

Cyngor Cymuned Tonyrefail a'r Cylch
Tonyrefail & District Community Council
Addroddiad Blynyddol /Annual Report 2019/20



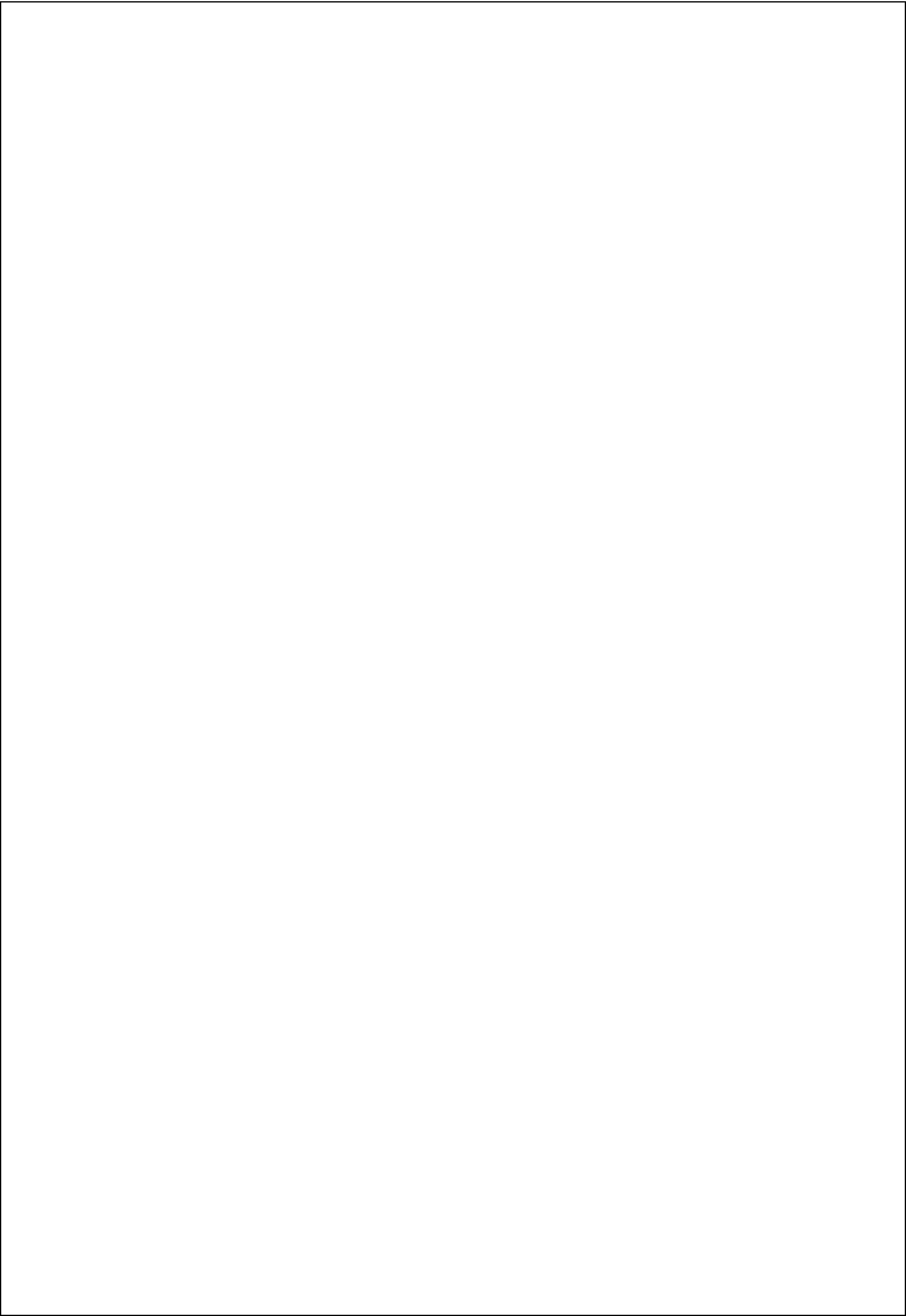
Council Office
Trane Cemetery
Gilfach Road
Tonyrefail
CF39 8HL

office@tonyrefail-cc.gov.wales

01443 673991

www.tonyrefail-cc.gov.wales





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Chairperson's Report

At the time of writing, the country has just been hit by the Coronavirus Pandemic, and whilst no one can be sure of the impact that it will have on our community, it is something that we will need to be mindful for going into 2020-21.

This is our second annual Wellbeing Report which we have a duty to prepare. The report aims to give you a flavour of the work we undertake as your Community Council, and explores some of the ways in which we contribute to the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Objectives.

We have continued to build upon the Council's work of recent years to ensure that we continue to serve our community the best we can.

Some of this year's highlights include the Fireworks display at Gilfach Goch and the completion of the Penrhys Pilgrimage Way, alongside the annual Christmas and summer events.

Being Chair of Tonyrefail & District Community Council is a great honour, you get to experience the best of what the area has to offer and see the incredible work which is undertaken by many within our communities.

The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation data which was published this year showed that we represent some of the most deprived areas within Wales, and as a Community Council we are committed to doing our bit to help improve people's lives.

Please take a few minutes to read through our report, and do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to know more about what we do.

Councillor Austin Davies

About Tonyrefail & District Community Council

Tonyrefail & District Community Council was established on 1st April 1985 and represents the wards of Coedely, Collenna, Penrhiwfer, Thomastown, Tylcha and Tyn-y-Bryn. Community councils have a wide range of duties and powers vested by Acts of Parliament. They may determine the types of positive actions and activities that is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being, social well-being and/or environmental well-being in their communities.



Councillors

			
Cllr Austin Davies Collenna Ward Chairperson	Cllr Linda Michel Collenna Ward Vice-Chair	Cllr Shawn Stevens Collenna Ward	Cllr Andrew Davies-Jones Penrhiwfer Ward
			
Cllr Dan Owen-Jones Penrhiwfer Ward	Cllr Karen Webb Thomastown Ward	Cllr Alexandra Mary Davies-Jones Tyn-y-Bryn Ward	Cllr Greg Powell Tyn-y-Bryn Ward
			
Cllr Danny Grehan Tylcha Ward	Cllr Martin Barron Tylcha Ward	Cllr Cam Wells Coedely Ward (Resigned February 2020)	

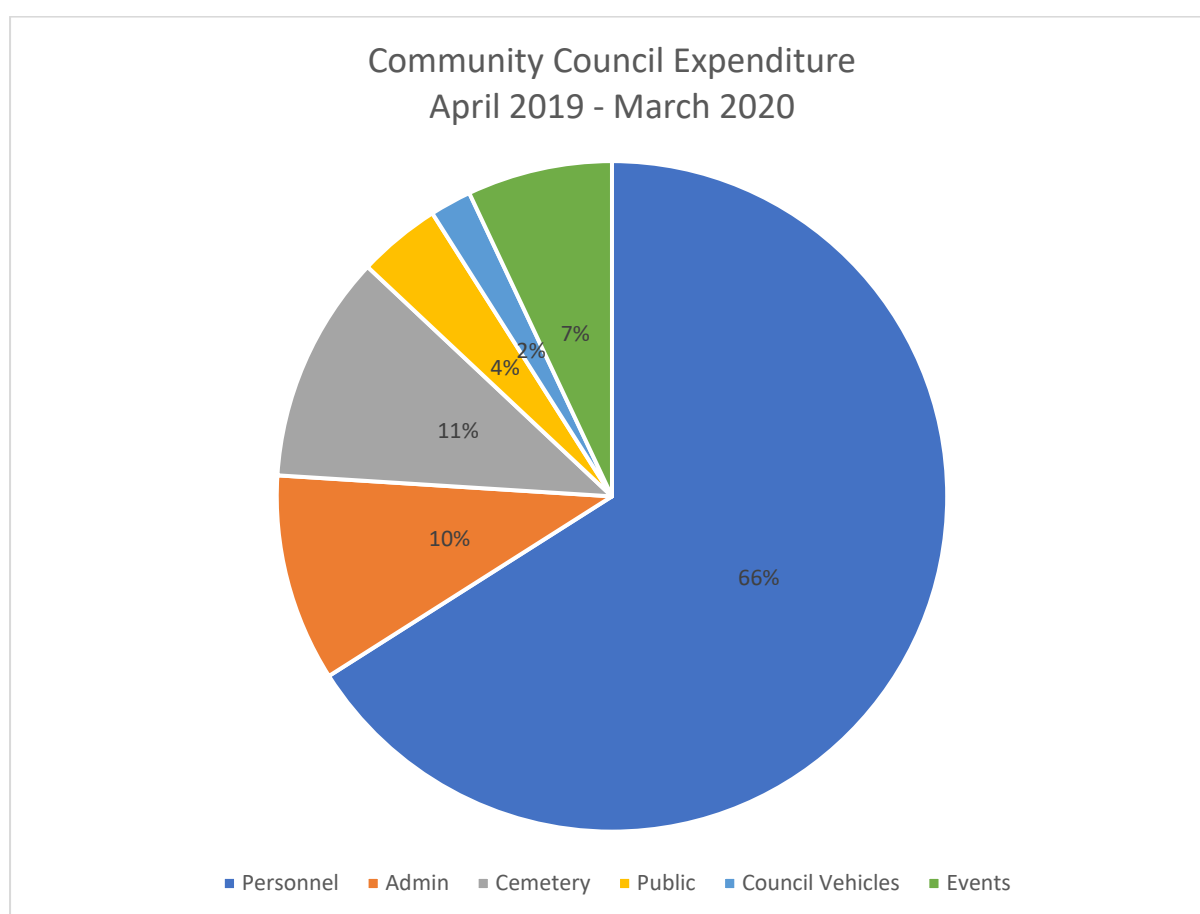
An elected Member acts on behalf of the whole community and takes an interest in all issues. They listen to you and represent the views of the community when discussing council business and working with outside bodies. Members play an important part by thinking creatively about what they can do together to improve the lives of local people. The Community Council employ a number of staff whom members give credit to for bringing these ideas to life.

The Council meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, except for August, Council meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes of all the Council's meetings can be found on the recently revamped Council website at www.tonyrefail-cc.gov.wales

Finances

The main source of funding for community councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Tonyrefail & District Community Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2019/20 the Tonyrefail & District Community Council precept was £234,051. In 2019/20 a band D property for Council Tax paid £59.43 for the year towards the Community Council. The remaining income generated by the Community Council comes from the Cemetery from Burial and Memorial Fees.



Approximately two thirds of the costs incurred by the Community Council are related to its employees. The Council employ 4 operatives who work both in the cemetery and out in the wider community. Their tasks range from grave digging and grass cutting, to cleaning bus shelters and keeping public rights of way accessible.

Employees:

Mr Stephen Powell: Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer, 32 hours per week

Mrs Pauline Williams: Deputy Clerk / Finance Assistant, 16 hours per week

Ms Tammy-Claire Caddy: Cemetery Administrative Assistant, 16 hours per week

Council Operatives:

Supervisor: Keith Owen

Operatives: Philip Cross, John Cox, Callan Owen

Well-being Report 2019/20

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015 by the Welsh Government with the aim of improving the social, economic, environments and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

The Act is seeking a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long-term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The organisations that make up Cwm Taf Public Services Board are:

- Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board
- Interlink
- National Probation Service
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Public Health Wales
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)
- Welsh Government

Tonyrefail & District Community Council is not a member of the Public Service Board but has a duty to take reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives as set out in the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and to publish an annual report of the progress which we have made. A community council is only subject to the duty if its income or gross expenditure exceeds £200,000 for each of the three financial years prior to local well-being plan being published. Our income ranges from £253,201 in 2016/17 to £290,624 in 2018/19 which means we have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report and demonstrate on the progress which we have made towards the Cwm-Taf Wellbeing Plan 2018-2023.

The Cwm-Taf Wellbeing Objectives:

Cross Cutting Objective: Tackling Loneliness and Isolation We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

Objective 1: Thriving Communities To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

Objective 2: Healthy People To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

Objective 3: Strong Economy To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

Tonyrefail & District Community Council Progress Towards the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Objectives

Objective 1: Thriving Communities - To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

Our community assets are not just the things that we have, but also the people of our communities. As a Community Council it is our responsibility to represent the people, and do what we can, within our power to improve our community.

Community Safety

The Council work with a number of partners to try and improve the safety of residents within our communities.

One of the most prevalent safety issues within our community is that of speeding. Councillors have been proactive in trying to work with partner organisations; including the police and Rhondda-Cynon-Taff County Borough Council to address this issue. They have visited residents and held discussions with the police with a view to seeking to establish a Community Speedwatch group in an attempt to address some of the concerns and provide an evidence base moving forward.

Councillors also regularly attend the PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together) meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to come and express their opinions on the matters that impact upon them the most. This year the Council made their meeting room available to host these meetings ensuring that the people's voice can continue to be heard. The Council has a very positive relationship with the local police officers enabling information sharing to take place efficiently. The police are also very supportive of community events that we are a part of.



Community Events

Once again, The Royal British Legion (Tonyrefail Branch) and the Community Council organised a remembrance parade from Tonyrefail School to the Cenotaph in Trane Cemetery.

The annual 'Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner' in Tonyrefail Workingmen's Club took place with around 150 residents in attendance. The evening which consists of a 5-course dinner, artist, bingo and raffle remains a key event in the social calendar of the older residents of our communities and helps reduce isolation at what can be a difficult time of year for many.

Tonyrefail Christmas Event

The Christmas event once again took place at Tonyrefail Leisure Centre. This highly popular event once again brought the community together and brought some festive cheer to the community. Beyond Balloons created another outstanding display for the children to walk through before meeting Santa.



Partnership Working

The Community Council recognise that for the community to thrive then partnership working is essential to make the best use of the communities' assets.

In 2019, we used partnership working to allow for two firework displays within our communities. We financially supported the annual fireworks display at Capel Resource Centre on the Capel Farm Estate and also worked with partners to produce a larger community event which we held in the neighbouring community of Gilfach Goch.



This year's fireworks display held at Gilfach Goch Rugby Club was a great example of partnership working. Alongside ourselves, some of the partners included Gilfach Goch Community Council, Gilfach Goch Community Centre, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, South Wales Police and St. John's Ambulance worked together to improve community safety. The fireworks display was a sell out with around 2000 people in attendance at the event. The event provided an opportunity for people from both Tonyrefail and Gilfach Goch to attend a well-managed, safe, fireworks event.



Picnic in the Park

We held a popular summer event in June. Being held at Ely Valley Miner's it provided a safe space for a fun-filled community event. The event was targeted at families with young children with a large number attending from across our communities.



Thriving Communities

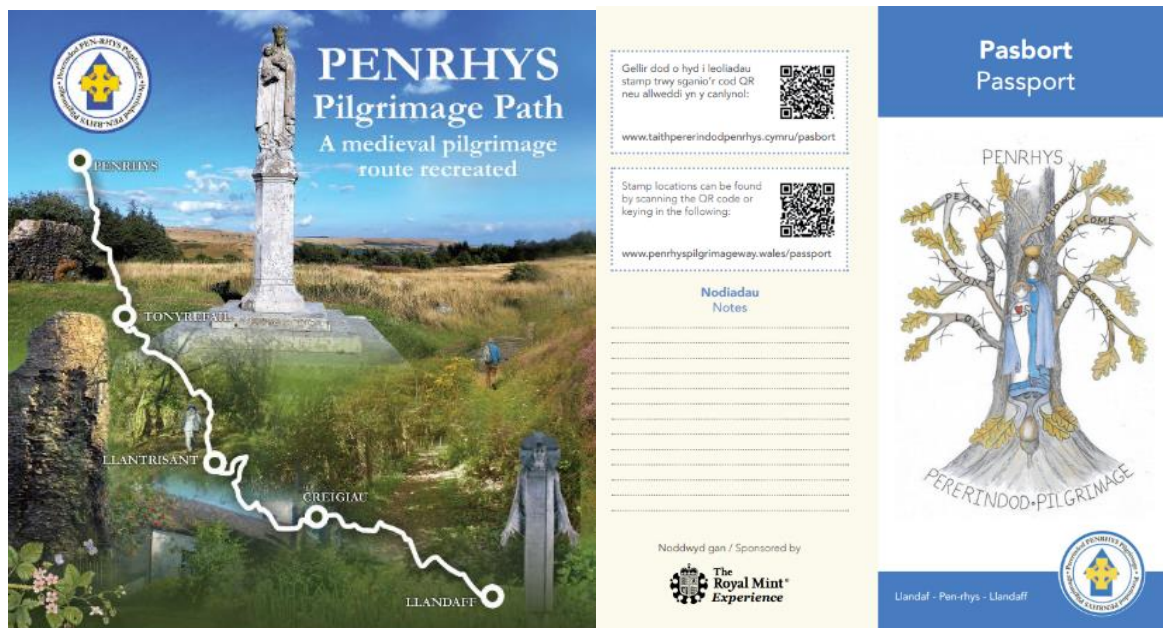
We held our annual community awards evening in November where we celebrate the contribution that community groups, and individuals make to our society. Member of the Senedd, Mick Antoniw was present to help present the cheques which were awarded as part of our small grants scheme. Chair, Cllr Austin Davies also presented a 'Chairman's Award' and a 'Citizen of the Year' Award for the first time. These community celebration events are helping to forge strong relationships between community groups and the Council and help us to understand their needs better moving forward.



Objective 2: Healthy People - To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges

Walking

After a number of years work, this year saw the completion of the Penrhys Pilgrimage walking route. The route goes from Llandaff Cathedral to Penrhys, passing through Tonyrefail. Walkers have a passport to use along the route, where they collect stamps from a number of locations. This year the Chair agreed to purchase two stamps to allow for two different venues within Tonyrefail to be used as part of the walk, therefore signposting Tonyrefail on the passport and the map. The Community Council has been represented on the Penrhys Pilgrimage Committee by a Councillor since its inception and it is great to see the project come to fruition.



In addition to supporting this new walking route, Tonyrefail & District Community Council continue to maintain public footpaths in partnership with Rhondda-Cynon-Taff County Borough Council. Our operatives work tirelessly to ensure that paths are clear of overgrowth and remain freely accessible to members of the public. We are looking at introducing a reporting feature on our website for members of the public to report any concerns with footpaths so that our community can benefit from this free form of exercise.

Memorial Benches

Two further memorial benches were introduced. One in conjunction with the Tonyrefail Branch of the Royal British Legion was placed in Trane Cemetery adjacent to the War Memorial, the other in memory of Richard Williams MBE was placed in the community to recognise his contribution to Tonyrefail. The benches also promote sustainable transport by providing more resting points for walkers within the community.



Supporting Sports Groups

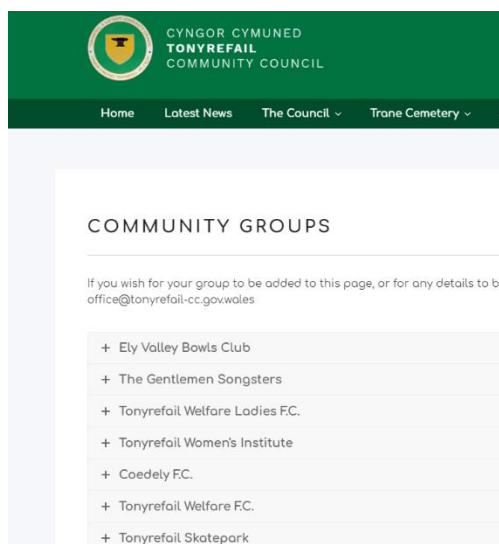
The Community Council operates a small grants scheme which provides grants to local not-for-profit organisations. Grants are given to a variety of sporting groups, from Mini and Junior Rugby teams, to Tonyrefail Tigers Basketball Team and men and ladies football teams.

Whilst in 2019-20 the grants were only for £150 per organisation, it is hoped that these donations can make a small difference and provide an opportunity for someone to take part who may otherwise have been excluded.



Community Groups

The small grants scheme also provided assistance to groups such as The Friends of St. John's, the Women's Institute and the Gentlemen Songsters. People's mental wellbeing matters as much as their physical wellbeing and the Council will actively promote any community group, whether that be on its website or through its social media channels.



The Council is committed to doing its bit to reduce isolation and loneliness within its community and provide its meeting room free of charge to small community groups who are in need of somewhere to meet in order to try and reduce financial barriers to small groups.



Allotments

The Community Council continues to monitor use of its allotment sites, which are let to and managed by their subsequent management committees. The Council believes that the allotments provide a much-needed sense of belonging for a number of plot-holders and that the benefits of having an allotment for people's physical and mental wellbeing justify their continued, long-term support. Numbers on waiting lists are increasing as people realise the benefits associated.



Objective 3: Strong Economy - To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

Tonyrefail has grown rapidly over the past few years and with further progress being made on dualling of parts of the A4119 the attractiveness of the area due to its great transport links and the beautiful surrounding countryside is only going to increase.

Infrastructure

The Community Council have shown a continued commitment to investing in the provision of bus shelters in order to encourage more people to use sustainable transport. This year saw numerous repairs and improvements made to shelters, with one new shelter installed at Tyn-y-Bryn Park.



Tonyrefail & District Community Council works closely with Rhondda-Cynon-Taff County Borough Council and are hoping for some significant improvements to be made to a significant number of bus stops and bus shelter in 2020-21.

In addition to bus shelters, we also invest in wayside seats (benches). We have in excess of 40 of these situated within our communities. The Council operatives monitor their condition and paint them as required. These benches provide much needed respite for people walking around our communities and increase the likelihood of people walking instead of driving.

The Community Council are also consultees of the Rhondda-Cynon-Taff County Borough Council planning department with views sought on all proposed planning applications within the community. This provides another local voice to ensure that residents voices are heard and that the best possible outcomes are achieved for our community.

Local Businesses

Where possible the Community Council utilise local businesses and contractors to undertake any work which is needed either within Trane Cemetery or in the community itself. For example, the Christmas event is created in partnership with Beyond Balloons. The event attracts interest from around the world due to the scale of the creation which Beyond Balloons create. Creating events of this calibre helps to raise the profile of the village and increases footfall to the area. The event was featured on WalesOnline, was plastered over social media and on lots of different creative sector websites.



Summer Flowering

The Community Council is continually looking at ways in which to improve the appearance of the community, include the village centre. This includes things such as providing the summer floral displays around the community with an investment made into hanging basket trees which will be installed next year, alongside the hanging baskets on lamp-posts throughout the community. By making the community more colourful, and a more inviting place to be we hope to improve the image of the area.

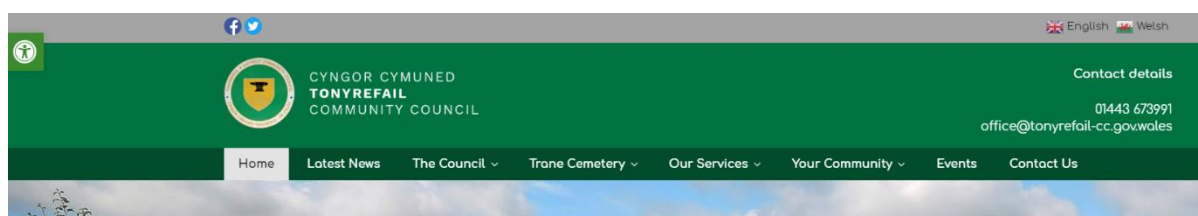
Christmas Trees

The Council provide and fund the Christmas Trees for the local businesses in the Tonyrefail shopping area, Edmondstown and the Fire Service. In addition to trees, we fund the supply and maintenance of the Christmas Features on the Lamp-Posts. All of these small initiatives build up to create a pleasant, festive environment on what can sometimes be dark and wet evenings.

Website

The Council commissioned a new website design, which has been further enhanced by the Clerk. The website will become a hub of information for residents and visitors to the area. The website will promote both community groups and businesses within the area. The Council recognises the importance of the businesses within our economy to provide employment and financial prosperity.

The website has improved accessibility for those with disabilities who may need to increase the font size, the colour and so on, as well as being much more user friendly for use on tablets and smartphones.



Looking forward to 2020-21

Whilst at this point we would usually look to set some targets for 2020-21, we feel that this year it will be more important to respond to the communities needs when we know what the year looks like following the pandemic which we find ourselves in.

One thing which we will continue to develop, is our interactivity with the general public through online reporting tools, social media and the like in order to ensure that we always remain in touch with the public. It is essential that we do not allow members of our community to get further isolated and resume bringing the community back together as soon as is practically possible.