

Betws Community Council



Annual Report (New) 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026



Table of Contents

Chairpersons Report	3
The Council	4 - 5
Your Community Council Members	6
Achievements during the 2023 – 2024 term of office	7 - 10
Future planning for the next term 2022 – 2027 and beyond	11
Annual Accounts Summary	12 -13
Donations Awarded	14
How can the Council help you?	15

Chairpersons Report

Chair's Annual Report 2025/2026

Dave Stacey Chair Betws Community Council May 2025 - May 2026

I would like to start by thanking my fellow councillors for the honour of being our chair for the last 12 months. This is a fantastic council that continues to punch above its weight for a small community.

It has been wonderful to see three new councillors join us, and a warm welcome to them. I'd like to thank former councillor Maureen Williams for her work over the last few years, and for her continuing support for Ysgol Betws.

The council continues to build community engagement, links with the PTA for the Christmas lights, taking over the organisation of the 'Picnic in the Park' as well as supporting the ongoing annual November Remembrance Service.

This has been a year of conclusions as we have finally resolved ongoing legal matters around land ownership at the site of the Rugby club. Also, a year of beginnings, with the plans for a new memorial for those people from the village who died during the World Wars which I look forward to seeing come to fruition.

I'd like to thank our Clerk for all her hard work and support. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow councillors. We have a range of skills and experiences but are tied together by a desire to see the best for our community.

Dave Stacey

Chair Betws Community Council

The Council

The Community

Betws is a community that is near Ammanford in Carmarthenshire nestled between the River Amman on the Northern side and on the Southern side it meets the Western end of the Black Mountain which is known as Betws Mountain.

The meaning of the name Betws is Bede House/Alms House/Prayer House and originates from the word Bed-Hus an Anglo-Saxon word. In Welsh it means Chapel.

The ward is currently served by one County Councillor – Betsan Wyn Jones – Plaid Cymru.

The Community Council was set up in 1980.

The eligible electorate for Betws in 2025/2026 is 1,802.

The Role of the Council

Community Councils are the bottom tier of local government who live within the communities they represent. The Councillors work to improve the village of Betws and as they are members of the local community, they are best placed to find out what is needed to benefit their ward.

The Community Council gives out donations to local community groups.

2 new defibrillators were provided in the previous year at Betws Primary School and the Family Centre with a 3rd being placed at Ty Coch. Therefore, along with the one that was already at Betws RFC the village has good coverage. Councillor Comley is the contact person and guardian for them and regularly checks them.

The 3 recreation grounds are maintained by the Community Council with Betws Park (2017) and Maesquarre Playground (2019) being asset transfers from the Community Council.

Heol Y Felin Playground and Green and the Betws RFC and Car Park area is held in Trust by the Community Council for the benefit of the Community. This area was given to the Community in 1947, with Betws Community Council taking over the Trusteeship from Betws Community Association in 2012. As part of the terms of the Trust/Lease to Betws RFC it is to be used as the village community centre, where community notices can be placed on the notice board in the foyer and the facilities can be hired by organisations for meetings, events, and celebrations. Councillor Comley is the secretary and member of the committee for Betws RFC who can be contacted regarding using the facilities.

The Council aims to improve these areas as funding allows. The current aim is to gain funding for phase 2 of replacing the end-of-life playground equipment it inherited from the asset transfer of Maesquarre Playground from the County Council.

It has previously gained funding to improve the disused tennis courts within Betws Park and the area has been transformed into a new nature garden. A group of local volunteers help the Community Council alongside the contractor to maintain the area.

The Community Council has a website **betwscouncil.org.uk**.

The Community Council has one employee a part time Clerk who can be contacted on betwscommunitycouncil@hotmail.co.uk.

The County Council consults with the Community Council on:

Planning Applications for the village.

Any tree work that is carried out within the village which is consulted on via the planning application process.

Footpath maintenance/issues with access currently the County Councillor Betsan Jones is working with the County Council and Betws Walking Group to re-open the footpaths to Hopkinstown with gate being placed at one location so far.

Any fly tipping issues – Mountain Road and Betws Park.

Formal Policy changes/consultations which affect the village such as changes to road markings, street lighting, affordable housing within the village. With white lines being placed at Woodlands Park and Ffordd Y Glowyr. Double yellow lines at Colonel Road/Heol Y Felin junction area with further consultations taking place for placement of double yellow lines at the bottom of Pentwyn Road and the junction of Caemawr with Betws Road.

The Welsh Governments formal policies are also commented on either directly by the community council or via One Voice Wales who collate each councils' comments.

Your Community Council Members

The Council comprises of one ward which is represented by 12 Councillors.

Since the elections in May 2022 your Councillors are:

Dave Stacey (Chairperson)

Carwyn James (Chair of Finance and Staffing Committee)

Mike Jones (Chair of Recreation Ground Committee)

Jose Picouto (Resigned 14 May 2025)

Lynwen Phillips (Resigned 11/12/2025)

Peter Comley

Paul Allchurch (Chair of the Community and Events Committee) (Resigned 14 May 2025)

Karen McMinn-Davies

Maureen Williams (Resigned 6/11/2025)

Co-Opted March 2023

James Derrick

Co-Opted July 2023

Emyr Morgan (Resigned 14 May 2025)

Co-Opted July 2024

Dene Macbeth (Resigned 10 January 2025)

There are four vacancies for the office of Community Councillor for Betws.

Co-Opted July 2025

Louise Waring

Betsan Jones

Achievements during the 2025 – 2026 term of office

1. Drifts of daffodils were planted between the fence and tree line in Heol Y Felin Green during Autumn 2025.
2. New Double Yellow Lines placed on Colonel Road and Betws Road junction area agreed with Carmarthenshire County Council Highways Department and County Councillor Betsan Jones.
3. The Phase 2 improvements at Maesquarre Playground were implemented by the end of February 2025 with various pieces of new equipment installed at the site.

However, there have been issues with the new Inclusive Roundabout not working correctly with several return visits by the company over the past year, this is still waiting to be resolved.

4. New Councillors/Councillors have received some training via One Voice Wales to assist them in carrying out their roles during their term of office.
5. Donations given to local causes including the Betws Park Volunteer Group who are looking after the new Nature Area within Betws Park with new proposals for a simple metal structure and a container for the area requested by them with permission being sought from Carmarthenshire County Council, the landowner by Betws Community Council who lease the area from them and are currently awaiting confirmation from them that the proposals can go ahead.
6. The annual Remembrance Service was held at Betws Park on the 11th November 2025 with Betws Primary school children reading a poem they composed, a Welsh poem 'Rhyfel' was read by Mrs Picouto Deputy Lord Lieutenant and an English poem 'Unless You've been a Soldier' was read by the Chair, Councillor Dave Stacey. Wayne Hellyer attended as Bugler. Councillor Betsan Jones attended the Ammanford Town Council Remembrance Service on behalf of the Community Council and laid a wreath.
7. Christmas Tree and Lights erected in Betws Park for Christmas 2025 with a Christmas Tree Lighting Event taking place on the 3rd December 2025 where the Council linked in with Betws School PTA.
8. Councillor M Williams continues to attend Betws Primary School on a weekly basis attends the school one morning a week to help support the children in Year 4 with their English reading in her role as school governor representing the Council.

9. Surgeries are now offered by appointment with bookings to be done by emailing the clerk with 2 Councillors to attend any surgeries. No requests received to date.
10. Councillor Jones and Councillor Stacey are worked on a new management plan for the 3 recreation areas which will be a useful tool for contractors, volunteers and the Council to work from.
11. Councillor Jones and Councillor Stacey devised new contract documents that will be used for tenders for contracting for the work to maintain the 3 recreation areas. This was completed and new contract let out for the 3 Recreation Grounds within Betws – Wrenvale.
12. The Community Council continue to work with 'Ffrindiau Betws' volunteer group who look after the nature area within Betws Park. Council liaised with Carmarthenshire County Council with regards to updating of the lease and giving the necessary permissions for Betws Park Volunteers to place a Shipping Container and to erect a simple metal structure within the Nature Garden.
13. On Monday 5th May 2025 'Ffrindiau Betws' Volunteer Group organised a picnic in Betws Park to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day where the council donated the cost of the bouncy castle for the event.
14. Councillors Comley and James undertook training during April 2024 in preparation and are now conducting the fortnightly checks for the Council starting 1st April 2025.

The Annual Playground Inspections are carried out by Carmarthenshire County Council.

15. British Sign Language Signs (BSL) installed at Heol Y Felin and Maesquarre Playgrounds.
16. Two new trees, a hornbeam and lime donated by Hilliers and placed in the avenue of trees at Betws Park to replace the ones that had fallen in the storms.
17. The Council continue to work with Betws Rugby Club under the terms of the lease they hold their monthly meetings there and offset their annual rent to the cost of the meetings.
18. The longstanding boundary issue with the neighbouring landowner was finally resolved (since 2012) at Heol Y Felin Green area land which was gifted to the Community decades ago.

A new boundary to delineate the boundary will be erected during 2026 to avoid future further issues.

19. Betws Park Volunteers organised an event in conjunction with the Military Veterans Club Cymru on Sunday 22nd June 2025 where they firstly

dedicated their Standard at All Saints Church and then in Betws Park for the unveiling of the Memorial bench and tree for the late Mr Neville Bowen who was our oldest club member and a very dear friend.

The event was front page news in the South Wales Guardian and a full page spread on page 8.

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed Ms Sara Edwards & HM LL West Glamorgan Mrs Louise Fleet were very impressed with the beautiful Betws Park.

Organisers of the event would like to thank the following who helped make the day a fitting tribute to Mr Neville Bowen and his beautiful family:

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Dyfed Ms Sara Edwards.

His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of West Glamorgan Mrs Louise Fleet.

Mayor of Ammanford Mrs Heulwen Howells.

Veterans Commissioner for Wales

Colonel James Phillips.

Captain Huw Williams DL MBE RLC.

Flt Lt Martin Wade RAF.

WO1 Rob Govier MBE RN.

Padre Ali Reeves, staff & congregation at All Saints Church Ammanford, dedication of standard & service.

Friends of Betws, park maintenance and support

Betws Council, consented planning permission and venue.

Cwmaman Council, equipment loan & flowers.

Ammanford Council, equipment loan.

Second life products, donation of Nev's memorial bench

Towy works, donation of materials for concrete base for Nev's memorial bench

Chris y Cridd, donation of Nev's bench plaque

Wildwoods Arb Wales, donation of Nev's memorial tree

Stuart Ladd, professional photographer

Brecon Carreg, donation of bottled water

HasBeanz, donation of cakes

Tesco Ammanford, donation of tea, coffee, milk, sugar

TRJ, donation of portaloo

Wrenvale, park maintenance

Standards support from MVCC Tara James, RBL Ammanford, RBL Garnant, RNA Swansea, Pembrey, Burry Port & District Combined Services Association.

All MVCC committee, members, volunteers & friends event prep and hosting.

Local Business who has kindly donated to the MVCC Standard via the fundraising efforts of Ken Burton;

Llys Cennen Solicitors

B & R Motors

Marc's motors

Diolch yn fawr iawn



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ac7yvq3c2/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Future planning for the next term 2022 – 2027 and beyond.

1. Christmas Lights for the village and Recreation Grounds
2. Heol Y Felin Green to consider more seating. A new boundary fence between the green and track to Betws RFC situated below Bryn Ffin.
3. Picnic Benches for various sites around the village where appropriate such as viewing area at top of Waun Ddwfn Road, the land above the Maesquarre Development owned by TRJ who would add a second picnic bench if the Community Council placed one at site.
5. Electricity point for Christmas Lights at Maesquarre Playground has been identified and the costs of implementation gained. Funding will be required to enable installation.
6. New larger notice boards - one to be placed at Heol Y Felin as it is Community Land (facing the RFC or Playground) so that more information for the Community can be placed upon the boards as part of RFC being the Community Hub and discharging its duties for Community Groups.

Annual Accounts Summary

Payments Received 2025 -2026

Precept	£ 62,000.00
RFC rent	£ 650.00
VAT return	£ 16,329.01
Donations received	£ 0.00
Bank Account Interest	£ 319.36
Grant Funding received	£ 0.00
Contractor overpayment repaid	£ 75.00
Total received	£ 78,723.37

Payments Made 2025 – 2026

Administration	£ 26,639.69
Recreation Ground Committee	£ 214.01
Heol Y Felin Playground and Green	£ 10,284.72
Heol Y Felin Grounds Maintenance and Bins	£ 2,640.00
Betws Park Grounds Maintenance and Bins	£ 23,467.20
Maesquarre Playground	£ 2,215.00
Maesquarre Grounds Maintenance and Bins	£ 2,940.00
Village Planters	£ 180.00
Insurance	£ 1,517.00
Bank Service Charge	£ 97.75
Audit – Internal/External	£ 325.00
Website	£ 110.00
Christmas Lights	£ 0.00
Election Fees (£800 to reserves/annum)	£ 0.00
Footway Lighting	£ 1,575.63
Training	£ 168.00

Affiliation Fees	£	777.00
Chain of Office	£	0.00
Donations awarded	£	1,410.00
Projects funding	£	0.00
	Total	£ 74,561.00

The Community Council should hold in its useable reserves 3 – 12 months expenditure also grant funding received, donations given for specific items, money given under the Asset Transfer process and any Section 106 money received as well as fund to replace any of the fixed assets held under the terms of the leases from Carmarthenshire County Council for Betws Park and Maesquarre Playground.

In its unusable reserves it should have money for previous Clerks pensions (amount unknown) and a fund to cover the cost of replacing equipment at Heol Y Felin Playground and any other maintenance that may be required for that area as it is land held in Trust for the Community.

Donations Awarded

80 th Anniversary of VE Day BH 5 th May 2025 Party in Betws Park	£ 150.00
Amman Valley Hospital League of Friends -	
90 th Anniversary Celebratiion	£ 50.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£ 100.00
RBL Poppy Appeal – Wreaths for Remembrance Service	£ 130.00
Bugler – Remembrance Service	£ 100.00
The Welsh Air Ambulance	£ 100.00
Carmarthenshire County Council Christmas Toy Appeal	£ 50.00
Urdd Gobaith Cymru – Fund for All Appeal 2026	£ 100.00
Papur Bro Glo Man (publication)	£ 50.00
Heart of Wales Line Travellers Association (HoWLTA)	£ 30.00
Eglwys Dewi Sant/St Davids Church – Christmas Lights	£ 50.00
Capel Newydd Betws – Cemetery	£ 200.00
Eglwys Dewi Sant/St Davids Church – Cemetery	£ 200.00
Menter Bro Dinefwr	£ 100.00
Total	£1,410.00

How can the Council help you?

Please let the Community Council know what you want from your Council, you may have ideas or suggestions for future projects or an issue that needs to be resolved, you can do this by speaking to one of your Councillors or by contacting the clerk.

The following matters fall under Carmarthenshire County Council it has no power to act or to insist but can make suggestions for changes or actions that are of concern to the community:

Planning

Footpaths

Verge Grass Cutting

Highways including road surfaces and potholes

Fly tipping

Street sweeping

Refuse and Recycling

Road signs

Council Housing

Education

Social Services

The Carmarthenshire County Council switchboard number is 01267 234567

You may also contact your local County Councillor Betsan Jones with any issues/suggestions BetsanJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.