

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24 (MAY 2024)**

Hello and welcome to all our residents.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires a community council to prepare and publish an annual report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year. This is our first report which we hope you will find of interest.

There should have been 10 Councillors on Bangor on Dee Community Council, but during 2023/2024, the Council operated with 8 Councillors. Councillors are office holders who sign a declaration of acceptance of office upon their election or appointment - they are therefore a part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers.

At the head of the Council is the Chairperson, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The Chairperson for 2023/24 was Councillor Nick Amyes and the Vice-Chair was Councillor Stephen Morrison.

We meet formally on the third Tuesday evening of the month at 7.30pm at Bangor on Dee Village Hall where there will be a hybrid provision for members, public and press to join remotely. These are very structured meetings with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity at the start for public questions. The person presiding over the meeting will give members of the public in attendance a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any business to be discussed at the meeting

Depending on what projects are being dealt with, and in order to be more proactive, members may meet in between monthly meetings as a 'Working Groups' to deal with specific areas/projects to bring back to full council.

# **Your Community Council**

The Community Council are responsible for a selection of street lighting, street furniture, Friars Field – an open space and are a statutory consultee for many local authority and government issues including planning.

Currently, the council has two Committees: Finance, Planning & Highways

# Your Community Councillors for the Year 2023/24 were:

# Cllr Nick Amyes

# Cllr Christina Dawson

# Cllr Moira Glanville

# Cllr Robert Glanville

# Cllr Jackie Grice

# Cllr Stephen Morrison

# Cllr Thomas Nicholls

# Cllr Stephen Sharp

# Cllr Robert Ian Williams (Conservative County Councillor)

**Message from the 2023/24 Chairperson – Cllr Nick Amyes**

It has been an honour to chair the Community Council during the past year and work with members who share a passion to make Bangor on Dee a great place to live. The Community Council is here to represent the residents of the village and to try to resolve any issues you may have. However, our powers are limited in what we can directly achieve, but we work closely with colleagues in Wrexham County Borough Council and other agencies to try to achieve the best outcomes for the village.

As well as dealing with day to day issues, I want the Community Council to engage with residents to find out what they would like in the village. One example is Friars Field which is owned by the Community Council, it would be fantastic to get the views of residents to develop this space to best meet their needs.

The Community Council wants to work with residents, to hear your views and make Bangor on Dee your village and community.

# **Vision Statement**

To maintain and enhance the facilities, environment and historical heritage of our villages for the benefit and wellbeing of all residents. By being proactive in addressing needs and engaging with the community and other agencies the council will ensure a safe, pleasant and engaging place to live.

# **Budget/Precept**

The Council’s income for **2023/2024** was £1,002 and the Precept set against the budget was £ 20,396. At the end of the financial year 31 March 2024 the council’s total expenditure was £21,336.

The Reserve allocated for **2023/2024** was £23,000. However, the monies set aside in the Reserve for specific projects (new village signs, replacement of four streetlights in Abbeygate Walk) were not spent during this financial year. Therefore, they have been carried forward to spend in this financial year (2024/2025)

The Tax Base for the **2023-24** for Bangor on Dee Community Council area was 588 households. The cost per Band-D property was: £34.83 x 52 = £1,811.16.

# **Audits**

Each year an Internal and External Audit is undertaken.

## **Internal Audit**

The Internal Audit completed April 2023 was for the year ending 31 March 2024 and the following recommendations were made and noted by Full Council

1. Update the Risk Assessment relating to online banking and supplier fraud.
2. To monitor the financial position against the approved budget
3. The minutes to record the amount for the precept approved by Full Council

# **Street Lighting**

The Council own and are responsible for a selection of streetlights throughout the villages. Should you have any issues with street lighting please contact the Clerk at bangorondeecc@gmail.com **Annual Grant and Donation Applications**

The council sets a budget annually to be able to offer financial assistance to local groups and organisations. Applications usually open in October. For 2023/24 we are pleased to report that we helped 5 local groups/organisations to the sum of £2,800.00

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# **Key Council Objectives for the Year 2024/25**

* Continue the street lighting upgrades
* Ensure any professional maintenance work in Friars Field, recommend by the Tree Report submitted to the Council in March 2024, is carried out. This work will be enabled after the successful application to the Shared Prosperity Fund

In October 2023 Sean Merry, who had been Clerk to the Council for 10 years, stepped down. Members passed on their thanks to Sean for his work over the years and wished him well for his new ventures.

# **Budget – 2024/25**

The total approved budget for 2024/25 was £22,895, with a precept request of £20,396. At the start of this financial year the council held £22,845 in reserves for incomplete, delayed or ongoing projects, replacement streetlighting and new bilingual village signs. Despite an increase in Council Tax, the Community Council chose not to increase the precept in 2024/25 to help reduce the financial burden on residents.