

PETERSTON SUPER ELY COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2022/23



St. Peter's Church

1. CONTEXT

During the year 2022/23, Community Council elections in May 2022 saw a number of councillors retiring, some re-elected, and others co-opted. The councillors who were in office during the year were as follows:

- Councillor David Field - (Part Year)
- Councillor Diana Powell - (Part Year)
- Councillor David Jaques - (Part Year)
- Councillor Kate Hurley - (Part Year)
- Councillor David Moody Jones (Chairperson) (re-elected)
- Councillor Huw Potter (re-elected)
- Councillor John Drysdale (re-elected)
- Councillor Abi Phillips (Vice Chairperson) (co-opted)
- Councillor David Cross (co-opted)
- Councillor Darren Meir (co-opted)
- Councillor Shân Firth (co-opted)

The Council currently has 7 members with one vacancy, for which we are seeking to co-opt.

The Council has the following Sub Committees and Working Parties:

- Finance Sub Committee
- Community Action Planning Sub Committee
- MUGA Sub-Committee.
- Playing field and Playground Sub Committee
- Churchyard Sub Committee
- Village Maintenance Working Party
- Risk Assessment Working Party

Membership of the Committees and Working Parties together with contact details of councillors is available at: <http://www.peterstonsuperely.org/councillors>

The main contact for all council business is Catherine Craven, Clerk to the Council:

E-Mail: pseccc@hotmail.co.uk

2. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

Income and expenditure in the financial year which ended on 31 March 2023 is summarised as follows:

Balances brought forward from 2021/22	£32,941
Precept	£23,000
Other income	£9,205
Sub-Total	£65,146
Staff Costs	£8,317
Total of all other Payments	£16,360
Sub-Total	£24,678
BALANCE C/FWD IN TO 2023/24	£40,467

The value of fixed assets of the Council is £250,000

The accounts have been submitted to Audit Wales and an audit opinion is expected later in the year. They must therefore be regarded as 'Not yet Audited'

3. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRINCIPAL COUNCIL.

The Council worked in partnership with Councillor Michael Morgan, the County Borough Councillor for Peterston super Ely who attended most meetings of the Community Council providing a report for each meeting and listening to issues raised. He took up matters for action with relevant officers as appropriate. A representative of the Community Council serves on the Community Liaison Committee which organises its work modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and Town Councils.

4. COMPLAINTS.

No complaints were received about the work of the Community Council during the year.

5. CODE OF CONDUCT.

Elected Councillors have been trained in the Code of Conduct and are fully aware of their commitment to the Code. More recent co-opted members are arranging for training.

6. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS DURING 2022/23.

The key achievements during the year were as follows:

1. Road Safety in Peterston

The Community Council has campaigned for several years to implement a 20 mph limit through the main village to reduce risk of accidents. This speed limit was implemented in 2022 supported by data collected by councillors and volunteers using speed recording equipment provided by the Police.

There remains the problem of enforcement with some road users ignoring the speed limit.

2. MUGA

The Multi Use Games Area has been well used by residents. The local Tennis and Sports Club, in partnership with the Community Council, has managed the MUGA and dealt with issues arising from Covid early in 2022.



3. Rural Housing

Councillors worked with the Rural Housing Enabler of Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council to draft a consultation questionnaire about housing needs for elderly people. The resulting data would provide evidence of the need for new housing to allow downsizing of home by elderly residents who wish to remain in the area but can't find smaller homes. This initiative has been overtaken by Vale of Glamorgan Council's review of housing for elderly people.

4. Riverside area review and improvements.

Discussions have been held locally with regards to sympathetically enhancing the riverside area as a community amenity. The area being the stretch between the stone bridge to the area adjacent to the white bridge, these enhancements would be investigated for both sides of the river.

The intention is to take advice from Natural Resources Wales as to what would be permissible within the context of the area being a designated sight of special scientific interest. A community management plan would then be required in consultation with interested parties for the benefit of the whole community and wildlife.

The riverside as an amenity is underused by the community and potentially much more of the area could be used within the context of a community amenity.

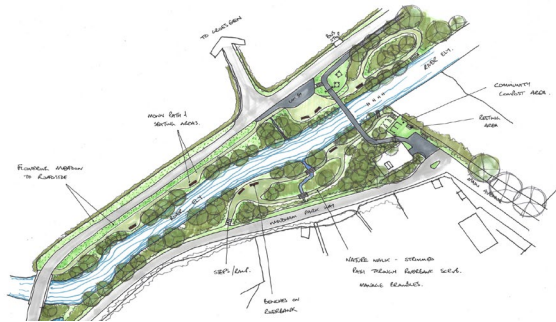


Image courtesy Dai Lewis

5. Evaluation of local public rights of way.

Discussions have been held with the Vale of Glamorgan public rights of way officer with the aim of improving access to local rights of way. The aim is, in conjunction with the Vale and landowners to upgrade the existing climb-over styles by replacing accessible stock proof gates. It is proposed that the initial improvements will be for those gates nearest to the village centre and then move outwards as resources allow.

6. Grant support to village activities:

Grants from the Community Council enabled a successful Queen’s Jubilee event in the Playing Field, and also planting of fruit trees as a memorial. Grant funding was obtained to install new benches and other equipment in the Playground. Grant funding from the Community Council supported the purchase of equipment to start an indoor bowls club in the Village Hall.

7. Allotment improvements

Rainwater collection, storage tanks and dipping troughs were installed with a grant from Welsh Government via the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Overgrown plots were cleared and fencing replaced to enable plots to be brought back into use and let.



8. Improving biodiversity

With grant funding raised by the Community Council a new hedge was planted around the Playground to encourage biodiversity. The mowing practice for the Playing Field has been amended to allow wilder areas and eventually wild flower meadow areas.

9. **The retaining wall of the Churchyard** was repaired and the Memorial Lych Gate repaired.

10. Village environment:

Overwide hedges in the village have been trimmed following prompts to householders. Four trees underwent crown lifting in the Memorial Field.

11. **New Community Council website** completed and new accounting software introduced for Council finances.

7. ASSETS AND SERVICES MANAGED BY THE COUNCIL.

The Council is responsible for managing the following assets and services:

- Playing Field and Playground
- MUGA
- The Churchyard and burials
- The Memorial Lych Gate
- Allotments at Ael y Bryn
- Village street furniture and planters

8. BIODIVERSITY POLICY

Appendix One to this report is the current Biodiversity Policy of the Council which is being reviewed and refreshed and a new version will be published in 2023/24.

9. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2023/24.

The objectives below are those from the existing Community Action Plan for Peterston super Ely. A new Community Action Plan will be consulted on with residents and completed during 2023. This review was due in 2021 but was postponed because of Covid and disrupted by the election with loss of previous councillors. Some of the objectives have been achieved and some are likely to be carried forward to the new Plan.

1. Reduce speed of vehicles throughout the community to 20 mph.
2. Improve parking especially on Main Rd / Ffordd yr Eglwys
3. Develop community services and group of recommended providers
4. Develop system for sharing of services and products.
5. Improve playing field and provide access to all.
6. Support use of village and chapel halls, playing fields and MUGA for community facilities.
7. Seek to increase the amount of affordable housing in the village.
8. Cut back hedges throughout the village
9. Reduce amount of flooding in village.
10. Seek to increase public transport.
11. Improve state of roads and signage

Appendix 1: Biodiversity Policy

The Community Council manages the Churchyard, Playing Fields, Playground and allotments. It also co-operates with the Vale Council in maintaining the road verges. Peterston also has a **Site of Special Scientific Interest** on the banks of the River Ely. The aim of this policy is to maintain & where possible improve the biodiversity of the area. The Council will follow guidance from expert bodies such as Natural Resources Wales & Plant Life. Promotion of biodiversity will also be considered when awarding council grants.

The Council will work in co-operation with TASC (manging Multi use Games Area) and Cyswllt Peterston Connect CPC (Local environmental charity).

River Ely SSI

Maintenance to be carried out in the winter as advised by NRW. Himalayan Balsam Control will continue by CPC who also carry out regular surveys. Any Japanese Knotweed treatment to be approved by NRW.

Churchyard

A wild area has been managed for wildlife since 2022, with delayed mowing to encourage wildflowers. Bird boxes installed prior to this. Avoidance of chemicals as far as possible.

Playing Fields

Suitable areas to be kept wild. Spreading of previously planted snow drops and native daffodils to around newer trees. Trees have been planted to screen the MUGA & around edges of playing fields. Grants from Keep Wild Tidy for a pollinator garden. Seven fruit trees were planted for Diamond Jubilee. Four hundred whips have been planted around playground to form a mixed hedge.

Verges

Management in accordance with Plant Life guidance if no safety concerns.

Monitoring to be carried out using the Standard Recording Template and reported yearly to the full council.

Allotments

Plot holders have established rough areas at the margins of the site, and some bee hotels and bird boxes.

The Council also supports the Community Orchard in Lanlay Fields NT Nature Reserve. The Orchard has held a green flag award for two years.

Reporting Template

Site	Current Management	Future Plans
River Ely SSI	Cutting back excess brambles. Monitor Monkshood and invasive plants in collaboration with CPC.	Develop area of wildflowers by White Bridge. Consider improving access to "Village Green"
Churchyard	Managed by "4Seasons", regular mowing round graves.	Develop wildlife areas. Prune crab apple tree in winter.
Playing Fields	Regular mowing and cutting back around boundaries.	Develop wildlife areas at edges of the field. Further tree planting in autumn. Management of hedge around playground.
Verges	Manage in accordance with PlantLife Guidelines.	Continue
Allotments	Retain rough areas for wildlife, bee hotels, bird boxes.	Continue