CYNGOR CYMUNED GOETRE FAWR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT – CIVIC YEAR 2022 /2023

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| Background | Goetre Fawr Community Council has a total of 8 Councillors. Six were elected unopposed at the May 2022 elections, with a further two co-opted by the Community Council. The Chairman for the 2022-23 year was Councillor Owen Dodd, with Councillor Andy Barnes as Vice-Chair.  Goetre Fawr Community is an electoral ward in the County of Monmouthshire. In May 2022 the ward was subject to significant changes as part of the Monmouthshire County Council electoral and boundary review. As a result, the ward of Mamhilad was split, with the village of Little Mill transferring to Llanbadoc Community Council, and the remainder becoming part of a new ward called Goetre Wharf. Redefined boundaries were created for Goytre and Nantyderry and the ward of Llanover (previously part of the larger Llanover Community Council) became part of the new Goetre Fawr Community Council. The ward therefore now consists of the villages and hamlets of Penperlleni (Goytre), Mamhilad, Nantyderry and Llanover. As indicated above, the village of Penperlleni is also known as Goytre (where the name has been anglicised, and on very early maps it is named as Goytrey).  The electoral area has retained its name of Goetre Fawr. However, the number of Councillors has been reduced from12 to 8, with Goytre having four Councillors, Goetre Wharf two and Nantyderry and Llanover one Councillor each. Currently the Council serves a population of c1800 residents in 1021 properties.  The Council employs a part time Clerk as well as two cleaners who maintain the public conveniences in the village of Penperlleni.  The Clerk can be contacted by email at: [theclerk@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@goytre.gov.uk)  The Community Council’s web site is at: [www.goytre.gov.uk](http://www.goytre.gov.uk) |
| **The Community Council’s Vision** | As the first tier in local Government, Goetre Fawr Community Council aims to provide a voice for the Community, representing the area at County and National level. We work closely with Monmouthshire County Council, the Police, the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA), Welsh Government and other authorities to take account of the needs of our community, and when making decisions that affect our residents. The Council uses the powers and resources available to it to proactively and quickly react to the needs of the community and provide appropriate levels of relevant services to our community. In May 2022 the newly formed Community Council, having satisfied the relevant criteria, resolved to adopt the recently introduced General Power of Competence. This replaces the previous ‘Power of Well-Being’ (now repealed by Welsh Government), with a broader power which enables relevant authorities to do anything that an individual may generally lawfully do. The intention of the new legislation from Welsh Government [The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021] is to engender a culture of change, so that local authorities move away from a position under which they are required to ask whether they have a power to undertake a particular activity, to one in which it is assumed they can do something unless there is a statutory limitation or restriction preventing it.  The Council’s precept for 2022-23 was £37,000. This represents a Band D equivalent rate of £30.96. In addition, the Council also received income of £6,156 from the rental of property and land. Although technically not covered by the **Well-Being of Future Generations** **Act,** the Community Council continues to focus on activities which both support and complement these national priorities, and which also support the principal authority (Monmouthshire County Council). These priorities have been used to provide the structure for this report and are detailed in the next section |

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| **Well-Being of Future Generations Act – key priorities and actions taken** | * **A prosperous Wales** *An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the Global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.*   • The Council makes budget provision for Community improvement activities.  • The Council maintains a up to date website which is open to the Community for information exchange and regularly posts relevant news items on the village Facebook page, including employment and engagement opportunities, and consultations from other statutory organisations e.g. Aneurin Bevan Health Board.   * **A resilient Wales** *A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.* * Following the pandemic of 2020/21, the Community Council has continued to meet on a monthly basis using teleconferencing (now a legal requirement), as a means of widening access to public meetings. The meetings are also held on a face-to-face basis in Llanover Village Hall for those without digital access / an adequate broadband connection, or for those who simply prefer the human aspect of a face-to-face meeting. * During the pandemic the Community Centre set up a dedicated Covid-19 web page with daily bulletins, updates and local news from the County Council and national advice centres. * The Council provides for green spaces across the Community and allows these areas to grow in a way that supports biodiversity. * The Council has provided plants within all of its amenities that support pollinators and over the turn of the year from 2022 to 2023, planted a significant number of spring bulbs in the public areas opposite the recreation park. The Park itself is a significant green space, and is used to support biodiversity with a grassy walkway through newly planted pollinating and fruit trees. The centre piece is comprised of two wildflower seed beds of both urban and native pollinating plants. Both MCC and the Community Council support ‘Nature isn’t Neat’. * At the end of 2022 the Council updated and approved its Biodiversity and Environment Development Action Plan, setting out how its activities and policies support the Community Biodiversity and Environment. A dedicated individual, Councillor Janet Robins, has now been appointed to oversee the Community Council’s environmental and biodiversity policies and actions. * Councillor Jan Butler is a member of ‘Community Climate Champions’, a voluntary group in the County, supported by MCC Climate and Sustainability.      * **A healthier Wales** *A society in which people’s physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood* * The Community Council supports the maintenance of the Goytre Park play area (Goytre ward) A bid for funding for the building of the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) was agreed in 2019. Unfortunately, progress was delayed due to the Covid pandemic, but an outline design has now been drawn up and the County Council are progressing with work to check on the suitability of the site regarding drainage etc. * The Community Council recognises the importance of children’s health and therefore continues to implement the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 by ensuring the Play Areas in the ward remain smoke free areas, (as required by the Act). This is supported with appropriate County Council signage. * In the past, the Community Council has provided substantial funding to upgrade the facilities in Goytre village hall, and refurbish the Community Centre. The Community Council is custodian trustee of the Community Centre, which it leases from the County Council and which is used extensively to support local parents by providing before and after school activities (delivered by Goytre After School Club - a separate charitable foundation). With the re-drawing of the electoral boundaries, Llanover village hall now falls within Community Council‘s area, and grant funding has already been provided to their events committee to encouraging social events to bring the two areas of the village together on a regular basis. * The Community Council works with Monmouthshire County Council to maintain and improve both the urban and countryside footpaths in the area. In particular, MCC litter picks and maintains Goytre Hall Wood. In addition, there are enthusiastic litter pickers in all 4 wards. These unsung heroes are a credit to our community. They litter pick across the wards, some of which are within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, although for safety reasons they cannot collect litter along the A4042 which remains the responsibility of the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA). * The Community Council manages the provision of six defibrillators in the Community (which are monitored and checked on a monthly basis) and recorded on the national defibrillator data base – ‘The Circuit’. In addition, the Community Council periodically arranges for CPR and defibrillator training for residents. * The Community Council has supported the installation of 16 dog waste bins across the Goytre, Goetre Wharf and Nantyderry wards (the previous Llanover Community Council did not adopt the ‘Show dog fouling the red card’ scheme and so currently has no bins). The Community Council has funded the regular collection of waste from these bins (weekly in summer and fortnightly for lesser used bins in winter), despite significant price rises over the past two years. This year the net cost (excluding VAT which the Community Council reclaims). was £4966, but it has been agreed to increase the frequency of collection to weekly for all bins, at a projected cost of £5824 (net) for 2023/24.      * **A more equal Wales** *A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances* * The Council continues to seek solutions to the issues of road safety and access problems in order to ensure all residents are able to utilise all community services safely. Community / County Councillor Jan Butler continues to press SWTRA / Welsh Government to install a pedestrian crossing between the main bus stops on the A4042 in Penperlleni. * The Community Council continues to fund the provision of the room for the weekly Post Office to ensure that those without private transport have easy access to Postal services. * Gwent Police continue to provide us with monthly reports, bringing, to our attention, issues affecting the Community, to help implement actions to address any problems. Similarly, Gwent police are notified of any concerns * Councillors are determined to ensure that all residents are kept safe. The elimination of anti-social behaviour, scams and burglary are a key priority. * The Community Council regularly uses the village Facebook page and other local forums to promote local community services and encourage residents to become actively involved in local consultations. * **A Wales of cohesive communities** *Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities*    + As already outlined above, the Community Council continues to lobby for the installation of a pedestrian crossing across the A4042 Trunk Road in the village of Penperlleni. This will greatly improve the safety and access for pedestrians looking to access northbound bus services on the A4042 towards Abergavenny, north Monmouthshire and train services to South and North Wales.   + Regular review of public (street) lighting provision.   + Regular campaign to increase the scope of the County Council’s gritting services during icy weather.   + In previous years the Community Council has published a quarterly newsletter. This has not been possible during the last three years, and the members have considered re-introducing this. However, with the fall in Councillor numbers from 12 to 8, resourcing this undertaking is likely to be challenging in the near future.   + The community Council’s web site continues to be updated to ensure that it is compliant with all the latest ‘access’ regulations.   + The Community Council is a ‘sight-loss friendly’ organisation and as such provides all communications in a minimum font size of ‘14’, with separate large font documents (agendas and minutes etc) where these are required to comply with our commitments. * **A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language** *A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.* * The Council provides a short local history on its web site and, with appropriate use of the Welsh Language in headings and emails to ensure that all recipients are aware of the importance of the Welsh language, even in a predominantly English-speaking area. * In 2019 the Community Council successfully applied for funding for the installation of a Multi-use Sports Area (MUGA), and, as previously outlined, is working closely with Monmouthshire County Council to ensure the installation is completed as soon as possible. This will greatly enhance the access to Sports facilities for all age levels, but particularly for teenagers, for whom there is little service provision in the village. It will also provide ‘disability inclusive’ facilities to ensure sporting access for all areas of the community. * **A globally responsible Wales** *A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being* * The Community Council is committed to implementing long-term well-being goals and objectives in all its activities and services. It regularly consults with the County Council, The Police, Welsh Government and One Voice Wales to ensure long-term well-being goals are embedded in our services for the long-term benefit of our residents. * The maintenance of green spaces across the Community receives the highest priority in all Community Council actions. It is also committed to taking action to support the current environment emergency and follows closely the actions and recommendations of the Monmouthshire County Council climate action group. |
| **Services Provided** | Penperlleni (Goytre ward)   * Public Conveniences * Wildflower beds and meadow grass area in the recreational play area. * Two bus shelters * Seven dog fouling collection bins * Village Cleaning Services * Meeting the room cost for the weekly Post Office service in the village hall * Purchase and maintenance of two defibrillators   Goetre Wharf Ward   * Seven dog fouling bins * Purchase and maintenance of three defibrillators   Llanover   * Maintenance of one defibrillator * Village Cleaning services * Stone bus shelter and bench   Nanytderry   * Two dog fouling bins |
|  | General   * The Community Council acts as the Custodian Trustee of Goytre Fawr Community Centre * The Community Council also provides donations to support outside organisations which provide support and services to our local community. During 2022/23 the following organisations received support from the Community Council.   + Wales Air Ambulance,   + Cerebral Palsy Cymru   + Sight Cymru   + Marie-Curie appeal   + Gwent Music for Mon Mind appeal   + Wales Air ambulance   + The Well-being café in Goytre   + Llanover Village Hall Armistice Commemoration |
| **Councillors** | The following Councillors were in post during the year in question.  Owen Dodd (Chair) - Goetre Wharf ward - [owen.dodd@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:owen.dodd@goytre.gov.uk)  Andy Barnes (Vice Chair) - Goetre Wharf ward – [andy.barnes@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:andy.barnes@goytre.gov.uk)  Jan Butler – Nanytderry ward - [jan.butler@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:jan.butler@goytre.gov.uk)  Peter Daniel - Goytre ward - [peter.daniel@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:peter.daniel@goytre.gov.uk)  Nigel Morrey – Goytre ward - [nigel.morrey@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.morrey@goytre.gov.uk)  Janet Robins – Goytre ward - [janet.robins@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:janet.robins@goytre.gov.uk)  Scott Grayland – Goytre ward - [scott.grayland@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:scott.grayland@goytre.gov.uk)  Morgan Chandler – Llanover ward - [morgan.chandler@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:morgan.chandler@goytre.gov.uk)  Plus: Jonathan Lazenby (Clerk) – [theclerk@goytre.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@goytre.gov.uk) |