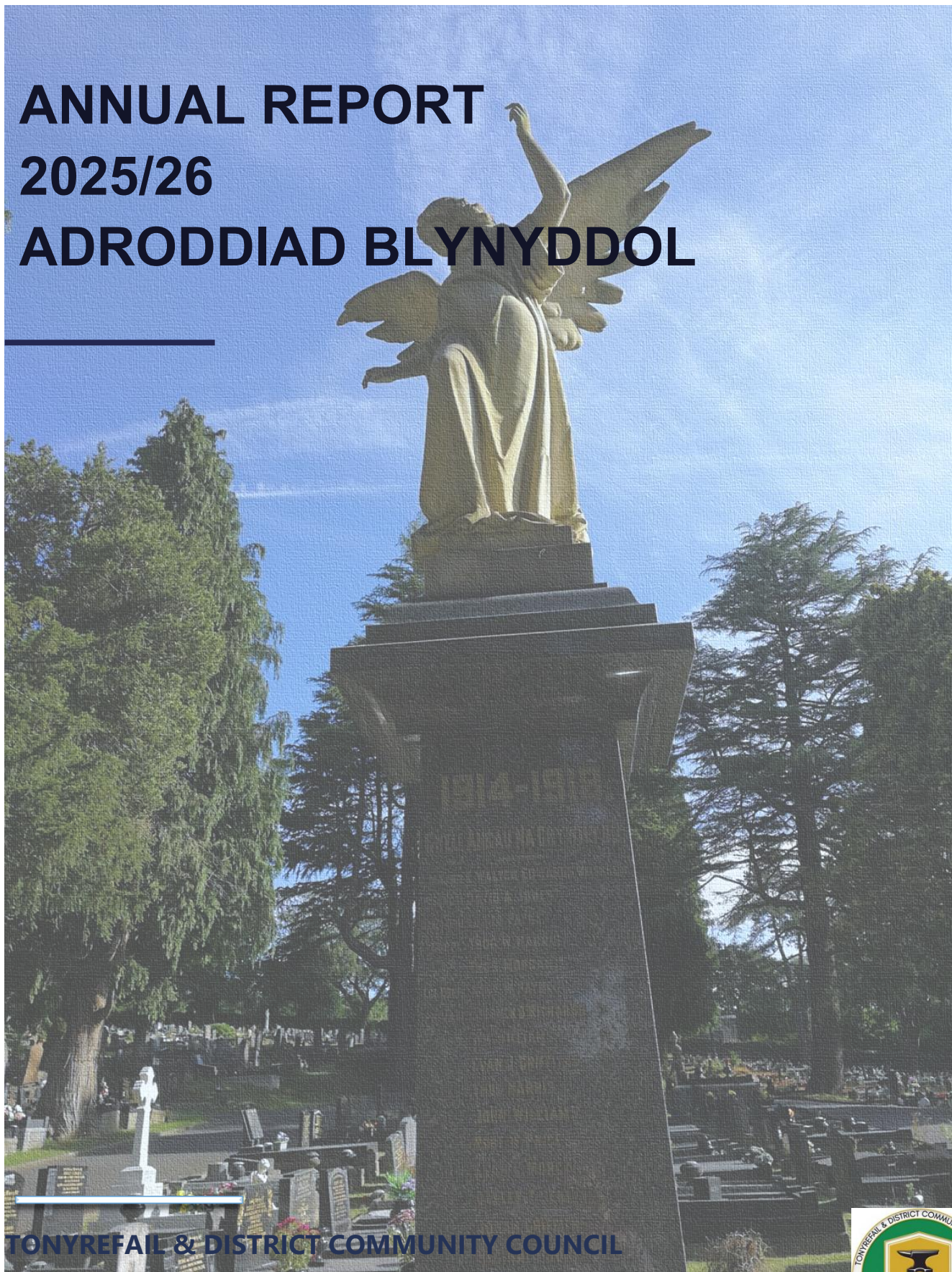


ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26 ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL



TONYREFAIL & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CYNGOR CYMUNED TONYREFAIL A'R CYLCH



Contents

Foreword: Chair's Report	3
About Tonyrefail & District Community Council	4
General Information	4
Powers and Duties	5
Functions.....	6
Trane Cemetery.....	6
Allotments	8
Community Maintenance & Amenities.....	8
What don't we do?	9
Council Meetings	10
Committees	10
Committee Chairs' reports	11
Councillors and Staff	13
The Councillors	13
The Staff	15
Finances.....	17
2025/26.....	17
2026/27 Budget	19
Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	20
Introduction.....	20
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028	21
Tonyrefail & District Community Council: Well-being Report 2025/26	22
Looking forward to 2026/27	29

Foreword: Chair's Report

It is my pleasure to introduce the Tonyrefail & District Community Council Annual Report for 2025/26.

Community Councils are the closest level of local government to the people they serve. Our role is to listen to our residents, represent their interests, and work hard to improve the places we all call home. Whether it's maintaining Trane Cemetery, supporting our allotments, improving public spaces, caring for bus shelters and benches, enhancing biodiversity, organising community events or providing grants to local groups, everything we do is focused on making a positive difference across our communities.

This report highlights the work carried out over the past year by our dedicated councillors, staff and volunteers. I would like to thank every member of the Council team for their commitment and professionalism, as well as the many local organisations and residents who continue to support and work alongside us as we plan on continuing to build on these relationships between us as your Community Council and each person and group; it is always a pleasure to work together for the betterment of everyone.

While there is always more to do, I am proud of what has been achieved this year. We remain committed to being an open, accessible and forward-thinking Council that puts our community first, carefully managing public funds while investing in projects that will benefit both current and future generations.

Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report. I hope it provides a clear insight into the work of your Community Council and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to serving Tonyrefail and the surrounding district.

Cllr Ceirion Skym

Chair

Tonyrefail & District Community Council

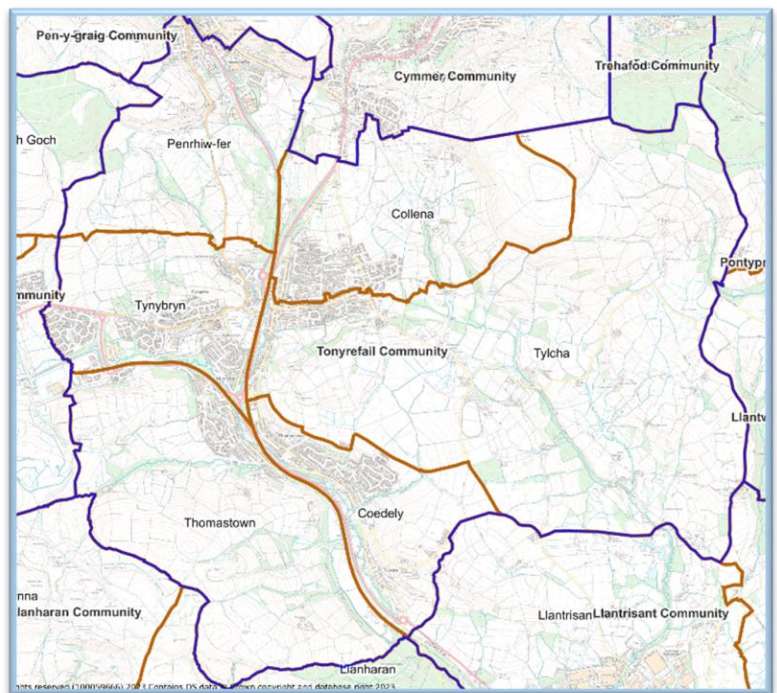
About Tonyrefail & District Community Council

General Information

The Community Council was established in 1985 and operates in the lowest tier of government; the grass roots level. We are one of over 730 Town and Community Councils in Wales, classed as a larger council and the fourth biggest in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The Council serves the wards of:

- Collenna
- Coedely
- Penrhiwfer
- Thomastown
- Tylcha
- Tyn-y-Bryn

We have eleven Councillors, seven of whom were elected in May 2022 with one co-opted on to the Council in January 2023, another in November 2023 and two in April 2025. Members will serve the Council for a five-year term until elections are held again in 2027.



Town and Community Councils are statutory bodies and are at the forefront of community governance. They have powers to **precept** – collect a payment made to the Community Council through the Council Tax system – and deliver local services. Residents will see the precept charge detailed on their Council Tax bill sent out each March by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

The Council's remit in the community is to:

provide for and respond to **local needs**



advocate for community interests



organise and promote **community events**



act as **Burial Authority** & maintain Trane Cemetery



Every year in May, the Council holds its Annual Meeting when a new Chair and Vice Chair are elected. Members of the Council are nominated by their fellow councillors to fulfil these roles for a twelve-month period.

Powers and Duties

There are many legal powers that Community Council has at its disposal in order to carry out its duties and meet its objectives. In particular, the Council relies most on the following:

Activity	Powers & duties	Statutory Provisions
Allotments	Powers to provide allotments; duty to provide allotment gardens if demand is unsatisfied.	Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908, s23
Burial grounds & Cemeteries	Power as a burial authority to acquire and provide with a duty to maintain. Power to agree to maintain monuments and memorials. Power to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries.	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10 Parish Councils & Burial Authorities (Misc.) Act 1970, s1 Local Government Act 1972, s214
Christmas Lights	Power to encourage visitors.	Local Government Act 1972, s144
Crime Prevention	Powers to spend money on various crime prevention measures.	Local Government & Rating Act 1997, s31
Highways	Power to repair and maintain footpaths & bridleways. Power to plant trees and maintain roadside verges. Power to provide roadside seats and shelters.	Highways Act 1980, ss 43, 50 Highways Act 1980, s96 Parish Councils Act 1957, s1
Litter	Power to provide receptacles in public places.	Litter Act 1983, ss5.6
Open Spaces	Power to acquire land and duty to maintain them.	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss 9 and 10
Public Conveniences	Power to provide.	Public Health Act 1936, s87
Tourism	Power to contribute to certain organisations encouraging tourism.	Local Government Act 1972, s144(2)
War Memorials	Power to maintain, repair, protect and alter war memorials.	War Memorials (Local Authorities' Powers) Act 1923 s1 (as extended by LGA 1948, s133)
Well-being	Power to do anything which the Council considers likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the social, economic or environmental	Local Government Act 2000, s2

	well-being of the area (subject to S137 limits)	
Well-being of Future Generations	Duty to take all reasonable steps towards meeting local objectives in the local well-being plan and to report annually.	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, s40
Welsh language	Duty to comply with Welsh language standards.	Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, s25

The Community Council has a duty to ensure that the rules for the administration of the Council are followed. The Council must

- appoint a Chair,
- appoint a Clerk,
- appoint a Responsible Financial Officer,
- appoint an independent and competent Internal Auditor,
- hold an annual meeting, and
- keep records of all decisions related to Council business.

Functions

Apart from its statutory duties, the Council carries out a number of other functions.

Trane Cemetery

Located to the west of Tonyrefail on Gilfach Road, Trane Cemetery was first opened in 1910 and is owned and managed by Tonyrefail & District Community Council.

We are responsible for the upkeep of the Cemetery grounds.

During 2025/26, the angel atop the war memorial received the first of a cycle of cleans, aimed at restoring her beautiful finish.

We are proud to say our burial records and maps are now accessible electronically, allowing the staff to assist with genealogy queries and locating loved ones.

The Council's Cemetery Administrator, Laura Hughes is available Monday to Thursday to assist with transfers of ownership, memorial permits and other enquiries relating to the Cemetery.



x - x - x - x - x - x - x - x - x - x - x - x

The Council remains committed to addressing the decline in biodiversity and recognises the essential role it plays in supporting both environmental health and community well-being. Biodiversity conservation and enhancement within the cemetery is forefront in our planning and decision making, encouraging a shift towards more sustainable and environmentally conscious behaviours.

Following on from works started in the previous year, the wild areas have continued to develop. We have seen an abundance of butterflies, pollinators and other insects enjoy the shelter and food these natural zones provide.



Meadow Brown



Eurasian Sparrowhawk

Bird feeders and water sources have been installed around the site and have attracted several different species apart from the usual suspects, including a pair of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, a pair of bullfinches and a very eager Sparrowhawk keen to flush the sparrows out of the nearby hedge!

Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI Lowland Site

To the west of the upper section of the Cemetery, is the Rhos Tonyrefail Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) lowland site. This area is of special interest for its marshy grassland and scrub habitat. It also supports tall herb and fern communities.

In addition to the myriad plant species, it is of special interest for its population of Marsh Fritillary butterflies that are endangered throughout Europe. Wales is one of these enigmatic insects' last strongholds, with the site at Rhos Tonyrefail considered one of the most important in Wales. The site is capable of

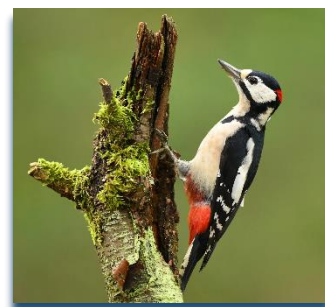


Marsh Fritillary butterfly

supporting a high density of butterflies due to its particularly suitable habitat.



Through 2025/26, much work was carried out on the site to clear invasive vegetation and encroaching saplings to promote the growth and proliferation of the native flora. Felled trees and saplings were left on the site to provide valuable breeding, hibernating, nesting and feeding habitats for reptiles, birds and insects. This work is ongoing and has already brought about an increase in bird activity such as the Greater Spotted Woodpecker.

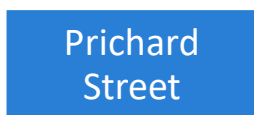


Greater Spotted Woodpecker

Allotments



Llantrisant
Road



Prichard
Street



Penrhiwfer



Tylcha Wen



The Avenue

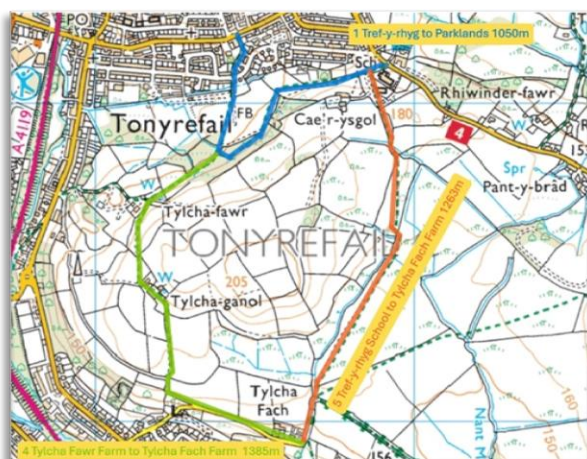
Under the Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908, the Council has the power to provide allotments for the purposes of growing ornamental plants and herb, flower, fruit and vegetable crops. Tonyrefail & District has five such allotment gardens:

Each of these is managed by an Allotment Management Committee who is responsible for the day-to-day running of the allotments, managing the waiting lists and collecting the rents.

If you would like more information or are interested in a plot, please contact the Council office for an up-to-date contact list for the Management Committees.

Community Maintenance & Amenities

- **Floral displays:** We are responsible for a number of flower tubs, planters and hanging baskets located around the District and within the Cemetery. During 2025/26, additional baskets were hung in the Capel Farm area.



- **Footpaths:** While we are not responsible for the maintenance of the footpath network, we regularly walk and ride the paths and pass on reports to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to action.

During 2025/26, our team cleared over 2km of overgrown footpaths on behalf of RCT.

- **Bus shelters:** Several of the bus shelters are owned, maintained and regularly cleaned by us. Over the winter months, our grounds maintenance team refurbished a number of shelters including one in need of repainting in Edmondstown.



- **Litter picking:** We participate in the **Keep Wales Tidy Litter Hub** scheme and have approximately a dozen litter pickers, hoops and several hi-viz vests that we can lend out. If you would like to borrow any of this equipment, please get in touch with the office.



- **Benches:** We have provided and continue to maintain a number of benches on parts of the footpath network and others around the District, as well as several benches within the Cemetery. For example, this year we refurbished and reinstalled a bench on a footpath near Tref y Rhyg School.

- **Christmas lights & trees:** We provide roadside Christmas lighting that is put up at the end of November and brightens the nights into the new year. The Council gifts small trees and strings of lights to businesses within the Tonyrefail retail area that are then displayed above the shop fronts.

In 2025, the Council provided a tree outside the Workmens Club as well as one on the Square.



- **Noticeboards:** A number of Council noticeboards are sited across the District and contain useful information about the Council and our activities. During the first few weeks of 2026, all noticeboards were brought in for a full refurbishment and are back out in the community again, looking shiny and clean!
- **Recycling:** We are a distribution hub for recycling bags, both general and food waste. Bags can be picked up from outside the Council offices at Trane Cemetery.

What don't we do?

It can sometimes be difficult to know which authority to contact with various queries. The Community and County Borough Councils have different areas of responsibility.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) are responsible for:

Arts & Recreation	Fly-tipping	Planning & Enforcement
Births, Deaths & Marriages	Footpaths	Playgrounds
Blue Badge Scheme	Highways	Public Toilets
Bus Passes	Housing	Public Transportation

Car Parks	Leisure Centres	Recycling / Waste Collections
CCTV	Libraries	Social Services
Council Tax & Benefits	Licensing	Street Cleaning
Dog Waste Bins	Local Plans	Street Lighting
Education	Museums & Galleries	Tourism
Environmental Health	Parks & Open Spaces	Trading Standards

To make an enquiry on any of the above, you may contact RCTCBC on 01443 425005 (Mondays – Fridays, 8:30am – 5pm).

Council Meetings

Council meetings are ordinarily held on the third Thursday of the month apart from August when the council is in recess.

All Council meetings are open to the public unless, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, part or all of the agenda is excluded by special resolution due to the item/s needing to be discussed confidentially or if it is deemed prejudicial to the public interest. An item on each agenda is dedicated to receiving public questions, and the Council welcomes all contributions.

The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sets out how the Community Council's meetings should operate. Meetings can either be remote (via Zoom) or hybrid meetings (a combination of in-person and remote access).

Tonyrefail & District Community Council undertakes to make all meetings **hybrid**, with space available for members of the public to attend in person at the Council offices or online via the zoom link to be found at the top of meeting agendas.

Committees

Apart from monthly Full Council meetings, members meet to discuss matters best dealt with in smaller, focused groups. Committee meetings as they are, are subject to the same rules and statutory legislation as full council meetings and have an elected Chair, appointed members and agreed Terms of Reference clearly setting out the scope and powers of that Committee.

For 2025/26, the Council appointed six Committees in May 2025 at the Annual Meeting:

- Cemetery Committee,
- Events Committee,
- Finance & Governance Committee,

- Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way Committee,
- Staffing Committee, and
- Well-being of Future Generations Committee.

The Terms of Reference for each Committee are available on request from the Council offices. From May 2026, the Council's committee structure, membership and terms of reference is available to view online at: <https://www.tonyrefail-cc.gov.wales/the-council/councillors/>

Committee Chairs' reports



Finance

The finance committee started the year by reviewing the 2024/25 year-end financial position, including a £29.9k underspend that increased general reserves to £107.5k. The committee made recommendations to Full Council including transferring £33.4k of surplus funds into earmarked reserves—primarily to strengthen cemetery maintenance and expansion budgets. At this time, the council held approximately £68k in CIL reserves. A contribution from CIL reserves to be used as match funding for additional grant(s) for the renovation of the cemetery public toilets was recommended. The fixed assets register was also considered at the beginning of the year, totalling £163k. Street furniture made up 38% of the total and land and buildings 25%.

Awarding small grants has been an important part of the finance committee's work over the past year. The committee spent time reviewing grant suitability criteria to ensure that grants are awarded in a fair and consistent manner, and so that they have clear benefit and impact for the local community. The finance committee has facilitated a number of rounds of awarding small grants to local organisations. In September 2025 the committee recommended that a total of £2610 be awarded across six different Tonyrefail based organisations. In November 2025 the committee recommended that a total of £4930 be awarded across 11 organisations. And in March 2026 the committee recommended that £4181 be awarded across 10 local organisations. This means that in total, over the past year £11,721 has been awarded to Tonyrefail based organisations and businesses.

The finance committee reviewed and finalised the council's budget for the year ending 31/03/2027. It was noted that there were some expensive but necessary projects to consider for the next financial year (e.g. Penrhiwfer allotment wall) and the committee had to carefully considered how covering such projects with the precept would impact on Band D equivalent households. The decision was made to support these projects using general reserves to limit the tax burden on the local community.

[Cllr Dan Lawrence - Committee Chair]



Cemetery

This year started out with a few issues to overcome surrounding the cemetery extension and on-going planning and site clearance.

To date, the site has been largely cleared with the contractor due a return visit to remove the root balls from what's left.

The fence has been approved and will soon get installed around the new extension.

More work in terms of test digs to be carried out to see what the land can be used to bury, either full burial or cremated remains.

Drains have been cleaned around the cemetery and is ongoing but some issues have been found and may need addressing in the future but this work does seem to be helping with drainage around the top half of the cemetery.

New drainage pipe installed from the lower garage to take away water from some of the lower roads and into the drainage system.

Ongoing testing of headstones to be carried out and plans in place to follow.

Now the extension work is well under control we can now turn our attention to the refurbishment of the lower toilet block to bring it up to date and include a disabled pod and possibly give the fence some needed attention as its looking a bit worn and weathered.

All in all its been a busy and productive year around the cemetery with the hard work of all the staff involved paying off.

Thanks to all the staff and office staff for the way its looking at the moment.

[Cllr Ceirion Skym - Committee Chair]



Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way

We have had a busy year on the Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of Way committee, with a strong focus on our responsibilities as a council regarding Health and Safety.

Most of our discussions centred around three main themes - our Summer planting of flowers in the hanging baskets, looking at issues pertaining to bus shelters, and looking at many issues raised at the allotments that we have.

Locations of flower baskets were formally mapped on Parish Online to improve future planning, maintenance, and to make sure they were fed and watered. The baskets looked much better this year and were taken down in September.

New bus shelters for Capel Stores and Tyn-y-Bryn Park were ordered. These sites were decided on by the committee. They were then installed and are keeping people dry. We will look for more sites to add shelters to keep our residents dry. Damage to bus stops costs us dearly, as we have to repair them – a window panel in one, a roof panel in another all adds up.

A major issue at Penrhiwfer allotments was the possibility of a retaining wall collapsing which was supporting the public footpath which goes through the allotment. For the safety of people using the footpath and the allotment holders we decided to take the decision to look into building a solid retaining wall. Through a thorough tendering process we have designed and now appointed a builder to build the wall. There was a big problem with old asbestos on many of our allotments, and we took the decision to pay for all of the waste to be removed by specialist contractors. A problem with embedded asbestos in Penrhiwfer allotment was also resolved.

We own the phone box on the square, and we discussed various uses for it. In the end we decided that the best option would be to sell it. We are still in the process of trying to sell it, so if you'd like to buy it then please get in touch.

Footpaths around the village are the responsibility of the County Borough Council, but as a community Council we felt a need to act when we saw that many footpaths were not being cleared. We will continue to keep a close eye on footpaths for the benefit of all our residents. If you notice one becoming overgrown please do let us know.

[Cllr Danny Grehan - Committee Chair]

Councillors and Staff

The Councillors

The role of a Councillor is a responsible one. Unlike their County Borough counterparts, Community Councillors receive no remuneration, giving freely their time and services to the residents they represent. Only expenses or allowances for specifically identified elements of the role are paid and are strictly in line with limits set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales.

In Wales, our Councillors are elected every five years, under Section 16(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. Where a vacancy exists either through insufficient candidates standing at an election, or a resignation or departure mid-way through a term of office, this space on the Council can be filled through the process of co-option (or calling of a by-election in the case of a mid-term vacancy).

When taking up their roles as Community Councillors, each member must sign a declaration of acceptance of office to say they agree to abide by the **Code of Conduct** as set out by the Public Ombudsman for Wales. At the same time, members are required to provide a **register of the interests** they hold.

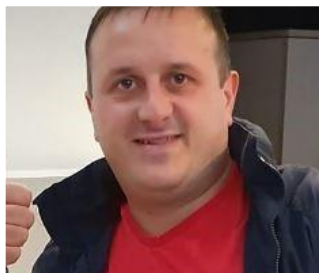
As a voice of the local community, Councillors have a great opportunity to influence bodies such as Welsh Government and the County Borough Council for the better, and generate ideas and plans that set the Council's objectives for the five-year term.

The **Chair** of the Council is elected at the Annual Meeting in May. During 2025/6, the post was split between then Cllr Glenn Evans and, upon his resignation, Cllr Ceirion Skym. It is the role of the Chair to ensure all meetings are conducted properly and that the agenda is followed.

Commitment to the role, willingness to train and learn from others' experiences and an ability to manage meetings are just some of the traits of an effective chairperson.

From time to time, the Chair is required to represent the Council at civic and ceremonial events.

As at March 2026, the wards making up Tonyrefail & District, were represented as follows:

 Austin Davies Welsh Labour COLLENA WARD	 Ceri Jones Independent COLLENA WARD	 Linda Michel Welsh labour COLLENA WARD
 Martin Barron Independent PENRHIWFER WARD	 Dr Dan Lawrence Independent PENRHIWFER WARD	 Karen Webb Welsh labour THOMASTOWN WARD
 Danny Grehan Plaid Cymru TYLCHA WARD	 Gerald Francis Independent TYLCHA WARD	 Steve Kiff Independent TYN-Y-BRYN WARD
 Amanda Richards Welsh Labour TYN-Y-BRYN WARD	 Ceirion Skym Independent COEDEL WARD	

The Staff

The Council's staff consists of a team of eight: four full time employees and four on part-time hours. Line managing staff, overseeing the work of the Council and also its Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), **the Clerk** ensures the correct policies and procedures are in place. Taking her instructions from the Council as a whole, the Clerk's duty is to implement the decisions of the Council. Her primary responsibility is to advise the Council on whether its decisions are lawful and to recommend ways in which the Council's ambitions can be implemented.

The role of the Clerk / RFO is varied and includes the administration and management of the Council's:

- finances
- personnel
- administration
- estates and assets
- cemetery
- projects
- health & safety

As proper officer, the Clerk draws up the meeting agendas and issues the summons to Councillors.

Supporting staff in their continuing professional development has been reinforced through a suite of sector- and operations-specific training that has been built into personal development programs.

The Council staff are based at **Trane Cemetery, Gilfach Road, Tonyrefail, CF39 8HL** where we have our Council offices. Our core opening hours for cemetery enquiries, appointments and general enquiries are:

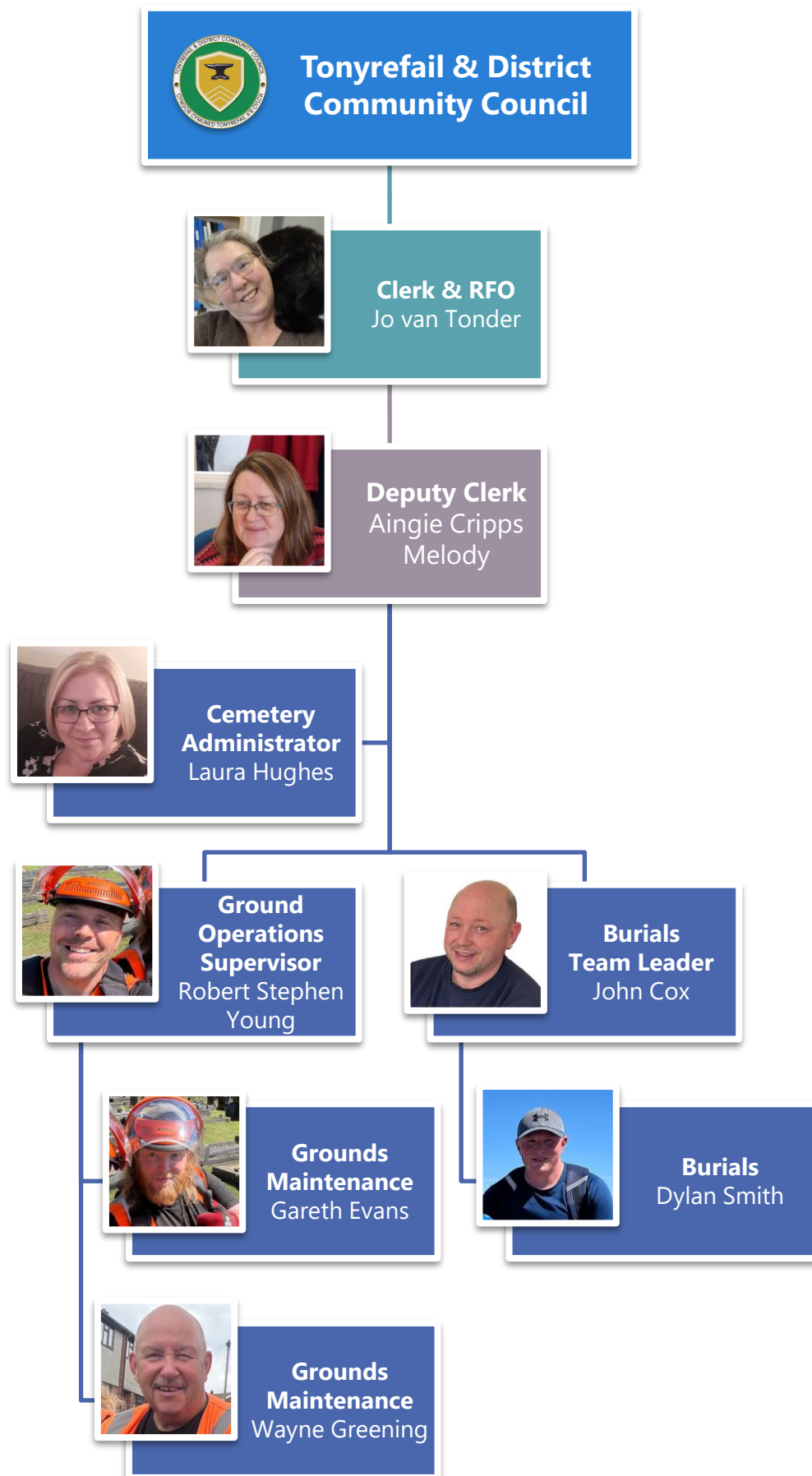
10:00 to 14:00 (Monday – Thursday)

10:00 to 13:00 (Friday)

Tel: 01443 673991 / e-mail: office@tonyrefail-cc.gov.wales

During this year, the Council took on one member of the burials team and a Cemetery Administrator to replace one member of staff that left the Council and another who retired.

As at the end of March 2026, the staff compliment was structured as follows:



Finances

The Council receives the majority of its funding through the **precept** – a charge to Council Tax permitted under Section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

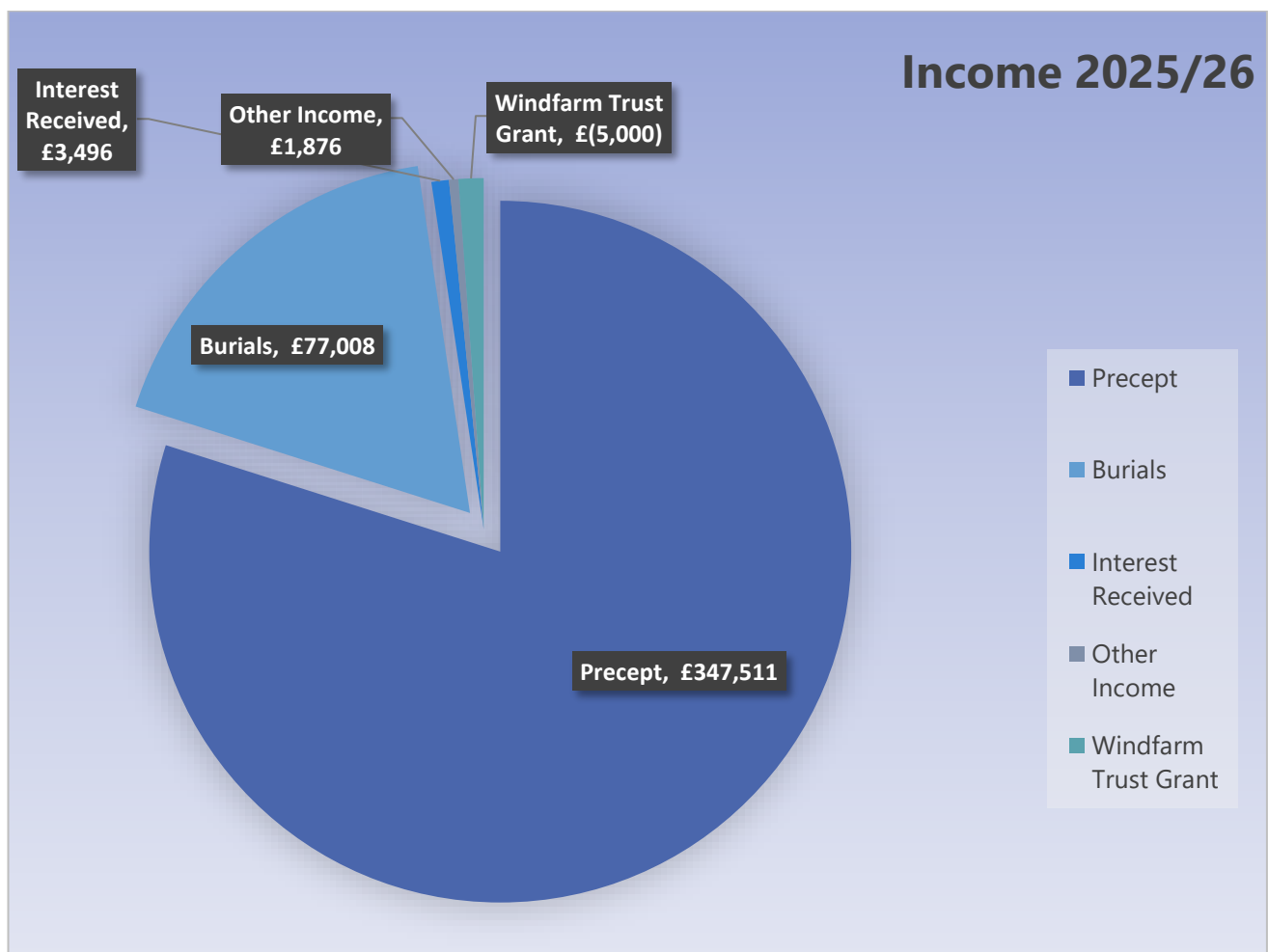
Each year in January, the Council undertakes a budgeting exercise to determine how much money will be required to provide, manage, run and improve the services and facilities the Council offers the residents of Tonyrefail and District.

An estimate of any other income is deducted from the projected expenditure for the financial year ahead and the balance is the sum formally requested from Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

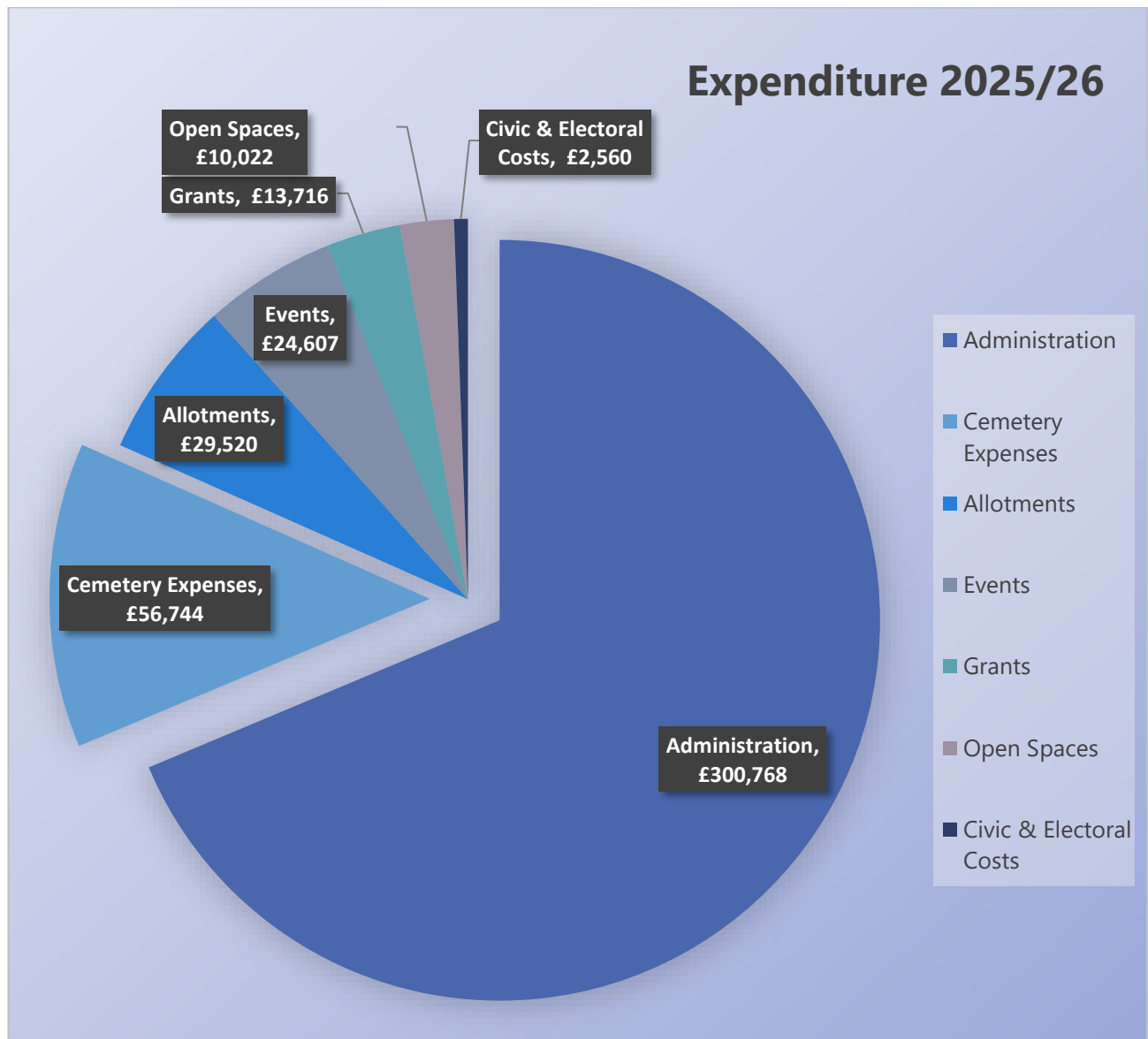
2025/26

For the financial year ending 31st March 2026, the Precept was £347,511. This equated to £51.92 per Band D-equivalent household for the year – an increase of 12p per week on the previous year.

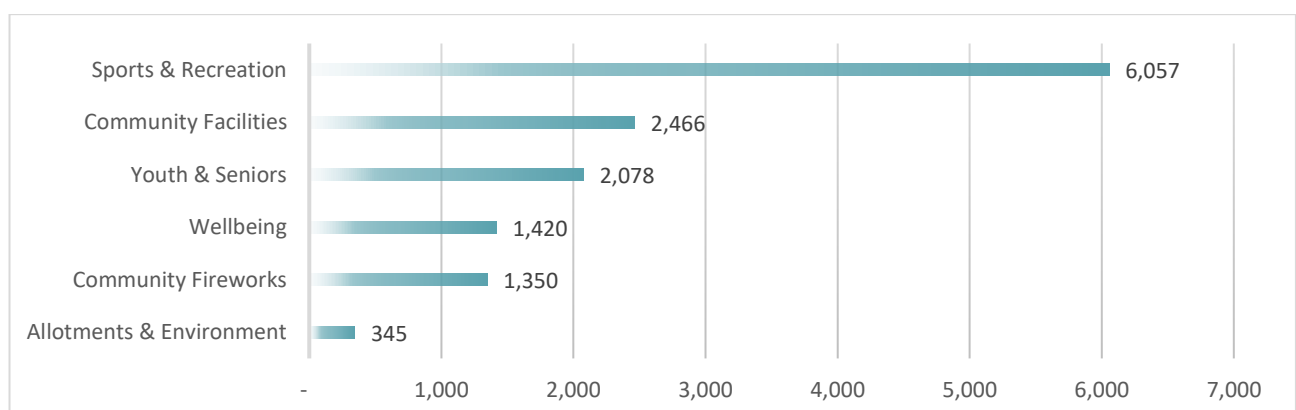
Total Income amounted to £424,891 and was broken down as follows:



Total Expenditure for the year amounted to £437,937 and was spent across the following areas of Council business:



Over the 2025/26 financial year, the Council supported a number of local organisations through its **Small Grants Scheme**. In all, £13,716 was given out to promote:



2026/27 Budget

For the forthcoming year, we start our budget setting process in November with a view to agreeing the final budget in January.

For the financial year 2026/27, we have budgeted the following:

Income	£,000
Precept	370.0
Cemetery income	60.7
Allotments	1.2
Events & other income	1.1
Total Income	433.0
Expenditure	
Administration & governance	(322.0)
Cemetery expenses	(82.5)
Events	(30.5)
Open Spaces, Allotments & Rights of way	(6.7)
Grants	(15)
Total Expenditure	(456.7)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	-
Net surplus / (deficit)	(23.7)*

* To be funded from General Reserves

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

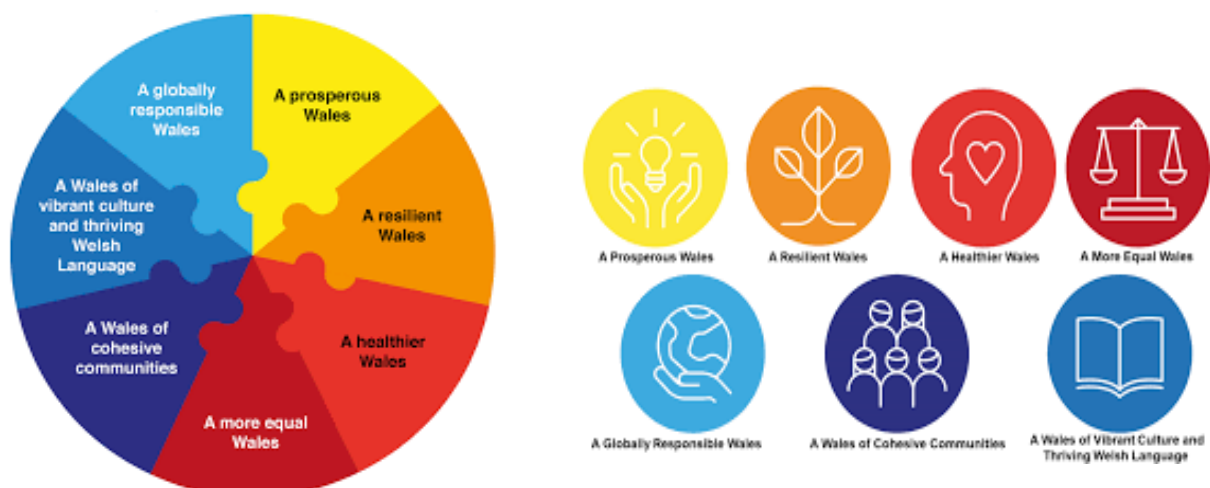
Introduction

[The Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) (the Act) places a duty on public bodies such as Tonyrefail & District Community Council to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the well-being objectives set out in the local Public Services Board's overarching Well-being Plan.

The Act aims to improve the **social, economic, environmental** and **cultural** well-being of Wales through five ways of working:



In order to create a more sustainable Wales, public bodies must work towards the seven **Well-being Goals** set out in the legislation. These are:

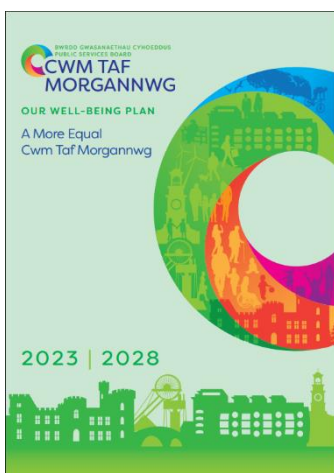
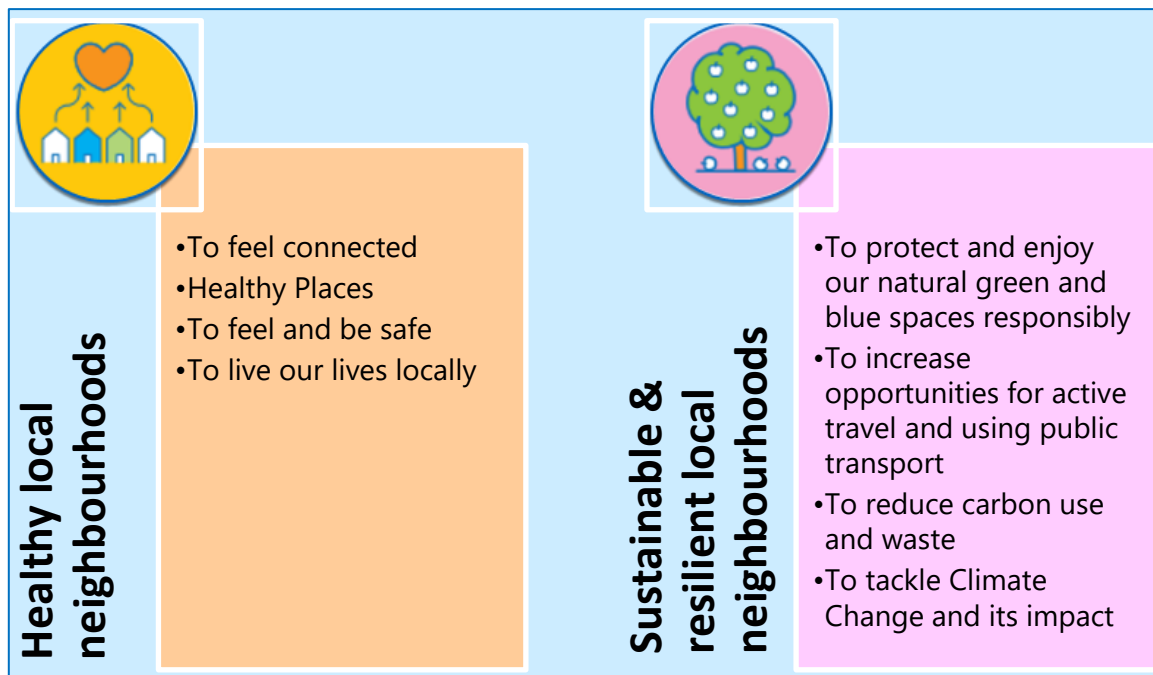


Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan 2023 - 2028

The Public Services Board (PSB) under which Tonyrefail & District Council falls is Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB, covering the areas of Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend.

Upon amalgamation in 2023, the newly formed PSB sought to update their Well-being Plan in a document entitled **Our Well-being Plan: A More Equal Cwm Taf Morgannwg 2023 - 2028**.

The Well-being Plan identifies TWO main objectives:



The Cwm Taf Morgannwg Well-being Plan covering 2023 to 2028, can be viewed in full on the PSB's website:

<https://www.ourcwmtaf.wales/>

Tonyrefail & District Community Council: Well-being Report 2025/26



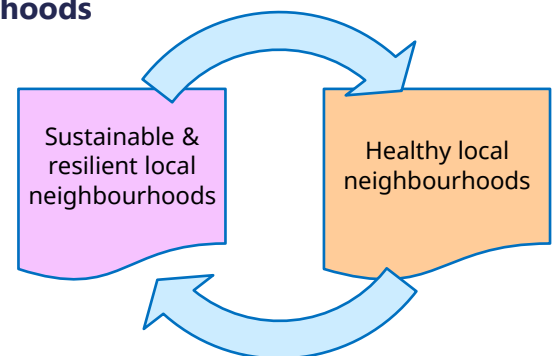
In responding to the call to support the Cwm Taf Morgannwg PSB in meeting its Well-being Objectives, the Council recognises these as:

Objective 1: Healthy Local Neighbourhoods

A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where our communities are inclusive, feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued.

Objective 2: Sustainable and Resilient Local Neighbourhoods

A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where we understand and respond to the risk of climate change to our communities. To do this we must value, manage and enjoy our green and blue spaces responsibly.



Town and Community Councils, at present, mainly concern themselves with non-statutory measures aimed at Community Well-being. This includes hosting and/or facilitating key events, the management of public spaces and community assets, and providing financial support to local organisations.

During the course of 2024 and spanning over the financial years ending March 2024 and March 2025, the Council was engaged in many activities that set out to promote these objectives.

Action	Healthy neighbourhoods	Sustainable & Resilient neighbourhoods
Events: During 2025/6, several events were hosted by the Council that sought to offer the Community opportunities to come together and actively looked to address the growing tendency towards social isolation in both children and adults, alike. Easter Rock Hunt gave kids the opportunity to earn an Easter egg and Sunflower growing kit by searching for, and returning painted rocks hidden throughout the community. A number of children enjoyed the specially adapted accessible hunt. Senior Citizens' Christmas dinner offered a three-course meal with entertainment for over 110 over 60's. Awards Night, honouring members of the community who had gone above and beyond. This year, there were eight nominees for Citizen of the Year with Jane Williams taking the trophy. The Business Award went to Tonyrefail Butchers and the Chairs' Award, to Xavier Lewis. We also collaborated with other organisations over the year, enabling us to put on special events together. Remembrance Day Service – in partnership with the Tonyrefail branch of the Royal British Legion, Christmas event – a festive celebration in collaboration with Tonyrefail Chamber of Trade and Tonyrefail Community School.		



Jane Williams receiving her trophy from then Chair, Glenn Evans

Action	Healthy neighbourhoods	Sustainable & Resilient neighbourhoods
• Christmas switch on event – switch on of Christmas lights, a Christmas fayre and festive street parade.		
Allotments: The five allotments owned and/or managed by the Council comprise well over 500 plots that are rented out to the local community, giving people an opportunity to grow their own fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers. The benefits of gardening and working outside on well-being are well established, and growing your own food encourages healthy eating. During 2025/26 regular contact was maintained with Allotment Associations, paving the way for strong collaborative relationships. • Removal of Asbestos – The Council arranged for and sponsored the removal of long-standing white asbestos from all of the allotment sites, ensuring a healthier environment for plot holders. • Retaining wall – responding to another long-standing health and safety concern, the Council has commissioned the construction of a 25m retaining wall at the Penrhiwfer Allotment site. Works are due to be completed in September 2026.		
Small Grants Fund: The Council provided £13,716 in grants to several local community groups serving the residents of the area in 2025/26. In addition to the Council's annual grant allocation, a further £1,500 was set aside to assist community centre committees host fireworks displays.		

Action	Healthy neighbourhoods	Sustainable & Resilient neighbourhoods
Broadly speaking, the grants can be broken down into the following categories: • Sports & Recreation – 44% • Community Facilities – 18% • Youth / Seniors – 15% • Allotments & Environment – 3% • Well-being – 10% • Community Fireworks displays – 10%		
<u>Cemetery:</u>  • Trane Cemetery represents the most substantial and significant of the Council's assets. Every effort was made to ensure the site was well maintained for the benefit of the many visitors to the Cemetery. A total of 102 interments took place during 2025, a 12% increase on 2024. • Development works on the parcel of land adjacent to the Cemetery, acquired in 2025 for future expansion, are ongoing. During 2025/26, a Biodiversity Mitigation and Enhancement Scheme was commissioned and the recommendations are being rolled out across the entire site. • The Cemetery, by virtue of its location, size and purpose, is a haven for wildlife and the Council has actively worked towards enhancing the site's natural beauty and ecology. • Trane Cemetery held cultural significance during 2025/26 as a focal point for remembrance and commemoration with its impressive War Memorial, war graves and Covid Memorial Garden of steel daffodils.		

- **Information leaflets** – A series of burials-related information leaflets were drawn up and are available to the public from both the office and from the Council's website.



Open spaces:

- **Floral displays** – the Council has provided baskets and tubs of flowers through the summer months to enhance the visual appeal of the district.
- **Footpaths** – on behalf of RCT, we maintained six footpaths within the District, ensuring these much-loved rights of way continue to be accessible.
- **Bus shelters, benches & noticeboards** – the Council continued to provide and maintain over thirty bus shelters, forty-five benches and a number of noticeboards across the district. Two new bus shelters were purchased for Tyn-y-Bryn Park and Capel Stores.
- **Litter picking** – as a *Keep Wales Tidy Litter Hub*, the Council made available litter pickers, hi-viz vests and hoops to community groups and schools wishing to take part in litter picks. Several councillors were also actively involved in litter picking throughout the year.



Action	Healthy neighbourhoods	Sustainable & Resilient neighbourhoods
Recycling – the Council acted as a distribution hub for RCTCBC, allowing residents to collect their food and general recycling bags from a central location within the heart of Tonyrefail.		
<u>Christmas trees & lighting:</u> The annual provision of Christmas street-lighting and decorated trees, not only as centerpieces within area, but also gifted to every retailer in Tonyrefail to install above their shop fronts, has provided much appreciated cheer and acted as enticement into our retail quarter.		
<u>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):</u> The Council was a beneficiary of CIL, having a balance of £68,802 as at March 2026. During 2025/6, £10,000 was set aside towards the completion of the bowl at the Tyn-y-Bryn Park skatepark.		
<u>Signposting:</u> The Council made use of its website and social media accounts to promote the work of a wide range of charities, community service-providers and organisations offering mental health support, financial and legal advice, amongst many other vital services. We made available a number of leaflets in our Cemetery office offering bereavement and mental health support.		
<u>Collaborations & Partnerships:</u> The Council has engaged in several collaborative relationships over the course of the year that have helped to deliver on shared objectives. Some of these partners included: - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) - South Wales Police - Keep Wales Tidy - South East Wales River Trust - Local schools - Tonyrefail Chamber of Trade - Neighbouring Community Councils		

Action	Healthy neighbourhoods	Sustainable & Resilient neighbourhoods
Local Community Groups		
<u>Governance:</u> Cemetery Rules & Regulations - During 2025/26, the Council undertook a thorough overhaul of the Cemetery Regulations, bringing standards up to date and ensuring a comprehensive document for all the Cemetery's many users. Other Cemetery-related Policies – In addition to the Cemetery Regulations, the following policies have been adopted over the course of 2025/26: Expiry of Exclusive Rights of Burial Policy; Cemetery Weather-related Closures Policy.		

Looking forward to 2026/27

Each decision the Council makes must reflect the overall premise of the Well-being Act and, in the table below, you will see how Tonyrefail & District Community Council's priorities for 2026/27 work towards the seven well-being goals as outlined in the Act.

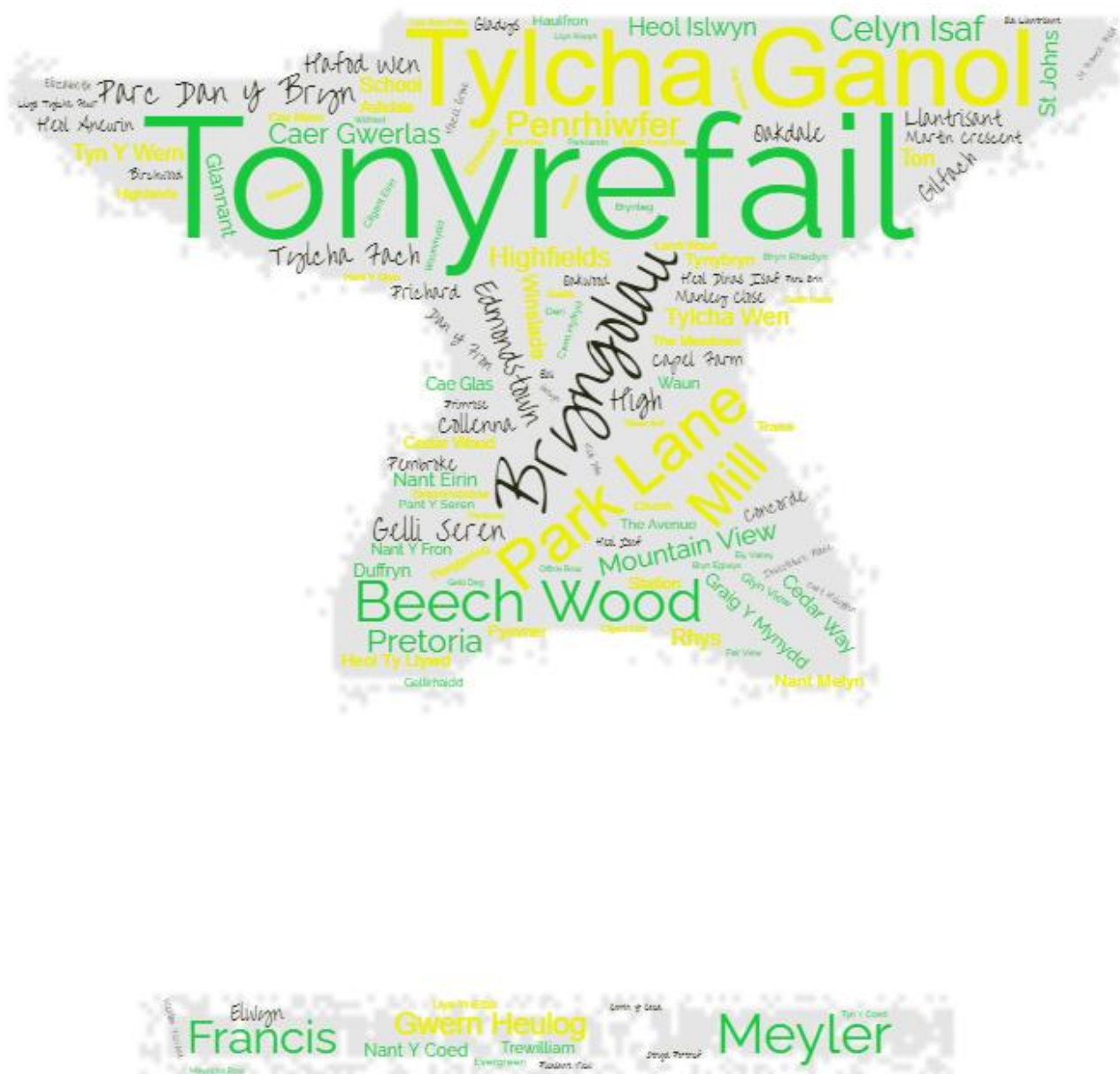
Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	More equal	Cohesive Communities	Vibrant Culture & Language	Globally responsible
------------	-----------	-----------	------------	----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------

To provide a calendar of events that ensures people feel part of their community and makes visitors welcome	●		●	●	●	●	
To continue to engage actively with Allotment Management Committees to ensure continued effective running and maintenance of the Council's allotment sites		●	●		●		●
To promote projects within the Community that aim to improve the lives of our residents	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
To increase the value of financial support to organisations promoting sports & recreation, arts & culture, diversity and the environment	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
To champion good citizenship and recognise outstanding contributions made to our community	●			●	●	●	
To progress the expansion of the Cemetery through an in-house ground viability study and layout plan	●	●	●		●		●
To proceed with the biodiversity enhancements recommended in the Biodiversity Mitigation & Enhancement Scheme, commissioned in 2025/26	●	●	●		●		●
To proceed with the refurbishment of the Trane Cemetery public toilet facilities project	●		●	●	●		
To improve facilities at Trane Cemetery, such as additional seating	●	●	●	●	●		
To improve biodiversity on land owned / managed by the Council	●	●	●		●		●

To campaign for appropriate maintenance of the footpath and Rights of Way network, and actively promote	●	●	●	●	●	●	
To actively promote the Council as a <i>Keep Wales Tidy Litter Hub</i>	●	●	●		●		●
To collaborate with Natural Resources Wales in maintaining the Council-owned SSSI land	●	●	●				●
To support measures to improve safety and security within the district	●	●		●	●	●	
To actively represent the Community on outside committees		●			●		●
To promote projects that maximise resilience to climate change and contribute to improved biodiversity	●	●	●	●	●		●
To consider the environmental impact of Council decisions and strive to minimise the Council's carbon footprint	●	●	●		●		●
To provide equality of opportunities for all as an employer	●	●		●			

Some of the projects planned for 2026/27 include ...





Tonyrefail & District Community Council