



# CYNGOR CYMUNED PENARLAG HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2019 TO APRIL 2021



George Hardcastle Chairman of the Council

**Sharron Jones Clerk and Financial Officer** 





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#### WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Welcome to this Annual Report which is the second publication by Hawarden Community Council for the two municipal years 2019 to 2021. This report is usually produced annually but due to Covid-19 in March 2020 and its impact, this plan incorporates two years. Due to the pandemic I have had held the position of Chairman for two years.

I hope that you will enjoy reading about the work of the Community Council and the positive impact that we have upon the local communities of Hawarden that include the electoral wards of Aston, Ewloe, Hawarden and Mancot.

I would like to thank the elected members and officers of the Community Council for their hard work particularly during this unprecedented pandemic. The Councillors and members of staff have had to learn different ways of working with virtual meetings becoming the "norm", a feat that had not even entered our minds previous to March 2020. Having said this the work of the Community Council and its range of community projects had continued throughout.

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions I am proud to have taken part in the annual Remembrance Day event. It was a restricted service but I am humbled that we were able to commemorate this important event. We also recently placed a wreath at the memorial in memory of Captain Sir Tom Moore on the day of his funeral to show our support and respect to this incredible man. I am also particularly proud of the small number of grants and bursary awards, and certificates of commendation to members of the community, that we have been able to award during the last two years.

I look forward to working with Members and Officers on behalf of our community over the next year.

Councillor George Hardcastle Chairman of Hawarden Community Council

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Municipal relating to a town or district or its governing body.





#### **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT**

This annual report sets out to inform the residents of Aston, Ewloe, Hawarden and Mancot about the activities undertaken by the Community Council during the period May 2019 to April 2021. This report will contain a brief outline of the structure of the Council, an overview of the Council's activities throughout the last two years and a financial summary. The report also includes details of all the Community Councillors, members of staff and how to contact the Council.

Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these challenges, we need to work together in order to give current and future generations a good quality of life and we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make today. We also need to bear in mind the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on our residents and the local economy and of course the impact of the recovery process over the next few years.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details the ways in which specific public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

This report will outline how Hawarden Community Council has contributed to the seven well-being goals for the community of Hawarden. The report covers the municipal years from May 2019 to May 2021 during the Chairmanship of Councillor George Hardcastle.









**SECTION 2 - HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL** 

Hawarden Community Council was formed in 1985 as the successor Authority to the former Hawarden Parish Council.

The Community Council comprises the four electoral wards of **Aston, Ewloe, Hawarden and Mancot.** There are currently twenty Councillors representing a population of approximately 14,500 (Source: UK Office for National Statistics).

Individual Councillor details are listed on pages 20 -21.

At the head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The current Chairman is Councillor George Hardcastle who is a resident of Aston. The current Vice-Chair is Councillor Helen Brown who also represents the Aston ward.

The Community Council employs seven members of staff on a full and part-time basis. Six members of staff work jointly for Broughton and Bretton Community Council and via a service level agreement provide an administrative and maintenance service for Shotton Town Council. Hawarden Community Council also employs its own Lengthsman/Litter Collector.

A staffing structure can be seen at **Appendix 1**.







The Community Council Offices are located at 113 The Highway, Hawarden (see 'contact us' on page 23) but holds its meetings in the Scout Headquarters, Gladstone Playing Fields, 113 The Highway, Hawarden.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Council and its Committees. The meetings are held at 6.30pm on the second Monday of each month excluding August when the Council is in recess. The Council has four Committees chaired by an elected member as follows:

Staff and General Purposes
 Chair: Councillor Darren Sterry

Community Amenities

Chair: Councillor Lowri Earith

Planning

Chair: Councillor Cheryl Carver

Finance

Chair: Councillor Dave Mackie







The Council has a vacancy for a Community Youth Representative to represent the youth sector and be a 'voice' on the Community Council for local issues affecting young people.

#### The Council's main duties include:

- Providing financial and administrative support in respect of all services delivered by the Community Council
- Management and maintenance of the council office located at 113 The Highway, Hawarden and the Council's Depot
- Management and maintenance of street lighting, open spaces and play areas
- Management of the Council owned allotment site
- Litter collection throughout the community of Hawarden
- Maintenance of various planters throughout the community
- Custodians of the Hawarden War Memorial (Grade 1 Listed building)
- Installation each year of Christmas lighting across Aston, Ewloe, Hawarden and Mancot (and as part of the "Joint Agreement" throughout Broughton and Bretton and Shotton)
- Management of numerous annual events that take place in the community throughout the year including remembrance, community volunteers, community in bloom and bursary awards to the student at Hawarden High School
- Management and maintenance of the Gladstone Playing Fields and Tennis Courts
- Jointly manage the pavilion building with Hawarden Rangers Football Club







**SECTION 3 - THE SEVEN WELL-BEING GOALS FOR WALES** 

The summary of the Council's activities that follows is based upon the seven well-being goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (hereinafter called "The Act"). The Act defines sustainable development as the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

Hawarden Community Council recognises the role it has to play in promoting sustainable development and how it goes about meeting its duty under the Act whilst working for and with its local communities.

The well-being goals are indivisible from each other and explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales. The Community Council embraces these well-being goals and places them at the heart of its planning and decision-making process to improve the general quality of life (well-being) within its administrative area. The seven goals are as follows:





A Prosperous Wales	Cymru Lewyrchus
A Resilient Wales	Cymru Gydnerth
A Healthier Wales	Cymru Iachach
A More Equal Wales	Cymru sy'n fwy Cyfartal
A Wales of Cohesive Communities	Cymru o Gymunedau Cydlynus
A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language	Cymru  Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu
A Globally Responsible Wales	Cymru sy'n Gyfrifol ar Lefel Fyd-eang

The Act requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of its activities on the community. The Council needs to work together with key partners and agencies in order to achieve these goals. The profile of the community can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Planning/LDP-evidence-base/Local/Assessment-of-Local-Well-being-for-Flintshire.pdf

#### **Cymru Lewyrchus - A Prosperous Wales**

"An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); 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."





Hawarden Community Council has representatives on numerous bodies which aim to deliver future plans to grow the economy within the community. St. David's Park Ewloe continues to expand with new employers building premises and the re-location of some departments of Flintshire County Council at Ewloe which will continue to assist the local economy within the vicinity.

The St. David's Park Hotel is ideally situated just off the A55 expressway for commuters in both leisure and business. The impact of the pandemic for almost a year has placed significant challenges on the local economy.

The village of Hawarden has a number of local and specialist stores and has recently opened up an Artists café and revamped the old post office. The communities of Aston, Ewloe and Mancot also hold vital and thriving small business premises and shops. Again the impact of the pandemic on these local businesses has had a significant impact.

The Community Council has strong links with its four primary schools and the Hawarden High School and work on various projects collaboratively throughout the year. As mentioned previously the Community Council has entered its sixteenth year of presenting a small number of Hawarden High School students with a Bursary award to assist them in their studies.







#### Cymru Gydnerth – A Resilient Wales

"A nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economical and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example, climate change.)"

The Community Council has attempted to invest in more efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy sources during recent years which has resulted in a reduced carbon footprint and energy costs.

The Council embarked upon a major capital programme to replace its street lights with new LED<sup>2</sup> Heads which consume less energy and are more environmentally friendly. The Council continues to benefit from reduced energy bills month by month as each of the Council's stock is updated.

The Clerk and Financial Officer is working towards a paperless office transferring files from paper to electronic, where possible, and archiving older documents via the Record Office. The use of email as a form of communication has greatly increased and large documents are circulated via email rather than in paper copy with the Council's agenda. During the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic the introduction of The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulation 2020 enabled the council to meeting virtually and use electronic forms of communications.

The Community Council has installed a water meter at its office to reduce costs and continues to recycle its own waste. The council also produced its first Environmental Action plan in 2020 which can be accessed via the Council's website.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LED stands for "light emitting diode." A diode is an electrical component with two terminals which conduct the electricity only in one direction. With an electrical current, the diode emits a bright light around the small bulb. Typically, diodes have been used in many technologies such as radios, televisions and computers as an electrical component for conduction.





#### Cymru Iachnach – A Healthier Wales

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

The Community Council aims to support groups who encourage healthier living.

Clubs that have benefitted during the year from annual or one-off grants include:

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Hawarden Scouts
- Aston Community Centre
- Hawarden Institute
- Level Road Community Centre
- Ewloe Community Centre
- Mancot Village Hall
- Ewloe Harriers FC
- Friends of Penarlag CP School
- Hawarden Park Cricket Club
- Hawarden Photographic Club
- 1<sup>st</sup> Hawarden Rainbows
- North Wales Superkids
- Penarlag Holiday Club

The Community Council is closely aligned to the Community Events team, a volunteer led community group that organises the annual Hawarden Carnival, Santa Dash and Scarecrow competition, amongst other community events. The impact of the pandemic has meant that in 2020 these events could not take place but a local Easter Egg hunt has been launched for Easter 2021.





The Community Council is also responsible for 8 children's play areas within the community, numerous open spaces and sports fields and has an Outdoor Adult Gym on the Gladstone Playing fields. The council has recently committed to ensuring that at least one piece of inclusive equipment is located in each of its play areas.

At the start of 2020 the Community Council invested in a complete new play area at Circular Drive in Ewloe which, outside Covid restrictions, has proved a major success. An official opening will be arranged when permitted.

There are a number of Bowling Clubs within the community which benefit from annual grant.

The Community Council jointly manages an allotment site of 40 plus plots, there are large, half and quarter plots available to the residents within the community of Hawarden. During lockdown, the council saw in increase in the number of requests for members of the public to apply for an allotment.

The Council has funded or part-funded community defibrillators across the community at Gladstone Playing Fields, Mancot, Ewloe and Hawarden.

#### Cymru Mwy Cyfartal - A More Equal Wales

"A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances)"

The Council continues to financially support diverse groups within the community and is represented via members on a number of community groups and organisations including Older 50s, Religious Organisations, community and play groups, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Nanny Biscuits, Deeside Round Table and school governing bodies to name but a few.





The Community Council will provide council reports and/or correspondence in alternative formats, on request.

The population characteristics as defined by the "Assessment of Local Well-being for Flintshire" states "that the age structure of this area is older than that of Great Britain but similar to Wales and the Flintshire average. Population total increased well above Flintshire and Wales average in the past 10 years due to significant developments, particularly in Ewloe.

Ethnicity and religion is significantly less diverse that England and Wales averages, but there is a high proportion of "other white" ethnic groups compared to Wales as a whole.

Welsh speakers are well below the Welsh average."



# Cymru o Gymunedau Cydlynus – A Wales of Cohesive Communities

"Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities"

The Community Council, in exercising its statutory and consultative responsibilities, continues to engage in issues that affect all people across the community and takes its time to ensure that it makes the best decisions in the interests of the community.





Hawarden Community Council continues to provide support to local community groups via one-off grants or an annual commitment in the case Community Centres.

The Council supports events such as Remembrance, Summer Festivals, Community in Bloom, Christmas Lights, Santa Dash etc., to bring the community together. These events bring the community together and increase in size and participation year on year.

There is regular dialogue with the local Police Community Support Officer who responds to issues efficiently. 2019 saw the introduction of a Police led community scheme, via the High Sheriff's office, to arrange a summer event in order to encourage the local young people to get involved. This event proved a key success.

The Council also has its own Litter Collector/Lengthsman to improve the community environment and keep it tidy and supports a number of Community Closed Circuit TV Cameras to assist with anti-social behaviour throughout the community.

The Council was successful recently in obtaining to grants from the Welsh Government under the Keep Wales Tidy initiative. A butterfly garden has been installed in the grounds of the Aston Community Centre and a wildlife garden has been installed next to the community library in Mancot.







A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language Cymru Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn Ffynnu

"A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh Language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation."

The Community Council has adopted a Welsh Language Scheme approved by the Welsh Language Board. The Council however converses in the English language to conduct its business. The Council's policy is due for renewal.

The most recent statistics show that the number of welsh speakers in the community of Hawarden is well below the Welsh average. Relevant council documentation will be made available in Welsh or alternative formats on request.

The Council also supports Hawarden High School with the Welsh Baccalaureate and continues to provide valuable work experience to pupils undertaking this course of study at the relevant time.

The Council annually provides a Summer Play scheme in each of its four wards. The scheme is professional ran by Flintshire County Council and the Community Council provides funding to the county council on an annual basis so that the scheme can run each year. In the wards of Mancot and Aston the free lunch has also been provided during the Summer of 2019 and a reduced scheme continued during the 2020 pandemic.







# A Globally Responsible Wales Cymru sy'n Gyfrifol ar Lefel Fyd-eang

"A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to the global well-being"

The information contained throughout this annual report illustrates quite clearly how Hawarden Community Council contributes towards the enhancement of people's well-being locally. By retaining its focus on the future requirements of local people and continuing to work closely in partnership with local communities and other key stakeholders who have a wider remit, including Flintshire County Council and members of the Public Services Board, Hawarden Community Council can be confident of contributing positively to national and indeed global well-being.

The Council has recently resolved to develop a Place Plan<sup>3</sup> with involvement from the community and such a document will have a "material impact" on future planning applications.

The Council has an outdoor gym on the Gladstone Playing fields, a skate park and 8 play areas within the community of Hawarden. The play area at Circular Drive has recently benefitted from a complete refurbishment of the play area utilising section 106 monies received from local building developments.

The Community Council is also jointly responsible for the production of the "Hawarden Village Trail" popular booklet which provides an historical account of key points of interest throughout the village. This booklet was jointly produced with the Hawarden Record Office and local researchers.



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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Place Plans are a mechanism introduced by Welsh Government for communities to engage creatively with the planning process and for planners to support in place-making initiatives with local people.





#### **SECTION 4 – 2021-22 FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

The Community Council has an expenditure budget of £397,217 for the forthcoming financial year 2021-22. The Council's precept has been set at £283,311 with further money generated via income raised for the provision of a range of services including allotments, tennis courts and the Council's joint agreement for Administration and Maintenance with Broughton and Bretton Community Council and Shotton Town Council.

A summary of the main areas of the budget expenditure for 2021-22 are shown below:

Heading	Expenditure
	£
Staffing	231,207
Premises	13,791
Joint Admin	43,471
Joint Maintenance	77,821
General	13,260
Community Funding	19,373
Open Spaces	10,590
Highways/Verges *	45,750
Public Lighting	14,800
Allotments	890
TOTALS	397,217

The total income for the financial year is set at £414,247.

<sup>\*</sup>The Highways/Verges spend includes the appointment of a full-time Lengthsman and Litter Collector.





#### SECTION 5 - 'A COMPETENT COUNCIL'

The future will be challenging for Community and Town Councils in Wales. Welsh Government have recently conducted a review of this tier of government and the findings can be viewed via the following link:

https://gov.wales/docs/dsjlg/publications/localgov/180807-independent-review-panel-en.pdf

The Community Council is subject to internal and external audit to ensure that it manages public finances appropriately.

The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Wales) Regulation 2020 was introduced to enable the council to work effectively during the virus and enabled virtual meetings to take place and more use of electronic business.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 has recently been introduced and allows for the local councils to use the "General Power of Competence". This can be applied where a council has a qualified clerk, two thirds of its members have been elected and it has two years unqualified audits.

Hawarden Community Council meets these criteria as all of the current serving Councillors have been elected, the Clerk and Financial Officer attained her CiLCA qualification in February 2019 and is completing her Community Governance qualification and the Council has received unqualified audits demonstrating sound management and financial systems.

All Community Council agenda, minutes accounts and contact details can be viewed via the council's website or by emailing the office at <a href="mail@hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk">mail@hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk</a>. The Community Council is also signed up to the 'Community Charter' to govern its relationship with Flintshire County Council.





# **SECTION 6 - DETAILS OF WARDS, MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS**

#### **ASTON WARD**



Joyce Angell Independent Castle Bank Cottage Stamford Way, Ewloe Flintshire CH5 3BZ



Gillian Brockley Welsh Labour 99 The Meadows, **Higher Shotton** Flintshire CH5 1QR



Helen Brown Independent (CC for Aston Ward) 25, New Park Road Aston Park Flintshire CH5 1XD



George Hardcastle Independent (Vice Chair of HCC) (CC for Aston Ward) 16 Rowan Road, Flintshire CH5 1XR



Ryan O'Gorman Welsh Labour 15 Kingston Drive Connah's Quay Flintshire CH5 4TL

#### **EWLOE WARD**



Dave Mackie Independent (Chair of HCC) Parmlea, Old Aston Hill, Ewloe, Flintshire CH5 3AH



Janet Axworthy Welsh Con. Party 4 Old Chester Road, Ewloe, Flintshire CH5 3RU



Dan Preece Welsh Labour **Keepers Cottage** Stamford Way, Ewloe Flintshire CH5 3BZ



Emma Preece **Welsh Labour Keepers Cottage** Stamford Way, Ewloe 1 Kearsley Avenue Flintshire CH5 3BX



**Darren Sterry** Independent Brookfield Hawarden Deeside CH5 3JQ







Sarah Hinks Independent 15 Oakfield Road, Hawarden, Flintshire **CH5 3EW** 



**Richard Taylor Truly Independent** 114 The Highway. Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3DJ

# **HAWARDEN WARD**



Clive Carver **Welsh Conservative** (CC for Hawarden Ward) Carelia,8 Overlea Drive, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3HS



**Cheryl Carver Welsh Conservative** Carelia, 8 Overlea Drive, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3HS



Lowri Tegan Earith Independent 2 Park View, Village Road Northop Hall, Flintshire CH7 6JP

# **MANCOT WARD**



Veronica Amos Independent 40 Deiniol's Road, Mancot, Flintshire CH5 2ES



**Bob Connah** Independent (CC for Mancot Ward) Redbarn, Chester Road, 60 Park Avenue, Pentre, Flintshire CH5 2DZ



Ralph Small Independent (CC for Mancot Ward) Mancot, Flintshire CH5 3HZ



Ant Turton Independent Rivendell Mancot, Hawarden Flintshire CH5 2AT



Sam Swash **Welsh Labour** 26 Park Avenue, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3HZ





#### SECTION 7 – COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

Dates of meetings, Agendas and Minutes of all the meetings of the Council and its Committees are all available via the Council's website at <a href="http://www.hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk/Hawarden-">http://www.hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk/Hawarden-</a>
<a href="http://council.gov.uk/Hawarden-">CC/council meetings-6892.aspx</a>

Please note that minutes only become an approved document when they have been ratified by Council at the following meeting and may therefore be subject to alteration.

The Council and each of its committee meetings take place in the Scout Headquarters, Gladstone Playing Fields, 113 The Highway, Hawarden 6.30 p.m. on the dates below. Members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

### Meeting Dates 2021/22

10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
14th June 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
August Recess	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

Full Community Council meeting followed by:

Staff and General Purposes Committee Community Amenities Committee Planning Committee Finance Committee





#### **SECTION 8 - CONTACT DETAILS:**

Mrs Sharron Jones PGDBA, CiLCA, FSLCC
Clerk and Financial Officer
Hawarden Community Council
113, The Highway
HAWARDEN
Flintshire
CH5 3DN

Telephone: 01244 533692

Email: mail@hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk

#### Office opening times:

Monday to Thursday 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Friday 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Fran Griffiths Kevin Griffiths

Administrative Assistant Senior Maintenance Officer Contact details as above Contact details as above

Howard Williams Len Whitney

Maintenance Officer Maintenance Assistant
Contact details as above Contact details as above

Carl Wright Paul Davies
Litter Collector and Lengthsman Seasonal Worker

Contact details as above Contact details as above





**HAWARDEN** 

**COMMUNITY** 

COUNCIL

**CYNGOR** 

**CYMUNED** 

**PENARLAG** 

#### **STAFF STRUCTURE JANUARY 2018**

Clerk and Financial Officer (SGJ)
F/T

Senior Maintenance Officer (KG)

F/T

Administrative Assistant (FG)

P/T

Maintenance Officer (HW) F/T

Maintenance Assistant (LW) F/T

Lengthsman/Litter Collection (CW) F/T

Seasonal Worker (PD)