Be open and accessible.
- Be accountable in all our Council activities.
- Be responsive to the needs of the community.
 - Encourage community participation.

CONTEXT

During the year 2022/23 following the ordinary elections, the Council comprised of 9 Councillors who volunteered and were fully committed to representing the residents of Bedlinog and Trelewis, providing them with services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community. The Councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:

- Councillor Richard Searl (Chair)
- Councillor Jeff Beard (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Gillian Preston
- Councillor Sherelle Jago
- Councillor Ian Thomas
- Councillor Vanessa Matthews
- Councillor Debbie Brown
- Councillor Christopher Frayne (Co-opted)
- Councillor Edward Dawson

Contact details of Councillors is available via the following link:

<http://www.bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/YourCouncillors.aspx>

The Council has a standing HR Committee. Members of the Committee during the year were:

- Councillor Jeff Beard (Chair)
- Councillor Richard Searl
- Councillor Vanessa Matthews

The Council had representatives on several outside body committees as follows:

- Taf Bargoed Learning Partnership - Councillor Vanessa Matthews (Community Council Governor)
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Standards Committee - Councillor Jeff Beard
- One Voice Wales Area Committee - Councillor Debbie Brown; Councillor Edward Dawson (Deputy)

The main contact for all Council business is Ryan James, Clerk to the Council:

clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2023 is summarised as follows:

	£
Balances brought forward from 2021/22	10577
Income from local taxation	27870
Receipts other than from local taxation	35355
Sub-Total	73802
Staff Costs	14952
Total of all other Payments	50535
Sub-Total	65487
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2023/24	8315

The value of fixed assets of the Council are £267,018.25.

An independent auditor has internally audited the accounts.

The accounts have been submitted to Audit Wales and an audit opinion will be received later in the year. They must, therefore, be regarded as 'Not yet Audited.'

The Council's finances are monitored on a day-to-day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk). The Council publishes all payments and schedules taken to Full Council every month on our website, and Council approves the payments. Full Council also monitors the budget. At the end of the financial year, a balance sheet is prepared by the RFO, and Full Council approves this before it is passed for audit.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Community Council has a [charter](#) in place with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council - it sets out the way in which both aim to work together for the good of the communities of Bedlinog and Trelewis whilst recognising their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies.

A representative of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council also acts as Liaison Officer modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and County Councils.

The Community Council are consulted on planning applications in Bedlinog and Trelewis and represent the community in responding to these applications based on residents' feedback.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code.

TRAINING

The Council has a statutory duty under section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to implement a plan setting out what it proposes to do to address the training needs of its Councillors and staff.

The purpose of the training plan is designed to ensure that collectively, Councillors and staff, possess the knowledge and awareness needed for the Council to operate effectively. It is not necessary for all Councillors and staff to have received the same training and develop the same expertise.

In October 2022, the Council published its Training Plan 2022-2027, to reflect the training needs resulting from changes to the Council membership and to provide for the election of new Councillors.

GRANTS

During 2022-2023, Council awarded the following grants to community organisations:

- Purchase t-shirts and contribute to travel costs for Trelewis Primary Choir to attend Young Voices in Birmingham, the largest children's choir concerts in the world - £500.



- A £500 grant contributing to Year 6 children in Bednog and Trelewis Primary Schools to attend a residential activity weekend.
- A £500 grant to Bedlinog AFC towards repairs needed to their changing rooms.
- A £500 grant to Bedlinog Angling Association towards equipment to hold community events.
- A £500 grant to Trelewis Bowls Club towards the bowling green maintenance costs.
- A £500 grant to Bedlinog RFC Mini's for new training tops.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022/23

Newsletter

In Spring 2023, we were pleased to publish our first newsletter - this is available on our website, and we also left copies in local shops in Bedlinog and Trelewis, Bedlinog Doctors Surgery, and Rock UK, for residents not on social media to pick up a copy. There will be two newsletters published each year, along with our annual report, to update residents on our work.

Warm Hubs

In January 2020 we launched two Warm Hubs - one at Bedlinog Community Centre and one at Trelewis OAP Hall. These provided an opportunity for residents to come along once

a week and have free refreshments, and a game of bingo, in a safe, warm, environment and a friendly chat with others. The hub in Trelewis was extremely successful and continues every Thursday, 2-4pm.

Community Defibrillators

In 2022-23, we have installed five defibrillators within Bedlinog and Trelewis. A defib is an essential part in trying to save the life of someone who is in cardiac arrest. We have also supported Bedlinog RFC in providing the finance to purchase a new cabinet for their defib, as well as a replacement and pads.

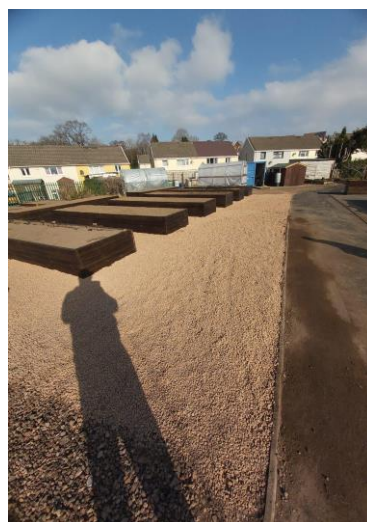
The defibs are in the following areas:

Trelewis	Bedlinog
Maen Ganol, Stormtown	Grove Terrace (outside Grove House)
High Street entrance to Parc Taf Bargoed	High Street by the top bus stop
High Street opposite the Ffaldciach Inn	Outside Bedlinog RFC

Allotment Improvement

As part of our plan to increase biodiversity we want to make as many allotment beds available as possible for community use, and it allows residents to grow their own food. This year we have created twelve accessible beds in Bedlinog on the land of the former bowling green. If you are interested in renting one of the beds and growing your own food, then please email clerk@bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales The cost is £15 per year to cover maintenance costs.

We have also funded improvements to Trelewis Community Garden in Mandeg, Trelewis. Repairs have been conducted to some damaged beds, new accessible beds have been created and new paths created to improve access, as well as security improvements to the site. Some plots are still available - contact Brian on 07927 373335 if interested.



Young People Events

Great fun was had by the children in Bedlinog and Trelewis during our half term events. We had soft play, magic shows, and army bootcamps, and provided refreshments and a healthy lunch. We also funded four sessions of climbing at RockUK, which was enjoyed by all.



Christmas Lights

We once again installed Christmas lights around Bedlinog and Trelewis. Unfortunately, there were a few less during 2022/23 due to the increased cost of the lighting frames. It was still fantastic to bring some festive cheer to the community, however.

Street Planters and lamppost baskets

Our street planters and lamppost baskets were once again 'blooming' with colour throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis. As well as increasing biodiversity, it improves the look of the community and brings some colour and brightens up Summer (even when it is raining!)



ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Bedlinog Community Centre
- Bedlinog Allotments
- Allotment Beds, Trelewis Primary School Grounds
- Kickabout Area, Hylton Terrace
- Part-ownership of Rugby Changing Rooms at Bedlinog Recreational Ground

A full list of Council assets can be found on our website:

<http://www.bedlinogtrelewis-cc.gov.wales/ UserFiles/Files/3 Asset%20Register%202023-24%20v1.0.pdf>

BIODIVERSITY PLAN

The Community Council provides a range of services to the local community which have an impact on biodiversity. It provides allotment facilities where biodiversity can be enriched, with land cultivated to produce vegetables, fruit, and flowers. As well as planting pollinators throughout Bedlinog and Trelewis.

In everything we do, we look to:

- Reduce carbon emissions.
- Use energy more efficiently.
- Switch to low carbon fuels.
- Prepare for climate change.
- Embed consideration for biodiversity and carbon footprint into procurement protocols.
- Ensure no negative impacts on protected species and the environment.
- Plant natural pollinators wherever possible and native friendly bedding plants.

Our Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 - Section 6, report can be found on our website.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2023/24

These include:

- Continue supporting Warm Hubs in the community.
- Create more allotment plots in Trelewis (Manor Way).
- Make site security improvements to existing allotments.
- Provide allotment holders with compost bins and water butts to increase recycling/renewability.
- Plant fruit trees, install bug hotel and insect towers and beehive pollinators in local parks.
- Christmas activities.
- Community events and raise money for charity.
- Conduct an engagement exercise with the community and publish a long-term strategic plan which will take us up to the next elections in 2027.
- Other activities identified from community feedback.