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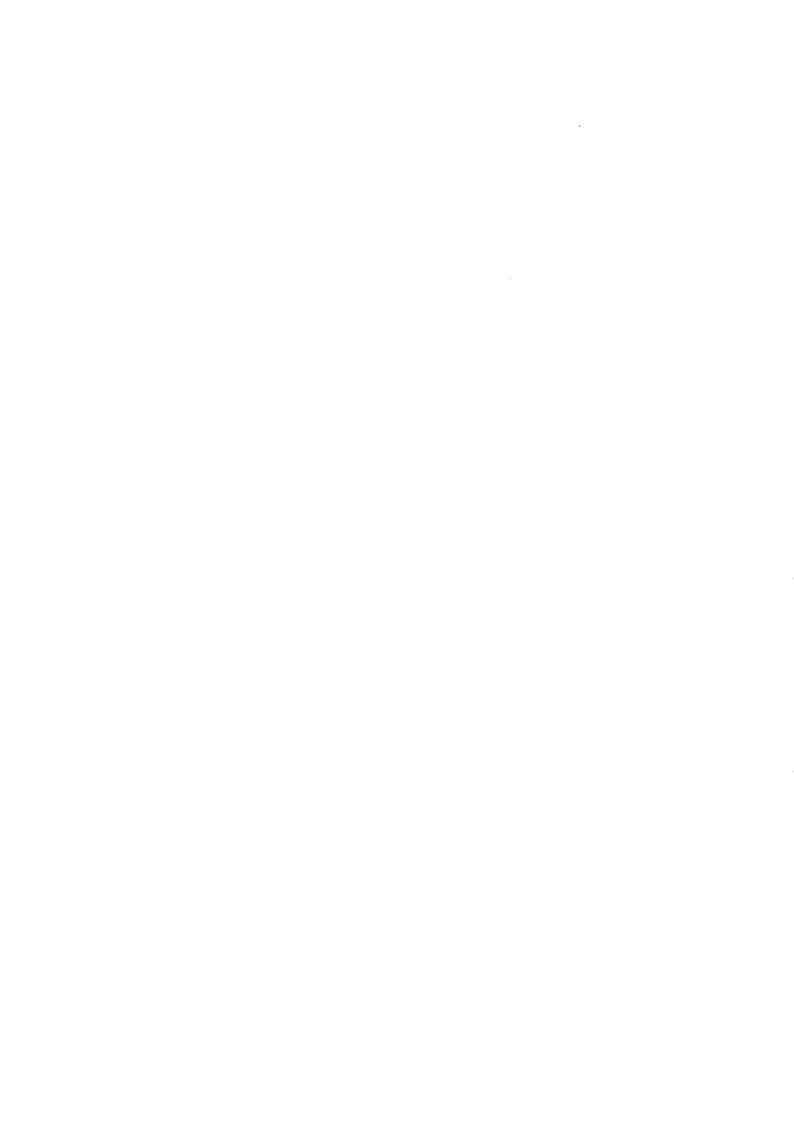
CYNGOR CYMUNED PENARLAG HAWARDEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2021 TO APRIL 2022



Helen Brown
Chair of the Council

Sharron Jones Clerk and Financial Officer







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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



I am delighted to present the fourth version of Hawarden Community Council's Annual Report for the period of my Chairmanship, May 2021 to 2022.

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 new electoral wards of Hawarden - Aston, Hawarden - Ewloe and Hawarden - Mancot that were created in time for the 2022 Local Government elections. I was particularly delighted to be elected to represent both the county and community wards of Hawarden - Aston again and thank you for your support and belief in me.

Sadly, due to the Covid pandemic I have been limited to the number of events I had hoped to undertake during my year of office however I have managed to attend a small number of civic events, most notably the Chairman of Flintshire County Council's Summer Ball.

I particularly enjoyed presenting each of the four primary schools with a hamper of gifts in the summer of 2021 to thank the teachers and support staff for maintaining levels of education during the pandemic for key worker children and since returning back to normal school with revised timetables, drop off and pick up points. This deserved a gesture of thanks!

I wholeheartedly thank the elected members and officers of the Community Council for their hard work particularly during the past twelve months. We have learned to use virtual meeting software to ensure "business as usual" and are currently using a hybrid method of meetings to ensure participation and transparency is available to as many members of the public, press and elected members as possible. We have also welcomed changes to the way we work in light of the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 that imposed additional initiatives for the new council in May to November 2022.





We also congratulated two members of our Maintenance Team on their well-deserved retirements in March and May and I took part in the recruitment process which welcomed two new members to the team who are settling in really well.

I, along with the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Ralph Small and the Chairman of Community Amenities, Ant Turton, thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Bursary awards for pupils at Hawarden High School. We rewarded 5 pupils with bursaries and the children were a credit to themselves, their parents and Hawarden High School in 2021. Similarly, we were delighted to award four community volunteer awards within the community to those volunteers who had particularly shone through during the pandemic and with other community projects.

I am immensely proud to have taken part in the annual Remembrance Day event in November 2021 which saw an enhanced attendance and many remarks at how well the event was organised. I enjoyed reading out the list of wreath layers during the service which welcomed such a large number of community groups to this prestigious event.

Following the Local Government Elections last May 2022 I am delighted to welcome a number of new councillors to the community council. I look forward to working with the new members as part of a team for the development and promotion of our local community. We shall also be holding our first "corporate" day with the new council in June which will be an important event in setting our vision and priorities for the future.

I have also worked with the community events team at Hawarden and was thrilled to donate proceeds from the Santa Dash to the League of Friends at Deeside Community Hospital together with other donations as Chair.

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

Councillor Helen Brown
Chairperson of Hawarden Community Council





SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT

This annual report sets out to inform the residents of Hawarden - Aston, Hawarden - Ewloe and Hawarden - Mancot about the activities undertaken by the Community Council during the period May 2021 to April 2022. This report will contain an outline of the structure of the Council, an overview of the Council's activities throughout the last year 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 year from May 2021 to May 2022 during the Chairmanship of Councillor Helen Brown.







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 three electoral wards following a review of county boundaries and now consists of **Hawarden - Aston, Hawarden - Ewloe and Hawarden - Mancot.** There are currently seventeen Councillors representing a population of approximately 13,920 (Source: 2011 Census). As part of the boundary change we have increased from 20 members to 21 members, with seven members representing each of the three wards. There are currently three vacancies open to co-option with one notice of vacancy advertised.

Individual Councillor details are listed on pages 20 -21.

At the figure head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The current Chairman is Councillor Helen Brown who is a resident of Hawarden - Aston. The current Vice-Chair is Councillor Janet Axworthy who is a resident of Hawarden – Ewloe.

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 meetings are held via a hybrid arrangement to increase public participation. The Council has four Committees chaired by an elected member as follows:

• Staff and General Purposes Chair: Councillor Joyce Angell

Community Amenities
 Chair: Councillor Sarah Hinks

Planning

Chair: Councillor Darren Sterry

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 Hawarden Aston, Hawarden - Ewloe and Hawarden - 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 and bursary awards to the students 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	Cymru Diwylliant Bywiog lle mae'r
Thriving Welsh Language	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. The Community Council has entered its seventeenth 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 LED¹ 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 council produces an annual bio-diversity report to outline areas where it can enhance and encourage biodiversity as legislated by the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Public Authorities subject to the Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty) Regulations 2021 Section 6 Duty on Welsh Councils.

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 including summons' to meetings.

The Community Council has installed a water meter at its office to reduce costs and continues to recycle its own waste.

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¹ 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:

- Hawarden Institute
- Level Road Community Centre
- Ewloe Community Centre
- Mancot Village Hall
- Ewloe Social Club
- Hawarden Air Cadets
- Hawarden Brownies and Guides
- Rotary Youth Leadership award

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 other community events.

The Community Council is also responsible for 7 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 proved a major success. An official opening is still to be arranged.

There are a number of Bowling Clubs within the community which benefit from an 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. There are currently plans to extend the allotment site and to develop the community orchard.

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 and Bowling clubs.

The Council supports events such as Remembrance, Summer Festivals, 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 Officers who respond to issues efficiently.

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 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 a free lunch has also been provided.







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 Plan² with involvement from the community and such a document will have a "material impact" on future planning applications. A training event took place this year to understand what is involved and the new council will be responsible for taking this forward.

The Council has an outdoor gym on the Gladstone Playing fields donated by a local play provider, a skate park and 7 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.



² 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 £408,838 for the forthcoming financial year 2022-23. The Council's precept has been set at £289,307 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 2022-23 are shown below:

Heading	Expenditure £
Staffing	237,110
Premises	18,491
Joint Admin	43,687
Joint Maintenance	94,079
General	18,667
Community Funding	21,022
Open Spaces	10,750
Highways/Verges *	37,376
Public Lighting	15,800
Allotments	2,680
TOTALS	499,692

The total income for the financial year is projected at £441,910.

^{*}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 in recent years although the 2020-21 audit is still outstanding with the Wales Audit Offices due to changes to the audit regime.

All Community Council agenda, minutes accounts and contact details can be viewed via the council's website or by emailing the office at mail@hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk. 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

HAWARDEN - ASTON WARD



Joyce Angell Independent



Gillian Brockley Welsh Labour



Helen Brown Independent



Sarah Hinks Independent



Dale Selvester Independent

HAWARDEN - EWLOE WARD



Dave Mackie Independent



Janet Axworthy
Independent



Emma Preece Welsh Labour



Darren Sterry Independent



Bill Cooper Independent



Doreen Mackie Independent



Linda Thomas Welsh Labour





HAWARDEN - MANCOT WARD







Ant Turton



Sam Swash



Hayley Selvester



Raphaelle Soffe
Welsh Conservative

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 http://www.hawardencommunitycouncil.gov.uk/Hawarden- CC/council meetings-6892.aspx

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 via hybrid arrangements. Members of the public are more than welcome to attend.

Meeting Dates 2022/23

13 June 2022	9 January 2023
11 July 2022	13 February 2023
12 September 2022	13 March 2023
10 October 2022	10 April 2023
14 November 2022	8 May 2023
12 December 2022	•

Full Community Council meeting followed by the following committees on a rolling agenda:

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





SECTION 8 - CONTACT DETAILS:

Mrs Sharron Jones PGDBA, CiLCA, FSLCC, Cert HE
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
Administrative Assistant
Contact details as above

Nigel Davey Senior Maintenance Officer Contact details as above

Howard Williams
Maintenance Officer
Contact details as above

Wayne Evans Maintenance Assistant Contact details as above

Carl Wright
Litter Collector and Lengthsman
Contact details as above

Paul Davies Seasonal Worker Contact details as above





HAWARDEN

COMMUNITY

COUNCIL



CYNGOR

CYMUNED

PENARLAG

STAFF STRUCTURE JANUARY 2022

Clerk and Financial Officer (SGJ) F/T

Senior Maintenance Officer (ND) F/T

Administrative Assistant (FG)
P/T

Maintenance Officer (HW) F/T

Maintenance Assistant (WE) F/T Lengthsman/Litter Collection (CW) F/T

Seasonal Worker (PD)