

GROVESEND AND WAUNGRON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025



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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Annual Report for 2024–2025 of the Community Council. I hope this report provides you with a clear and informative overview of the work undertaken by Grovesend and Waungron Community Council, and the role we continue to play in supporting and representing our community.

Over the past year, the Council has remained committed to improving the quality of life for residents, maintaining local amenities, and responding to the needs and concerns of our community. Through collaboration with local organisations, residents, and partner authorities, we have worked to ensure that Grovesend and Waungron remain welcoming, safe, and vibrant places to live.

This report highlights some of the key projects, achievements, and challenges we have encountered during the year. It also reflects our ongoing dedication to transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow councillors, staff, volunteers, and members of the community for their continued support and contributions. It is through this collective effort that we are able to make a meaningful difference.

We look forward to building on this progress in the coming year and continuing to serve our community to the best of our ability.

Luke Holloway
Chairman
Grovesend and Waungron Community Council

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Role of the Council -

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council is the most local tier of government, serving as the voice of the community and working to represent the interests of residents at a grassroots level. The Council's role is to listen to the concerns and views of local people and to act on their behalf where possible. It works to influence decisions made by higher tiers of local government and other public bodies, ensuring that the needs of the community are considered.

The Council is also responsible for support for local events, and the consideration of planning applications that may affect the area.

In addition, the Community Council seeks to promote community wellbeing by supporting local initiatives, encouraging engagement, and working in partnership with voluntary groups, organisations, and residents.

Overall, the Council plays an important role in representing the community's interests, improving local facilities, and helping to foster a strong and connected community.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council is essentially a non-political Council and comprises of up to eleven Community Councillors.



Councillor Luke Holloway

What do you do for a living?

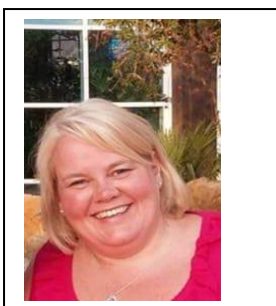
Chartered Quantity Surveyor

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

After sitting on the side lines as a member of the public at meetings I always felt I could better help the Community Councillors on various topics as a member. I enjoy helping others and feel this would be a great opportunity to help support the local community.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a motorsport fan and you would often find me working on one of my cars. I tend to get into a lot of DIY and enjoy spending time with friends and family, particularly at my parents farm near Aberaeron.



Councillor Tracy Hardwick

What do you do for a living?

Practice Manager of a Dental Practice

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I have lived in the village for many years and have helped out on several occasions for different events within the village, I recently was Chair of Friends of Pengelli but have now finished due to my daughter moving onto Comprehensive.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to enjoy spending time with my family and friends and also spending time in our motorhome.



Councillor Mike Jones



Councillor Sue Morgan

What do you do for a living?

Director of Krislyn Motors Limited based in Grovesend.

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

Have been a Community Councillor for over 20 years and became a Councillor to try and make improvements in the village.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

My hobbies are showing dogs and travelling to support Swansea City Football Club.



Councillor Aaran Hamilton

What do you do for a living?

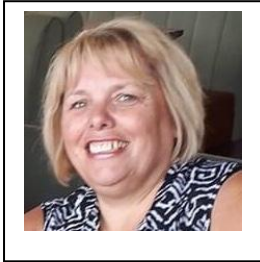
Owner of Hamiltons Contracting Services Wales Ltd

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I became a councillor to be involved in what happens in our local community and give my support and time to help make improvements in our community where possible.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

In my spare time I like to walk and visit new places in our beautiful Welsh countryside with friends and family.



Councillor Helen Talaat

What do you do for a living?

Headteacher of Pengelli Primary School.

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I believe that the school is a vital part of the Community and it is important that we are seen as active participants in the life of Grovesend. I see my role on the Community Council as representing children and parents at the school if they want someone to speak on their behalf.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a season ticket holder with the Swans and spend my spare time at The Liberty.



Councillor Mike Osborn

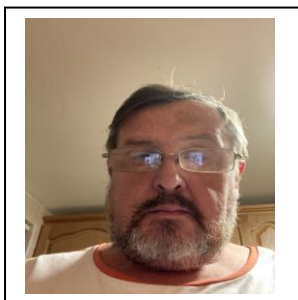
What do you do for a living?

I am a pipefitter/ supervisor sub-contracting to MII at Vale in Clydach.

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I decided to apply for a role on the community council because I admire the work that they have done in the local area regarding the park, nature walk around the field, Christmas parade and so much more work they have done. I have 2 young children in the local school so have an interest in the future of the area, which is why I wanted to help out in any way that I can allowing all the children of Grovesend and Waungron to grow up in a friendly, safe community.

What do you like to do in your spare time? - *In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my wife and kids. I coach my 2 boys at Loughor rfc. I also enjoy keeping fit at the gym and have recently got into training and entering strongman competitions.*



Councillor Wayne Erasmus

What do you do for a living?

Charity Work

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Painting



Councillor Phil Card

What do you do for a living?

Property Developer/Builder

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

To try and give something back to the community and help out, if possible. I am hoping to try and make the local area a better environment for us all to live in.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Work even more haha. Gym, yoga, reading, mountain biking and walking the dog. Most of all eating out with family and friends.



Councillor Ian Llewelyn
What do you do for a living?

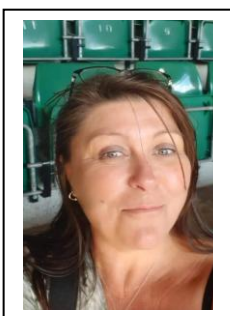
Accounts Manager

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I wanted to join the Community council to see if I can help to improve the local area and to give something back to the community.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like spending time with my family and going out for nice walks.



Councillor Jo Gray

What do you do for a living?

Independant Living Officer

Why did you decide to become a Community Councillor?

I became a Community Councilor to give back to the community and to help improve things within the community. I've ran the Brownies and Guides in Grovesend for the past six years. I also went to school in Grovesend until I moved to Penyrheol Primary in the 70s

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I run a Brownies and Guide unit in Grovesend, I like walking my dogs, crafting.

Councillor Jo Gray resigned in October 2024.

Councillor Mike Osborn became a Community Councillor in September 2024

The Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer is Yvonne Hamilton, 139 Iscoed Road, Hendy, SA4 0UN email: email@grovesendwaungron.org.uk Tel: 07989 414440

County Councillors for Grovesend and Waungron Community Council

The Council works closely with the local Town Councillors, Andrew Stevens, Jan Curtice and Nicola Matthews.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY

The Community Council raises most of its funds through the Council Tax. Our only significant source of income is the precept. We set our budget each year around November / December for the forthcoming financial year (April to March).

The precept in 2024-2025 was £18,921.

In 2024-25 a household in a Band D Council Tax property paid £ over the year towards the Community Council costs.

Our income of £23,773.28 derived mainly from the precept of £18,921, a VAT refund on £1,101.58, donations received from local businesses and public bodies totalling £2,800.70 for our annual summer fayre and £950.00 generated income from selling raffle tickets at our summer fayre. Expenditure for the year totalled £18,163.41

A full breakdown of income and expenditure is included in the Annual Accounts which are summarised within the Annual Return on our website.
We retain some funds each year to meet emergency spending and to allow for occasional costs.

Donations were made to Pengelli United AFC and Friends of Golden Grove Park.

We provided Grovesend Miners Welfare Trustees with £1000.00 towards the renovation costs of the men's toilets.

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 2025 will be subject to a comprehensive internal audit by a qualified accountancy firm and to a forensic external audit by Audit Wales. The outcome of all audits including previous year's audits are published on the Grovesend and Waungron Community Council'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.

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council has a close working relationship with the local primary school which provides mutual support to each other with collaborative working when organising events.

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council is hoping to have an effective working relationship with the local Police and Community

Support Officers who are invited to and, where possible, attend Grovesend and Waungron Community Council meetings to provide updates and information regarding crime statistics.

TRAINING PLAN

All Community Councillors attend training courses as appropriate and Grovesend and Waungron Community Council 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.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2024-2025

- **Community Engagement & Communication**
 - Draft and distribute a community newsletter to raise awareness of the Grovesend and Waungron Community Council, its role, and activities among residents.
- **Support for Community Facilities**
 - Assist in securing and allocating funding for the Miners Welfare Hall to support necessary renovation and repair works.
- **Funding for Local Groups**
 - Continue to support village organisations and local community groups through donations and grant funding.

- **Planning & Development Oversight**
 - Review and scrutinise planning applications and the emerging Local Development Plan, providing informed comments where appropriate.
- **Governance & Community Structure Review**
 - Continue engagement in the review of community arrangements within the County of Swansea to ensure effective local governance.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIVEMENTS

Throughout the year various environmental initiatives and enhancements have included:-

Bulb planting including daffodils, crocus, snowdrops and bluebells

Remembrance Service

Community Litter pick

Summer Fayre

Design a new logo competition

Dog poop sign competition

Halloween Competition

Xmas Parade

Wildflowers throughout the village

3 tier planters and troughs

Purchased a plaque in memory of Tony Bromfield for the support he has given over the years towards all events, consultations, etc and has always been an active member of the community.



Continuous collaboration work with Friends of Golden Grove Park to develop the park

Community Boundary Review - We held a public meeting on the 10 June 2024 to allow our residents to have a say on the Review and was well attended by over 100 residents. Comments received from the residents included: -

- Gorseinon Town Council is a political council – Grovesend and Waungron Community Council are a non-political Council
- Isn't there a green wedge between us and Gorseinon? We are classified as a peri urban ward – Penyrheol classed as an urban ward
- If we merge with Gorseinon Town Council we will no longer be able to apply for grants e.g. coalfields funding, etc especially grants that can only be applied for once per financial year
- Grovesend and Waungron Community Council have a very good community spirit. We would lose our identity as Gorseinon is a much bigger place
- We are a rural village and Gorseinon is a town
- Why change what is not broken?
- We are two small villages that would lose their identity should the merger take place.
- Funds would be spent in Gorseinon and Grovesend and Waungron would be forgotten
- Gorseinon is so big and our village would be forgotten about
- Our current Community Council works very well – why change what is not broken?
- We will lose our identity and a voice for our village
- We know the needs of our community? Gorseinon don't know the needs of their community
- Local identity will be done away with
- Gorseinon Town Council is not a community council
- Gorseinon is surged with anti-social behaviour - significant issues that we may have would be drowned out
- Beauty of this community council is that we are not political
- Won't have a community council because it will be a town council

- Grovesend and Waungron Community Council have worked hard to create a community spirit and provided excellent events and support – this work should not be undone

We submitted a petition that had been signed by over 340 residents of Grovesend and Waungron objecting to the merger which shows a significant number of the community are unhappy with the proposals.

HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP YOU?

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know.

Please note that the following matters fall under the County Council and as such the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly.

County Council matters are: -

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Refuse and recycling
- Road signs
- Verge grass cutting
- Council Housing
- Education
- Social Services Planning

Swansea Council switchboard number is 01792 636000

SUMMARY

Grovesend and Waungron Community Council has focused on achieving what was possible during this past year. For a small sized council, 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, organising 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 2024-2025. Further information relating to the Community Council including financial and governance information can be found on the Grovesend and Waungron Community Council website.