



Annual Report 2023/24

Information on the Organisation of the Council:

Councillors: As of March 2024, your Community Cllrs were:

Hirwaun

Cllr Adrian Harford (Vice Chair)
Cllr Leah Foster
Cllr Ceri Woodley
Cllr Rhys Howells
Cllr Marguerite Courtney-Solbach
Cllr Eryl O'Neill
Cllr Non Thomas
Cllr Zoe Goss
Cllr James Woodward
Cllr Adam Rogers

Penderyn

Cllr Colin Woodley (Chair)
Cllr Margaret Amos
Cllr Wendy Donovan

Allowances: Your Cllrs opted out of receiving their Statutory Allowances for this financial year.

Community Youth Representative:

Hirwaun – Caitlyn Kochalski

Sub Committees/Working Groups:

Cllrs sit on the following Community Council committees/working groups:

Finance Committee
Standing Orders Working Group
Garden Show Working Group
Hirwaun Village Improvements Working Group
Litter Champions

Cllrs attend the following external meetings:

Tower Colliery Site Liaison Committee
Tower Colliery Environmental Resource Centre Committee
A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Liaison Committee
Waterfalls Partnership Committee
Penderyn Quarry Liaison Group

Minor Authority Representative – Hirwaun Primary School
Minor Authority Representative – Penderyn Primary School
One Voice Wales Area Committee Meetings
Management Committee/Trustees – Hirwaun Village Hall
RCT Community Liaison Committee Meeting
Sight Loss Champion
Save a Life Cymru Champion

Key Contact Information:

Executive Officer – Emma Nelmes
office@hirwawunandpenderyncc.org.uk 01685 812850
Hirwaun Village Hall, High Street, Hirwaun, CF44 9SL

Basic Financial Information:

You will find the Annual Return and External Auditors report on our website.

Relationship with Principal Council:

The Community Council has signed a Charter agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council whilst recognising our respective responsibilities as autonomous, democratically elected statutory bodies which sets out how we aim to work together for the benefit of the local communities.

Resident Complaints:

Complaints from residents are brought to the attention of Cllrs at full council meetings and forwarded onto the relevant body.

Activities:

Key Council objectives for the year:

To enhance the village for its residents.

Assets and Services:

The Community Council owns The Old Fire Station which is leased to The Garden Society for the benefit of the community.

Activities:

We carried out the following activities last year:

Christmas Painting Competition
Daffodil bulbs for residents
Garden Show

Cost of Living Information Day
Seed Bomb making
Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom

Easter Eggs for schools	Meet the Stars Planetarium event
Remembrance Day Parade	Wildlife Habitat Box Competition
Free trees for Community Buildings	
Residents trip to the Visitor Centre at Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	
Litter picking in Penderyn in partnership with Penderyn Primary School	

Services Provided:

Flower Baskets for both villages
Maintaining the planters in both villages
Christmas Lights for both villages
Replacement bus shelter plus extended base at Penderyn (opposite the Community Centre)
Litter Hub

External Events Attended:

Hirwaun Primary School Open Day
Penderyn Community Centre Open Day
Eisteddfod Proclamation Parade
Sight Cymru's Annual Conference
We Belong Here – Women's Take Over of the Senedd

Achievements:

Cllr Adrian Harford attends Buckingham Palace Garden Party in recognition of his hard work over the last 3 years in working to get defibrillators installed in Hirwaun and Penderyn.
The Council received an Appreciation Award from Beth Winter MP in acknowledgement of our work in the Community.
Weatherman Walking episode airs on TV.

Grants applied for:

BBNP Connector grant – Wildlife Habitat Boxes for competition - £500 received
The National Lottery Community Fund – Benches for the Arcway Mineral Line - £3,924 received
Neighbourhood Network Grant – Community Council events - £1,000 received
Future Valleys Construction – Banners for the Garden Show - £250 received
Shared Prosperity Fund – Welcome signs - £14,018.78 requested – grant turned down

Grants given out:

Cylch Meithrin Penderyn – grant to purchase Easter Eggs - £90

Priorities:

Planned activities:

We will continue with our environmental projects which aim to improve the village, and our environment. These include: providing flower baskets and planters, spring bulbs, Garden Show, Seed Bomb Making and litter picks.

We will continue to provide Christmas lighting, and to organise the Remembrance Day parade.

Subject to grant funding:

We aim to continue with our Arcway project to install information boards and benches on the mineral line.

We aim to install new Welcome to Hirwaun and Welcome to Penderyn signs.

We hope to install additional planters at the Welcome signs.

Future budget requirements: These will be met via our precept and grant funding.

Tribute to Cllr Richard Jones:

We mourned the loss of Cllr Richard Jones this year. Much of the achievements in this report were based on the work undertaken by Cllr Jones.

Cllr Jones has been a member of the Community Council for the last 5 years serving the community as a Cllr for Hirwaun Ward. In that time he has served as Chair, and Vice Chair of the Community Council, along with sitting on various council committees to ensure the smooth running of the council. He was at the forefront of both editions of the Corona Chronicle which we circulated to residents in lockdown, as well as our Spotlight on Hirwaun & Penderyn campaign, and our Cost of Living event. Cllr Jones also worked behind the scenes to design all of the Facebook graphics and posters for the Community Council and for Hirwaun Village Hall. Cllr Jones was our Sight Loss Champion working towards making our villages more accessible for all of our residents. He conducted a Considerate Parking campaign for Hirwaun and worked tirelessly to have dropped curbs installed locally to improve access for disabled residents.

Our Chair Cllr Colin Woodley says: I was privileged to know Richard as a friend. His sense of humour was infectious and put people at their ease. He dedicated his time to helping others and many people are better off for his work. As well as working as a councillor, Richard ran his own business and sat on several committees across the Cynon Valley, giving advice in his own inimitable style. His passing has left a hole in our community and in the hearts of his family and friends. Many people knew Richard and we are all the better for that experience. Sleep tight Richard, from your friends at Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council and thank you.