

Pontardawe Town Council
Annual Report 2023 (Issued May 2024)



Pontardawe Town Council comprises of four separate communities. Pontardawe, Trebanos, Rhyd y Fro and Ynysmeudwy, all with their distinct personalities. The Town Council was originally part of the large Llanguicke Community Council which was separated in 1985/6

Pontardawe Town lies in the Swansea Valley and is named after the bridge crossing the river Tawe which runs through the town. The settlement developed as the crossing point of two drover trails; the one running from Swansea to Brecon, and the other from Neath to Llandeilo. The picturesque canal, now dormant, is evidence of the industrial past of steel, tinplate and coal.

St. Peter's Church, notable for its French architectural style, was completed in 1862 and continues to stand tall above a town known in the nineteenth-century for its religious Nonconformity and Political radicalism.

The Arts Centre at the centre of the Town is a blend of contemporary and traditional styles and is steeped in history. Further development of the Arts Centre is set to take place during 2024 with the creation of a 70-seat cinema in addition to the main theatre and studio rooms. The Town Council office is also situated in this majestic building.

The resilience of the town and its people were celebrated in the Welsh language poems of D. Gwynallt Jones (1899-1968) and Dafydd Rowlands (1931 – 2001), and it continues to be a thriving centre of Welsh folk culture, as manifest in the success of Mary Hopkin in the 1970s.

Trebanos has an impressive sporting legacy with notable people from the village including rugby union players Bleddyn Bowen, who captained Wales to the 1988 Triple Crown, fly-half Arwel Thomas who was capped 23 times, Robert Jones, who was capped 54 times and helped win the 1988 Triple Crown and openside flanker Justin Tipuric who was capped an amazing 93 times for Wales.

Pontardawe Town Council remains committed to the future development of both the Pontardawe area and to Wales as a whole and produces an Annual Report, in accordance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The Act has 7 goals, which are:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsive Wales

The Town Council report highlights the areas in which the Council is achieving the seven goals and objectives, and is published annually (following the end of each Civic Year)

The purpose of Pontardawe Town Council Annual Report is to inform the community. The report contains details of projects that the Council is working on, as well as details of elected members, Town Council responsibilities and budgets.



Mayors Foreword

It is a pleasure to introduce Pontardawe Town Council's annual report for 2023.

It has been a privilege to work closely with fellow councillors over the past year. Whilst there will always be political differences, it is fair to say that all councillors continue to work to put the communities that they serve first and foremost. I believe that is what makes our monthly town council meetings both robust, challenging and thorough. I thank them all for their support.

A big thank you must also go to Debby Phillips - Town Clerk, without whom the Town council would not run so smoothly and efficiently. We are very lucky to have such an experienced clerk to help guide council.

The last year has had its ups and downs, as I guess has most years. Lot's of good work has been undertaken by council and it's members, in the support of the community. Public events such as Winterfest were a big success again. The council has also supported a broad range of grant applications to help our communities thrive. We are currently working with partners to engage in and develop a town plan for Pontardawe.

It has also been a frustrating year. Whilst Town council often has ideas and plans to improve the area and communities, we are often hindered by the bureaucracy, lack of communication and engagement from NPTCBC. Many councillors including myself firmly feel that it is time for significant investment to come to this part of the borough. Needless to say, as always we will continue to try to engage with NPTCBC and hopefully small projects such as the Gwachel roundabout improvements to larger ones such as ensuring that Pontardawe has a swimming pool in the future will be supported.

We are fortunate to have such a beautiful town together with it's surrounding villages. We are also fortunate to have a dynamic cohort of councillors and as mentioned earlier an excellent clerk. I am sure that Town council, the incoming Mayor and current councillors will continue to do all they can to support our communities.

Annual Report 2023/24 S U M M A R Y and CHALLENGES

Global challenges led to high inflation and a cost of living crisis for many. While the Town Council does not have direct control over social services, education or housing, we do work closely with the County Borough, to ensure that issues at a local level are efficiently reported ,via our County Borough Members, who are all also Town Councillors .

In other ways the Town Council is in a position to assist at a grass roots level, and many groups and organisations in the local area, rely on funding from grants provided by the Town Council.

Sports organisations such as the Pontardawe RFC, AFC and the Recreation ground have obtained grant funding ,which allows them to keep the costs to the users low, as grant funding allows projects undertaken with a reduced call on the groups reserves.

All ages have benefited by grant funding for events, which allows cost effective trips, fetes and community entertainment

Initial capital has also been provided to allow some groups to start. This has been the case for the Community Clothes swap and the Repair café, who benefit not only the community, but also allow us to live in a more sustainable way.

We have also added our support by ‘filling in the gaps’ of funding packages with our flexible approach.

Our parks provided free entertainment for young people and our Community Halls are heavily subsidised to enable them to be run as community assets rather than as a source of revenue. With costs for one-off events, such as children’s parties being very reasonably priced.

Our Heritage, the Welsh Language and conservation projects have also benefited by grant funding to local groups. In total £13000 was awarded in grants for the financial year.

As well as providing grants, we source Grant funding to allow projects to take place within our area, either alone or in partnerships with other groups.

In December 2023 we refurbished the Herbert Street Garden following a successful application to the Mynydd y Betws Community Benefit fund. The garden now includes a planted fir tree which can be decorated with lights during the Christmas season. This removes the requirement for a cut tree, which saves money and the environment.



Decision and Responsibilities Pontardawe Town Council

Pontardawe Town Council, as a body, is responsible for making decisions and managing public money.

The Council is open and transparent in decision making and spending. All decisions are published within 7 days of a meeting being held, on the Town Council website

Town Council Ordinary General meetings are held monthly at 6.45pm (usually on the second Monday of each month - except August and Bank Holidays), other committee meetings such as Planning, Policy and Resources, Development and Eco and Wellbeing are held on the following Monday evenings.

Details of Committee meetings for the following month are found in each month's Ordinary General Meeting minutes which can be found on our website <http://www.pontardawetowncouncil.gov.wales/>

Meetings are open to the public, and there is an opportunity for the public to contribute to matters on the agenda , at the beginning of each ordinary meeting.

Pontardawe Town Council serve the residents of Pontardawe, Rhydy-Fro, Ynysmeudwy and Trebanos and is responsible for a number of assets and facilities. This includes Trebanos, ARCH and Ynysmeudwy Community Halls, Trebanos Park, Ynysmeudwy Park, Parc Chwarae Teg, together with the maintenance of some litter bins, highway seating, Bridleways, Public Footpaths, and part of Cwmdu Glen.

The Town Council also works in Partnership with the Unitary Authority, Art Centre, Chamber of Commerce, Schools, Community Groups and third sector organisations to obtain grant funding and organise Events.

We also provide grants to local groups which can be used for both Capital projects and revenue

Details of finance, policy documents, Council activity and additional information about the Council can be found on our website. Pontardawe Town Council is a separate body to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, and therefore, manages different functions and responsibilities.

PONTARDAWE TOWN COUNCIL

The Council is within one tier of local government, another tier would be Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council as the unitary authority. Both Councils are corporate bodies and therefore decisions are made as a whole. The Town Council has the right to raise money through taxation via a precept and to spend in accordance with the legal powers.

Our current Councillors were elected in 2022, however should an elected Councillor leave within their term, then Councillors can be Co-opted by Council if a Byelection is not requested by the community.

Council Members come from varied backgrounds and this representation on the Town Council means that they bring a number of skills and areas of expertise to discussion.

The Mayor is the face of the Council, attending events and chairing Town Council meetings. The Town Council also employs staff who are managed by the Clerk, who is the proper officer of the Council, in law. The Clerk provides advice and support, and acts to implement Council decisions.

The Clerk has a varied role and is answerable only to the Council as a whole.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is responsible for services including education, health and social services, leisure, refuse and recycling, street cleaning, highways including both roads and pavements – street lighting and libraries, their staff are able to assist with queries relating to these matters and can be contacted by telephone on 01639 686868 or via email, in person or by post. Details of how to contact Neath Port Talbot Council can be found on their web site at <https://www.npt.gov.uk/?lang=en-gb>

You are also represented by the Neath Port Talbot Council elected Members who can assist with issues relating to Neath Port Talbot Council. Your elected Councillors for the Pontardawe ward are Councillor Heath Davies and Anthony Richards, and for the Trebanos ward is Councillor Rebeca Phillips. The communities of Ynysmeudwy and Rhyd y Fro will be covered by the Pontardawe ward Members.

Pontardawe Town Council consists of three wards, and were represented as follows

Pontardawe Ward



Gary Davies
Labour - Elected
07580147304



Dai Brain
Plaid Cymru - Elected
Email -
Cllr.d.brain@gmail.com



Jill Lord
Labour - Elected
Email -
Cllr.J.Lord@gmail.com



Matt Vincent
Plaid Cymru - Elected
Email - Advertising
@southwalesmedia.com



Meirion Davies
Independent - Elected
Email -
info@vesopa.com



Linet Purcell
Plaid Cymru - Elected
Email -
linetpurcell@gmail.com



Anthony Richards

Plaid Cymru - Elected

Email -

cllr.a.j.richards@npt.gov.uk



Bleddyn Howells

Independent— Elected

Email -

Cllr.B.Howells@gmail.com

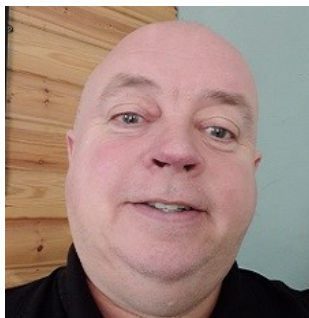


Jamie Nemeth

Plaid Cymru –Elected

07846529813

Youth Councillors



Heath Davies

Plaid Cymru -

Elected

Email -

Cllr.h.davies1@npt.gov.uk

Noel Davies

Email - c/o the Town

Clerk at

town.clerk@pontardawetown

council.gov.wales

Rhyd-y-fro Ward



Steve Todd

Labour - Elected

Email -

Cllr.s.todd@gmail.com



Paul Temblett

Independent - Elected

Email -

P.temblett@talk21.com

Trebanos Ward



Gwenno Ffrancon

Plaid Cymru - Elected

Email -

Cllr.G.ffrancon@gmail.com



Rebeca Phillips

Plaid Cymru - Elected

Email -

Cllr.r.phillips@npt.gov.uk



Jamie Watkins

Plaid-Cymru - Elected

Email -

jamiehwat@gmail.com



Eira Thomas

Plaid Cymru - Elected

Email -

Cllr.e.thomas@gmail.com

TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE

Pontardawe Town Council has legal powers to raise money through taxation (the precept) and the Council has a range of powers to enable the spending of public money. The Finance Committee of the Council meets annually to agree the precept for the following financial year. Decisions of the Finance Committee are approved at a full Town Council meeting.

In setting the budget, the Council considers ongoing pressures and projects, as well as looking at other potential sources of funding.

In 2023/24 the Precept was agreed at £233988.00

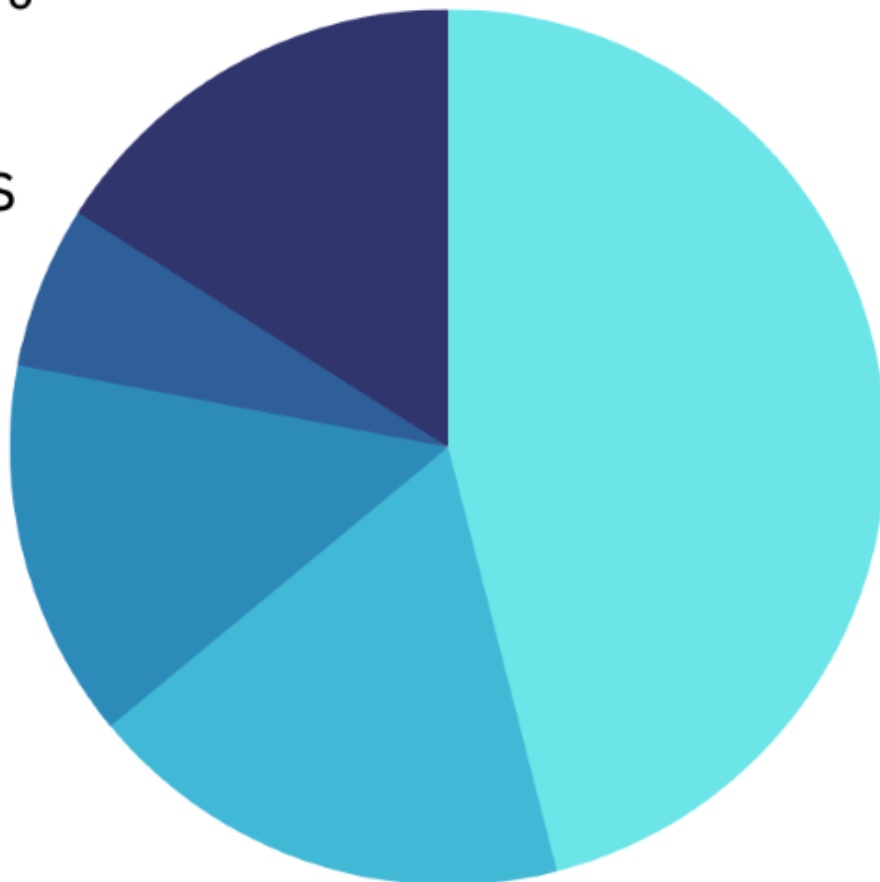
Governance
16%

Grants
6%

Halls
14%

Parks
18%

Wages
46%



To give context to the figures shown, the areas are broken down to include the following (lists are not exhaustive):

- Parks and Community Spaces
- Footpaths and Bridleway maintenance
- Cwmdu Nature Reserve
- Highway seating and litterbins
- Hanging baskets and Town Floral decorations
- Christmas Lights
- Defibrillators

- Governance
 - General Administration
 - Management of Town Council functions and finance
 - Support and advice at Town Council meetings
 - Implementation of Council decisions and organisation of Council procedures
 - HR Functions
 - Insurance
 - Health and Safety
 - Organisation of Civic Functions and other events
 - Research and implementation of grant funding
 - Liaison with Partners and other groups
 - Media and Social Media
 - Grants for local groups and Partnership events

- Community Halls
 - Liaison with Community Hall Management Committees
 - Insurance/ Risk Assessments/ maintenance/ advice

- Wages – Staff wages together with tax and pension contributions

Wellbeing

Pontardawe Town Council places community wellbeing at the heart of all the decisions made and so supports both the Welsh Government Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board well-being objectives “The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other, and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.”

The Neath Port Talbot Public Services Board is made up of four statutory member organisations: Swansea Bay University Health Board, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Natural Resources Wales and Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service

The Board also invites a number of other partners to participate in its activity as ‘invited participants’

Neath Port Talbot Public Service Board Objectives 2023-28

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 1: ALL CHILDREN HAVE THE BEST START IN LIFE

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 2: ALL OUR COMMUNITIES WILL BE THRIVING AND SUSTAINABLE

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 3: OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE CAN BE ENJOYED BY FUTURE GENERATIONS

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE 4: THERE ARE MORE GREEN, SECURE AND WELL PAID JOBS AND SKILLS ACROSS THE AREA

WE SUPPORT OBJECTIVE ONE (CHILDREN) BY:

- Councillors acting as Minor Authority Governors at local Primary and Secondary Schools
- Financially supporting family focussed events such as the fetes and fun days at King George V Park together with Empower Inspire CIC at Rhyd y Fro School and the Rhyd y Fro fete.
- Ynysmeudwy second hall permanently provided free of charge for the Pontardawe Youth Club and Trebanos Hall provided free of charge for the Welsh Language Youth Club
- Children's activity groups well represented at all three Community Halls
- Hall subscriptions kept to a minimum to assist groups (Town Council covers utilities, risk assessments, caretakers salaries and insurance)
- Well maintained and adventurous play equipment at all three parks
- Partnership working on events with schools, unitary authority, Art Centre, together with community groups and third sector organisations.
- Web site 'Go Valley' which gives information on children's groups in the area
- Support for local sports groups via grant funding – For example Pontardawe Cricket club, AFC, RFC, Under 11's rugby and the Pontardawe recreation ground
- Financing the Crossing Support Officer for Swansea Road adjacent to Cwmtawe School
- Initiative to encourage dog walking away from Children's playgrounds and sports grounds where fouling can cause serious injury to children.
- Support for the retention of small community primary schools

Youth Councillors

Our Youth Councillors provide Council with a young person's viewpoint with two co-opted each year, initially for a term of one year. Each youth councillor is from 15 years old to 26 years old and are an important voice in ensuring diversity within the decision-making process. They also represent Pontardawe Town Council at One Voice Wales committee meetings



WE SUPPORT OBJECTIVE TWO BY (SUSTAINABLE AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES):

- Improving the Town Centre experience for visitors and local people with Floral displays during the Summer season and Highway decorations over the Christmas period. Flags are also displayed throughout the year with themes to match the season.
- Liaison with the Chamber of Commerce
- Partnership working on Events with the Art Centre, Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Centre and others
- CCTV installation project – Funding has been obtained to work in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council to install monitored CCTV within Pontardawe Town Centre
- Close partnership working with Unitary Authority to support local initiatives (Cwmdu Glen, Town Events and participation in the creation of the Neath Port Talbot Place Plan for Pontardawe, in conjunction with ‘the Urbanists’)
- Guardian of several defibrillators within the Town Council area
- Herbert Street Garden project – To replace an overgrown area at the centre of Pontardawe with an attractive displays including a slow growing mature fir tree which could be dressed each Christmas with Christmas lights
- Grants for the Community clothes shop and Caffi Trwsio Pontardawe Repair Café to encourage sustainability
- Support for the Pontardawe Twinning Events with Locmine
- Support for the Friends of George V Park project to create a MUGA from the derelict tennis courts at the Park
- Support for the campaign to refurbish or replace the Pontardawe swimming pool.



WE SUPPORT OBJECTIVE THREE (ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND HERITAGE) BY:

- Liaison and grant funding for the Pontardawe Conservation Volunteers voluntary group who work in several areas within Pontardawe
- Liaison and grant funding for My Green Valley voluntary group who litter pick within all communities within the Pontardawe Town Council area
- Management of part of the Cwmdu Nature Reserve
- Liaison and grant funding support for the Pontardawe Heritage Centre
- Support of the Pontardawe music festival and the rights of the local Public Houses to continue live music events
- 'Support and financial contribution towards the Heritage NPT and the National Lottery Heritage Street Art project to paint openreach boxes and benches with scenes of the area's heritage
- Support of the Pontardawe Heritage trail project (Heritage trails and community art work are also being worked on by Pontardawe Conservation volunteers and is funded by a Heritage Lottery grant)
- The Mayors Charity for 2023.24 provided funds for the Pontardawe Riverside Centre
- Project plans for additional work at Cwmdu Glen and Gellionnen Common awaiting grant funding
- Grant to NPT Pride for events in June 2024
- Improvement of the Gwachel Roundabout as a key gateway to the Town
- Permission to the Geocache society to utilise land at Cwmdu to encourage healthy walking
- Pontardawe Town Council Environmental Statement reviewed and updated in 2022-Duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity
- Support of recycling measures within the Community Halls
- Grants to the Urdd and National Eisteddfod



WE SUPPORT OBJECTIVE 4: (GREEN, SECURE AND WELL PAID JOBS AND SKILLS)

- Support of small businesses and community enterprises such as the Pontardawe Hwb and wellbeing space
- Mayor and Councillors liaison with local business owners to identify and address issues.
- Encouraging business within the Town Centre with one hour free parking
- Encouraging start ups by supporting a thriving Town Centre which is a pleasure to visit (Flags, Flowers, Christmas decorations, festivals, fairs etc)
- Support for the designation within the Local Development plan of the area adjoined to the Alloy Industrial Estate from social housing to industrial use.
- Pledge to the 'Time to Change' Wales to support action against mental health discrimination within the work place
- Support of Local and National initiatives





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

National Goals

Prosperous:

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which, recognises the limits of the Glob-al environment and therefore, uses resources efficiently and proportionately, and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

Pontardawe Town Council is committed to working actively with partners to encourage and promote the town centre by liaising with the Neath Port Talbot Council Town Officers to ensure that initiatives are known, communicated and advertised by all partners

The Town Council has developed our website and set up a Facebook page. The web-site provides key contact information and responsibilities of the Council and promotes activities of local voluntary groups and organisations. Both website and social media are used to inform and communicate with residents, publicising meeting information, events and signposting to other service providers.

We also financially support in total or in part, a number of events and activities within Pontardawe, through the grants process (Fireworks, Tree of Light, Carnivals, Christmas events, Fetes etc) and supply Christmas Lighting and Floral Displays for the Town Centre

The Town Council is committed to development of young people in the area and have provided the second hall area at Ynysmeudwy as a permanent home for the Youth club, free of charge. They have also supported creation of a new Welsh Language youth club in Trebanos Hall. Town Council grants (both capital and revenue) are available for local groups and organisations to assist with their costs.

Resilient:

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy function-ing ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change.

Pontardawe Town Council is committed to ensuring that the town remains a pleasant clean and safe environment. We are not responsible for any highways or street cleaning; however, we have developed excellent working relationships with the responsible authority.

Street Cleaning, litter collection, refuse and recycling are the responsibility of Neath Port Talbot Council. However, in supporting these services and engaging with colleagues the Town Council can assist in addressing areas of concern. Grants have also been provided to 'My Green Valley' to assist in volunteer litter picks

We also provide some litter bins within Pontardawe together with additional highway seating

The Town Council acts as consultee on Planning matters and observations are then made to the Local Planning Authority on any issues which are perceived to be a detriment to the town.

Town Councillors are also liaising with Neath Port Talbot Council and the Urbanists to support the Town Team Project which aims to create a Community and Place plan to future proof and support both the retail park, Town Centre and the Industrial Estate through supplementary planning.

Town Councillors are also present on various liaison committees to support both business and the environment in the local area (i.e. Pwllfawatkin liaison and Quarry Liaison)

The Town Council has an Environmental Statement which was created in under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to maintain and enhance biodiversity and was updated in 2022.

Healthier: *A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health is understood.*

By providing outdoor space such as Parc Chwarae Teg, Ynysmeudwy and Trebanos Park, the Council is committed to the health of residents in the Pontardawe Area. The Council ensures that the parks are regularly maintained and safe for use by the public. Parc Chwarae Teg is a children's play area and MUGA. Trebanos Park encompasses both the Rugby Ground and changing rooms (these are leased to Trebanos Rugby Club) and a children's play area. Ynysmeudwy Park holds a children's play area, MUGA and supports an Environmental project to plant trees, create bug and bird boxes and to maintain a meadow area.

In previous years we supported the creation of the local Allotments which are now for use by residents of both Cilybebyll Community Council and Pontardawe Town Council. The site encourages and allow people to cultivate their own gardens, growing produce for their own consumption

The Town Council actively supports wellbeing through use of town council Community Halls for groups and organisations within the community, and further supports well-being by maintaining in partnership with Neath Port Talbot Council, the Cwmdau Nature Reserve and in the maintenance of local Footpaths and bridleways

We are also guardians for several Defibrillators, all of which are connected to the Circuit

More Equal:

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or Circumstances

The Town Council office is based centrally within the town. Contact details for the Clerk and all Councillors are available on the exterior notice board, on the Town Council Facebook page and the Town Council's accessible web site. We provide meeting space to groups and organisations, which enables a wide range of people to enhance their skills and fulfil their potential through taking part in activities. Rental costs are minimised

Subsidised Community events ensure that access is available to all regardless of their financial situation

Free use of Town Council facilities is available for Summer Playschemes organised by the County Borough.

The Town Council is also a supporter of Dementia Friendly Communities

Cohesive Communities:

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities

The Town Council works in partnership with the Art Centre, Chamber of Commerce and Heritage Centre to promote the Town and to organise festivals and events to encourage footfall within the Town

We also liaise directly with the Neath Port Talbot Town Centre Officer to ensure that events organised by different organisations are communicated to make the best use of available resource and are advertised as widely as possible.

The Joint CCTV project with Neath Port Talbot Council in partnership with the local Police Force will provide 'live' CCTV feed from Pontardawe Town Centre. Pontardawe Town Council also financially supports the Crossing Patrol Officer at Swansea Road in conjunction with Cwmtawe School and Neath Port Talbot Council

The Summer Flower display, flags and Christmas lights encourages footfall within the Town Centre, and we also worked with the Chamber of Commerce to encourage Neath Port Talbot Council to retain the 'One Hour Free' parking within their Town Centre Car Parks

Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language

The Council supports the Welsh language in a range of ways. We have recently supported the creation of a Welsh Language Youth Club at Trebanos Hall, in partnership with NPT Youth Services. We promote bilingualism with a bilingual website and we have partnered with Menter Iaith Castell-nedd Port Talbot on several projects and events that promote the use of the Welsh Language. Tŷ'r Gwrhyd the Pontardawe Welsh Language Centre is located on Holly Street in Pontardawe and supports several of the Council's activities, including the Pontardawe Repair Cafe.

Our Councillors are Minor Authority Governors at YGG Trebannws and YGG Pontardawe. Grants have been provided to both the Urdd Gobaith Cymru and the National Eisteddfod. Pontardawe Town Council is also included within the institute of Welsh Affairs 'Understanding Welsh Places' project

Globally Responsible where we look after the Environment and think about other people around the World Pontardawe Town Council has responded to a number of surveys, primarily from Welsh Government, which demonstrates a commitment to global well-being and the capacity to adapt to change. We are concerned with energy consumption at all premises and ensure that the best value for money is obtained when renewing utility contracts and undertaking procedures to ensure that energy is not unnecessarily used

We will also be obtaining advice from Awel Aman Tawe on possible projects to review energy supply and consumption at our halls.



What has the Council done in 2023/24?

Grants Awarded:

Pontardawe Conservation volunteers £1800, Pontardawe Twinning £300, Pontardawe Senior Citizens £500, Friends George V Park £500, Mama's academy £500, *Pontardawe Pride* £50, *Pontardawe Heritage Centre* £1000, *Pontardawe Cricket club* £500, *Pontardawe Clothes swap* £484.80, *Glantawe Lions* £150, *Swansea Valley rugby* £395, *Pontardawe AFC* £500, *Pontardawe Rec association* £1000, *Pontardawe Community hub* £3000, *Empower Inspire CIC* £400, *Menter Iaith* £100, *Pontardawe RFC* £1800, £160.10 each to the *National Eisteddfod and Urdd*.

Summer floral display within the Pontardawe Town Centre and planter at Trebanos and Rhyd y Fro

Management of Cwmdu Nature Reserve including addressing Ash dieback and to reinstate the Circular path.

Volunteer days to improve our natural surroundings and encourage a sense of community

Christmas tree , Christmas lights, Parade and Fireworks to celebrate Christmas

Festive Town Centre window competition

Easter Events at the Parks & Family fun day at Rhyd y Fro

Involvement with the Pontardawe Town Team creating a Community Plan

Welsh Government consultations

Support of the Pantry foodbank

Improvement to both Community Halls and Children's play areas

Swansea Road Crossing patrol officer

Our Youth Councillors have:

Become our town representative for One voice Wales. They are the only youth councillor representatives within the organisation and have been a strong proponent for improving youth representation and cooperation, they were also an active presence in the 21st century school decision, by giving a comprehensive account of the decision to assist the community with their consultation.

They also answered questions from young people and provided information on ongoing projects and the activities of the council.