



LALESTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

“WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY”

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

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Laleston Community Council – Who are we?

Community Councils are the level of local government closest to the needs of local people. Laleston Community Council is dedicated to maintaining and improving the wellbeing of the community by providing a range of services and amenities that benefit the area. The Community Council comprises three electoral wards, Cefn Glas Ward 1, Cefn Glas Ward 2 and Laleston/Bryntirion Ward (incorporating Broadlands). There are currently 13 councillors representing the three ward areas.

Cefn Glas Ward 1

			
Cllr Jon-Paul Blundell Labour Jonpaul4cefnglas@gmail.com	Cllr Joanne Cook Labour j0c00k@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr Clair Webster Independent clair-w@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr Steven Richmond Independent steve@steverichmond.co.uk

Cefn Glas Ward 2

			
Cllr Sarah Philpin Independent Sarah_philpin@hotmail.co.uk	Cllr David Harrison Independent Cllr.David.Harrison@bridgend.gov.uk	Cllr Zoe Blundell Labour zcmb@aol.com	Cllr Charles Smith Labour & Cooperative cllr.charlessmith@bridgend.gov.uk

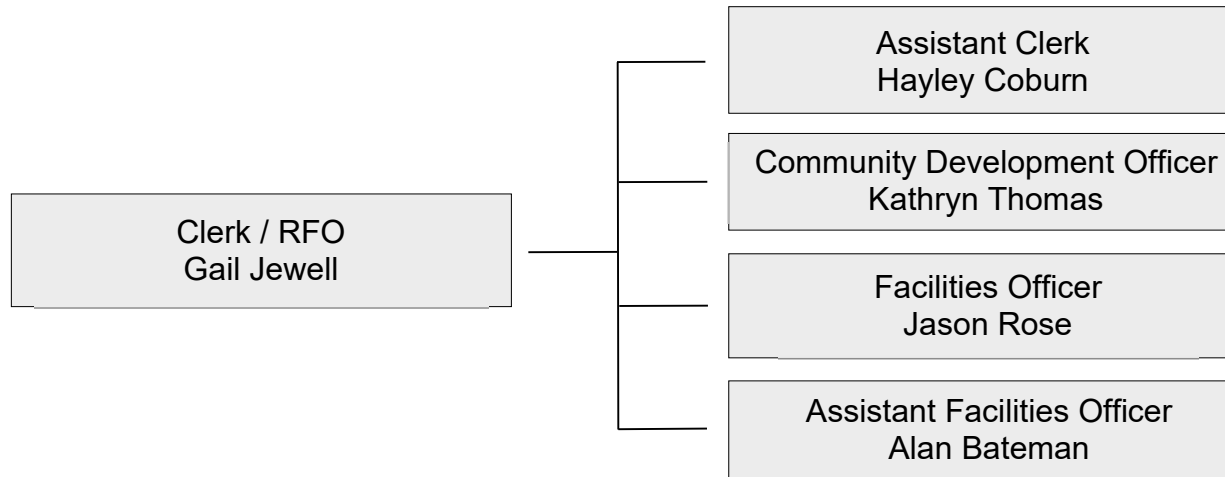
Laleston/Bryntirion Ward (incorporating Broadlands)



<p>Cllr Anthony Berrow Independent tony.berrow@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Cllr Colin Davies Labour colindavies62@icloud.com</p>	<p>Cllr Paula King Independent paulakinglcc@outlook.com</p>	<p>Cllr Vivienne James Independent vivienneannejames@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Cllr Ian Spiller Independent Cllr.Ian.Spiller@bridgend.gov.uk</p>
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At the head of the Council is the Chair, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The Chair for 2022-2023 was Councillor Ian Spiller and the vice chairman was Councillor Anthony Berrow.

The Community Council also employ 5 members of staff on a part-time basis.



How are we funded – and what for?

Laleston Community Council is funded by an annual precept, which is paid by Bridgend County Borough Council through the Council Tax. The funds are used to pay for administrative costs, support and development of assets, as well as environmental and community projects.

Currently our assets include:

Bryntirion & Laleston Community centre, Blandy Hall, Laleston Allotments, Broadlands Teenage Park, Wordsworth Teenage Park, Bryntirion Field Play Park and two multi use games areas sited in Llangewydd Junior School and Trelales Primary School.

In 2022-2023 the Community Council had an expenditure budget of £234,886 and the Council's precept was set at £218,246 with further money generated via income raised for the provision of a range of services including allotments, Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre and Blandy Hall. The Council also hold money in ear marked reserves for special projects such as traffic calming and additions to play parks that Laleston Community Council maintain.

Every Community Council in Wales is required to prepare year end accounts and have them audited by both an internal auditor and the Auditor General for Wales. Audit is important as it provides assurance on the effective management and safeguarding of public money. In 2022-2023 Laleston Community Council received an 'no issues to report' from the internal auditor and the external auditor.

Click [here](#) to view the annual return for the Year Ended 31 March 2023; Annual Governance Statement; Auditor General's report and audit opinion and Internal Audit report for 2022-2023.

A summary of the main areas of income and expenditure for 2022-2023 are shown below:

Income		Expenditure	
Administration	£40.00	Administration	£111,595.79
Allotments Rent	£540.00	Allotments	£4062.18
Bank Interest	£978.50	Benches and bins	£166.66
Blandy Hall Rent & refund	£1,825.00	Biodiversity	£4906.19
Bryntirion Community Centre Rent	£22,431.77	Blandy Hall	£7817.69
Community Pantry	£3,898.08	Bryntirion Community Centre	£15,821.14
Defibrillation Units refund	£1,205.00	Bus Shelter Program	£8,060.21
Events refund	£796.49	Communication Budget	£1,775.00
Warm Hub Funding	£1,500.00	Community Pantry	£2,340.00
	£33,214.84	Defibrillator Units	£300.00
		Events	£20727.91
		Floral/Christmas Lighting	£28,574.00
		Grants and Donations	£977.00
		Laleston Stone Trail	£2,172.68
		Laleston Well	£6,880.00
		Members Expenses	£5,590.00
		Parks/Play Areas and Outdoor Spaces	£22,320.22
		Pound	£1,835.76
		Road Traffic Controls	£16,860.35
		Scout Hall Rent and Donation	£3,450.00
		Warm Hub	£280.42
			£266,513.20

Our aims and Objectives

Aims and objectives	Action	Completion date
<p>To improve communications within the whole community and encourage wellbeing, equality, diversity, and inclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure all events are advertised as widely as possible • Encourage the public to attend council meetings • Review the council's Communication Strategy • Update LCC webpage and create pages and links to Bryntirion Community Centre, Blandy Hall and allotments • Continue to interact with public by means of social media, website and notice boards • Increase engagement with residents and service users so that our community feel included and able to participate. • Continue to provide services and advice with an open-door policy. • Seek to work with organisations involved locally in inclusion and equality of minority groups to eliminate all forms of discrimination and provide an understanding of diverse communities. • To use social prescribing and connect with local services. 	<p>Ongoing Ongoing 2023 2023 Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing</p>
<p>To ensure value for money</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review insurance policies for both Laleston Community Council and Bryntirion Community Centre and renew accordingly. • Review utilities contracts for both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre and renew accordingly. • Ensure all rules and procedures as outlined in the council's Financial Regulations are adhered to. 	<p>Ongoing - annually Ongoing – every 2 years Ongoing</p>
<p>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council greener</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Laleston Community Council's Biodiversity Plan. • Obtain advice on ecological issues and biodiversity planning. • To form a Biodiversity & Allotment Committee with and set out its aims. • Source grants for biodiversity improvements and green projects. 	<p>Monitor annually and submit a plan every 3 years.</p>
<p>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council safer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with local Police and Community Groups 	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>To make the ward areas of Laleston Community Council attractive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review current stock of Christmas lights and utilise budget for additional lights throughout the ward areas. • Review current stock of hanging baskets and utilise budget for additional hanging baskets throughout the ward areas. • Review street furniture and look to install benches, bins and planters. 	<p>Ongoing - annually</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing - annually</p>
<p>To support community life</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide grants and donations to local groups, organisations and charities. • Hold an annual firework display. • Support Broadlands Funday 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To comply with health and safety legislation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review all relevant risk assessments i.e. legionella, fire, COVID-19 for both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre. • Undertake maintenance checks of both Blandy Hall and Bryntirion Community Centre – PAT testing and fire equipment. 	<p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing - annually</p>
<p>To comply with local government legislation to ensure openness and transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold an annual meeting of council during May • Prepare monthly financial reports for council • Prepare quarterly budget reports for council • Compile and submit VAT claim to HMRC • Compile Members allowances and publish on website and submit to IRP for Wales • Complete Annual Governance Report for submission to external auditor • Agree a budget and submit precept demand to BCBC • Produce an Annual Report • Renew ICO Membership 	<p>Ongoing - annually</p> <p>Ongoing - annually</p> <p>Ongoing – quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing – quarterly</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing – annually</p> <p>Ongoing - annually</p>
<p>To promote and preserve local Heritage, Culture and Tourism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on the Laleston Website. To increase and improve local access to comprehensive information about the local historical environment. • To identify potential historic buildings or places of interest that may need repair or improvement initiatives that promote site or inform of significance. • To organise local events to encourage interest in local area and inspire local people and groups to participate. • To encourage local business to become part of the promotion of the area. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To increase Sustainability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to ‘save energy’ by making council buildings as energy efficient as possible. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To offset any carbon usage with tree planting that links in with biodiversity plan. • To work in conjunction with green transport initiatives and promote sustainable travel and 'shop local' enterprises and fair trade. • Promote re-use/ recycling with repair cafés or swapping schemes. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>To identify and Improve Accessibility</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve council resources by making available accessible formats of communication council matters on request. • Identify mobility restrictions in area. • Create gold star awards for local services that are accessible and provide positive reviews. • Review statutory obligation and work with Disability Wales for advice and review of present status. • Sign up for Dementia Friendly Community status. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Laleston Community Council 's Well-being Plan

In 2015 Welsh Government made a new law called Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act that prescribes that we need to work in a way that improves well-being for people today whilst being mindful not to do anything that could make things worse for future generations. Research shows the main areas that concern people and affect their wellbeing are covered by the seven wellbeing goals for Wales which are outlined on the right.



Bridgend has a Public Service Board (PSB) which is formed from members of the public, third and business sectors who are committed to working together to improve wellbeing in Bridgend County now and in the future. The PSB undertook a wellbeing assessment which analysed data and information prior to producing their wellbeing plan whereby they developed four wellbeing objectives, which are detailed on the left. As a community council, it is now our role to actively embed the two Public Service Boards well-being objectives into its ways of working whilst contributing to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales.

The first well-being objective is 'Best Start in Life'

The steps taken by LCC during 2022/2023 to contribute to this local objective:

LCC understand a way to work towards providing the best start in life, is to promote good emotional wellbeing and mental health for children and young people, which will help develop them and fulfil their potential. Some emotional wellbeing activities are as simple as going outdoors, taking a nature walk and being active with friends.

A way that Council contribute to this objective is by providing a safe place for children and young people to play. During 2022-2023 LCC replaced an inclusive roundabout at Bryntirion Play Park and removed grass mats and replaced them with rubber mulch at both Bryntirion Play Park and the teenage Play Park in Broadlands, to provide a dry, slip resistant surface which has excellent impact absorption qualities.



How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

Objective 3 – A healthier Wales. *Improve physical and mental well-being.*

Objective 4 – A more equal Wales. *Improving early years experiences.*

Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities. *As all equipment is installed in the community, it encourages social interaction.*

Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales. *Playparks and outdoor play have very low, if not zero carbon impact.*

The second well-being objective is ‘Support Communities in Bridgend to be Safe and Cohesive’

The steps taken by LCC during 2022/2023 to contribute to this local objective:

Our Council strive to ensure our ward areas are safe and enjoyable places to live, and that members of our community feel confident that they will be supported by their local ward councillors. During 2022/2023 LCC responded to several safety concerns raised relating to accessibility to the main road behind Bryntirion Play Park by installing a safety barrier to prevent access out of the park onto the road area.

Again, due to requests from local members of the community relating to road safety concerns due to the increased usage of Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre, LCC requested a speed survey to be conducted to help identify key road safety metrics and areas for improvement on Mount Pleasant in Bryntirion.

How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

Objective 1 – A Prosperous Wales. *Provide a cohesive and safe community.*

Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales. *Increase involvement in local issues.*

Objective 3 – A Healthier Wales. *Promotes involvement in communities.*

Objective 4 – A More Equal Wales. *Ensuring that everyone has a voice and feel part of their communities.*

Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities. *Primary aim of this objective.*

Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales. *Promotes a better knowledge of the local environment.*



The third well-being objective is 'Reduce social and economic inequalities'

The steps taken by LCC during 2022/2023 to contribute to this local objective:

In April 2021, LCC opened the Bryntirion Community Pantry which is a preventative approach to food poverty and reduces the risk of household hunger. Previously we supplied mostly tinned and fresh produce, but during 2022/2023, we expanded the food provision to include refrigerated food. Alongside the Pantry, LCC was successful in obtaining a startup grant for a warm hub, where Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre was opened to welcome residents to provide a welcome place for all, where people could attend by themselves, or with friends to talk over a hot drink and a hot meal.

Further to our last annual report where LCC were planning to adapt an unused allotment plot to create a space for those with mobility problems and/or disabilities, the plot has now been allocated as an initiative to Ex-Forces Veterans. The allotment provides an accessible space for likeminded people to grow veg, flowers and fruit, enjoy the peace and quiet or enjoy a hot drink with company, which has proven to be very successful in improving mental health.

How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

Objective 1 – A Prosperous Wales. *Increase productivity and skills.*

Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales. *Increase use and awareness of growing spaces.*

Objective 3 – A Healthier Wales. *To encourage healthy lifestyles and increased morale amongst users.*

Objective 4 – A More Equal Wales. *Focus on disabilities and other equality groups.*

Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities. *To support members of the public through challenging times.*

Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales. *Promotes understanding of diversity of communities.*



The fourth well-being objective is “Healthy Choices in a Healthy Environment”

The steps taken by LCC during 2022/2023 to contribute to this local objective:

Well managed green spaces give us all a better quality of life and opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and provides access to nature where we live and work. Residents within our ward areas are fortunate to have a wonderful network of paths, tracks and trails to enjoy all year round. During 2022/2023 LCC commissioned a condition survey to be undertaken of all footpaths in the ward areas, to commence a rolling programme to ensure that pathways are clear of obstructive vegetation and to report any damaged or missing stiles, steps and signposts to Bridgend County Borough Council Rights of Way and/or Highways departments.

How does this local objective link to the seven wellbeing goals for Wales?

Objective 1 – A Prosperous Wales. *Protecting assets that support tourism.*

Objective 2 – A Resilient Wales. *Promoting sustainable management of green spaces.*

Objective 3 – A Healthier Wales. *Promoting physical activity.*

Objective 4 – A More Equal Wales. *Providing safe and accessible green spaces for older people, carers, disabled people, young families and children.*

Objective 5 – A Wales of cohesive communities. *Promoting recreation linked to a natural environment.*

Objective 7 – A globally responsible Wales. *Reduce biodiversity decline.*



Biodiversity Action Plan

December 2022

Background

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the section 6 or s6 duty) on all public authorities in the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales. The s6 duty requires that public authorities 'must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems'.

Action Plan

Action carried out to:	How we did it:
Embed biodiversity into decision, council policies, planning and working practices	<p>Laleston Community Council made steps to reduce energy consumption and improve efficiencies of one of our community halls, which are outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Replaced an old commercial gas boiler with a new economic domestic condenser boiler.• Replaced an aging fridge and freezer for an A+ rated model.• Removed all wall electric heaters following installation of a new boiler and radiators throughout.• The heating of the building is no higher than 21oC and heating times are appropriate to building use.• Replaced fluorescent tubes with LED lighting.• Improved the thermal insulation of the building by adding cladding and insulation to reduce energy usage. <p>Under the Town & Country Planning Act, our Community Council has the right to be notified of planning applications affecting land falling within our ward boundaries. All applications received are considered while questioning - will the proposed development result in harm to wildlife and are there any opportunities for enhancement of wildlife.</p>
Raise awareness of biodiversity and its importance	<p>We are encouraging the community to volunteer in supporting and promoting biodiversity by adding members of the public to our Biodiversity & Allotment Committee.</p>

	<p>We reinforce existing initiatives and awareness campaigns by promoting via social media sites.</p>
<p>Safeguard principal species and habitats</p>	<p>Laleston Council signed up to a Hedgehog Highway Project which included purchasing 50 Hedgehog Highway surrounds and information leaflets to gift to members of the public. The Hedgehog Highway is a 5-inch gap in a fence or wall to allow access for hedgehogs to enter gardens to forage for food, meet mates to breed and access nesting sites.</p>
<p>Restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks</p>	<p>Council obtained a contractor to purchase and plant 5000 spring flowering bulbs in each of the Council ward areas, which will be vital insects and the birds that feed on them. The bulbs were spring flowering bulbs and spring flowering perennials such as native daffodil, primrose, cowslip and crocus.</p> <p>Council received and implemented a starter package grant from the Local Places for Nature Scheme and planted a wildflower area which included four habitat boxes, 30 native wildflower bulbs and 80 native plants.</p> <p>We were also awarded a Food Growing Development Package by Keep Wales Tidy for a plot at our allotment site that has been allocated to veterans, which included 20 square meters of wildflower turf, wildflower plug pants, native species bulbs and habitat boxes.</p>
<p>Tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species</p>	<p>Council is currently in the process of a 5 year plan to eradicate Japanese Knotweed from our local historical feature - 'The Pound'.</p> <p>Council own allotments and in 2022, staff issued a new tenancy agreement to encourage plot owners to consider the use of non-chemical methods to control pests, weeds and diseases on their plot, such as rotation of crops or hand removal. It was also requested that plot holders do not have bonfires, fires or any other activity that causes smoke and air pollution on site.</p>
<p>Use improve and share evidence</p>	<p>Investigated what has been undertaken successfully in other Community Council to gauge whether the same initiatives can be replicated in our areas.</p> <p>Shared updates with the public via our Facebook page when any biodiversity improvements were made.</p>

Support capacity and/or other organisations

Our Council provides an annual donation to South and West Wales Wildlife Trust (Bridgend Group) towards the maintenance of a Wildflower Meadow based in Broadlands.

Review of s6 duty in 2022

- What has worked well?

The planning, monitoring and reporting on all Biodiversity initiatives and work carried out has assisted in incorporating biodiversity into all council functions/decisions and day-to-day activities.

- What have the barriers been?

The main barriers to implementing our Biodiversity Action Plan has been due to the Community Council only owning a small amount of land and therefore we have had to secure relevant permissions and licences for planting bulbs / shrubs and installing habitat boxes, which has been time consuming and frustrating.

- What will you change?

We will focus on developing connections with landowners throughout our ward areas in the hope to assist with the implementation of sustainable mowing practices and regenerate and enhance neglected green spaces.

- How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?

This is a live plan that will evolve during the next three years and will be monitored by Laleston Community Council and the Biodiversity Committee throughout the year. The next formal report of the plan will be published no later than December 2025.

A selection of our achievements during 2022-2023

In addition to the planting our hanging baskets, holding our annual firework display, helping fund Broadlands Fun Day, providing Christmas Lights, maintaining Bryntirion & Laleston Community Centre and Blandy Hall, this year we also:



Increased biodiversity by planting 5,000 spring bulbs around all ward areas, which included daffodils, snowdrops, bluebells, crocus, wild garlic and wood anemone.

Added Christmas lights along main road in Laleston and small features around Bryntirion & Broadlands Shops



Initiated the Laleston Well Project that was aimed at the exploration and re-invention of the historic wellspring site in Laleston. Mr Phil Cope commenced a phased plan with local residents and Trelales Primary and Bryntirion Comprehensive Schools to educate and involve them in the process.



Replaced grass mats that had sunk due to poor ground conditions which caused puddling in wet weather



with Impact absorbing, eco friendly, rubber mulch at Bryntirion Play Park and Teenage Park in Broadlands.

How to contact us

Laleston Community Council are always looking for ways to improve and welcome any comments and or suggestions from members of our community.

Our website: www.lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Our email: clerk@lalestoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Facebook: [LalestonCC](#)