



CYNGOR CYMUNED CEFN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Annual report on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 for 2026-2027

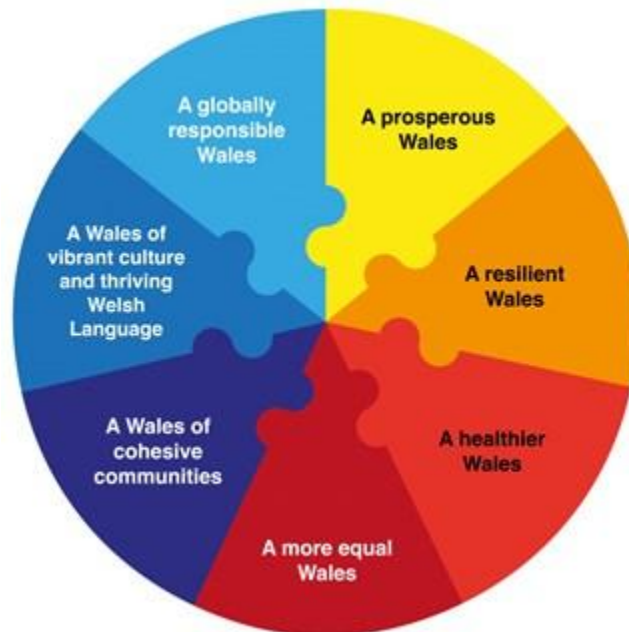
About this report

Wales faces several challenges now and, in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these, we need to work together. To give current and future generations a good quality of life we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 gives a legally binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specified public bodies must work and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

This report describes how Cefn Community Council has contributed to the seven well-being goals for the community.

2026-2027 update

This updated report retains the Council's established annual reporting format while strengthening the evidence of impact for 2026-2027. It highlights the Council's community-led approach to well-being, biodiversity, volunteering, environmental stewardship, youth engagement, heritage, culture, inclusive access and prevention-based services.



Wrexham Public Service Board (PSB) (www.wrexhampsb.org)

Cefn Community Council, as a larger community council, considers how its work contributes to the current Flintshire and Wrexham Public Services Board Well-being Plan 2023-2028. The current plan is built around long-term resilience, reducing inequalities, responding to the climate and nature emergency, and improving well-being across the connected pillars of environment, culture, society and economy.

For 2026-2027, the Council's local contribution is particularly aligned to the PSB objectives of building flourishing communities by reducing inequalities across environment, education, employment, income and housing; and improving community well-being by enabling people of all ages to live safe, healthy and independent lives.

The Council also contributes to Wrexham County Borough Council's strategic priorities, including decarbonising the environment, improving education and learning, promoting good health and well-being, and helping Wrexham remain a fair and safe place.

The challenge for the Community Council is to demonstrate how it can make a positive contribution to these objectives, even though these objectives are strategically determined and more relevant to larger statutory bodies, who can more effectively influence their progress.

All community councils have their own local priorities which are important to their communities as well as having to manage within an agreed budget. Budgetary pressures, which are exacerbated by the cost of devolved functions previously funded by the principal authority, can create tensions and limit what a community council can be realistically expected to provide. Additionally, to date, there has been no clear communication with the community council sector from the PSB or advice on how the sector can meaningfully contribute to the objectives.

The seven well-being goals for Wales

The well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 outlines seven well-being goals which need to be considered when drawing up local objectives. A description of each well-being goal and the issues identified within that theme is provided below. All of the issues identified in this needs analysis are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being.

Prosperous (1)	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); 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.
Resilient (2)	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with health functioning eco systems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)
Healthier (3)	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
More equal (4)	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)
Cohesive communities (5)	Attractive, viable safe and well-connected communities
Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language (6)	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.
Globally responsive (7)	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

Matrix showing cross-cutting themes

Some of the activities of Cefn Community Council towards the well-being goals are cross cutting and impact on more than one of these spheres of well-being. The grids below give an interpretation of how each contribution might fit within the list of well-being goals.

Prosperous (1)	Resilient (2)	Healthier (3)	More equal (4)	Cohesive (5)	Culture (6)	Globally responsive (7)
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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1.	The Community Advice Service	Yellow	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	White	Dark Blue
2.	School Holiday Play Provision	White	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	Dark Blue
3.	Maintenance and repair of public play facilities	White	White	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White
4.	Youth Work Provision	White	White	Green	Blue	Light Blue	White	White
5.	Community Agent	White	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White
6.	#StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers and Community Litter Picks	White	Orange	White	White	Light Blue	White	Dark Blue
7.	Crime prevention and reduction	White	White	White	White	Light Blue	White	White
8.	Financial assistance	White	White	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White
9.	Community Events	Yellow	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White
10	George Edwards Hall	Yellow	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White
11	Environmental, Climate Change and Biodiversity	White	Orange	Green	White	Light Blue	White	Dark Blue
12	Competent Council	Yellow	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	Dark Blue
13	Community Development Officer	Yellow	Orange	Green	Blue	Light Blue	Red	White

Introduction and Context

Cefn Community Council serves approximately 7,000 residents

It is made up of 3 County Borough electoral wards, being Cefn East with 1 member, Cefn West with 1 member and Acrefair North with 1 member. There are 4 community electoral wards, Cefn, Plas Madoc, Rhosymedre & Cefn Bychan and Acrefair & Penybryn.

The Community Council office is situated at George Edwards Hall, Well Street, Cefn, LL14 3AE, with the Council Chamber being housed within the building on the upper floor. There is 1 full time Groundsman, 1 part time caretaker, 1 Clerk, 1 office administrator, a Community Agent and a community development officer (employed with funding from The National Lottery's Awards for All fund).

The tax base and budget figures included later in this report are the latest supplied financial baseline and should be replaced with approved 2026-2027 figures once confirmed. The Council continues to fall within the requirement to report annually on its contribution to the Public Service Board Well-being and Future Generations Act Plan.

Our CEFN Core Values:

C - Community-mindedness: We value working together, supporting our local community to create a better place for everyone by creating memories.

E - Equality: We believe in treating everyone fairly and with respect, regardless of their background, race or beliefs.

F - Future-focused: We are committed to planning and acting in ways that will benefit our community now and for generations to come.

N - Nature-loving: We cherish our natural environment and strive to protect and enhance it for the enjoyment and well-being of all.

These values sit alongside the Council's established principles of being ethical, empowering, honest, trustworthy, respectful, inclusive, caring and responsible.

1. **Community Advice Service** – Citizens Advice Bureau hold sessions at Cefn Mawr Library every Monday
2. **School Holiday Play Provision** — Recognising that holiday play schemes can provide a place of safety where children can experience good adult role models, informal education, fun and friendship, the Community Council provides funding to enable Wrexham County Borough Council to provide schemes at the following sites during the Easter, Whit, Summer and October school holidays:

- Plas Kynaston, Cefn — Mondays and Fridays
- Acrefair — Wednesdays

The cost of play provision is in the region of £5090.00 in 2025/26

3. **Inspection and Maintenance of Play Areas and Facilities**— The Community Council firmly believes that environments for play make up part of the landscape of childhood and is committed to ensuring that children's opportunities for play, here in Cefn Community, are protected. To this end, following Wrexham County Borough Council's decision to withdraw funding for the inspection, maintenance and repair of the County Borough Council controlled play areas and facilities in Cefn, the Community Council decided to enter into a service level agreement with the County Borough Council to ensure the continuation of this much needed service with the Community Council meeting the cost. Had the Community Council not taken this action, the various play areas (and facilities) would have closed to the detriment of children throughout the community.

Currently, the following play areas are covered by the service level agreement with Wrexham Council:

- Lancaster Terrace, Acrefair
- Ash Grove, Plas Madoc
- Bran, Plas Madoc
- Dinas, Glaslyn, Plas Madoc
- Gwynant, Plas Madoc
- Church Street Rhosymedre
- Short Lane, Newbridge

- Ty Mawr Country Park
- BMX Track and agility area, Ty Mawr Country Park
- Dolydd Lane, Cefn Mawr
- MUGA/Goal End, Rhosymedre

The Council's spending on this service is in the region of £16120.00 in 2025/26. The Council actively seek financial opportunities to upgrade and enhance the facilities.

4. **Youth Work Provision** — In recognition of the fact that good youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through non-formal educational activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning, the Community Council fund the provision of two sessions a week through a SLA agreement with WCBC. The sessions are held at George Edwards Hall on a Monday and Wednesday evening.

The cost of this service amounted to £13332.00 in 2024/25.

5. **Community Agent Scheme** — The Community Council employs a part-time Community Agent (21 hours per week). 16 hours is funded by Wrexham County Borough Council via a Welsh Government grant, 5 hours are funded direct by Cefn Community Council.

The principal role of the Community Agent is to work with the over 50s, providing easy access to a wide range of information that will enable them to make informed choices about their present and future needs. The aim is to help older people feel more independent, secure, and cared for and to have a better life. Particular attention is given to those who may need support or are particularly vulnerable with the Community Agent arranging referrals to the relevant statutory or voluntary organisations as required. The Agent also maintains close contact with various local organisations.

The Council have received a grant of £12,695 towards the cost of the provision in 2024/25.

6. #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers and Community Litter Picks – Councillors, partners, volunteers and other agencies continue to work together to litter pick on a rotational basis across the four community wards. The Council is also a litter picking hub and regularly loans equipment to organisations such as the police, schools and local groups.

During 2026-2027, this work has been strengthened by the brand new #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers initiative. Since May 2025 the team has collected more than 1,000 bags of litter from the community, improving the appearance of streets, parks, footpaths, verges and green spaces while also reducing risks to wildlife. Removing litter helps prevent animals from becoming

trapped or injured by plastics, cans, bottles and discarded materials, and helps keep local habitats safer for birds, hedgehogs, pollinating insects and other species.

The initiative also provides an important route into volunteering, civic pride and positive behaviour change. By linking litter picking with the wider #StayOnSide message, the Council is using environmental action as a practical way to promote responsibility, respect, community-mindedness and pride in place.



- 7. Crime prevention and reduction** - The Community Council works closely with the local Police. The local PCSO attend Council meetings when they are able, and each agenda contains a dedicated item on community policing to enable the officer to provide updates and respond to any issues/concerns raised by Council Members.

The speeding of vehicles on local roads has been the source of much concern with the result that the Council has financed the provision of a radar speed gun for the use by PCSO's to enable regular speed checks to be conducted. The council have also provided vehicle activated signs at speeding hot spots in the community.

The council have also purchased target hardening equipment which provides residents in the community with safety equipment for their homes as well as literature to display.

- 8. Financial Assistance** – The Council support both local & national organisations which provide a service to the Cefn Community. The following grants were awarded in 2024-25

We Are Plas Madoc	500.00
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N Wales & N West Rotary Club	200.00
Wales Air Ambulance	500.00
Urdd Eisteddfod	100.00
Nightingale House	1,000.00
Llangollen Eisteddfod	200.00
Wrexham Sounds	100.00
Family Friends	100.00
Calon FM	100.00
Eisteddfod Wreccsam	200.00
CRNCA	200.00
Friends Of Ruabon	200.00
Clwyd Family History	200.00
Rhosymedre Methodist Church	200.00
Friends of St John's Church	200.00
Ysgol Rhosymedre	200.00
Ysgol Acrefair	200.00
Ysgol Cefn Mawr	200.00
Ysgol Min Y Ddol	200.00
Phantasmagoria Film Festival	200.00
Hope House Hospice	500.00

9. Community Events and Benefits – The Community Council arranges free events throughout the year for its residents. In July an annual Garden competition is held for all residents in the community, this has taken place for twenty-one years, there are five categories which has been judged by a horticulturist from Derwen College, Oswestry. Students also accompany the judge on the day and a presentation event is held at the George Edwards Hall in September, where a buffet lunch is provided. Below is a picture of the best overall garden winner in 2024, Michael Roberts. Plus, a special recognition award for young gardener of the year was provided this year to young Parker Truby.



We were also treated to a spectacular dance performance from the performance arts students at Derwen College which is shown below.



Students and staff also attend every May to plant the summer flowers in various containers around the community, Tesco Cefn Mawr have assisted on many occasions, who help on the day planting and provide lunch.



In July 2024, Cefn Community Council proudly delivered its first ever Cefn Community Schools Olympics. The event took place at Plas Kynaston MUGA and Ty Mawr country park as it marked a significant milestone in the council's efforts to engage children and schools in positive, healthy, and community-driven activity.

The planning for the Olympics began with 23 individual heats delivered directly in local schools. Seven primary schools from across the Cefn area participated in these preliminaries, with the highest-performing pupils progressing to represent their schools at the final event. On the day, a total of 610 children competed across eight sporting events, supported by a team of 34 volunteers who ensured the day ran smoothly and safely.

Every participating child received a certificate of achievement, while medals were awarded to the top three competitors in each event. In total, 102 gold, 102 silver, and 154 bronze medals were presented. One school was crowned the overall winner of the event, though the focus remained on encouraging participation, enjoyment, and the development of positive memories and friendships.



The Community Council hold a Christmas event at the George Edwards Hall, which local groups and primary schools get involved with by holding stalls allowing them to raise funds. There is a Santa's grotto for the children to enjoy and receive a gift, this was very well attended last Christmas.



The community agent Donna Thornley organised and delivered a Christmas over 50's party at the George Edwards Hall in 2024 where residents came together to celebrate Christmas where they were treated to a Christmas themed meal and enjoyed dancing away and listening to local Choir Raise the Roof.



The council celebrate resident's big milestone anniversaries and birthdays, with the past year we have helped celebrate over ten birthdays and six anniversaries, allowing the

recipients to pick a gift of either flowers, chocolates, or a gift voucher worth £15. This is presented by the council chairman along with a card.



We have made significant contribution to preserving and commemorating the history and culture of our community. Two of our councillors voluntarily researched and produced books to commemorate WW1 and WW2 bringing together elements of local history and the stories of those who fought in the two wars (Joan Jones and Phil Vaughan received certificates of recognition from AVOW – pictured below). These were given away free to members of the community.



In 2025 we have had two volunteers sorting through archives for items of historical interest. A resident of the community and a student from the University of Wrexham have been coming in into the office as a voluntary archive researcher, this has allowed us to find items of interest that relates to our local area, and we have been displaying these on social media as part of our ‘#fromthearchives’ posts.

We came across this incredible link to a fallen soldier who is listed on our Cenotaph.

Sapper Eric Humphreys of Acrefair, died on the 11th of May 1940
He was just 24 years old.

Digging through some handwritten letters, we found this.

Its a beautiful handwritten letter from his mum and dad, to then Clerk of council, Mr Howell, sent on May 9th, 1945.

A lovely letter and incredible look back on their family history for the Humphreys family.

'Dear Friend and Brother'

"I cannot say whose mind the inspiration came that caused the letter I received yesterday, signed by the chairman and Clerk of the Cefn Parish Council.

This I do know and can say, I know of only one person in this, or any other locality that could conceive the words as beautifully put together.

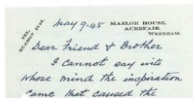
That person is your good self and with hearts full of gratitude we say "Thank you".

It is especially applicable in our case for it was on the 11th May 1940 that our own dear son passed on to what we hope is a much better world.

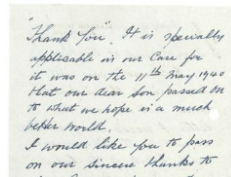
I would like you to pass on our sincere thanks to your council for we do appreciate that in the midst of so much joy, we and so very many others were not forgotten at a time when the Book of Memory is still with us.

Yours sincerely,
Mr and Mrs Humphreys"

Rank, Name & Service Number: Sapper HUMPHREYS, William
Frederick (Eric) 1895005
Service: Royal Engineers
Died: 11 May 1940
Age: 24
Details: Son of William Ferrie Humphreys & Bertha Emily Humphreys of Maelor House, Acrefair.
Cemetery or Memorial: Trefynant Cemetery, Cefn.



May 9th 1945
Dear friend & brother
& cannot say who
whose mind the inspiration
came that caused the



"Thank you". It is especially
applicable in our case for
it was on the 11th May 1940
that our dear son passed on
to what we hope is a much
better world.
I would like you to pass
on our sincere thanks to

A football tournament was held on the 14th of May 2024 at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre the fifth time this event has been held. This included five local teams made up of players from the surrounding schools. The referees were pupils from Ysgol Rhiwabon. The event was supported with donations from local businesses. it was enjoyed by all who attended. Pictured below is a group photograph with all the local schools. The children are awarded the Ken Bathers Cup for the winning team, Darren Bettis trophy for top goal scorer, and gold and silver medals for first and second place. All the children receive a football for their school, a team t-shirt and a free meal and drinks for taking part in the day.



Plas Kynaston play park is owned and run by Cefn Community Council. In 2022 we were able to secure £25,000 funding to relay the floor of the MUGA with a soft multi use sports surface for games such as 5 a side football, and basketball (Pictured below)



In 2024 Cefn Community Council were awarded £47,000.00 towards the upgrade of the football ground on Plas Kynaston Lane. This improvement to the ground will allow the facility to host Tier 3 football matches. New additions will include a 100-seater stand, widening and lengthening of the pitch to suit FAW tier standard requirements. New drainage on the site.

Work began on the site in early 2024 with the removal vegetation in line with advice from a tree arboriculturist and the local authority Environment department. These trees will be mitigated in the final design of the area with new planting of trees and shrubs. Hard standings for the seating and laying extra drainage on the pitch will commence from mid-May 2024 and will continue in the summer months, ready for Autumn 2025.

The ground improvements are phased, the above is 'Phase one', and funding for 'Phase two' (building new facilities for the schools and the community) is an ongoing project for the newly appointed community development officer.

10. **George Edwards Hall** – The George Edwards Hall was officially opened on 18th September 1911. The Hall, built to the design was completed at a total cost – erection and equipment – of £2,066-13-6d. The extension to the building was opened on 12th April 1978

The George Edwards Hall was operating as a cinema by 1914. The building formerly used for stage presentations.

It has a 26 feet wide proscenium, an 18 feet deep stage and two dressing rooms. By 1934 it had been re-named Stanley Cinema and was equipped with an AWH sound system. By 1944, it had been re-named People's Cinema and was still open in 1954.

By 2000, it had reverted to its original name George Edwards Hall and was in use as a community hall. It had retained its full stage facilities, and had a flat floor for dancing, with the catering facilities in the former stall projection room.

The Hall is situated on Well Street, Cefn Mawr the council offices are based here, monthly meetings of the council are held in the council chambers.

The main hall is equipped with a fully functioning kitchen. The lower room also has full kitchen facilities and can accommodate smaller parties or meetings and is currently used two evenings a week for the youth club. The hall is available to hire to the community for various functions, long term hirers include Dance Zone Academy, Slimming World and a local line dancing group. The hall is frequently hired for birthday parties. Bookings have increased over the last few years, however during the pandemic the hall was closed to the public and could only remain open to essential service users which ultimately has impacted on the income stream for the council. Bookings have increased dramatically since Covid ended and the hall is used regularly every weekday and evening, not only for private bookings but free community classes such as wellbeing, cooking, confidence, crafting, IT etc.

The council chamber includes a full hybrid system. This hybrid system allows the council to be more inclusive in its meetings, and accessibility is easier for members of the community who are unable to attend council meetings in person. The system is also a benefit to other community groups who can book the facilities. Coleg Cambria are to host free adult learning classes this year in the council chamber making use of the great facilities on offer.

George Edwards Hall Wildflower and Edible Garden

The Council has also developed a wildflower and edible garden to the rear of George Edwards Hall. This space encourages the growth of honeysuckle, hops and wild garlic, alongside edible planting including strawberries, white strawberries, Himalayan strawberries, rhubarb, Jerusalem artichoke, white currants and yellow raspberries. The garden supports the Council's commitment to biodiversity, food education and self-sustainable living by providing nectar, pollen, shelter and food sources for insects while also demonstrating how small community spaces can be used productively.

The garden provides a practical example of the Well-being of Future Generations ways of working: it is preventative, long-term, integrated with biodiversity and well-being outcomes, and can be used as a community learning resource for residents, young people and volunteers.

11. Environmental/Climate Change – Cefn Community Council remains fully committed to addressing the climate emergency and promoting environmental

sustainability through targeted investment, community engagement, and strong partnership working. The Council has undertaken and supported a variety of projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions, increasing biodiversity, and reconnecting the community with nature.

11.1. LED Streetlight Conversion

In a major infrastructure upgrade, the Council converted over 500 streetlights across the community to LED technology. This £80,000 project was delivered through an interest-free loan from Salix, a Welsh Government-backed scheme. Repayments began in April 2022 and will be spread over six years. The conversion is expected to achieve energy cost savings of over 70%, with additional reductions in maintenance expenses. These savings will be reinvested into infrastructure improvements such as replacement columns and additional lighting.

11.2. Dog Waste Management

To promote responsible pet ownership and maintain clean public spaces, the Council has installed eleven dog bag dispensers at strategic locations throughout the community. These are checked and replenished every two weeks. The initiative has proven effective in reducing dog fouling offences.

The Council has also led No Dog Fouling and Put It in the Bin campaigns, supported by digital online videos and social media messaging. These campaigns reinforce the message that clean streets and green spaces are everyone's responsibility, protecting public health, improving community pride and reducing pollution in places used by children, dog walkers, older residents and wildlife.

11.3. Wildflower Meadows and Tree Planting

With support from the National Lottery Green Spaces and Nature fund, the Council has established wildflower meadows and planted fruit trees at several community sites including:

- Plas Isaf, Rhosymedre
- The Green in Front of Maes Madoc, Acrefair
- The Old Quarry, Newbridge

These spaces now support pollinators, encourage biodiversity, reduce mowing requirements, and contribute to a reduction in carbon emissions. The project also promotes local food production and includes school engagement activities focused on environmental education.

This approach is supported by ecological best practice: flowering plants provide nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects, and those insects are essential to pollination, seed production and fruiting. The Council's mixture of wildflowers, fruiting plants, climbers and edible planting helps extend the season of interest and supports a wider range of species than short mown grass alone.

11.4. Forest School Development – Plas Kynaston Lane

A disused green space behind the football complex at Plas Kynaston Lane has been transformed into a Forest School site with the support of Derwen College. This initiative involved:

- Planting over 300 trees, including native fruit and nut species
- Introducing wildflowers, bluebells, and wild garlic
- Developing a medicinal herb garden for use by the Youth Club
- Engaging local schools and students with additional learning needs in hands-on nature education sessions

Future plans include installing bird boxes, secure tool storage, and outdoor learning materials to further support environmental education and biodiversity.

11.4a National Forest for Wales Application - Plas Kynaston MUGA Forest

Cefn Community Council has prepared and submitted a National Forest for Wales application for the Plas Kynaston MUGA Forest area. The application is supported by the site's natural canopy coverage and the Council's ongoing commitment to managing the site as a community woodland resource that supports biodiversity, learning, recreation and well-being.

A proposed tree species list has been prepared for the project, with species identified by Mr Paul Moss, Tree Expert, Derwen College. The list includes a mixture of native broadleaf trees, fruiting trees, shrubs and wildlife-supporting species. This diversity is important because mixed planting improves habitat value, structural diversity and long-term resilience to pests, disease and climate pressures.

Identified species include: Green Beech / Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*); Field Maple (*Acer campestre*); Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*); Plum (*Prunus domestica*); Hazel / Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*); Pear (*Pyrus communis*); Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*); Damson (*Prunus insititia*); Apple / Crab Apple (*Malus* sp.); Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*); Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*); Common Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*); Oriental Prunus / Ornamental Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*); and Walnut / Common Walnut (*Juglans regia*).

These species provide a range of ecological benefits including blossom for pollinators, fruit and nuts for birds and mammals, nesting opportunities, seasonal interest, carbon storage, shade,

soil stability and improved landscape character. Final scientific names and cultivars should be checked against nursery orders and planting records.



11.5. Solar Lighting Pilot Scheme

To explore sustainable energy solutions, the Council launched a solar-powered lighting pilot on High Street, Cefn Mawr. This trial will assess the feasibility of using solar technology to reduce energy consumption across other areas of the community.

11.6. Cefn Bank Environmental Improvements

Through collaboration with the “Our Picturesque Landscape” project (funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund), the Council supported enhancement works at Cefn Bank, including:

- Coppicing mature shrubs and selective thinning of trees to improve woodland health
- Removal of unstable stems near pathways
- Rebuilding a semi-circular stone wall
- Installation of a new metal bench and refurbishment of an existing bench

This project opened scenic views across the Dee Valley World Heritage Site and improved the area for both wildlife and public enjoyment. Councillors, community groups, and volunteers played a key role in the project's delivery.

11.7. Community Wildlife Walks

Three community wildlife walks have been organised in recent years to promote environmental awareness and health and wellbeing. These events are particularly valuable in reconnecting residents with nature in an area historically impacted by industrial activity.

11.8. Green Community Infrastructure – George Edwards Hall

In 2022, the Council secured funding from the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme to improve energy efficiency at George Edwards Hall. Upgrades included:

- Replacement of doors and windows
- Installation of a new roof on the Council building extension

These works not only ensure the hall's long-term viability but also support the sustainability of one of the community's last publicly owned heritage buildings, now over 100 years old.

11.9. Community Engagement and Education

In addition to physical improvements, the Council has prioritised educational and hands-on environmental activities, including:

- Nature walk at Ty Mawr led by Community Agent Donna
- School workshops including seed bomb making, bird feeder building, and herb planting
- Volunteer sessions to support green skills and promote wellbeing, delivered in partnership with local organisations

11.10 Bird Boxes and Swift Boxes

The Council has purchased bird boxes from Cefn and is identifying suitable community locations for installation. Some boxes are also being created locally from wood, supporting local making skills while increasing nesting opportunities for garden and woodland birds.

The Council has also installed six swift boxes to encourage swifts into the community. Swifts are a species of conservation concern, and well-sited boxes on suitable buildings can provide valuable nesting opportunities. Best practice is to place swift boxes high on buildings, with a clear flight path, avoiding direct hot sunlight where possible.

11.11 Hedgehog Ambassador Work

Cefn Community Council has supported Wrexham Council's Hedgehog Campaign by becoming a Hedgehog Ambassador. Through this role the Council has helped distribute more than 140 hedgehog boxes to the wider Wrexham community, enabling cross-collaboration with other community councils and strengthening wider awareness of hedgehog conservation.

Hedgehogs need connected, wildlife-friendly gardens and green spaces. This work complements the Council's litter-picking, wildflower planting and reduced chemical approach by encouraging residents to provide shelter, reduce hazards, protect food sources and think about how gardens, paths and green corridors can connect.

12. Competent Council – These are challenging times for community councils with many new challenges and opportunities, it is important to be ready for the future. A number of competency tests are emerging to help community councils determine how well equipped they are to meet the challenge ahead. These might include:

- A democracy test - % of councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or by-election ·
- A capability test – the Community Council may be required to employ a clerk with relevant professional qualifications ·
- A capacity test such as a minimum budget of £200k ·
- A governance test – the Council has sound financial management (including internal and external audit), be contactable by email and have a suitable website.

As at 2026-2027 the position continues as:

- There is a full Council of 16 members
- The current Clerk and assistant have the recommended ILCA qualification. The Clerk will be undertaking the CILCA professional qualification in the next financial year.
- The Council's budget is in excess of £200k
- The Council has sound management and financial systems. Its accounts are scrutinised by others. Its internal audit is undertaken by JDH Business Services of Mold. Agendas, minutes, and contact details can be found at www.cefncommunitycouncil.gov.uk and at Cefn Library.
- The community can email the Clerk or Assistant at: clerk@cefncommunitycouncil.gov.uk or admin@cefncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Cefn Community Council in conjunction with the Welsh Ambulance Service have worked to establish full coverage of Defibrillator units throughout our community at a total cost of £7600. The first unit installed at George Edwards Hall was very kindly provided through generous donations from people in our community, a fund-raising page was set up by Craig Roberts Butchers, Crane Street.

We were advised by Welsh Ambulance Service, people requiring the use of the defibrillators should not be more than 500 metres from them to allow for full coverage of the community we would need to install six units in total. The below locations will indicate where the units are being sited.



Ty Mawr Country Park, Cae Gwilym Lane, Cefn.
Hinds Shop Bro Gwilym, Cefn.
George Edwards Hall, Well Street, Cefn.
Llys Y Graig, Rock Road, Rhosymedre
Eagles, Llangollen Road, Acrefair.
Housing Office, Plas Madoc, Acrefair

We have been working with Groundwork North Wales to deliver free classes and workshops to the community. We have built up partnerships with local organisations such as Ty Mawr Country Park to host volunteer sessions and events, WAPM and CRNCA to deliver workshops to their residents, these include cooking, IT skills, confidence building etc.

We are part of the Low Carbon Communities Scheme with Wrexham Council and have received funding to facilitate community events that promote biodiverse projects. We have been involved in the project by engaging with all areas of our large community. This included 'Build your own bird feeders' with classes held in the four local schools. Bird feeder making and Wildflower seed bombs at Plas Madoc leisure centre and Ty Mawr, Herb planters at the Kettle Club in Plas Madoc. We are hoping to use some of the remaining funds to plant wildflower meadows at the entrances to the community, and to transform an unused parcel of land at bro Gwilym in Cefn Mawr, into a community wildlife Garden, these will be subject to permission from the local authority, which we are waiting for.

In 2026-2027, the Council will continue to use environmental education, digital media and practical volunteering to connect residents with climate and nature action. This includes continued promotion of Put It in the Bin, No Dog Fouling, litter prevention, wildlife gardening, responsible use of green spaces and the value of local habitats.

Aspirations for the year ahead are to continue to work together with the community and continue to progress towards improving the wellbeing of our residents.

We have social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) which are regularly updated and checked. The council is responsive on these platforms so that we are engaging with the community as effectively as possible. Our social media is used to share and advertise local events, publish our own news such as the re-opening of the MUGA or the closure of the cemetery for remedial works. Posts are neutral and unopinionated. Members of the public are welcome to contact us via these platforms if they have a query.

The Council will continue developing accessible digital content, including short online videos, to support environmental messages. These videos provide a low-cost way to reach residents, schools and community partners with practical guidance on litter prevention, dog fouling, biodiversity, volunteering and pride in place.

13. Community Development Officer

In January 2024, we appointed a Community Development Officer (CDO) with funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund via Wrexham County Borough Council. Initially, the post was temporary until October 2024; however, thanks to a successful grant application to The National Lottery's *Awards for All* scheme, the role was extended in February 2025 for a further 12 months, running until February 2026. The position was specifically re-funded to continue building on the success of the #StayOnSide Project and its positive impact within the community.

The CDO continues to deliver and develop a range of community-based initiatives, including CV writing workshops and the *Stay Onside Project*, which involves visiting local schools to educate pupils about the consequences of anti-social behaviour through the engaging and relatable medium of football. In addition, the CDO has been working closely with Coleg Cambria and Jobs Growth Wales to involve students in local volunteering projects with organisations such as CRNCA and Ty Mawr. These activities have included ground clearance, animal care, painting, litter picking, and general repair work—providing young people with practical experience, responsibility, and community connection.

Since the launch of these initiatives in 2024, anti-social behaviour rates among children aged 9–12 have decreased by 40%, according to data provided by North Wales Police.

This measurable improvement highlights the effectiveness of the CDO's proactive engagement work and its role in diverting young people away from negative behaviours.

Further building on this momentum, the CDO launched a *Girls Only Futsal Tournament* aimed at promoting inclusivity, gender equality in sport, and fostering teamwork and positive social values. The inaugural primary school's competition was held in May 2025 and was a resounding success, with Ysgol Acrefair crowned champions in a highly competitive and inspirational tournament.

For 2026-2027, the CDO role will continue to focus on partnership building, positive diversionary activity, volunteering, school engagement and community pride. The #StayOnSide message now links strongly with environmental responsibility through the #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers initiative, showing young people and residents that looking after the community is a practical expression of respect, equality and citizenship.

The Council will use the evidence from these programmes to demonstrate impact through participation numbers, volunteer hours, litter bags collected, schools involved, online reach, community feedback, partnership activity and links to reduced anti-social behaviour.

Evidence base and professional rationale

This report has been strengthened by aligning local activity with current well-being and environmental priorities. Pollinator-friendly planting supports insects that are essential for pollination and fruiting; hedgehog boxes and connected gardens support a species that needs safe movement through neighbourhoods; swift boxes provide nesting opportunities for a species of conservation concern; and litter picking reduces avoidable harm to wildlife while building civic pride and community resilience.

The Council's approach demonstrates the five ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act: long-term thinking, prevention, integration, collaboration and involvement. It also reflects the Council's local CEFN values: Community-mindedness, Equality, Future-focused action and Nature-loving stewardship.

2026-2027 improvement priorities

- Continue to support and evidence the #StayOnSide Cefn Litter Pickers, including bag totals, routes covered, fly-tipping reports and volunteer involvement.
- Continue partnership work with Wrexham Council, Keep Wales Tidy, Derwen College, schools, community councils and local groups.
- Monitor the George Edwards Hall wildflower and edible garden and use it as a demonstration site for biodiversity and self-sustainable living.

- Identify, install and monitor appropriate locations for bird boxes and swift boxes, ensuring good siting, maintenance and community awareness.
- Progress the National Forest for Wales work at Plas Kynaston MUGA Forest and maintain a professional species record for the site.
- Expand digital campaigns that promote responsible waste disposal, dog fouling prevention, wildlife care and pride in place.
- Review outcomes annually and report progress through Council meetings, social media, partnership updates and the next annual report.

Financial note: the budget estimate shown below remains the latest supplied 2025-2026 financial baseline. It should be updated with the approved 2026-2027 figures before final publication if those figures are available.





BUDGET ESTIMATE 2025-26 (LATEST SUPPLIED BASELINE)

INCOME

Precept	176948.00
Tesco Rent	2500.00
VAT Repayment	30000.00
Bank Int	2500.00
Grant	115000.00
Burial Fees	8500.00
Gravestones	700.00
War Graves	25.00
Wayleave	138.22
Lightsource	3700.00
Hire of GE Hall	23000.00
Vodafone	5000.00
	368011.22

EXPENDITURE

Plas Kynaston	10000.00
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Sundries	30000.00
Audit/GDPR	2500.00
Wages/Tax & NI	125000.00
Community Agent	14947.00
Pension	20000.00
Grants	5500.00
Stationery/Post/Telephone	2600.00
Training	1000.00
Repairs	0.00
Insurance	6500.00
Rent Coed Richard	0.25
Remembrance	1400.00
Chairmans Fund	1500.00
Website/IT	2500.00
Garden Competition	550.00
Fees/Subs/Travel	0.00
Playscheme	5090.00
Play Area Maintenance & Inspections WCBC	16120.00
Play Area Equipment	0.00
Elections	1000.00
CCTV	0.00
birthday flowers	250.00
summer/winter events	2000.00
Plants Summer/Winter	1150.00
SLA Youth Club	15033.00
Gravedigging	3500.00
Sundries	10000.00
Cemetery Maintenance	14000.00
Water Rates	250.00
Refuse Charge	1615.00
Supply/Repairs/ Lighting Maint	23920.00
new columns	7500.00
Salix Loan re-payment	14289.82
Cleaning Supplies	370.00
Lighting/Heating/Water	8500.00
Rates	6806.00
Sundries	5500.00
Repairs	4000.00
Hand Dryers	1650.00
Performing Rights	260.00
Renewals	550.00
Refuse Charges	660.00
	368011.07

COUNCIL MEMBERS 2026/2027

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