



## Argoed Community Council Annual Report 2024-25

Section 52 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires community councils, as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of the financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report. This is that report for 2024-25 which conveys information about Argoed Community Council's priorities, activities and achievements during the financial year 2024-25.

### **Introduction**

Argoed Community Councils in Flintshire with the wards comprising of Mynydd Isa and New Brighton and includes Bryn-y- Baal and Llong.

Community Councils are the most local tier of local government and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. Argoed Community Council is represented on Flintshire County Council by Councillors Hilary McGuill and Mared Eastwood.

The Community Council usually meets on the first Wednesday of the month, apart from in August. In addition, the Amenities Committee, consisting of a representative group of Councillors, usually meets on the third Wednesday of the month, apart from in August. Meetings are held in the main hall of New Brighton Community Centre, starting at 7pm for full Council and 6:30pm for the Amenities Committee.

To comply with legislation councils must display an agenda for each meeting on the website at least three working days before the meeting, and a hard copy displayed on notice boards. All meetings are hybrid and Councillors, the public and the press can attend meetings in person, or remotely by prior notification to the Clerk.

### **Councillors and staff 2024-25**

There are 14 Members or Councillors who form Argoed Community Council. Councillors are office holders who sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office upon their election or appointment meaning that they are therefore part of the local government structure of Wales. They also have training in the Code of Conduct.

#### **Argoed Ward**

Councillor Faron Hadfield-Jones (Chair)

Councillor John Holiday

Councillor Ian Jolly

Councillor Hilary McGuill

Councillor Jack Morris

Councillor Gwilym Owen

## **New Brighton Ward**

Councillor Roy Marsh

Councillor Jonathon McCarron

Councillor Miriam Shepherd (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Paul Jewell \*

Councillor Graham Palmer \*

Councillor Rebecca Blanchard \*

Councillor Rebecca Legge \*

Councillor George K Mutch

\* denotes co-opted

The Chair of the Community Council for 2024-25 was Councillor Faron Hadfield-Jones and the Vice Chair for the same period was Councillor Miriam Shepherd.

The Community Council employs a Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and an Assistant Clerk who both work on a part-time basis.

Details of the individual Councillors can be found on the Council's website

<https://argoedcommunitycouncil.gov.uk>. Alternatively, members of the public can contact the Clerk to the Community Council via email [clerk@argoedcommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@argoedcommunitycouncil.gov.uk) or by telephone 01352 751490 or by writing to Argoed Community Council at New Brighton Community Centre, Moel Fammau Road, New Brighton, Mold, CH7 6UH.

### **Objectives and Priorities for 2024-25**

- Representing the interests of the local community
- Influencing local decision makers, such as Flintshire County Council Planning
- Taking action to improve the quality of life for local people in the wards covered by Argoed Community Council
- Improving the local environment of the wards covered by Argoed Community Council

### **Activities and Achievements during 2024-25**

- Maintaining and discharging of responsibilities for footway lighting.
- Installing a new bench at Mercia Square and at Bryn Road, together with a dog poo bin.
- Maintaining the village planters and the hanging baskets, which included the purchase of six new plastic planters to replace some of the older wooden ones.
- Donation for the Annual Fireworks display held at Argoed Sports and Social Club.
- Funding the Summer Playscheme for the children.
- Displaying poppies on the lampposts during the Remembrance period.
- Holding a Remembrance Service at the Memorial Garden.
- Displaying Christmas trees and lights as well as street festive display lights during the Christmas period.
- Grants to various local organisations
- Working with Flintshire County Council to organise removal of fly-tipped waste and cutting back of trees and shrubbery in the recreation and play parks.

- Raising and discussing traffic related issues with Flintshire County Council.
- Providing match-funding to Flintshire County Council in order to improve the recreation and play parks.
- Maintaining Bryn-y-Baal Quarry



### **Financial information**

The Community Council does not own any assets that can be used to generate income, so most of its income comes from a precept it raises. This is a tax that the Community Council charges local residents to cover spending on services within the community. It appears on the Council Tax bill that residents receive from Flintshire County Council.

The precept for the 2024-25 financial year was £80,786. The precept is levied on all residential properties in Argoed and based on a Band D property. The precept is collected by Flintshire County Council and paid to the Community Council in three instalments during the year. The precept requirement has remained unchanged over the last five years.

The Community Council can only incur expenditure if they have ‘the power’ to do so. This means that Local Government Acts prescribe what Community Councils can spend their money on. They also have the power to spend money making voluntary donations or grants to local organisations. An Annual Return is completed showing Argoed Community Council’s income and expenditure for the financial year 2024-2025 and balances which are carried forward into 2025-26. This is subject to an Internal Audit and an External Audit. The Community Council’s Internal Auditor has now completed their audit and the External Audit will be advertised in July 2025 explaining the Electors Rights.

### **Governance**

The Community Council operates within a statutory framework of regulations and policies. They are subject to annual review and approval at the Annual General Meeting every May. Copies of these documents can be located on the Community Council’s website. The Council’s Standing Orders regulate the proceedings of the Council’s meetings. The Council’s Financial Regulations govern the conduct of

financial management by the Council. All expenditure is approved and recorded in the Minutes of Argoed Community Council's meetings.

Members are not paid but they are entitled to claim an allowance in order to carry out their duties as Councillors. In accordance with S151 of the Local Government Measure 2011, the information about remuneration must be published on the Community Council's website by 30th September following the end of the financial year.

Each councillor has to declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of each meeting and these are noted in the minutes.

### **Asset register**

The Community Council has continued to maintain the assets that it owns during 2024-25, with any new street furniture or equipment duly recorded.

### **Planning Applications**

Argoed Community Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications submitted to Flintshire County Council affecting their wards. Applications are included on meeting agendas, and the Council is able to make observations and submit comments to Flintshire County Council, however the final decision on all planning applications is the responsibility of Flintshire County Council.

### **The year ahead 2025-2026**

At the Annual General Meeting on 7 May 2025 Councillor Miriam Shepherd was elected as Chair and Councillor Jon McCarron was elected Vice-Chair. In addition Councillor Paul Jewell joined the membership of the Amenities Committee.

Due to the resignation of the Clerk/RFO at the start of 2025-26, Sharon Swift, an experienced Community Council Clerk, is now in post as the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer and is assisted by the Assistant Clerk, Janet Jones.



Signed.....

Chair of Council

Date.....