

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

For Financial Year 2021/2022



“Working to enhance our community”



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Introduction By Town Mayor

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL – MAYOR’S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to the Mayor’s Annual Report for 2021/2022. This year has again been dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, although the work of the council for the residents of Llantwit Major has continued albeit under the restrictions imposed by Welsh Government. It has been a very frustrating term of office as Mayor for myself with a number of events having to be cancelled at the last minute due Covid restrictions, but nevertheless one that I have enjoyed. Fortunately, I was able to attend more events than last year’s Mayor Cllr. Gerwyn Thomas who had an extremely difficult year under more severe restrictions.

The use of virtual meetings has now become part and parcel for the running of the Town Councils affairs with all the meetings up until the end of March done this way. Hybrid meetings will now become normal working practice for Councils throughout Wales. Llantwit Major Town Council has recently purchased equipment to enable this to happen within Council meetings. I was delighted to have chaired the March full Town Council’s meeting in this way, even though it was more challenging to manage. It also made it possible for all councillors to be able to attend the meeting without the worry of this dreadful virus.

One event that I did manage to hold for my nominated charities was a garden party which was held in July. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful on the day which helped to make the event a great success. Strict Covid rules limited numbers, but all Guidance was followed to ensure everyone’s safety.

A Carol service in a barn with cattle, sheep and a donkey had been organised and was a complete sell-out but unfortunately had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the increased risk of the Omicron variant. Nevertheless, the animals still came into the barn to be sung to by myself and my family.

I would like to express my gratitude to the kind sponsors and supporters of my events who have helped me to raise nearly £2,000 for Llantwit Major youth charities.

My wife and I were extremely honoured to be asked to attend the Royal Air Force “Wales and the Battle of Britain Historical Exhibition” which took place in Cardiff City Hall in September. The deep association between RAF St Athan and Llantwit Major made this event extra special. RAF St Athan has played a major role in the town’s growth and culture throughout the past 84 years and a large part of the town’s population will undoubtedly have had some involvement with the camp at some point.

Again, this year’s Remembrance service was affected by Covid but we did manage to have a small parade with restricted numbers from various organisations marching and laying wreaths at the Cenotaph.

It was a great disappointment to me that I could not hold a Civic Service to mark my year as Mayor of this historic town. As someone who has been born, raised and lived in the town all my life it was something that I was really looking forward to. Various dates were considered, but with Covid restrictions, staff numbers and the upcoming May Elections it proved impossible to arrange. However, I did have the privilege to meet other dignitaries at several other Civic Services throughout the Vale that did manage to take place.

The Town Council has responsibilities of looking after many areas and buildings throughout the town of Llantwit Major. Councillors have again put in an immense amount of work and effort into the various committees in order to maintain and improve the facilities within the town. I am most grateful to them for this and the help that they have given me throughout my term of office.

Some of the year's achievements have been installing a new sound system and hearing loop in the Llantonian Hall, more adult exercise equipment and signage on the recreational field and a new fire alarm system in the sports pavilion. New signage promoting Llantwit Major as a Fairtrade was also purchased and placed at the entrances to the town. An extensive topple testing survey was also carried out in Boverton cemetery. This year also saw the first wedding in our newly refurbished Council chambers with more bookings for the coming year.

A new lighting system to illuminate our beautiful Town hall has been purchased and will be installed in April/May. The clock will also be fully cleaned and repaired plus we will hopefully have the chiming mechanism working again.

To be able to manage and maintain all these facilities throughout this difficult year also needs a capable workforce. What an amazing team of staff in the Town Hall we have, without them none of this great work could have been achieved.

Throughout my term of office, I have met many new residents who have moved to Llantwit Major and have said what a wonderful place it is to live. A beautiful, well maintained, friendly and welcoming town are just some of the things I have been told. If Llantwit Major Councillors have helped to contribute towards some of these wonderful comments, then I feel we have achieved our reasons for wanting to become Town Councillors.

Councillor David Powell
Llantwit Major Town Mayor

Background to Report

This report was compiled following the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The report shows how the Town Council has taken steps towards meeting local objectives as laid out in the local Well-being plan for our area. These objectives are based on our own knowledge and consideration of circumstances and characteristics for our area.

The Town Council have worked with many local organisations to meet the objectives laid out, either financially, administrative support or use of facilities.

Majority of 'projects' are now either on the Town Council website or Social Media Sites. Feedback is always encouraged from local residents.

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor D Powell term in office as Town Mayor and Chair of the Council, which started in May 2021.

The year has once again been defined by the Coronavirus Pandemic with the world still dealing with this unprecedented virus that has impacted on everyone, so dearly.

The Annual Report this year again therefore must reflect heavily on the Covid 19 Pandemic. Although lockdown restrictions started lifting this year the legislation from the Coronavirus Act 2020 defines how Councils must continue to operate. There were further periods of working from home, holding remote Council Meetings, and the further closing and reopening of council facilities whilst adhering to social distancing and Welsh Government Covid 19 guidelines.

Ruth Quinn
Town Clerk to Llantwit Major Town Council

History of Llantwit Major Town Council

Llantwit Major Town Council serves a population of approximately 14,500. It is the third largest Town/Community Council within the catchment of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and is still growing with the new housing developments being built around our surrounding town.

The Town Council was formed in 1974 although before this Llantwit Major was served by a Parish Council and this can be traced back to 1894. The first Town Council Mayor was Mr A C W Davies (1974-75).

Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr) is steeped in history with it being named as the site of the main church of Illtud, one of the founding Saints of the monastic settlements of the 5th century AD in Wales. Nowadays Llantwit Major is surrounded by countryside and has excellent transport links, as well as to the South the Bristol Channel and the Heritage Coastline.

Llantwit Major Town Council is made up of 14 elected Councillors representing 4 wards, West Ward, South East Ward, North Ward and Boverton Ward. There is a team of 6 staff working both full time and part time delivering services on a daily basis.

The Council is responsible for many facilities, including 5 community buildings (2 of which are listed), bowling green, tennis courts, 2 playparks, 2 open spaces, recreation field, ornamental pond, cemetery and allotment site. The Town Council are in the process of taking over Stradling Park, an overgrown area in the centre of the town, under a 99-year lease from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Thus, creating an additional open space/recreational area which can be developed for the community.

In 2013 the Town Council resolved to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Services and provide a Youth Council. The Town Council have budgeted to continue to support a Youth Council in the town. They attend Full Town Council Meetings and help at events in the town.

Town Council Committees

At the Annual Meeting held on the 27th May 2021 the following Committees / Forums were accepted for financial year 2021/2022:-

FULL TOWN COUNCIL

FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE

RECREATION & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

FOOTPATH FORUM

TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP

PLANNING COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL WORKING GROUP

YOUTH LINK COUNCILLORS

CITIZEN AWARDS PANEL

FAIRTRADE FORUM

SCHOOL GARDEN

5 YEAR PLAN COMMITTEE

ALLOTMENT SUB COMMITTEE

BOWLS CLUB SUB COMMITTEE

TENNIS CLUB SUB COMMITTEE

RESHAPING SERVICES COMMITTEE

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMITTEE

APPEAL HEARING (PERSONNEL)

APPEALS COMMITTEE (PERSONNEL)

GREIVANCE PANEL (PERSONNEL)

INTERVIEW PANEL

TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES/COMMITTEES

LLANTWIT MAJOR LIFE GUARDS

CHARITIES;

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

LLANILLTYD FAWR IN
GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME STEERING GROUP
POWER STATION LIAISON GROUP
PUBWATCH;
P.A.C.T
FRIENDS OF GLAMORGAN HERITAGE COAST
LLANTWIT MAJOR CHAMBER OF TRADE
CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMMITTEE
TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

MINOR AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION ON VALE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

ST. ILLTYD'S JUNIOR & INFANT SCHOOL
YSGOL DEWI SANT INFANT SCHOOL
YSGOL DDRAIG JUNIOR SCHOOL

Calendar of Town Council Meetings 2021/22

2021

27 th MAY	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
10 th JUNE	FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
24 th JUNE	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
5 th JULY	FOOTPATH FORUM
13 th JULY	TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP
29 th JULY	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
6 th SEPT	FOOTPATH FORUM
30 th SEPT	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
14 th OCT	FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
28 th OCT	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
2 nd NOV	TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP
25 th NOV	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
16 th DEC	FULL TOWN COUNCIL

2022

13 th JAN	FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE
17 th JAN	FOOTPATH FORUM
27 th JAN	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
8 th FEB	TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP
24 th FEB	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
31 st MARCH	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
4 th APRIL	FOOTPATH FORUM
19 th APRIL	TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP
28 th APRIL	FULL TOWN COUNCIL
19 th MAY	ANNUAL MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PLANNING COMMITTEE	DATES TO BE DECIDED WHEN REQUIRED
BUILDING AND RECREATIONS COMMITTEE	DATES TO BE DECIDED WHEN REQUIRED
5 YEAR PLAN COMMITTEE	DATES TO BE DECIDED WHEN REQUIRED
WORKING GROUP	DATES TO BE DECIDED WHEN REQUIRED

Your Town Councillors

West Ward

Councillor Gwyn John



Councillors Details	<p>Councillor Gwyn John Ashgrove House High Street Llantwit Major CF61 1SS</p> <p>01446 793669 Cllr.GJohn@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk</p>
Committee Member	<p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation & Buildings Committee</p>
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>I became a Councillor all those years ago to represent the people of our Town and to work hard in their interests, nothing has changed I have Llantwit Major running through my blood like a stick of rock and whilst the electorate want me I will continue to work for them.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months I have set my target for a new Health Centre Hub for the Town sited on Eagleswell Road, it was my idea and Llantwit First Independents supported me in collecting a petition of 3500+ signatures towards my campaign.</p>

Councillor David Powell (Town Mayor)



Councillors Details	<p>Purlon Farm Wick Road Llantwit Major CF61 1YU</p> <p>01446 792527 Cllr.DPowell@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk</p>
Committee Member	<p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Footpath Forum (Chair) Town Study Steering Group 5 Year Plan Committee Working Group Planning Committee (Deputy Chair) School Garden Citizen Awards Panel Remembrance Day Committee Reshaping Services Committee Christmas Light Committee Friends of Glamorgan Heritage Coast</p>
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>The reason that I wanted to become a Town Councillor is that I have seen many changes in Llantwit Major in my lifetime and I was keen to ensure that Llantwit Major remained a place where people enjoy living and working. I have always been immensely proud of our historic town and local rural area. I felt that the town needed to be preserved and maintained for future generations and as a councillor something I could help to achieve. Being involved on the footpath committee ensuring our rural rights of way are maintained and, on the planning committee working to keep a balance between maintaining the character town, its rural surroundings and its growth have help to ensure that some of this has been achieved. Being elected Mayor has been an immense honour for me and given me the opportunity to invest my time on the council in helping the Town and its future.</p>

South East Ward

Councillor Gordon Wilkie



Councillors Details	<p>64 Ham Lane South Llantwit Major CF61 1RN</p>
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	01446 795490 Cllr.GWilkie@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Youth Link Councillor Allotment Sub Committee Meeting Remembrance Day Committee Reshaping Services Committee Ysgol Dewi Sant Infant School (Governor)
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	I became a councillor to give something back to the community and I have been finding it quite rewarding helping residents to resolve their problems. I hope to become a County councillor so I can do even more for community. In addition, I have been heavily involved in: (1) Campaigns to prevent developments in Ham Wood (2) Raising funding pledges towards the purchase the wood for the community. (3) Organising CPR & Defibrillator training for the town and Vale residents (4) I have also researched/created a list of more than 60 defibrillators in the local area, and the list is growing.

Councillor Gerwyn Thomas (Deputy Town Mayor)



Councillors Details	71 Illtyd Avenue Llantwit Major CF61 1TH 01446 792007 Cllr.GThomas@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Footpath Forum Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Youth Link Councillor Citizen Awards Panel School Gardens 5 Year Plan Committee

	Reshaping Services Committee Remembrance Day Committee Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee Pubwatch Christmas Light Committee
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	The reason I became a councillor was to give a little back to the town following my retirement in 2016. My aspirations are not personal but are guided by what is necessary for the betterment of LM. My achievements, also, are not individual ones, but in being an active part of an effective team, working on behalf of residents.

Councillor Graham Morgan



Councillors Details	19 Waterfall Mews Ham Manor Park Llantwit Major CF61 1BA 079 832 126 38 Cllr.GMorgan@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Footpath Forum Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Youth Link Councillor Citizen Awards Panel School Gardens 5 Year Plan Committee Reshaping Services Committee Remembrance Day Committee Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee Pubwatch Christmas Light Committee
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	During my tenure as Landlord of the Old White Hart, Llantwit Major 1st Independents held their monthly meetings there. I soon became aware of their policies and objectives with respect to their role in Llantwit Major and the Town Council in particular. I was particularly interested in the fact they were not influenced in any way by the policies of the

	mainstream political parties. An invitation by Cllr Gwyn John followed to become part of an organisation that puts the Voice of the People of Llantwit Major above all other issues. To this end I offered myself as a potential candidate for the role Town Councillor South East Ward
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Boverton Ward

Councillor Jeff Evans



Councillors Details	10 The Walled Garden Llantwit Major CF61 1RP 01446 790676 Cllr.Jevans@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee (Chair) Planning Committee Citizen Awards Panel Town Hall Working Group 5 Year Plan Committee Bowls Club Sub Committee Tennis Club Sub Committee Reshaping Services Committee
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>I wanted to do something for the community as I had done many years before in the 70's when I was part of the carnival committee which was a big event back then. With hindsight I wish I had become a councillor many years ago but it was too political.</p> <p>The last 10 years I feel quite proud of the things I have helped to bring about for the town in general...ie: playground, bowls club, tennis club, refurbishment of the old school plus the council chamber and various other things.</p> <p>I am sad to be leaving as I have made many new friends and I have enjoyed participating in council business, but I feel the time is right for me, not least due to health reasons.</p>

Councillor Mrs Sally Hanks



Councillors Details	<p>Greenmeadow Mill Road Llantwit Major CF61 1UH</p> <p>01446 796803 Cllr.SHanks@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk</p>
Committee Member	<p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Hall Working Group Five Year Plan Citizen Awards Panel (Chair) Allotment Sub-Committee Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade Ysgol Ddraig Junior School (Governor)</p>
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>Back in 2011 I personally became involved in a planning matter and was disgruntled with the way it was being handled. I spoke to Councillor Gwyn John who was a Town Councillor and a County Councillor, and after a few chats he suggested I stand as a Town Councillor. I was duly elected in May 2012 and have never looked back. I have always loved Llantwit Major and felt I had a good understanding and knowledge of the area. In 2016 I was elected as Mayor of Llantwit, and was very proud and privileged to do so. I enjoyed being a Town Councillor so much that in 2017 I was elected to represent Llantwit as a County Councillor. I feel we have achieved much for Llantwit Major and Boverton over the years, and aspire to achieve much more.</p>

Councillor Robert Gant



Councillors Details	1 Glamorgan Close Llantwit Major CF61 1UF 01446 795367 Cllr.RGant@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Footpath Forum Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Fair Trade Committee (Chair) Charities Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	To make a difference and help shape the future of the local community. To keep my ward members informed of council decisions, future projects and wanting to ensure the community gets the right services. Achievements; Continued to raise the profile and awareness of Llantwit Major being a Fairtrade Town. Provided allotment holder input to the Allotment committee. Provided Town Council input to the Llaniltud in Flower group. Continued to work with Age Connects to provide better services for the Town.

Councillor Mrs Gill Hughes



Councillors Details	12 Voss Park Drive Llantwit Major Cf61 1YD 07978 707058 Cllr.GHughes@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee Allotment Sub Committee (Chair)

	Remembrance Day Committee Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower Town Twinning Association Wick and Marcross Church in Wales (Governor)
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>As soon as we moved into Llantwit Major I fell in love with the town.</p> <p>The coastal position and friendly people made me want to contribute to the town in some way.</p> <p>I brought experience of being on several committees both in my professional life as a pharmacist and in my social life I was heavily involved in bowls. I was the Secretary of Welsh Womens Bowling association for 10 years.</p> <p>I am involved with fund raising in St Illtud's church and as a result have helped organise the Easter trail for the children and also the production of a calendar which raised considerable funds.</p> <p>I am involved in several committees like the planning committee and am chairman of the allotment committee and with the committee been responsible for widening the entrance thus making it safer for pedestrians.</p>

North Ward

Councillor Dr Peter Dickson



Councillors Details	Fairfield Cowbridge Road Llantwit Major CF61 2YS 01446 790393 Cllr.PDickson@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee (Chair) Remembrance Day Committee Power Station Liaison Group Friends of Glamorgan Heritage Coast
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>I became a Councillor to try and use my life experience as both a GP and senior adviser in the Health Service to help the people of Llantwit Major, a town in which my wife and I are very pleased to be part of.</p>

	<p>I have tried to listen to the concerns of residents and by working with the supportive Town Hall team, fellow Town Councillors and also Vale of Glamorgan Councillors, deal with issues to the best of my ability.</p> <p>The past year has continued to be difficult because of the ongoing pandemic. However, I have contributed to Council meetings and sub-committees and also chaired the Planning sub-committee through 2021-22. This has involved establishing what I believe is a working relationship with the Vale Planning Officers so that they do attempt to listen to our concerns, even though our opinions may vary!</p> <p>I hope that, given my background, I will be able to work towards improving the health and social care facilities for the people of Llantwit Major</p>
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Councillor Mrs Jayne Norman



Councillors Details	28 Dyfrig Court Llantwit Major CF61 2GA 01446 796039 Cllr.JNorman@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>I became a councillor as I felt that rather than complain that 'Someone ought to do something about that!', I should stand up and try and do something myself.</p> <p>I feel that with the help of my fellow councillors we have managed to achieve many success within the Town, but on a personal level, I am proud to have been both the Mayor of Llantwit Major (2017-18) , and of the Vale of Glamorgan (2020-2022), and, as a member of the Learning & Culture Scrutiny Committee on the Vale Council, I was instrumental in the introduction of the Period Poverty campaign in the County, ensuring that every girl in the Vale has access to hygiene products when needed.</p> <p>This is a topic I feel very strongly about, and was delighted to see the Vale Council and the local schools embrace the idea and follow it through.</p>

Councillor Dr P D Ellis



Councillors Details	<p>Willastones 13 Heol Pentre'r Felin Llantwit Major CF61 2XS</p> <p>01446 796517 Cllr.DEllis@llantwitmajortown.council.gov.uk</p>
Committee Member	<p>Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Remembrance Day Committee Charities FairTrade Committee Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group P.A.C.T Town Twinning Association</p>
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	<p>I became a Town Councillor because I wished to play a role in promoting and developing Llantwit Major as an ideal place to live, especially with its unique history, coastal location and wide range of organisations and facilities, My vision is that of a caring and friendly community in which people feel safe and enjoy a good quality of life, whatever their age. Over the last five years I have succeeded particularly in establishing improved provision and facilities for older people and those with disabilities, creating a greener and more sustainable environment, reducing food poverty and promoting Llantwit Major as a Fairtrade town. I am actively involved in campaigning for a new Health Centre.</p>

Councillor Mr E Williams



Councillors Details	3 Grange Gardens Llantwit Major CF61 2XB 01446 793021 Cllr.EWilliams@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	I wanted to contribute to the Town in which I've settled and brought up my family. I've seen many changes and want to continue to shape how it develops for the future. Since 2008, I've continued to serve the Town and surrounding area, taking into consideration all range of views and perspectives to bring about a safe and great place to live.

Councillor Mr D Foster



Councillors Details	17 Llanmaes Road Llantwit Major CF61 2XD 01146 792179 Cllr.DFoster@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk
Committee Member	Finance and Policy Committee – Chair Recreation and Buildings Committee Planning Committee Town Hall Working Group – Chair 5 Year Plan Committee – Chair Citizen Awards Panel Bowls Club Sub Committee Tennis Club Sub Committee Reshaping Services Committee – Chair Town Twinning Association St Illtyds Primary School (Governor)
Why I became a Councillor? / What have I achieved?	After working in local government for over 30 years I thought my experience might be of help. The success of the Town Council is down to the Town Clerk and her staff. I hope I have been able to make a contribution to the work of the Council and provide a link between the staff and the Council.

Meet Your Staff

Mrs Ruth Quinn – Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Based at the Town Council offices, Town Hall, works 37 hours a week.

Job Purpose:

- Undertake the duties of the Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer of Llantwit Major Town Council and act in accordance with the statutory duty to carry out all the functions, and, in particular, to serve or issue all notifications required by law of a local authority's Proper Officer
- Take full responsibility for ensuring that the instructions of the Town Council in connection with its function as a Local Authority are carried out
- Advise the Town Council on Standing Orders and policies to be followed, in respect of the Authority's activities and, in particular, to produce all the information required for making effective decisions
- Be accountable to Llantwit Major Town Council, for effective management of all its resources
- To ensure an effective organisational structure is developed and implemented to meet the needs of the town council whilst balancing the need for financial efficiencies
- Overall responsibility for all the financial records of the Council and administration of its finances
- Overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with current Health and Safety regulations

Overall responsibility for Cemetery Management and ensuring the council meets the statutory requirements for the safe custody of all documents, deeds, records and burial registers

1. General Duties

- Develop proposals for the long-term strategic vision for Llantwit Major, taking into account developments in local government policy
- Prepare, in consultation with appropriate members, agendas for meetings of the Town Council and its committees, attend such meetings and prepare minutes for approval
- Manage, monitor and control town council facilities, service agreements and any partnerships entered into by them
- Act as Council's lead officer for future major projects
- Liaise and represent the council with the public, other public bodies and organisations including attending meetings with key stakeholders and positively promoting the council within the local community
- Identify relevant sector-related information and distribute to Councillors
- Receive and deal appropriately with correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council
- Study reports and other data on matters relating to the business of the Council, and discuss matters with specialists where required

- Draw up, both on their own initiative and as a result of suggestions by Councillors, proposals for consideration by the Council and advise on feasibility, practicability and likely impact/effects of specific courses of action
- Prepare, in consultation with the Chairman, press releases about the activities of or decisions of the Council
- Attend relevant training courses to maintain continuous professional development
- Act as a representative of the Town Council at meetings as required

2. People Management

- Have overall responsibility for the work of LMTC staff ensuring that all requirements of employment legislation are adhered to and to be responsible for all aspects of the management and employment of staff
- Undertake direct line management of specified staff members in keeping with the policies of the Town Council
- Undertake all necessary activities in connection with the management of salaries and conditions of employment

3. Financial / Physical Resources

- Act as Responsible Financial Officer for the Council in respect of expenditure, income and fixed assets
- Overall responsibility for the preparation of the annual budget including precept, and the submission of annual accounts in accordance with financial regulations
- Have delegated responsibility for expenditure in emergency situations up to a designated amount
- Take responsibility for annual monitoring and balancing of the Council's accounts and preparation of records for audit purposes and VAT, and ensuring these provide value for money

4. Policy

- Ensure that legal, statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed, and ensure that Council members have an up to date understanding of their statutory and other responsibilities

Mrs Dawn Howles – Deputy Town Clerk

Based at the Town Council offices, Town Hall, works 30 hours a week.

The Deputy Town Clerk will deputise for the Town Clerk and carry out the statutory and delegated functions of the Town Clerk in his/her absence due to annual leave or sickness.

1. Ensure that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed .
3. Support the Town Clerk in ensuring that the Council's obligations for Health and Safety Regulations are properly met.
4. Prepare, in consultation with members, agendas for meetings of the Council and Committees. To attend such meetings and prepare minutes for approval, other than where such duties have been delegated to another Officer
6. In the absence of the Town Clerk cover their absence at the office, work with the Chairmen of other Committees to establish agendas, attend and subsequently minute Council and committee meetings
7. Have responsibility for supporting the work of the Planning Committee
8. Have responsibility for the Town Study Steering Group and act as the officer responsible for incoming queries and reports
10. Support the Clerk in the delivery of assets to the Town Council
11. Support the Clerk in maintaining and monitoring all systems and records relating to the Council's management of assets, including buildings, public open spaces and public realm
12. Act as the officer responsible for collating requests for allotments and leading on the introduction and development of allotment provision (including tenant liaison)
13. Act as the officer responsible for developing and updating the website with Council information, agendas, minutes and news items
14. Support the Clerk in the procurement of goods and services for the Council
15. Support the Clerk to ensure the timely and effective management of the Council's ongoing supply contracts renewals
16. Identify funding sources to support the on-going work of the Town Council, including community development work, as appropriate and to prepare funding applications for submission
17. Receive correspondence and documents on behalf of the Council and to deal with the correspondence or documents or bring such items to the attention of the Council. To issue correspondence as a result of instructions or the known policy of the Council
18. Study reports and other data on activities of the Council and on matters bearing on those activities. Where appropriate, to discuss such matters with administrators and specialists in particular fields and to produce reports for circulation and discussion by the Council
19. Draw up on his/her own initiative and as a result of suggestions by Councillors, proposals for consideration by the Council and to advise on the practicability and likely effects of specific courses of action

20. In the absence of the Clerk to supervise staff members and manage the day-to-day running of the Council offices
21. Act as the representative of the Council where required
22. Prepare in consultation with the Chairman and other Councillors as appropriate, press releases about the activities or decisions of the Council
23. Prepare newsletters, posters and advertisements pertaining to Council business
24. Assist in the organisation of Town Council events
25. Attend training courses or seminars on the work and role of the Clerk and Council as required 26. Participate in the annual appraisal scheme
27. Continue to acquire the necessary professional knowledge require for the efficient management of the affairs of the Council; membership of The Society of Local Council Clerks is suggested
28. Undertake any other reasonable tasks as directed by the Town Clerk

Mrs Nia Page – Administrative Assistant

Based at the Town Council offices, Town Hall, works 20 hours a week

(Monday to Wednesday all day)

To provide administrative support to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk (as listed on attachment)

To assist in the process of developing service delivery and improvement plans for the Council's services and activities

To assist with charity functions and events for the Town Mayor, including attendance and designing of posters and tickets

To be a point of contact for the Town Council office, including answering of phone and assisting visitors to the office

Oversee the publication of relevant Council information that promotes the town and the council's activities

Market the Town Council, providing press releases relating to positive news stories and engaging in public relations opportunities representing the Town Council

Regular updates about the Town Council activities on social media – across all platforms. Ensure Town Council website is kept up to date

Attend external meetings and gatherings on behalf of Town Council and reporting back to Councillors in both written and verbal context

Mrs Frances Butler – Administrative Assistant

Based at the Town Council offices, Town Hall, works 8 hours a week.

(Thursday and Friday mornings)

To provide administrative support to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk (as listed on attachment)

To run the Town Mayors Diary and organise charity functions and events for the Town Mayor

To be a point of contact for the Town Council office, including answering of phone and assisting visitors to the office

Attend external meetings and gatherings on behalf of Town Council and reporting back to Councillors in both written and verbal context

Mr Raymond Duncan – Gardener/Handyman

Based at the Recreation Ground, works 37 hours a week.

To maintain high standards of maintenance of Council assets within the town.

Main duties/responsibilities

Mowing and strimming of two parks and an Allotment site.

- General maintenance in Parks, including benches & play equipment
- To provide flower displays at various points around the town, including around the Cenotaph and the Town Hall Building
- General maintenance and upkeep of all Town Council Buildings
- Internal decorating (painting);
- External cleaning and tidying/weeding, litter picking around Council buildings car parks, parks, cemetery, west street pond and allotment site
- Awareness and implementation of health and safety responsibilities as an employee.
- Fulfil necessary administrative tasks associated with the responsibilities of the post
e.g., Time sheets, maintenance fault log reporting, consumables ordering, legionnaire testing.
- Being courteous and friendly to members of the public as the 'face' of the Town Council.
- Take a flexible approach in order to meet the Council's requirements.
- To maintain/ upkeep of tools / ride on mower / town council van to undertake the role.
- Undertake other duties that may be required from time to time within the general scope of the post.

Mrs L Heffernan – Cleaner/caretaker, Town Hall

Based at Town Hall & Old School, works 16 hours a week.

Duties will include;

To follow timetable for cleaning up to 4 council buildings dependent upon usage and requirements.

- Responsibilities to include Cleaning, washing, sweeping, vacuum cleaning, emptying of litter bins, polishing and dusting including toilets, and washbasins, and fixture and fittings, using where appropriate powered equipment, and cleaning materials. Clean windows/glass surfaces. Clean light fittings/shades
- Ensuring that washroom facilities/toilet areas are regularly inspected to maintain a high standard of cleanliness and that they are maintained with an adequate supply of soap, toilet rolls etc
- Ensuring sufficient stocks of essential janitorial materials are maintained e.g. soap, paper towels, toilet rolls, light bulbs etc
- Convey waste produce to the appropriate central refuse area as required. undertake the sorting of rubbish in compliance with the town council's recycling policy.
- Undertake internal and external training as specified by the Town Clerk or the Council
- Any other duties as reasonable requested by the Clerk or Council

Town Council Training Policy / Plan

Llantwit Major Town Council with reference to Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021 (in force from 19th April 2022) are in the process of setting up the Llantwit Major Town Council Training Policy and Plan for Councillors and Staff which is a legal requirement effective from November 2022. See below:-

67Community council training plans

(1)A community council must make and publish a plan (a “training plan”) setting out its proposals in relation to the provision of training for—

- (a)the councillors of the community council, and
- (b)the community council's staff.

(2)A community council must make its first training plan no later than six months after the date on which subsection (1) comes into force.

(3)A community council must make a new training plan no later than three months after each ordinary election of community councillors to the council.

(4)A community council must review its training plan from time to time.

(5)If a community council revises or replaces its training plan, it must publish the revised or new plan.

(6)Section 101 of the 1972 Act (arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities) does not apply to a community council's functions of—

- (a)determining the content of a training plan or any revised plan, and
- (b)reviewing the training plan.

(7)A community council must have regard to any guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers about the exercise of functions under this section.

The Training Policy and Plan will be published as a section on the Annual Report for 2022/23.

Town Council Assets

Recreation Ground

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major – 9.63 Acres

- Two Play Areas
- Three Rugby Pitches
- Open Space with seat and trees
- Tennis Courts
- One Bowling Green
- Two Pavilions

Seaview Park

Colhugh Street, Llantwit Major – 4.64 Acres

Open Space

Lorna Hughes Park – 0.78 Acre

Open Space landscaped to provide a small park

Cenotaph and Steps

Church Street, Llantwit Major

Base of War Memorials Grade II Listed

West Street Pool

West End Town, Llantwit Major

Ornamental Pond

Allotments

Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major – 2.5 Acres

Currently 96 allotment Plots

Cemetery

Boverton Road, Llantwit Major -12.64 Acres

(Stillbirth and Children's Memorial Garden
with Burial Space)

Old School

Wine Street, Llantwit Major Community Building

Grade II Listed Building

- Classrooms available for hire for community and recreational purposes

- Permanent facilities provided:
- Council Chamber, Welsh Scout Council, Nursery/Playgroup
- Council Chamber is licenced as a venue for civic weddings

Llantonian Hall (Old Pensioners Centre)

Off Boverton Road, Llantwit Major

- Available for hire for community and recreational purposes.
- Public Entertainment Licence in Operation.

Town Hall

Church Street, Llantwit Major – Grade II Listed Building

- Main Hall and rooms available for hire for community and recreational purposes.
- Public Entertainment Licence in Operation: 150-dancing/close seating, 75 with tables and chairs.
- Heritage Centre available for classes and meeting for up to 15 persons

Annual Audit for 2020/2021

Accounting statements 2020-21 for:

Name of body: LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance for compilers				
	31 March 2020 (£)	31 March 2021 (£)					
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments							
1. Balances brought forward	225510	271052	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.				
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	241536	247930	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3. (+) Total other receipts	167987	51461	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4. (-) Staff costs	135544	135841	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and related expenses eg. termination costs.				
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).				
6. (-) Total other payments	228437	126078	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7. (=) Balances carried forward	271052	308524	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).				
Statement of balances							
8. (+) Debtors	3515	2098	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.				
9. (+) Total cash and investments	279016	317560	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.				
10. (-) Creditors	11479	11134	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11. (=) Balances carried forward	271052	308524	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	4825328	4831642	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.				
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				
14. Trust funds disclosure note	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes <input type="radio"/>	No <input type="radio"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="radio"/>	The body acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing (a) trust fund(s)/assets (readers should note that the figures above do not include any trust transactions).

Annual Governance Statement (Part 1)

We acknowledge as the members of the Council/Board/Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council/Board/Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	√		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	√		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council/Board/Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	√		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	√		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council/Board/Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	√		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	⊗	⊗	Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council/Board/Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	√		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	√		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23
9. Trust funds – in our capacity as trustee, we have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit. 	Yes	No	N/A	3, 6
			√	

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.



Additional disclosure notes*

<p>The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement</p>	
<p>1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000</p> <p>Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2020-21 was £8.32 per elector.</p> <p>In 2020-21, the Council made payments totalling £ 2053.60 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.</p>	
2.	
3.	

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council/Board/Committee approval and certification

The Council/Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return presents fairly the financial position of the Council/Board/Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly presents receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2021.	Approval by the Council/Board/Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council/Board/Committee under minute reference:
RFO signature: 	Minute ref: 734
Name: RUTH QUINN	Chair of meeting signature: 
Date: 18 JUNE 2021	Name: Cllr DAVID POWELL
	Date: 24 JUNE 2021

Auditor General for Wales' Audit Certificate and report

I report in respect of my audit of the accounts under section 13 of the Act, whether any matters that come to my attention give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. My audit has been conducted in accordance with guidance issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

I certify that I have completed the audit of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2021 of:

Llantwit Major Town Council

Auditor General's report

Audit opinion - Unqualified

On the basis of my review, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention giving cause for concern that in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;
- that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met;
- is not consistent with the Council's/Committee's governance arrangements; and
- that the Council/Committee does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Other matters arising and recommendations

There are no further matters I wish to draw to the Council's attention.



Deryck Evans, Audit Manager, Audit Wales
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales

Date: 02/03/2022

* Delete as appropriate.

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: Llantwit Major Town Council

The Council/Board/Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council/Board/Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council/Board/Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
3. The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	✓				

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				
11. Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council/Board/Committee has met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓		

For any risk areas identified by the Council/Board/Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:					
	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
12. Insert risk area			✓		
13. Insert risk area			✓		
14. Insert risk area			✓		

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council/Board/Committee are included in my detailed report to the Council/Board/Committee dated 24 June 2021.] * Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Kerry-Leigh Grabham
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: K Grabham
Date: 23.05.21

Achievements for 2021/2022

Adult Exercise Equipment installed on Recreation Field

Mulch Pairs in Playgrounds

Sound system installed in Llantonian Hall

Hearing Loop installed in Llantonian Hall

Fire Alarm system installed in Sports Pavilion

Allotment Site - Hedgerow maintenance / re surfaced road and carpark, 2 allotments skips hired for tenants to clear unwanted metal /glass / rubbish from their plots

New bench along Llanmaes Road

New signage on Recreation Field

First weddings held in Council Chamber

Topple Testing in Boverton Cemetery completed

3 new pieces of Adult Exercise Equipment on order

IT Equipment for hybrid meetings in Council Chamber

Fairtrade signage

2022/23 Plans and Ongoing Projects

Two new memorial benches for around the Cenotaph

Exterior Lighting for front of Town Hall building

Full cleaning and repairs to Town Hall Clock / Repair of chime mechanism

Fence line Illtyd Avenue

New boiler Llantonian Hall

Annual Elections 2022

Disabled Toilets Llantonian Hall

Fairtrade signage

Taking over Stradling Park (still waiting asset transfer from Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Town Mayors Chain

Floodlighting of Tennis Courts

A prosperous Llantwit Major

What we did well

- Although full lockdown ended on the 19th February 2021 the financial impact on our public buildings remained with continuing restrictions including face coverings, limited numbers and social distancing in place. Despite these restrictions the Town Hall and Llantonian Hall were able to open to their regular Hirers. In early 2022 the compass Building and Council Chamber re-opened and casual bookings and increased numbers were permitted within all our Council buildings.
- Just Be Counselling, 2 Nurseries and the History Society continue as long-term tenants at the Old School Building.
- The Town Council hosted a number of weddings. These were the first civic services undertaken at the Council Chambers since the Council obtained an official licence for the Chamber to be used as a venue for civic services.
- A new Fire Alarm System was installed in the sports Pavilion ensuring the safety for the Bowls Club and external organisations that use the Sports Pavilion.
- A hearing Loop System was installed in Llantonian Hall to work alongside the Sound/PA system installed in 2020. Thus, providing a mechanism for those with hearing difficulties to be able to attend and enjoy functions in Llantonian Hall.
- A Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Grant was successfully obtained to provide two new Cenotaph Benches / two external notice boards on the Recreation Field and the installation of 3 additional pieces of Play Equipment on the Playing Field.
- The Town Hall Office remained open throughout 2022/23 providing information / support/council and tourist information to the general public and residents of the town.
- The website is always maintained and updated in accordance with latest regulations / requirements. The online site promotes the Town Council Facilities, functions and businesses. The online booking facility allows the general public to enquire of the usage of any of the Town Council Buildings.
- The Town Council continue to fund the Llantwit Youth Council to provide young people an opportunity to gain experience of Local Council and undertake community work which can assist with our next generations Welsh Baccalaureate and College/University applications.
- Provided financial support and assistance to ensure the success of the 2022 Christmas Light Illuminations throughout the town.
- Provide financial support and advice / guidance to the Tennis Club whilst they undertake a major project to install floodlights on all four tennis courts on the Recreation Field.

Work more closely with local organisations

- Work more closely with local organisations/ Chamber of Trade / Town Centre Development Team / Vale of Glamorgan Council to obtain fundings and resources to improve the financial viability and footfall to the town during these challenging times.
- With the pandemic restrictions lifting look at using Council facilities to provide community events for the town, to promote our town and increase the number of tourist and business opportunities for our town.
- Offer our children better after school/holiday activities. For example, the use of our parks and buildings to provide extra curriculum opportunities.
- Look at all our Buildings and usage. In particular the options/ideas for the Old School and Compass Building. For example:-
 - Co-working opportunities
 - Office space for Small Businesses
 - Spaces for charities/local community projects
 - Early and Adult Learning Groups
- Look at assisting with the future promotion / recruitment of the Youth Council in the town now that Lockdown restrictions have been lifted.

Facts and Figures

- The Youth Council is actively recruiting for new members and since lockdown has been lifted in one month managed to attract 3 new Youth Councillors.
- The Cylch Playgroup has vacated part of the Old School at the beginning of March 2022. The council have already had many enquiries from other Nurseries / Organisations to take over the hire of this facility.
- Three wedding were undertaken in the Council Chamber in 2021. At present for 2022 the following wedding events have been booked:
 - 1 civic service in the Council Chamber
 - 1 Wedding Reception in Town Hall
 - 4 civic service in Council Chamber followed by Reception in the Town hall

What was said about us

“Thank you. We had a fantastic day. The Old School is a perfect place for a wedding. Thank you to the Townhall Staff for all their support while planning our day” Karen Gifford (Bride of 1st wedding in the Council Chamber)

“Llantwit Major town council

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support over the past year and I look forward to your support over the next year”.

Gillian Holton - Gillybeans playgroup

First Wedding in Council Chamber



A Resilient Llantwit Major

What we did well

- The Planning Committee have continued to work hard to review and comment on all Planning Applications relating to our wards. They adhere to the latest Welsh Government Planning Regulation Guidelines, Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Plan, Conservation, Ecological and Environmental recommendations, and guidelines. A site visit is undertaken for any Planning Applications considered sensitive / unsuitable to the area.
- The Planning Application relating to TPO tagging, although not required to be reviewed by the Town Council Planning Committee are continually checked and monitored to ensure our town is adhering to all the environmental and conservational guidelines with reference to tree preservation.
- The Allotment site continues to gain popularity during 2021 there was over 30 people on the waiting list. When tenants have vacated their plots (if over a set perch size) the Town Council have restructured them into smaller, more manageable plots thus offering additional plots to the community. At present there are 106 plots on the Llanmaes Road Allotment Site.
- Continual maintenance of our listed buildings adhering to CADW guidelines. Work included
 - Repairing, removing old plaster on the internal walls of the Old School to deter the continual damp problems within this historic building.
 - Repairs to the external stone walls worn down by the weather etc.
 - Repainting and revarnishing doors/windows/internal walls to preserve the interior and exterior of the building whilst ensuring all relevant listed building consent is followed.
- The Town Council completed Topple Testing in Boverton Cemetery and repaired all graves stones recorded as unsafe. Thus, ensuring the preservation of the graves in the cemetery for the future.
- Stradling Park – This is in the final phase of the Asset Transfer of this overgrown/neglected park from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to Llantwit Major Town Council. The overall aim is to create a safe / quiet / environmentally friendly area for residents of the town.
- Continuous maintenance of equipment in the two children's play parks and adult sports equipment on the Recreation Field. A new area of mulch has been installed under some of the children's play equipment and the play equipment in the U10'S playpark has been repainted.
- Monitored all the trees and hedgerows in the parks and land owned by the Town Council. Extensive work has been undertaken on the Allotment Site to remove old hedges/trees/shrubs to preserve the old stone wall and create a safer entrance to tenants and pedestrians entering leaving or walking past the Allotment entrance. A Grant was successfully obtained from Welsh Government to purchase two skips on the Allotment site for tenants to get rid of all unwanted building materials from their plots and re-shingle the pavement and carparking area on the site.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to Work closely with outside parties and the local community to encourage sustainability.

Facts and Figures:

Our members sit on a range of community organisations, adding value to their work, strengthening community relations and reporting back to the Council to ensure public accountability

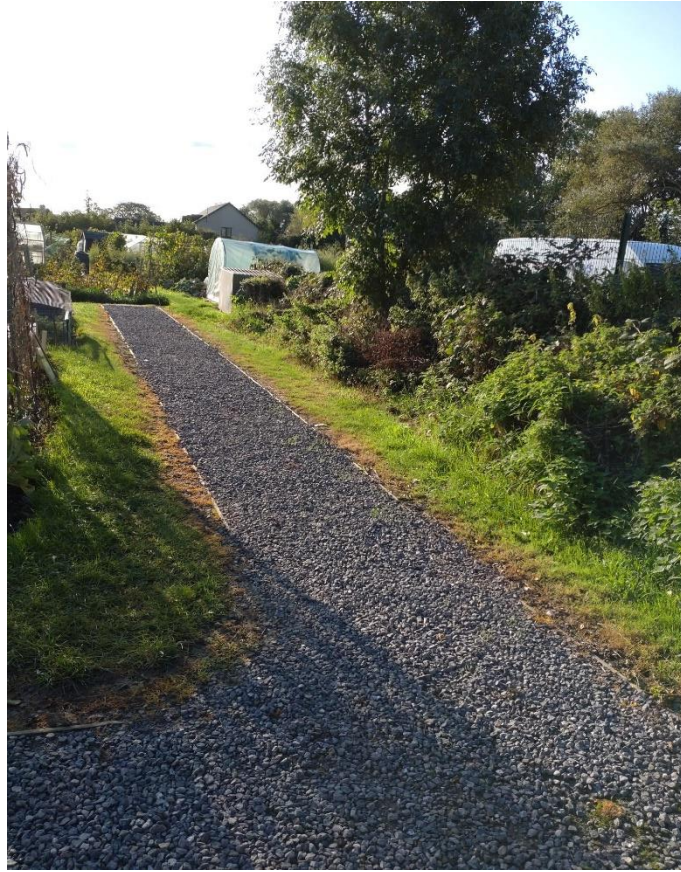
What was said about us

“I recently visited the Llantwit Major town cemetery to put flowers on my grandmother’s grave, after work had been undertaken on the headstone, following a ‘topple testing’ survey. I must say that my family plot and the whole of the cemetery is extremely well maintained and is a testament to the officers of the Town Council who keep it so neat and tidy. Whilst in the cemetery. I spoke to one of the officers who was trimming the roses, and he was very helpful and obliging. I would like to thank the Town Council sincerely for all the hard work and care they provide to ensure the cemetery is such a tranquil and appropriate setting to honour those who have passed on”.

Mrs. Barbara Ellis

“ I wanted to thank the Llantwit Major council for the plot I got in Llantwit allotments, it has been a new experience for me but it was really worth it to apply and get the plot. It has been wonderful for my mental health keeping my mind busy in this strange times and I have also produced a lot of vegetables for myself, friends and family. I would also say I have found a lovely community between allotment members, everyone is happy to share knowledge and things that they produce”.

Perla Kirkham (Allotment Plot Holder)



Allotment Site

A Healthier Llantwit Major

What we did well

- The Town Council continued to support the town throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The Town Hall was open to provide continued support to the public. Re-opened (adhering to Government guidelines (reference numbers and social distancing)) Llantonian Hall and the Town Hall to our regular Hirers whilst ensuring all PPE equipment on site, cleaning rotas are maintained, and Health and Safety Risk Assessments are in place.
- Obtained a Vale of Glamorgan Council Community Trust Grant to install three additional pieces of adult play equipment on the Recreation Field.
- Supported both administratively and financially the Tennis Club to ensure funding in place for the installation of Floodlights on all four tennis courts on the Recreation Field. A Field in Trust Grant of £10,00 was obtained towards the overall project goal.
- Opened and maintained throughout last year 2 play parks on the Recreation Field. Repaired various play equipment and resurfaced areas of mulch with the play parks.
- Allowed local children's activity groups to run outdoor classes on Seaview Park and Lorna Hughes Park to encourage healthy living.
- Hearing loop system installed alongside PA system in Llantonian Hall to provide those with hearing difficulties the opportunity to attend, enjoy and participate in events put on in the Hall.
- To continue to work and support and further develop relations with external clubs and organisations that hire/use the Recreation Field (i.e., Rugby Club / Bowls Club / Tennis Club).
- The Town Council continued to support Parkinson Group and Local Age Connect with reduced hiring fees to support and promote activities for the elderly and vulnerable within our town.
- The Town Council have successfully installed new seating along Llanmaes Road providing a place for those to rest or sit and chat. The Town council also support a 'Happy to Chat Bench' outside the Town Hall to provide a place where those feeling isolated an opportunity to connect with others in the community.
- The Town Council continue to support all their employees by funding and providing opportunities for all members of staff to meet with a qualified Councillor re work related stress/ pandemic issues.
- Continue to maintain and run a Defibrillator in the Red Phone Box in the Cenotaph Square. Also provide on our Notice Boards a detailed list of where all Defibrillator's are situated around the town.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other local organisations to provide and promote activities for children after school and in the school holidays.
- Ensure we continue to provide safe playground equipment in our Parks and always look at improving these areas and where possible ensure inclusive usage.
- Look at further Grant funding opportunities to provide free fitness classes /activities/equipment for all ages of the Community.
- To improve communication and links with all schools/clubs etc to make them aware of the facilities the Town Council can offer to help make Llantwit Major a healthier town.
- To review and find further ways to promote the Town Council facilities and achievements throughout the community.

Facts and Figures:

- Over 100+ young people / adults regularly use the newly installed equipment on the Recreation Field.
- Over 60+ people at events ran in Llantonian Hall (e.g. groups such as the Horticultural Society / History Society) now have the opportunity to use a PA system / Hearing Loop system.
- Over 30+ elderly people regularly attend Age Connect Well Being / Keep Fit Classes in Llantonian Hall on a weekly basis.
- The Stoke Association /Music in Min and Parkinson Group have regular Meetings in Llantonian Hall supporting those on our community with suffering with these debilitating illnesses.

What was said about us

"I really enjoy using the Adult Gym Equipment installed on the Recreation Field. I cannot afford the gym and this gives me an opportunity to keep fit for free. Thank you"

Llantwit Major Resident

As one of the many residents who took a break coming back from town on the bench outside the Ambulance station, I was disappointed when it was removed by the developers.

Thanks to the Town Council for putting a new and better bench close by which we can continue to enjoy.

Llanmaes road resident

Tennis Courts Floodlights





Adult Play Equipment on Recreation Field

A More Equal Llantwit Major

What we did well

- The Town Council successfully awarded grants to the following local groups to provide additional funds for them to maintain and run their organisations. Grants for 2021/22 were awarded to:-
 - Llantwit Major Christmas Committee
 - Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
 - Llantwit Major Festival of Arts
 - Llantwit Major Music Festival
 - Llantwit Major Photography Club
- The Town Council ran a Remembrance Service event for the town, whilst adhering to protect the members of the public during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic by reducing the numbers allowed to march, ensuring social distancing at the Cenotaph and providing a live stream for those unable or uncomfortable with attending the service in person.
- The Town Council supported by Filco Food Stores produced a 'Llantwit Major in Lockdown' Book depicting our towns experiences throughout the pandemic 2020/21. Any proceeds from the book are to be given to a local group that are travelling with vital aid to support the citizens of Ukraine in their conflict against Russia.
- The Council continue to support many local organisations in the town that provide valuable services to the community. This include the Christmas Light Committee, Age Connect, Town Twinning Committee, Stroke Association, Dementia Friends and Fair Trade.
- The Town Council have worked tirelessly this year with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and local landowners to continue to try to re-establish the public footpath in Trebeferad.
- The Town Council are continuing to liaise with the Vale of Glamorgan Council re the asset transfer of Stradling park to Llantwit Major Town Council.
- The Town Council have supported the Mayor, Councillor David Powell's chosen charities (the youth organisations of Llantwit Major). Despite the difficult times with the pandemic the Mayor ran a very successful afternoon tea part on his Farm. From this and other events he managed to give £500 to both Llantwit Major Scouts and Brownie Groups.
- The Town Council, with the support of the Town Twinning Committee, continue to redevelop links and friendships with their twinned French town of Le Pouliguen and plan a trip to Le Pouliguen in late summer.
- The Town Council give reduced rates to the History Society to ensure they have a room at the Old School to hold all their archive material and run a very popular Historical Society.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to support inclusive play equipment when upgrading play equipment.
- Continue to look at ways to provide access to the main hall in the Town Hall.
- Continue to develop links with businesses to work together to improve the town and increase its footfall.

Facts and Figures:

- The Town Council offers reduced rates on all its facilities for those using them to raise funds for charitable organisations or those holding weekly/monthly event classes for those which help residents.
- 5 Grants were handed out to local organisations.

What was said about us

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continuous support and enthusiasm. Last year the monies that we received, ensured that the whole town was illuminated at Christmas time. We are very aware without your funding for the storage payment; the Christmas Lights and Displays could not go ahead. We are all looking forward to lighting up Boverton and Llantwit Major again this year, ensuring that our Town is a place to visit and supporting local businesses during the festive period. Thank you"

Toni Marley
Chair (Boverton and Llantwit Lights)

"

"Without your very generous contribution we would be unable to provide colour hanging baskets and bedding plants much enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. The flowers make a real difference to the town benefiting shops and tourism"

Llanilltud Fawr in Flower Committee

Town Hall Remembrance Day





Presentation of Mayors Charity Cheques

A Llantwit Major of Cohesive Communities

What we did well

- The Town Council provides the Compass Building as a co-working facility. Offering local businesses office space at cost effective prices.
- A new hearing loop installed in Llantonian Hall to assist with those with hearing difficulties.
- A Fire Alarm System was installed in the Sports Pavilion of the Bowls Club, providing additional safety for hirer and members.
- The Town Council had their first wedding in the Council Chamber in 2022, adhering to Welsh Government guidelines. In 2022 there are 5 civic services planned in the Council Chamber and 5 wedding receptions in the Town Hall. Providing cost effective venues for residents of our town in the historic hub of the community.
- Topple Testing was undertaken at Boverton Cemetery. Any unsafe memorial stones were repaired and funded by the Town Council. If the plot owner did not had sufficient funds, or was unable to be contacted to ensure the works were completed. Providing a safe and well-maintained area that provides comfort and support to so many.
- The Town Council successfully installed four Fairtrade signs onto the Welcome to Llantwit Major Road Signs. Thus, informing residents and visitors to the town of our Fairtrade status. In February 2022 the Town Council again supported the Vale of Glamorgan's initiatives to promote Fairtrade fortnight and held a stall on the Precinct in the town to further forward our fairtrade ethos.
- Funded, set up and established IT equipment in the Council Chamber to permit Hybrid Council Meetings to be undertaken, adhering to all Welsh Government Regulations. The First Hybrid Meeting (Planning Committee) was held in the Council Chamber in February 2022 and the First Full Town Council Meeting was held on the 31st March 2022.
- All Works and Tenders (where possible and financially viable) are undertaken by local companies. Supporting businesses within our community.
- The Town Council continue to use website/social media platforms/Quarterly Newsletters and Notice Boards to publicise Council and Community News and Events. Continuing to develop the 'Birth/Marriage & Deaths Notice Board in the Precinct and applied for a Grant to look at installing a Digital Notice Board in the town centre to further promote local news, events, and jobs within the area.
- The Town Council continue through Town Study Group and external organisations to look at ways to promote footfall, businesses, tourism to the town. We have worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to provide banners and flags throughout Llantwit Major and developing the 'Love Llantwit Major' theme.
- Continue to work with Vale of Glamorgan Council re the asset transfer of Stradling Park to Llantwit Major Town Council.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to improve the Town Council profile through Multi-media social network sites (e.g., start using Twitter). Find alternative ways to promote Town Council news (e.g., further Quarterly Newsletter/Flyers) to promote Councils Policies and activities now that the local Newspaper has closed down.
- Further encourage ‘all’ Councillors to use the Cloud to access Agendas and Minutes online to reduce the paper output in the Office.
- To continue to work with and further improve links with voluntary organisations with the town.
- To continue to push forward potential Asset Transfer/Reshaping Services/Grant Funding Projects with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Facts and figures

- Despite challenging times Llantwit Major still has the lowest vacancy rates in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- To continue to work with the Town Study Steering Group and the Vale of Glamorgan Council re promoting tourism and increasing footfall to our town.

What was said about us:

“Despite limitations imposed by Covid we have consolidated our status as a Fairtrade town. We have installed Fairtrade Town signs on entering the town. We have talked with shopkeepers and cafes owners about Fairtrade and shared information on social media. During fairtrade fortnight we had a stall in the precinct and dressed as bananas to raise our profile!! The Fairtrade Forum is made up of a mixture of councilors and local people with an interest in Fairtrade. The councillors have been thoughtful and hard working. The administrative support has been excellent.”

Chris Westoby (member of the Fairtrade Forum)

“On behalf of Edenvale garden services, I would like to thank you for using our contractual services for your council sites. At Edenvale, we are committed to providing our customers with a personal service based upon their requirements. As both, a resident and contractor, of this community, it gives me great pride to be part of its upkeep and maintenance, for all to enjoy. Through supporting our business, you have supported our growth of equipment, services and customer base. We also take great satisfaction in developing relationships with the counsellors themselves during meetings and any other correspondence in addition to being a friendly, local face for members of the community. Our connections

made with residents is equally as important as the work itself. Thank you again for the support and we look forward to our ongoing works with yourselves. Many thanks”

Jeff Evans, Edenvale Garden Service



Fair Trade Signage



Compass Building

A LLANTWIT MAJOR OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

What we think we did well:

- All new signage (e.g., on the Recreation Field and Fairtrade is printed bilingually in English and Welsh.
- Town Councillors continue to support the newly formed Town Twinning Committee to further encourage and develop links with the French town.
- The Town Council organised a Remembrance Day Service around the Cenotaph whilst adhering to Government Guidelines re Covid 19. Each organisation of the town was allowed a representative to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph. This was 'live streamed' giving an opportunity for all residents of the town to be part of the Service.
- The Town Council continue to care and maintain their listed Buildings (Town Hall, Old School and Cenotaph) working with CADW and the Vale of Glamorgan Council to ensure the buildings comply with the architectural/historical regulations/guidelines.
- The local History Society house their archive room in one of our premises. The archive room is open once a week to residents and visitors subject to Government Guidelines.
- Banners, Flags, Canvas Bags, Car Stickers for promoting tourism within the town area bi-lingual (half printed with Welsh wording and half English wording)
- All Posters for Council Meetings are Bi-lingual and all Minutes and Agendas on request can be translated into Welsh.
- A member of staff is a fluent Welsh speaker.
- Any incoming telephone calls to the Town Hall are answered in both Welsh and English.
- The Town Council continually review the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.
- A project is being undertaken in April 2022 by the Town Council to install lighting at the front of the Town Hall building. This will emphasise the importance of the building to the town and highlight the historical structure of the building.

What we think we could do better:

- Re-establish stronger links with the Town Councils of Le Pouliguen, France and Llantwit Major.

- The Town Council Staff and Councillors try to improve their knowledge and use of the Welsh Language.
- The Town Council Staff improve their knowledge of the history of Llantwit Major for visitors that come into the Town Hall for tourist information.

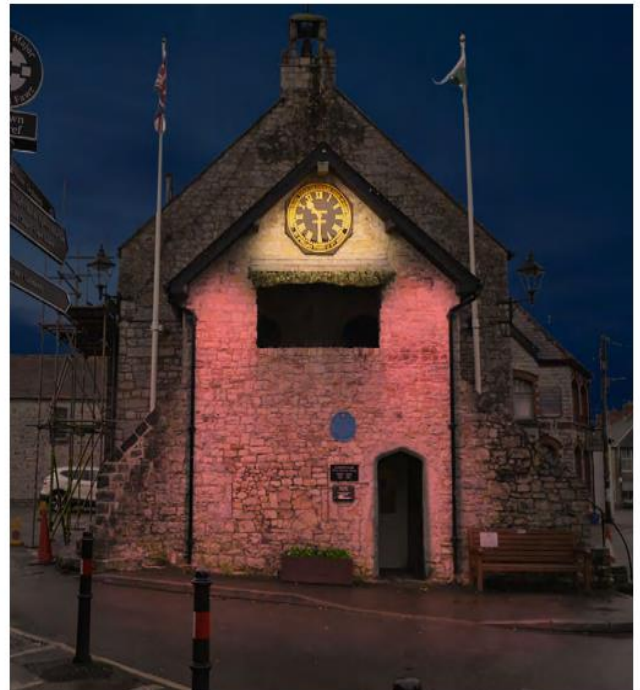
Facts and figures

- Over 30 organisations attended the Remembrance Day Service (adhering to Government Coronavirus guidelines).





Signage on Recreation Field and proposed lighting plans for Town Hall



A Global Responsible Llantwit Major

What we did well

- The Town Council at present have 106 Allotment Plots on their Llanmaes Road Allotment Site. Popularity over the last few years have increased with at present over 20 people on the waiting list. When plots become vacant, they are reviewed to see if they can be split to provide extra plots for the residents of our town. Further encouraging the growth of your own fruit and vegetables while adhering to eco and bio friendly processes.
- The hedgerow has been carefully trimmed and all rubbish / debris removed from the site. The ivy/ hedgerow has carefully been removed from the stone wall running along Llanmaes Road. The damaged wall caused by the overgrowth is to carefully be restored by a specialist stone mason following traditional method and materials.
- A new bench purchased along Llanmaes Road is made from recyclable plastic.
- The Handyman twice yearly plants shrubs and flowers in areas owned by the Town Council. Two specific areas (Outside Llantonian Hall and at the bottom of the Recreation Field are designated wildflower beds to encourage bees and wildlife).
- The Town Council is in negotiation with the Vale of Glamorgan Council re the asset transfer of Stradling Park. To provide the town with an area that will be designated to being environmentally friendly. Also to encourage the town to be globally responsible and assist with achieving the Town Council objectives towards Project Zero.
- The Town Council have had meetings and attended presentations and done initial investigation into electrical car charging points within the town. Ascertaining, what as a local Council, we can do towards the 2030 Governments legislation re electric cars.
- The Town Council is working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the way forward to achieve their and our towns Project Zero goals and we will be finalising our aims over the next year.
- The Town Council continues to promote a plastic free / environmentally friendly town by:
 - a) Offer a water refill point in the Town Hall
 - b) Use Cardboard cup/straws at Council events
 - c) Encourage residents to purchase canvas 'Love Llantwit Major' shopping bags
 - d) Recycle weekly Town Hall Office waste
 - e) All shredded office paper utilised by Allotment tenants on their plots
 - f) All external / internal lighting and bulbs that needs changing, if possible, is replaced with LED or Solar Lighting options.
 - g) Recyclable dog poo bags can be purchased in the Town Hall Office by residents.
 - h) Litter Picks are daily undertaken in all our Parks and open space areas.
 - i) All cleaning products where possible are eco friendly

- The Town Council promote Fairtrade within our town and we use fairtrade products at events (e.g. tea, coffee etc) and administer the Fairtrade Forum. Promote fairtrade fortnight and are looking at providing leaflets around the town which depict what businesses sell/use fairtrade products.
- Provide an Annual Grant to Llanilltud Fawr in Flower to provide flower displays/bedding plants around the town.
- The Town Council Planning Committee look at all TPO Planning Application requests within our town. Although not technically part of Town Councils remit the importance of querying trees felled within the town is considered by the Council to be of great environmental importance and hence the reason the Planning Committee question some TPO Applications.
- Planning Applications that are considered unacceptable to the environment / area are objected to. Over the last few years, the Planning Committee have studied and related objections to specified Welsh Government Planning Regulations and Vale of Glamorgan Council LDP policies when the council believe that the proposed Application does not preserve the natural and conservation area of our town.
- We work with Plant Llantwit and other organisations to encourage the replanting of trees/shrubs within the town.
- West Street Pool is maintained and annually cleaned to preserve the natural environment, wildlife and fish that exist in the pond and give pleasure to residents and tourists visiting the site.
- The Biodiversity Policy has been updated and adopted in 2021

What we think we could do better:

- Continue to look at ways to find alternative fuel supplies for our buildings to further progress our environmental/ecological policies of our Council.
- Look at ways to further recycle / waste management of our resources.
- Continue to promote and encourage the growth of fairtrade within the town.
- Work with local organisations and Vale of Glamorgan Council / Welsh Governments in working towards the 2030 Project Zero goal.
- Continue to look at ways to maintain our hedgerow's and trees and encourage new growth.
- Use Stradling Park as a Project to ensure organisations come together to provide a globally responsible area for the town that can educate and work with all age categories of the community.

Facts and figures

- There is over 106 Allotment Plots and over 20 people on the waiting list for an Allotment
- West Street Pool has over 5 species of wildlife around and inhabiting the pond.

What was said about us:

“Dear Mayor and Llantwit Major Town Councillors I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the residents in their objection to the ongoing Wine Street Planning Application. Like many others, I felt compelled to move to Llantwit Major because of the extraordinary beauty and uniquely preserved historical character of its town centre. For this reason I joined the local history society, who do such a great job in relating the heritage of our town to locals and the wider community. In fact, I am in the process of researching for publication the life of world renown folklorist and author Marie Trevelyan (Emma Thomas) who was born and raised in Llantwit and who passed her final years in Wine Street, dying in 1921. The council are to be congratulated in fighting to protect our beautiful town and preserve its architectural authenticity for generations to come. Too many towns have not had the courage to do this and the results tell their own tale. If this planning proposal is allowed to proceed it will be an insult to the heritage of Llantwit Major, and it’s townspeople: past, present and future. Furthermore, it will set a precedent which is in sure danger of destroying the unique character of the town as others follow. Would the population of Venice allow an extension on St Mark’s piazza because an owner wished it? I think not” Kathleen Little



Promoting Fairtrade Fortnight



Views from Allotment site

A COMPETENT LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

Within the Welsh Governments Local Government Wales Act 2021, there is a section *General Power of Competence*. This Bill is aimed to bring more consistency to Town and Community Councils, developing a higher standard of governance and financial management controls.

Under the General Power of Competence regulations, a Town Council must ensure:

- Two thirds of Councillors must be elected – Councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election.
- Requirement that the Clerk is qualified – A Clerk with relevant professional qualifications, such as the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).
- Council needs to have clear audited accounts for the last 2 years – sound financial management and internal control systems.

To ensure the Town Council meet these requirements regular internal/external audits are undertaken and it can be noted in this Annual Report that:

- 14 members were elected by an ordinary election held in May 2017.
- The Town Clerk holds the CILCA qualification.
- All Town Council staff are up to date on all relevant courses in relation to their job specification.
- We have a sound management and financial controls in place which are reviewed annually.
- In addition, we have a website that is regularly updated containing all agendas, minutes, reports, accounts and contact details.
- The Deputy Town Clerk obtained the CILCA Qualification in April 2021.
- All Town Council Staff in 2021 undertook an online First Aid training course and are qualified for the next 2 years to provide First Aid in the workplace.
- All Town Council Staff undertake any relevant courses / presentations to ensure they are up to date with the latest local and government regulations so that they can carry out their job specification / role/ responsibilities both legally and to the best of their abilities.

Our Llantwit Major – Our Future

In Chapter 1 to 8 of the Annual Report has concentrated on the National Well Being Goals as set out as in the Well Being Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has also adapted their policies to include four local Well Being Objectives. These being:

- a) To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.
- b) To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation.
- c) To give children the best start in life.
- d) To protect, enhance and value our environment.

The next pages detail these objectives and how, we as a Town Council, intend to work towards meeting these local goals.

To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.

This objective is to enable people to become involved in their community, help to increase a sense of belonging within the Town, increase satisfaction with life in general and ensure that Llantwit Major is confident and their voices are heard within the Vale of Glamorgan.

What we have done so far?

1. The Town Council administer the Town Study Steering Group. Representatives from various organisations within the Town meet to develop and implement ideas to improve Llantwit Major. A Vale Councillor sits on the Committee to pass updates back to the relevant Vale of Glamorgan Council Departments.
2. The Town Council continue to actively support the Chamber of Trade and work with local businesses and the Vale of Glamorgan Council to improve and shape local services within the town.
3. The Town Council provide Grants to assist with funding local organisations (e.g., Christmas Committee, Llanilltud Fawr in Flower) to continue to provide a service to the community.
4. Town Council continue to support many local organisations including Fair Trade Forum, Plant Llantwit, Chamber of Trade, Town Twinning Committee, Llanilltud Fawr in Flower, Christmas Lights Committee, the Tennis Club and the Bowls Club to assist with their continuation and further development.
5. Liaising with Vale of Glamorgan Council to improve the town of Llantwit Major for our residents.
6. Provide the Compass Building as a site for co-working, opportunities for local businesses Offering affordable office space on a short term basis.

What will take longer to achieve?

1. To continue to try and improve relations with organisations and businesses within the Town and find ways to get more people involved within their community. Our newly recruited Events Coordinator Administrator, start date 1st April 2022, goal will be to develop relations with local organisations to encourage them to work together for the benefit of the town.
2. To continue to support local organisations and businesses (such as the Chamber of Trade, Llantwit Major Dementia Friends, Fair Trade Forum, Plant Llantwit, Christmas Light Committee, Events Group etc).
3. To further promote our Town Council facilities and Parks to provide opportunities of organisations within the community to tackle isolation, loneliness and making healthy

lifestyle changes. To provide further opportunities via the Town Council facilities to implement better services for the Town.

What will success look like in 2023?

1. Skills, resources and expertise regarding engagements are shared across organisations for the benefit of the town. Getting organisations to work together for the benefit of the community.
2. Contributions of all age groups are recognised within the local community.
3. Volunteers are encouraged and feel valued.
4. Sharing standards for engagement are developed.

To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation

Llantwit Major is a comparatively wealthy town and many residents enjoy a high standard of living in a safe and attractive environment. However, there are still areas within the town that experience disadvantage, low education achievement and higher unemployment levels.

What have we done so far?

1. Successfully gained a grant to install a further 3 pieces of adult gym equipment in the Recreation Field available free for use to any resident over the age of 14.
2. Successfully assisted Tennis Club in installing floodlights on all four tennis courts enabling play all year round and in the evenings, for our town.
3. Continually improving and maintaining play parks for children in our town and where possible offer inclusive play equipment. Providing free play equipment in peaceful surroundings with benches and picnic areas for families to entertain their children.
4. We offer reduced rates to various organisations who hire our venues (e.g., Parkinson's Group, Stroke Association). We also offer reduced rates for all Charity organisations hiring our facilities.
5. We offer Annual Grants to organisations to ensure Community Groups are supported (e.g., Llanilltud Fawr in Flower).
6. We provided a 'Happy to Chat' Bench outside the Town Hall. A place where those in a vulnerable position can sit, talk and be offered support by residents of the town. Also an additional bench was installed along Llanmaes Road for those with walking/ health difficulties to sit and rest prior to continuing up/down Llanmaes Road
7. Continue to provide 106 Allotment Plots at very low rates for residents of the Town. This includes providing plots for local organisations (e.g., Plant Llantwit) and locals with learning disabilities, to provide a place where they can learn new skills at affordable prices. The average price of an Allotment plot for a year in 2021 was £13.00, this includes water rates and general maintenance and cutting of the paths by the Town Council.
8. Provided a hearing loop system in Llantonian Hall to provide those with hearing difficulties ability to hear events / presentations in the Hall.
9. To continue to provide an affordable venue for our residents to hold a wedding ceremony and reception. Total package to hire Council Chamber and Town Hall is £500 for the weekend.

What we can start doing today?

To continue to source Grant and Fund opportunities to provide additional services and community events for our town.

To liaise with the community (i.e., through written questionnaires and social media apps) on how as a Town Council we can improve our town and tackle inequalities within our community.

The Town Council continue to work with community groups and businesses at ways to improve the services within our town.

To start again to provide community events for the town now that the pandemic restrictions are lifting (e.g., Annual Pantomime, Citizen Awards Event, Open Air Cinema event) for all sectors on the community encouraging social and educational learning.

Promote more widely the Town Council facilities. To publicise and advertise our Halls to encourage the community to take part in classes ranging from Yoga to History Presentations.

Work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Services team to provide more activities (e.g., sports clubs, holiday camps) for the children of Llantwit Major.

To continue to work with Vale Youth Services to promote and recruit new members for the Youth Council of our town to make the council investment to this service economically viable.

What will take longer to achieve?

1. Working together with all organisations / businesses of the town to improve equality in the Community.
2. Continue to look at ways to improve our environment (e.g., working with Plant Llantwit, Vale of Glamorgan Council).
3. Use our facilities further to provide better use of our facilities for the under privileged and aged members of the community.
4. Continue to support and develop our play parks and sport facilities. Look at further funding opportunities to provide free sport activities for the community.
5. Look at providing Mobility access into the disabled toilet area of Llantwit Hall to make the hall more inclusive to all sectors of our community.

What will success look like in 2023?

1. The Community of Llantwit Major becomes safer, stronger, and more resilient.
2. Give residents a better understanding of how their contribution on the environment can make to their well-being.
3. Create a sustainable environmental project which brings a range of well-being benefits to the local community. Once the Asset Transfer of Stradling Park between the borough council and town council has been completed in 2022 the Town council will be able to commence a project to fulfil this brief (i.e., the regeneration of Stradling Park, an overgrown park in the heart of Llantwit Major).

Give children the best start in life

Working together to ensure all children within Llantwit Major have the best start in life and the inequalities that exist within the Town are reduced.

Also improve the wellbeing of parents and carers of young children who have such a big influence on their development.

What we have done so far?

1. Maintained and developed two Children's Playgrounds within Llantwit Major and developed one teenager Gym Equipment area on the Recreation Field. Where viable will always provide inclusive play equipment for our children.
2. The Town Council support the Youth Council financially to allow the children of Llantwit Major to have a voice within the Town Council, what vision they have for the future growth and development of the Town. Two Councillors regularly attend the Youth Council Meetings.
3. The Town Council support 2 Playgroups ran in the Old School by giving reduced rental rates.
4. The Town Council assisted various local organisations with Grants/ Funding (e.g., LM Tennis Club) so that they can provide after school activities for children of the Town.
5. The Town Council assisted the Tennis Club to install floodlighting on all four tennis courts. Providing opportunities for play all year round and provide opportunities for other sport groups/organisations to use the area for after school activities.
6. Gave free access to children's organisations to use our open spaces/park areas to provide outdoor workshops and playschemes to children. Thus, allowing activities to be undertaken for children during the pandemic.
7. Assisted Primary School education in Llantwit Major by providing tours of the Town Hall including access to the Cellar and Clock Tower.
8. Encouraged children to participate in various events organised and ran by the Town Council including:
 - (i) To draw pictures, write articles and poems for the Llantwit In Lockdown Book
 - (ii) A Treasure Trail around the town

What will take longer to deliver?

1. To work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to offer Town Council facilities to provide better and more regular Play Scheme Activities for Llantwit Major children during all holiday periods and provide additional after school clubs for children (e.g., children's running groups, girl's netball etc).

2. Continue to work with the MOD St Athan and Annington Homes to look at creating a Play Park for teenagers at East Camp/ St Athan on the old disused Tennis Court site.
3. To continue to work with external organisations to provide activities for children (e.g., Sport, music, education) utilising fully Town Council facilities to create better well-being for children and parents.
4. Support and assist Vale Youth Services to enhance and recruit members to the Youth Council and other events the Vale run in Llantwit Major for the teenagers of our town.

What will success look like in 2023?

1. We all understand how our organisations activities can contribute to giving children a good start in life.
2. Individual families and communities in Llantwit Major becoming safer, stronger and more resilient.

Protect, enhance and value our environment

As a Town Council must collectively take action to protect, enhance and value our environment for now and future generations, ensuring as a town we are globally responsible.

What we do now?

1. All are open spaces are registered as Field in Trust Sites.
2. The Town Council are in the process of working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to complete the asset transfer to take over the running of Stradling Park, an area of overgrown wasteland and transform it with wildflowers and shrubs and create an open space/relaxation area for the residents of Llantwit Major.
3. The Town Council continue to support making Llantwit Major a plastic free town. They have produced 'Love Llantwit Major' Canvas Bags for people to buy and use, instead of purchasing plastic bags from retailers.
4. The Town Council have renewed the towns Fairtrade status. Encouraging shops and businesses to stock fair trade products and residents/local organisations to buy fair trade to protect our environment.
5. The Town Council offer a water refill point at the Town Hall.
6. The Town Council continue to run 106 Allotment Plots, providing opportunities for residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables. There is in 2021 a waiting list of 20 people.
7. The Town Council continue to maintain the towns historic monument, the Cenotaph. It is cleaned twice yearly. We maintain and repair our listed buildings the Old School and the Town Hall.
8. The Town Council clean annually and continually maintain West Street Pool to provide a healthy environment for the fish ,wildlife and plant life that reside in this pond.
9. The Town Council have started investigating electric charge points in the town, Looking at the viability of providing a charge point for our town to encourage residents re the benefit of running electric cars to protect our environment and move towards our project zero goal.
10. The Town Council have looked at the cost and feasibility of purchasing electric bikes for our town. To provide access for healthy living and reduce carbon footprint in our town.
11. Topple Testing was completed in the cemetery. All stones that were unsafe or damaged were repaired to ensure the safety and preservation of Boverton Cemetery over the forthcoming years.

What will take longer to deliver?

1. The Town Council continue to work with various organisations to fulfil environmental projects for the Town. (e.g. working with the Fair Trade Committee and with businesses to continue to promote a Plastic Free Trade).

2. The Town Council continue to work with Plant Llantwit to establish a programme to replant trees and shrubs throughout the town.
3. Continue to look at projects to assist both with tourism and help the environment. Projects include Electric Bikes in the town, further bike trails and trying to establish and maintain footpaths in the town through the Footpath Forum Committee.
4. Continue to maximise the benefit of our environment by continuing to promote our town as a place to visit. Further develop the 'Love Llantwit Major' theme. Continue to try to develop Llantwit Major as a tourist town to visit in the Vale for walking, cycling, the beach, historical landmarks, shopping and place to come to eat and socialise. The Town Council need to develop stronger links with the Chamber of Trade, Businesses and local/national organisations to further promote and build our town status. A new member of Staff has been employed effective from 1st April 2022 . Her role as Community Administrative Assistant is to get organisations to work together for the benefit of our town.
5. Further investigate electric charge points and bio-diversity fuels for our Council Buildings to assist with making our town Eco Friendly in coming years for the next generation.
6. Continue to adapt the Town Council assets to maximise their potential for community use as well as an environmental resource.
7. Continue ongoing maintenance to our listed buildings ensuring that traditional methods and Cadw and listed building regulations are always followed to ensure their preservation of our historic Council buildings.
8. Exterior lighting is to be installed at the front of the Town Hall enhancing our historic buildings for the residents and tourists visiting our town.

What will success look like in 2023?

1. Continue to gain a better understanding of the impact of our actions on the environment and how much of an asset our local environment is.
2. To look at finding and funding a new area of land within the town to be developed into a new Cemetery for Llantwit Major.

Way forward

This year's Annual Report has once again been impacted heavily by the continuing worldwide coronavirus pandemic. Despite the decrease in income and cost of living rising the Town Council have ensured that the Town Councils precept request has again remained unchanged from the previous financial year (i.e., £59.20, which is based on amount a band 'D' household would pay over the year to the Town Council).

Now that the Town Council have in place IT requirements for Hybrid Meetings the Town Council can now ensure all Meetings have functionality to be held within the Council Chamber or via Zoom (dependent upon the individual specific requirements).

The Town Councils main priority for 2022 is to ensure all our Buildings are fully utilised by regular hirers and tenants to ensure an increase in income for 2022/23.

The Town Council will aim to undertake various projects during the 2022/2023 financial year including:

External Lighting of the Town Hall

Investigate electric points for the town and alternative fuel options for our Buildings (working towards Project Zero goal

A Two new memorial benches for around the Cenotaph

Full cleaning and repairs to Town Hall Clock / Repair of chime mechanism

Fence line Illtyd Avenue

New boiler Llantonian Hall

Disabled Toilets Llantonian Hall

The Town Council will also have the challenges of a newly elected Town Council from the 5th May 2022 and the additional workload this will impact on Councillors and Staff. The Town Hall Staff must further endeavour to inform our community of our new elected Councillors whilst ensuring that are fully trained and understand their duties, roles and responsibilities.

Town Council Staff must also ensure that they follow the new Training Plans that have been developed for each individual.

Government legislation if being continually updated and Council staff and Councillors must ensure that this is followed and endorsed. For example the General Power of Competence (Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021) that comes into force on the 5th May 2022 which allows:

“Qualifying Local Authorities to “act in their communities’ financial interests to generate efficiencies and secure value for money outcomes and to take on financial risk. It would also enable authorities to have greater confidence in pursuing innovative policy solutions than relying on the well-being power”

There will still be challenges to be faced with the United Kingdom’s exit from the EU. The impact of Brexit (and Coronavirus) will undoubtedly continue to have an impact on funding for both the Borough, Welsh Government and United Kingdom.

The Town Council in the 2022/2023 year must continue to promote themselves within the community. They must act as a catalyst to encourage all businesses and organisations to work together to promote Llantwit Major to increase footfall and tourism to our town to help our community to recover and grow.

The Town Council face another challenging and busy year but the aim is to continue in their goal to make the Town Hall the focal point for our community for the forthcoming years.

Copy of Llantwit Major Town Council Newsletter

Environmental Projects within Town

The Town Council are working hard to improve the environment of our town and are committed to looking at future sustainable projects.

Over the last few years, we have planted wildflower gardens on the Recreation Field, outside Llantonian Hall and in Lorna Hughes Park. We have worked and supported Plant Llantwit. New sapling trees and hedgerows are being planted in Sea view Park.

The Town Council worked with the Chamber of Trade to offer water refill points in businesses/shops throughout the town. As a Council we are encouraging a plastic free town, encouraging hirers of our facilities to not use plastic cups/straws etc as well as recycle all their waste.

The Fairtrade Committee have also managed last year to renew the towns Fairtrade Status. Many of our local stores offer Fairtrade products for sale and as part of Fairtrade fortnight in March 2021 organisations ran Fairtrade remoted coffee mornings and schools took part in a Fairtrade competition 'choose the world you want'.

Future projects the Council will be looking at include the feasibility of installing an electric car point within the town. If you have any environmental ideas the Council could do to improve the town then please contact us at the Town Hall.

Improvements in the Town

- A new sound system in Llantonian Hall
- The renewal of safety surfaces in playgrounds
- The installation of adult fitness equipment in the Recreation Ground with 100% grants
- 2 New CCTV cameras in the Recreation Ground
- Using over 90% grant aid to install floodlights on the increasingly popular tennis courts.
- Plans are being finalised to floodlight the Town Hall.

Grant Aid

Each year the Town Council award small Grants to many local organisations in the Town. In the past we have supported the Boys Brigade, Rainbows, Netball Club, Women Institutes, Parkinsons Club, Vale Plus, Ladies Choir, Scout Group and many more. Applications are welcome all year round and are considered in early January. Please contact us for an application form.

Larger grants are considered for charitable events in the Town, and the Town Council are proud that they have supported the Llantwit Major 10K Committee from the very beginning and have continued to do so for the past 5 years, ensuring the continued success and growth of the 10K event held in August.

We also contribute yearly to the Christmas Illuminations in the Town. Each year those installing the Christmas Illuminations have been awarded a Grant to ensure the Town has its display for the festive period. Working closely with the Christmas Committee, in 2019 we were successful in a Grant application from the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the purchase of all new illumination and the installation of RCD boxes to ensure they could be safely installed, and the Town would be 'lit up' once again.

Last year we financially supported the RAF Voluntary Band with their open top bus being driven around the Town and surrounding area, bringing Christmas music to cheer residents up.

Each year we also financially support Llanilltud Fawr in Flower, awarding them a Grant to purchase and plant their annual flower display in the centre of the Town.

There are many wonderful, hard working voluntary groups and organisation in the Town, and we would like to thank them for all the work they do to ensure Llantwit Major continues to be the friendliest, community spirited Town to live. Diolch!

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LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



A Message from the Mayor

This is our first Town Council Newsletter which I hope you will find interesting and will tell you what the Town Council is doing. Since the demise of 'The Gem' local news is sometimes hard to come by and not everyone connects with 'social media'. If you find the Newsletter useful we will issue others periodically.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Ian Hunt of FILCO who came forward with the offer to have the Newsletter available in his stores and the other traders who have offered their premises.

Councillor Gervyn Thomas, Mayor of Llantwit Major.



Lockdown - March 2020

It is over a year ago we had the first serious lockdown and isolation. Although there may now be some light at the end of the tunnel those early days were very dark and uncertain.

The Town Council wishes to place on record its thanks to our small staff who immediately reacted to the situation and started delivering shopping and medical needs when little other help was available. They then organised a team of some 130 volunteers who gave up their time over many weeks to assist with the deliveries co-ordinated by Town Council staff.

Our sincere thanks goes to our staff and the volunteers who provided such essential services in the early days and weeks.





Town Council—What do we do?

We provide more services than any other Town or Community Council in the Vale of Glamorgan area. We are responsible for :-

The Bowling Green and Pavilion, The Tennis Courts and Pavilion, The Llantonian Hall, The Town Hall, The Old School, The Under 10s play area, The Recreation Ground and the play area and adult fitness equipment, Seaview Park, Lorna Hughes Park, The Allotments and the Cemetery.



We are not responsible for potholes in the road or defective pavements but these can be reported to the Vale Council on 700111 or by email c1v@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Weddings

Llantwit Major Town Council have worked hard over the last few years to refurbish the Town Hall and make it popular place to hold parties, weddings, family and group celebrations, thus providing Llantwit Major with a venue to hold functions, in the heart of the community, at cost effective prices.

In 2018 the Town Council was successful in obtaining a licence to allow civic wedding ceremonies to take place in the Council Chamber, at the back of the Old School.

Less than 200 meters from the Old School is the Town Hall Building, an ideal location for the wedding reception/ evening entertainment, holding a maximum capacity of 100. The Town Council hold a music and alcohol licence for the venue.

Remembrance Day 2020

It was clear early in the development stages of arranging the Remembrance Service in 2020 that things would be very different than previous years. Although we were unable to have a Parade through Town, we were pleased to be able to provide an alternative service which complied with Welsh Government legislation.

Organisations were invited to have a representative lay a wreath at staggered times. A live stream was provided to allow residents to view from home.



Council Tax

Llantwit Major Town Council has announced there will be NO INCREASE in its Council Tax for the coming year.

Financially this has been a very challenging year and successive lockdowns has meant the Council has lost £40,000 in valuable rental income from Llantonian Hall, The Town Hall etc. as well as spending unexpected sums on PPE at our various sites.

Despite this the Council has sought to look for savings throughout the year and as a result has decided not to increase the amount of Council Tax payable to it from April. This is not to say the bills arriving will not be more, as the Vale Council and the Police have increased their requirements and these form the majority of the bill you will receive.

It is likely we will be the only Town Council in the Vale Council area not asking its residents to pay more next year.

Not increasing our Council Tax confirms the Council's commitment to look after the people of Llantwit Major and provide quality services at affordable costs.

Family Notice Board

With our local paper not being published, we are looking for other ways to share news. If you have a family announcement you would like to share with the residents of Llantwit Major, please call the Town Council for your notice to be displayed in our notice board at the centre of town.

Please note, all death notices must come through a funeral director as it would if being published to a local newspaper. Birth, special birthdays and wedding notices are also welcome.

Llantwit Major Town Council can be contacted via details on the back page.

Llantwit Major in Lockdown Book

The Town Council are currently developing the idea of collating a memory book of residents' experience during lockdown in Llantwit Major. We want the book to include pieces from all age groups, whether a toddler or senior citizen. The book can include poems, photographs, artwork, children's drawings – anything that has been inspired during your time at home. The book will then be available to purchase.

We are pleased to announce that there has been enough interest and with a kind donation from Mr Hunt, we are now able to proceed with developing the project.

If you would like to have your project featured in the book, please get in touch by messaging us on Facebook or using the contact details on the back page of the Newsletter.

Lockdown 10k

With a strong running community in Llantwit Major, the Town Council recognised that fun runs would be missed in 2020. As an alternative, the 'Lockdown 10k' was arranged. It invited runners, walkers, cyclist of all abilities living in Llantwit Major (or surrounding area) to take part.

Participants had a week in August to complete a 10k in their own time. The only condition was to start from the Town Hall.

The event was a great success with over 100 people taking part, all of which received their own a '10k Lockdown' t-shirt as a keepsake.



Extracts from Llantwit Major Lockdown book

For me it was a return to the fifties where your neighbour checked how you were and did we want any help. Back those days people cared about their neighbour and you shared food with each other if anyone was short of food. Whilst we were locked down it brought my life back to basics in caring for my wife, spending time together which we never had time for with the busy life I have always lead. Not going out did not worry me but keeping in touch with my friends around South Wales showed how many true friends I have, if lockdown ever returns, it would not worry me, just to be alive and well is all we want. As a Councillor, I will always go out of my way to help anyone who needs me.

Councillor Gwyn John



Llantwit Major Surf Life Saving Club
Clwb Achub Bywyd o'r Môr Llanilltud Fawr

Thank you / Diolch yn fawr
 to all of our
 NHS & Frontline Workers

HOPE.

I've painted my nails and washed my hair,
 I've creamed my face and dressed with flair,
 I'm Hoping.

I'm still at home, there's nowhere to go,
 We are in lockdown because of the foe.
 I'm hoping.

The virus is drifting across all our lands,
 It's very infectious so wash your hands.
 I'm hoping.

The hospitals are packed with people so ill,
 They cannot be cured with just a pill.
 I'm hoping.

I'm hoping for a healthy land, where we can meet together,
 I'm hoping that we can all feel safe, whatever the weather.

Don't give up. We must have HOPE.

Barbara Hodges

Boverton Brook Lockdown Party.

This was held on the 20th June 2020 as part of the 'Jo Cox Great British Get together' initiative.

The street got together for Socially distanced games, tea and cakes etc.

The highlight was the 'wedding' of Michael and Alicia who's actual wedding was postponed because of Covid restrictions.

This event was reported in the Yorkshire Post (Michael is from Yorkshire) and the South Wales Echo.



Some may call me sweaty
 Some may call me bad
 But playing Fortnite daily
 Is the only lockdown fun to be had
 With Jacob on my left
 And Jamie on my right
 We battle other teams of friends
 Until we win the fight
 Our parents say its pointless
 That gaming is time misspent
 But they don't understand what this contact in lockdown has meant
 It's kept us sane It's kept us happy
 Now we're near the end I now know how much I need
 My crew, my pals, my friends.

By Owain Collings (age 12)