



ROGERSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
2024

Tydu Community Hall, Welfare Grounds, Tregwilym Road, Rogerstone,
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1. Introduction from the Chairperson

It is with great sadness that I find myself writing this introduction to our annual report due to the recent passing of our Chairperson Sally Mlewa. Sally served on the Community Council from 2012 and as Chairperson since 2017, our longest serving Chairperson. Sally worked tirelessly for our community of Rogerstone and her wisdom, guidance and friendship will be greatly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to have known her.

The Community Council continues to ensure that residents receive the highest calibre of service by employing a highly skilled team to carry out the work in maintaining the grounds and assets of the Council. Our appreciation to the administrative, grounds and maintenance staff for their dedication and uncompromising standards is acknowledged with gratitude on behalf of the Council and residents alike.

The Council is made up of 15 elected Councillors, who give their time in a voluntary capacity and serve for 5 years, they bring a wide range of skills and experience to the table. Council meetings will continue to take place on the first Wednesday of each month both in person and online.

We will continue to work with the local schools, community groups and places of worship to provide or facilitate social and community activities such as The Glade community garden project, the Remembrance Services, sports and leisure activities for all ages. We also sit on School Governing Bodies to represent the voice of the community in the development of our local schools.

This year the council has worked to compile a list of defibrillators within our community, this is available on our website, where an access code is required, this can be obtained from emergency services.

Rogerstone began life as a Parish Council more than a hundred years ago however, in 1974 the parish council became Rogerstone Community Council. From May this year we will be entering our fiftieth year as a community council, fifty years that as seen tremendous change and growth for our community. Much of the evidence of our industrial past has been replaced by residential developments. We will be working with our local historians to put together a pictorial history of the last 50 years.

As we go forward, we look toward maintaining the facilities we have and to enhance the provision for the community, we do this through listening

to the views of the community, accessing grants for projects, as well as working in partnership with the Newport City Council and the Welsh Government.

Councillor Stephen Bowen

Chairperson of Rogerstone Community Council

2. About Rogerstone Community Council

For over one hundred years a Parish or Community Council has existed in the area to manage and control the 80 or so acres of land and facilities donated to the village in the form of land, by a former Lord Tredegar. Residents of Rogerstone have consistently chosen not to pass these facilities to any other authority and therefore require the Community Council to manage them on their behalf. A local precept is levied for these services as Newport City Council do not provide any financial support for these facilities. We also own most of the non-adopted public open space at Jubilee Park, which is managed and maintained by Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Limited.

The Community Council, which meets monthly, is led by fifteen local Community Councillors, serving three wards. The staff of the Council at present comprises of three full time employees, three part time employees and four part time seasonal employees (including Jubilee Park). The Council manages the Welfare Grounds at Tregwilym Road, which comprises: a community hall with meeting and changing rooms, a children's playground, trim trail, multi-use games area, two full size football pitches, two mini football pitches (seasonal), one grass cricket pitch, one artificial cricket wicket, two tennis courts, outdoor table tennis tables, outdoor chess and draughts tables, riverside walks, nature areas, a pond, picnic and barbeque areas, public toilets, and an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities. Other open spaces are at High Cross, Cefn Wood (including woodland area), and Mount Pleasant. There are two allotment sites at Bethesda Place and Cefn Road. As well as this, the Community Council work in partnership with Graig Community Council to provide a community cemetery at Penylan Road in Bassaleg. All of these facilities have to be serviced and maintained and are available to all residents in

the area. Financial assistance is provided to local non-profit making organisations, such as, sports/ children's / senior citizens / arts groups.

Community (or former Parish) Councils are usually formed in rural areas, e.g. Graig (Bassaleg and Rhiwderin), Penhow, Marshfield etc. and do not exist in urban areas, e.g. Liswerry, St Woolos etc.

The precept is determined annually by the Community Council who are answerable to local residents, but without this precept the facilities and services could not be provided. No other Community Council in the City of Newport owns land, employs staff, or controls local services in the way that Rogerstone has chosen to do, hence the unique situation in this area.

The Welfare Grounds provide excellent standards of facilities for all residents, with the open spaces provided for all to enjoy. Local groups and organisations acknowledge the support for both practical and financial given to them by the Community Council.

Rogerstone Community Council also oversee the management, maintenance and administration of the non-adopted areas of open space at the adjacent Jubilee Park development which is delivered through Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Limited.

3. How We Organise Ourselves.

Rogerstone Community Council have 15 Elected Members who represent the 3 Wards in Rogerstone (North, East & West)

The Community Council meet on the first Wednesday of every month at Tydu Community Hall, with remote attendance via Zoom.

As well as Full Council meetings, there are Task and Finish Groups that are established and meet on an ad hoc basis as required, with Members also representing Rogerstone Community Council at Public Bodies and meetings

There are 3 full time and 3 part time permanent members of staff that support the delivery of the Community Council services throughout the year with temporary seasonal staff engaged during the Spring and Summer months.

Members of the Community Council, it`s Committees and Staff (part-time also) are shown below:

Members

Chairperson – Councillor S. Bowen

Deputy Chairperson – Councillor Y Forsey

Councillors – N. Ireland, N. Upham, K. Hopkins, C. Larcombe, S. Jones, B. Davies, J. Reynolds, A. Hobbs, J. Gibbons, G. Foley L. Cummings (resigned September 2023) M Bentley (resigned September 2023)

There were 3 Casual Vacancies at 31st March 2024.

Committees (as at 2023 AGM)

Rather than have standing committees, the Community Council constitutes Task and Finish Groups as and when the need arises, with the exception of the following established Committee & Board Members:

Interim Planning Committee

Councillors: S. Bowen, C. Larcombe, B. Davies, J. Gibbons

Rogerstone & Bassaleg Burial Board

Councillors: S. Bowen, S. Jones, A. Hobbs, J. Reynolds, N. Upham.

There were 2 vacant positions at 31st March 2024

Representatives to Liaison Meetings

Any Councillor may attend on behalf of the Council.

14 Locks Committee (Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals Trust)

Councillor J. Gibbons

1 vacant position at 31st March 2024

Staff

Clerk to the Council - Colin Atyeo

Assistant Clerk to the Council - Tracey Carter

Head Groundsman/Caretaker - Stephen Davies

Grounds Assistant – Martin Johnston

Wardens - Stephen Williams and Mark Jones

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4. What Have We Been Doing 2023 / 2024

We have been delivering our usual services throughout the year, which includes servicing following facilities at the Welfare Grounds and other sites for which we are responsible. During the year, our management and maintenance activities can be summarised as follows:

- Tydu Community Hall and changing rooms
- Public toilets
- Disabled toilet and baby changing
- General grounds maintenance of the Welfare Grounds and other areas
- Football pitches
- Cricket pitch
- Artificial wicket
- Tennis Court
- Multi use games areas
- Children's play park
- Older children's activity facilities
- Adult and Teen trim trail
- Pond nature area
- Summer bedding at the Welfare Grounds and other locations in Rogerstone
- Winter bedding at the Welfare Grounds and other locations in Rogerstone
- Public open space at Welfare Grounds
- Public open space at Mount Pleasant
- Public open space at Cefn Road
- Recognised ancient woodlands (Cefn woods) and other woodlands within Rogerstone
- Allotments at Cefn Road
- Allotments at Bethesda Place

We also provide services to support the Rogerstone and Bassaleg Joint Burial Board at the community cemetery located on Penylan Road, Bassaleg, which involves general weekly maintenance and litter pick

We oversee and support the general maintenance the non-adopted public open space at Jubilee Park, which includes:

- The linear park
- 2 children's play parks
- Adult & teen trim trail
- Central pond and open space
- Car park
- Former castle site

During 2023 / 2024 we have undertaken a programme of renewal or improvement to a number of areas that we manage and maintain. We have worked with others where we can to deliver the following:

- Clean the moss off Tydu Hall roof
- Carry out substantial roofing repairs
- Installed PIR movement detectors for the lighting in Tydu Hall WC's
- Carry out an energy efficiency audit of Tydu Community Hall
- Summer and Winter bedding displays throughout Rogerstone
- Take down 4 trees identified as unsafe in our Tree Survey
- Continue with the Japanese Knotweed Eradication programme, with specialist contractor tenders being prepared for 2024 /2025

We have also facilitated four community events which were:

- Civic Remembrance Sunday Service in partnership with the Royal British Legion and St Johns Church
- Civic Carol Service in partnership with St Johns Church
- Organised a Rogerstone Community event at the Welfare Ground
- Organised a local schools competition to commemorate the coronation

We are also very conscious of our impact on the environment and work to lessen our carbon footprint, for example we have:

- Photovoltaic panels installed at Tydy Community Hall
- Low voltage LED bulbs
- Ecoflush WC`s fitted
- Done away with single use plastic (wherever practicable)
- Sourced eco friendly cleaning products
- Have internal and external recycling bins (which we have substantially reviewed to comply with new legislation)
- Commissioned a new energy efficiency audit and options appraisal in partnership with Newport City Council to look at improving the efficiency and environmental impact of our community hall.
- We are working jointly with Glade Community Gardening Group to plant additional trees at the Welfare Grounds and Bethesda Allotments.
- We have opposed a proposal to relocate the Public Right Of Way linking Jubilee Park to the Welfare Grounds so as to encourage residents to actively travel to the facilities we provide
- We have opposed the development of valuable green spaces which have been proposed under the Draft Local Development Plan.

We have whenever practicable worked with others to provide and / or improve our offer to residents and have collaborated or provided services to the following:

- Newport City Council via our Shared Community Charter
- Newport City Council on local planning applications
- Newport City Council on energy efficiency options
- Newport City Council and other Community Councils via the Joint Liaison Committee facilitated by Newport City Council
- Graig Community Council on the Rogerstone and Bassaleg Joint Burial Board

- Royal British Legion on the Civic Remembrance Sunday Service and provide poppy memorials
- St Johns Church on the Civic Carol Service
- Rogerstone, Mount Pleasant, High Cross and Jubilee Park Primary Schools
- Bassaleg High School
- Rogerstone Football Club(s)
- Rogerstone Welfare Cricket Club
- Rogerstone Band
- Glade community garden group
- Glade Café to provide community events
- Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Ltd
- Jubilee Park Residents Committee (unresponsive)
- Alcan Bowls Club
- Llisbury Runners Annual Cross Country Event

We have also reintroduced the Sct 137 Community Grant awards during 2023 / 2024

5. What Are Our Plans for 2024 / 2025

Our planned activities for 2024 / 2025 will continue to provide recreational space, formal & informal play facilities, community support and social facilities. We will also contribute to Newport City Council's Well Being Plan where it is within the scope of the services we provide, in particular the 'Green and Safe Places' objective where:

'...Newport has healthy thriving ecosystems where all communities feel connected to nature and have easy access to safe, quality green space for health, wellbeing, play and recreation....'

During 2022 the Public Right Of Way managed and maintained by Newport City Council suffered further storm damage in the form of riverbank erosion which resulted in Newport City Council extending the existing temporary closure order and subsequently diverting the route through Jubilee Park and Tregwilym Road.

Whilst the Public Right Of Way is not the responsibility of the Community Council, however where we have the opportunity, we will endeavour to work with the community and jointly with Newport City Council and Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Limited to try to get

the footpath repaired and reinstated in its original location for the benefit of residents.

Our objectives are to continue to provide the services highlighted in Paragraph 4 under `Maintenance and Management`, `Support for the Joint Burial Board` and `Support for Jubilee Park (Rogerstone) Management Company Limited` for the benefits of the residents of Rogerstone. We will continually look for ways to improve the service we provide within our budget constraints, as well as planning to undertake the following:

- Renew Tydu car park white lining
- Renew Tregwilym Road car park white lining
- Implement the recommendations of a joint energy efficiency survey for Tydu Community Hall with the aim of further reducing our environmental impact
- Improve our recycling facilities to comply with new legislation
- Work jointly with Glade Community Garden Group to provide a Dragonfly Sculpture within the Welfare Grounds, to clear an allotment at Bethesda to provide community fruit trees and plant additional fruit trees at the Welfare Grounds
- Initiate a programme of tree safety works highlighted in the recent tree survey
- Appoint a specialist Japanese Knotweed eradication contractor
- Remove the moss and clean Tydu House roof
- Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the former Parish Council becoming Rogerstone Community Council
- Organise a `Kindness Day` event
- Organise a Community Awards event
- Organise a local schools competition
- Organise a community Remembrance Sunday Service in partnership with the Royal British Legion and provide poppy memorials (possibly a reduced scale event, subject to any constraints which may be imposed)
- Organise a community Carol Service in partnership with St Johns church

Proposals to bring forward the purchase of an electric van for the Grounds Maintenance team as well as considering repainting the tennis courts surface may also need to be considered during 2024 / 2025.

6. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – Statutory Guidance for community and town councils

This statutory guidance is issued under section 40(7) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). It provides specific guidance to community and town councils on their duties in relation to local well-being plans, if the duty in section 40(1) of the Act applies to them.

What does the Act do?

The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term; work better with people, communities and each other; look to prevent problems; and take a more joined-up approach. This will help us to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The Act establishes public services boards. Those boards are required to assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the local authority area they serve and then prepare local well-being plans setting out objectives for improving the well-being of the area and the steps the members of the board propose to take to meet those objectives.

What does the Act require community and town councils to do?

The Act places a duty on certain community and town councils to take all reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives included in the local well-being plan that has effect in their areas. A community or town council is subject to that duty only if its gross income or expenditure was at least £200,000 for each of the three financial years preceding the year in which the local well-being plan is published.

If a community or town council is subject to the duty, it must publish a report annually detailing its progress in meeting the objectives contained in the local well-being plan.

Community or town councils which do not meet the criteria for being subject to the duty in section 40(1) of the Act but which still wish to

contribute towards meeting the local objectives in the local well-being plan are welcome to do so on a voluntary basis.

Any councils proposing to contribute towards meeting local objectives, whether under the duty or voluntarily, will need to consider whether the action they propose to take is within their powers.

How will community and town councils get involved?

All community and town councils are encouraged to get involved; as they all have an important role to play in improving the well-being of their area..

The Act requires public services boards to involve community and town councils in the process of improving the well-being of their areas, regardless of whether the duty in section 40(1) of the Act applies to those councils. All community and town councils are classed as “other partners” of public services boards and must be consulted by those boards on the assessment of local well-being and subsequently on the local well-being plan. They will also have the opportunity of engaging with the public services board when invited to do so.

Community and town councils which are subject to the duty will need to liaise closely with the public services board for their area on the setting of objectives in the local well-being plan, given that they are required to take all reasonable steps in their areas towards meeting these objectives.

Councils which are not subject to the duty in section 40(1) of the Act are encouraged to consider what contribution they may be able to make towards meeting the local objectives adopted for their areas.

The four well being objectives for Newport in it`s Well-Being Plan are:

1. Everyone feels good about living, visiting and investing in our unique city.
2. Everyone has the skills and opportunities they need to develop, prosper and contribute to a thriving sustainable city.
3. Everyone belongs to resilient, friendly, connected communities and feels confident and empowered to improve their well-being.
4. Newport has healthy, safe and resilient environments with an integrated sustainable travel network

Rogerstone Community Council will work with Newport City Council to assist in delivering the objectives of Newport`s Well Being Plan in areas which are within the scope of our services.

In particular, we will look to reduce our carbon footprint along with the provision and development of leisure, recreational, sporting and social facilities.

7. Training

Training courses have been offered to Members and staff as follows:

- Planning Aid Wales – an understanding of Strategic Local Development Plans.
- Planning Aid Wales – Carbon Literacy training to develop an awareness of the carbon costs and impact on everyday activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisation basis
- Torfaen County Borough Council – Local Government Pension Scheme employer training

8. Our Finances

A copy of our 2023 / 2024 Annual Accounts are shown in Appendix 1.

A copy of our 2024 / 2025 Budget is shown in Appendix 2.