



## **Whitecastle Community Council**

### **Cyngor Cymuned Castellgwyn**

### **Annual Report 2023-24**

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Whitec Community Council for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Whitecastle Community Council is a non-political Council and comprises of six Community Councillors who all live locally with five vacancies. The community includes the six wards of Whitecastle, Penrhos, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Newcastle and Rockfield and St Maughans.

Cllr. Chris Lewis (Chair)  
Cllr. David Gwyn Edwards (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Debbie Astill-Parsons  
Cllr John Biggs  
Cllr. Ruth Edwards  
Cllr. Ms Lauren Hughes

The Clerk to the Council and Financial Responsible Officer is  
Mr Les Taylor, 2 Firs Road, Llanvapley, Abergavenny, NP7 8SL  
Tel: 01600 780376 Email: [whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:whitecastlecommunitycouncil@gmail.com)

We do not have any sub-groups or sub-committees.

### **Budget**

The main income of the Council is the precept (community charge). The precept for 2022-23 was £11,286. The precept is collected by the county council as part of council tax bills. The council also received a one off payment of £8,370.37 following the dissolution of Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council.

The Council's expenditure is mainly as follows:-

- Clerk Salary
- Members allowances
- Maintenance of Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern and Llangattock Vibon Avel (closed part) churchyards.
- Maintenance of IT systems
- Donations to local groups

A full breakdown of the expenditure incurred for this financial year will be available in the annual accounts once approved.

### **Relationship With Monmouthshire County Council**

The Council works closely with the County Councillor Ian Chandler who represents Llantilio Crossenny ward which includes the communities of Whitecastle and Skenfrith. Cllr. Chandler attends community council meetings and is supportive in dealing with

queries from the residents in relation to services, road conditions and any issues affecting residents.

### **Training Plan**

The Council is a member of One Voice Wales and most training will be undertaken via them. A training plan will be published later in the year.

### **Audit**

Accounts ending 31 March 2023 will be subject to an Internal Audit by an appointed professional person and also an external audit by the Auditor General for Wales. The outcome of all Audits will be published on the Council's website.

### **Key Objectives For 2023-24**

To identify and support community groups which provide activities and services that benefit the community.

To increase representation on the council.

Develop a maintenance plan for its churchyards.

Develop a Biodiversity Action Plan

### **Assets**

The closed part of the Llangattock Vibon Avel Churchyard NP25 5NQ

The War Memorial at St Cadoc's Church, Llangattock-Vibon-Avel

The Churchyard of Church of St Michael and All Angels, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern

Newcastle Village Green

Llanfaenor Village Green

The water fountain at Maypole.

A set of Antique Handbells

Notice Boards at Llantilio Crossenny, Penrhos, Hendre, Newcastle, Maypole, Rockfield.

Various current and historical documents.

### **Activities**

Regular council meetings.

Regular updates of the council website to provide information for residents.

### **Achievements**

Recruitment of a community council to represent Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern.

Redevelopment of the bus shelter area at The Onen.

Allocation of funds to community groups.

### **Priorities**

To recover funds from Llangattock Vibon Avel Community Council.

Support for the introduction of the Public Spaces Protection Order (Dog Fouling)

Support the introduction of the new speed limits.

Engage with the communities of Penrhos, Llanvihangel-Ystern-Llewern, Llangattock Vibon Avel, Newcastle and Rockfield and St Maughans to fulfil the quota of council members and ensure full coverage for each community.

### **Summary By Chair**

Chris Lewis

Chair, Whitecastle Community Council.

