

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council
Annual Report 2022-2023

Cllr. Philip Card – Chair of Grovesend and Waungron Community Council

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Grovesend and Waungron Community Council (GaWCC) for the year ending 31 March 2022.

GaWCC is essentially a non-political Council and comprises of up to eleven Community Councillors. As of March 2023, the following Councillors were members of GaWCC:

- Cllr. Philip Card (elected as Chair at the meeting in May 2022)
- Cllr. Carey Knox (elected as Vice Chair at the annual meeting in May 2022)
- Cllr. Mike Jones
- Cllr. Aaran Hamilton
- Cllr. Susan Morgan
- Cllr. Helen Talaat
- Cllr. Tracy Hardwick
- Cllr. Corrinne Knox
- Cllr. Ian Llewelyn
- Cllr. Luke Holloway
- Cllr. Jonny James

The Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer is Yvonne Hamilton, 139 Iscoed Road, Hendy, SA4 0UN Email: email@grovesendwaungron.org.uk Tel: 07989414440

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Council's only significant source of income is the precept. This is the amount that Swansea Council collects from residents for GaWCC as part of its Council Tax arrangements. The precept in 2022-23 was £9,000.00 which meant a charge of £ for an average band D property. The precept is calculated in accordance with a detailed budget prepared by GaWCC and the agreed budget is then reported to GaWCC who arrange for the budget to be supported by the precept which residents contribute to via Council Tax payments.

The Council's income of £13,458.94 derived mainly from the precept of £9,000.00, a VAT refund of £858.94 and donations received from the National Lottery Fund for the King Coronation event that was planned for the following financial year. Receipts from newsletter advertising in the sum of £100.00 were offset by the cost of producing the newsletter in the sum of £260.00.

Expenditure for the year totalled £8,655.89. In terms of projects, the largest item of expense undertaken was the Platinum Jubilee Celebration totalling £1451.27 for providing memorabilia mugs to each and every household in Grovesend and Waungron. Other significant items of expenditure included grants and donations to support village organisations and local community groups.

A full breakdown of income and expenditure is included in the Annual Accounts which are summarised within the Annual Return on GaWCC's website.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SWANSEA COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Council works closely with the local Town Councillors, Andrew Stevens, Jan Curtice and Nicola Matthews. The Clerk and Councillors also have working relationship with officers of Swansea Council which has been fostered over many years and facilitates good working relations across many services.

GaWCC has a close working relationship with the local primary school which provides mutual support to each other with collaborative working when organising events.

GaWCC is hoping to have an effective working relationship with the local Police and Community Support Officers who are invited to and, where possible, attend GaWCC meetings to provide updates and information regarding crime statistics.

TRAINING PLAN

All Community Councillors attend training courses as appropriate and GaWCC is a Member of One Voice Wales which undertakes most of the training needs of local Councils. A Training Plan has been published this year.

ACCOUNTS & AUDIT

Proper accounting practice for community councils is set out in legislation and the Governance and accountability for local councils in Wales – A Practitioners' Guide. The Practitioners' Guide requires that community councils prepare their accounts in the form of an Annual Return which comprised the annual accounting statements and the annual governance statement.

Accounts ending 31 March 2023 will be subject to a comprehensive internal audit by a qualified accountancy firm and to a forensic external audit by the Audit Wales. The outcome of all audits including previous year's audits are published on the GaWCC's website.

In terms of the latest report for year ending 2022, the internal concluded that GaWCC's system of internal controls are in place, adequate for the purpose intended and effective. In the opinion of the external auditor the Annual Return had been prepared in accordance with proper practice, relevant legislation and regulatory requirements and is consistent with the Council's governance arrangements and the Council does has proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its use of resources.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2022-23

- To organise an event in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee
- To draft and arrange to send out a newsletter to let the residents know about GaWCC and explain the roles and responsibilities of the Community Council
- To assist with funding of the Miners Welfare Hall for any renovation / repair works
- To continue to support village organizations and local community groups via donations and grants
- To scrutinize planning applications and the emerging Local Development Plan and to make comments where appropriate.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIVEMENTS

Throughout the year various environmental initiatives and enhancements have included wildflower planting

Halloween Competition

Xmas Parade

Diamond Jubilee – mugs given to every resident in Grovesend and Waungron

Wildflowers throughout the village

3 tier planters and troughs

Supported set up of brownies

GaWCC has focused on achieving what was possible during this past year. For a small sized council,

Summary

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council achieves a great deal on behalf of its residents including publishing and arranging for distribution of a comprehensive yearly newsletter, organizing annual events, facilitating several village enhancements including biodiversity enhancements and play area improvements, responding to residents concerns and suggestions for improvement including tackling dog fouling

In recent years Community Councils have faced challenges in the form of County Councils cutting

back on traditional services to local communities and changes to the role Community Councils are expected to perform all of which has potential budgetary implications. The above provides an overview of the Community Council's activities, achievements, and budgetary processes during 2022-2023. Further information relating to the Community Council including financial and governance information can be found on the Grovesend and Waungron Community Council website.