



Annual Report 2024/25

Information on the Organisation of the Council:

Councillors: As of March 2025, your Community Cllrs were:

Hirwaun

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

Penderyn

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

Allowances: 13 Cllrs opted out of receiving their Statutory Allowances for this financial year.
1 Cllr accepted their allowance.

Sub Committees/Working Groups:

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

Finance Committee
Standing Orders Working Group
Grass Verge Working Group
Climate Emergency
Defibrillator Working Group
Litter Champions

Cllrs attend the following external meetings:

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

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.

Community Council 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/Events/Projects:

We carried out the following activities last year:

Christmas Painting Competition	D-Day 80 Service
Seed Bomb making	Remembrance Day Parade
Garden Show	Hirwaun & Penderyn in Bloom
Easter Eggs for schools	Declaration of a Climate Emergency
Kids Lantern Making	Kids Paper Daffodil Making
Spring Clean Cymru	CPR/Defibrillator Awareness Sessions
Kids String puppets Making	Wildlife Habitat Box Competition
Eisteddfod Spotlight on Hirwaun & Penderyn Campaign	
Litter picking in Penderyn in partnership with Penderyn Primary School	

Services Provided:

Flower Baskets for both villages
Maintaining the planters in both villages including 3 new planters for Hirwaun, and 1 new planter for Penderyn.
Daffodil bulbs for residents
Christmas Lights for both villages
Litter Hub

Six Benches installed on the Arcway Mineral Line
Hirwaun Welcome Signage
Upgrade to our Local Places for Nature package at our Butterfly Garden at Hirwaun Public Toilets
Tree Planting in Hirwaun

External Events Attended:

Local Places for Nature Showcase Event at the Senedd
Biodiversity in the National Park – Seminar and Tour
Penderyn Community Centre High Sherrif Award
Hirwaun Primary School Summer Fair
Poppy Stand Tesco Aberdare
Merthyr Cynon Foodbank Tesco Aberdare
Monumental Welsh Women Lady Rhondda Unveiling
Monumental Welsh Women Elizabeth Andrews Public Meeting
Here Be Dragons Exhibition St Elvan's Church
Penderyn Choir Charity Concert

Achievements:

We are the most used Litter Picking Hub in Wales with Keep Wales Tidy.
We showcased our environmental achievements at the Senedd, being invited along with several other Town & Community Councils to showcase our extensive work as part of the Local Places for Nature initiative.

Community Youth Representative:

Hirwaun – Caitlyn Kochalski
Projects include: Litter picking. Planting in our new Welcome Planters. Age Connects Christmas Card Appeal. Volunteering at the YMCA's new Community Garden
Achievements: High Sherrif Award in recognition of valuable services to the community.
Girl Guiding Celebrates Event nomination celebrating the hard work of Girl Guiding members.

Grants applied for:

Pen Y Cymoedd - £3,250 – To purchase two new Welcome to Hirwaun signs.
Shared Prosperity Fund - £2,049.25 – To fund the Garden Show, Seed Bombs, Kids Lantern Making, Kids Daffodil Making, Kids String Puppet Making.
Brecon Beacons Local Nature Partnership Community & Town Council Nature Recovery Grant - £2,080.58 – To purchase 4 additional planters, along with bee friendly plants, for Hirwaun and Penderyn.
SLCC Educational Grant – £90.00 - Training courses for the Executive Officer.
The Woodland Trust – Community Tree Pack – Request successful.
Local Places for Nature – Top Up Package – Request successful.

Dwr Cymru Community Fund – To purchase water bottles as part of our Climate Emergency project – Grant declined.

Pen Y Cymoedd – Grant request to purchase two new Welcome to Penderyn signs, plus one Welcome to Hirwaun sign – Grant declined x2 applications.

Grants given out:

First Hirwaun Scouts - £480 – Grant awarded towards the cost of Scout Camp.

Penderyn Village Group - £450 – Grant awarded towards the cost of the bus to Panto.

Cylch Meithrin Penderyn - £105 – Grant awarded to purchase Selection Boxes.

Cylch Meithrin Penderyn – £80 - Grant to purchase Easter Eggs.

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, Seed Bomb Making and litter picks. We will also continue to liaise with RCT to campaign the changing of their mowing practices and to improve our green spaces.

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 Penderyn signs, along with the last Welcome to Hirwaun sign.

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

Key Contact Information:

Executive Officer – Emma Nelmes

office@hirwawunandpenderyncc.org.uk 01685 812850

Hirwaun Village Hall, High Street, Hirwaun, CF44 9SL