



Argoed Community Council Annual Report 2025-26

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 2025-26 which conveys information about Argoed Community Council's priorities, activities and achievements during the financial year 2025-26.

Introduction

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

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 Tuesday of the month, apart from in August. In addition, the Amenities Committee, consisting of a representative group of Councillors, usually meets on the third Tuesday of the month on a bi-monthly basis. Meetings are held in the meeting room in Caffi Isa in Mynydd Isa, 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 so that a Teams meeting link can be provided.

Councillors and staff 2025-26

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

Councillor John Holiday

Councillor Ian Jolly

Councillor Hilary Mcguill

Councillor Jack Morris

Councillor Gwilym Owen (up until 3 December 2025)

New Brighton Ward

Councillor Roy Marsh

Councillor Jonathon McCarron (Vice Chair)

Councillor Miriam Shepherd (Chair)

Councillor Paul Jewell *

Councillor Graham Palmer *

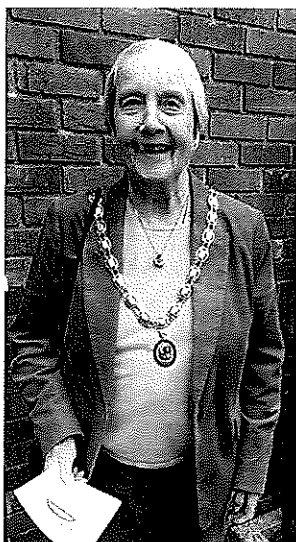
Councillor Rebecca Blanchard *

Councillor Rebecca Legge *

Councillor Keith Mutch

* denotes co-opted

The Chair of the Community Council for 2025-26 was Councillor Miriam Shepherd and the Vice Chair for the same period was Councillor Jonathon McCarron. There is currently a vacancy on the Argoed ward.



Councillor Miriam Shepherd - Chair for 2025-26

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 or by telephoning 01352 751490 or by writing to Argoed Community Council at New Brighton Community Centre, Moel Famau Road, New Brighton, Mold, CH7 6UH.

Objectives and Priorities for 2025-26

During 2025-26 the Community Council developed a Mission Statement and re-stated their objections and priorities. This was approved by Full Council on 2 September 2025.

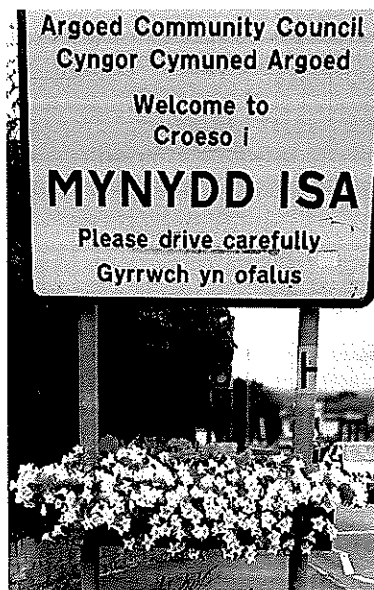
Our mission is to serve and support the people of Argoed by maintaining and enhancing the character of our villages, protecting the environment, encouraging community involvement, and ensuring resources are used wisely. We exist to listen, represent and act in the best interests of our residents, working collaboratively to deliver positive outcomes for the community today and in the future.

Argoed Community Council's priorities are:

- To maintain and enhance the safety, character, and attractiveness of our villages.
- To support initiatives that promote environmental sustainability and protect local green spaces.
- To encourage community engagement and ensure the voices of residents, including young people, are heard and represented.
- To work collaboratively with partner organisations for the benefit of all age groups and backgrounds.
- To promote wellbeing, inclusion, and opportunities for recreation, culture, and learning.
- To manage resources responsibly and deliver best value in all council activities.
- To plan to meet the future needs of the community while preserving its heritage and identity.

Activities and Achievements during 2025-26

- Maintaining and discharging of responsibilities for footway lighting.
- Maintaining the village planters with summer and winter seasonal plants and flowers.
- Displaying summer hanging baskets in New Brighton and in Mercia Square, Mynydd Isa.



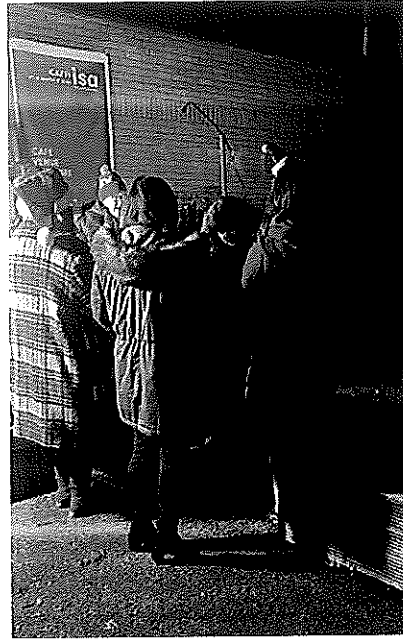
- Maintaining the CCTV at Mercia Square.
- Funding a six week Summer Playscheme split between Wats Dyke recreation area, Mynydd Isa and New Brighton football pitch.
- Match funding improvements in the Bonc play area which included a new wooden play structure and replacement safety matting.



- Match funding repairs to the gym equipment in at Wats Dyke recreation area.
- Planting spring bulbs around the ward.
- 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.
- Holding a Christmas lights switch-on event in conjunction with Caffi Isa.
- Maintaining Bryn-y-Baal Quarry and removal of overgrown shrubbery on the rock face.
- Maintaining the shrubbery and trees in the Bonc, the Memorial Garden, Vale Road Park and Mercia Square.
- Making a significant donation to the Annual Fireworks display held at Argoed Sports and Social Club.
- Awarding several grants to various local groups and making donations to community events at New Brighton Community Centre.
- Producing the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty Report in December 2025 covering the three-year period 2022 to 2025.
- Working with Flintshire County Council on issues such as fly tipping; litter bins and traffic matters.



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

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 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 2025-26 financial year was £80,786. The precept is levied on all residential properties in Argoed and is 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 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 2025-26 and balances which are carried forward into 2026-27. This is subject to an Internal Audit and an External Audit. The Community Council's Internal Auditor will be completing their work in May 2026, and the External Audit will be advertised in July 2025 explaining the Electors Rights.

Asset register

The Community Council has continued to maintain the assets that it owns during 2025-26, keeping a detailed record which is updated for any new purchases or assets disposed of.

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 can 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 2026-27

The Councillor vacancy in the Argoed ward will be advertised and hopefully filled.

We will be consulting with residents about plans to develop a pump bike track in the ward.

We will be seeking applications for small grants or financial contributions from village groups.

We will be re-developing the central feature in the Memorial Garden.

We will be enhancing biodiversity by planting wildflower meadows in specific locations in the ward.

We will be continuing with our maintenance and the development of Bryn-y-Baal Quarry.



Councillor Miriam Shepherd, Chair of Council

7 April 2026