

CTC 06

Ymgynghoriad ar rôl, llywodraethiant ac atebolrwydd y sector cynghorau tref a chymuned

Consultation on the role, governance and accountability of the community and town council sector

Ymateb gan: Cyngor Cymuned Llandochoau

Response from: Llandough Community Council

LLANDOUGH COMMUNITY COUNCIL



SENEDD INQUIRY INTO THE ROLE, GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL SECTOR

SUBMISSION TO THE SENEDD INQUIRY – OCTOBER 2024



CONTENTS

1. Response to lines of Inquiry. (Attached)
2. Some photographic evidence of our work.
3. Examples of our community newsletters.
4. The latest Audit Wales opinion on our accounts.

2. PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF OUR WORK.

Local Food Production at its Best (Our allotments site)



A place for groups and people to meet (Llandough War Memorial Hall)



Biodiversity in Action
(Our Section 6 Biodiversity Plan)



Provision of Green Spaces



Fun at the Village Fete



Litter Picks – Cleaning up the Environment



Commemorative Events



An Award-Winning Council



Creative Play Opportunities for our young people



3. OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER.

Examples provided on our website:

http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Newsletters_20136.aspx

4. OUR LATEST AUDIT OPINION FROM AUDIT WALES.

Web-Page - http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Finances_20123.aspx

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Inquiry line	Our role and responsibilities	Best practice local examples
<p>1. The role and value of community and town councils in Wales.</p>	<p>The population of the community at the 2021 census was 2090 and the current number of electors is 1642. These numbers will increase with a number of housing developments already completed or planned.</p> <p>Created in 1982, our role is "Serving our community, preserving our identity' achieved by listening to village residents, running formal and informal consultations and being accessible by living within the village, running and attending its events.</p> <p>Our mission statement: 'Serving our community, preserving our identity' In doing so, the Council will always strive to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Be open and accessible in all our decision making</i> · <i>Be accountable in all our council activities</i> · <i>Be responsive to the needs of the community</i> · <i>Encourage community participation.</i> <p>The community is very supportive of the work of the Community Council and we work closely with officers from the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the Police, the Hospital management and with the local county borough councillor as well as a number of third sector organisations with the sole focus on getting the best outcomes for local people. Having a tier of local government close to local people within recognisable and established communities is highly important if the wellbeing goals embodied in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act are to be achieved at a local level and collectively at a national level. The critical role of community and town councils should not be understated and</p>	<p>Planning consultations – responding on behalf of the community which is considered to be vital representational role</p> <p>Organisation of events such as:</p> <p>Annual Village fete</p> <p>D Day Commemoration</p> <p>Our late Queen’s Platinum anniversary</p> <p>Coronation of King Charles</p> <p>Christmas events carol service and coffee morning in conjunction with local primary schools</p> <p>Coffee mornings – held on a monthly basis as a means of engaging with our community members.</p> <p>Community Transport scheme (currently on hold pending appointment of volunteer driver)</p> <p>Engagement with local primary school on environmental campaigns – BELLS Scheme (Better Environment for Llandough Scheme)/Litter and Dog Fouling Poster Competition</p> <p>Engagement with Rambler’s Association to encourage local footpath walking</p> <p>Keeping the community informed about all local matters via quarterly newsletters, regular posting on local social media and noticeboards</p> <p>Grant funding of local organisations – e.g. support for local shop initiative in school and financial support for local groups such as child/parent group and local youth club.</p>

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	<p>needs to be highly valued. The ten councillors supported by local volunteers create a local resource capacity to develop a focus on community resilience and sustainability. They collectively offer a wide range and breadth of knowledge and experience which needs to be nurtured. It is also a very diverse council which is reflective of the local population in terms of age, gender and ethnic origin.</p> <p>We have a concern that any grouping of recognisable and closeknit communities will undermine effectiveness given that it could result in unrest about how funds are allocated to the separate communities.</p>	
<p>2. Whether the sector is fit for purpose in an evolving local government landscape.</p>	<p>The Council provides allotments facilities at Corbett Road (67 plots) and is currently planning the development of a further allotments site with 26 plots. It maintains a village green and two pocket parks and is responsible for a range of play equipment. Five of the serving community councillors are appointed as trustees on the Hall Management Committee which is a registered charity that manages a very popular and well-used village hall. The Council is very committed to community engagement and works closely with the school, hospital and community groups in seeking to make the community a great place to live in. It organises an annual village fete, Christmas events, litter picks and coffee mornings which are well supported by the community.</p> <p>The Council has a singleton Clerk, some clerical assistance and a part-time Caretaker and relies on voluntary effort on the part of councillors to ensure that the community receives an excellent service from these combined efforts. The effort on the part of councillors, supported by its Clerk, enables it</p>	<p>Running consultation on how to improve lives of the older generation in the village – received award from OVW Three other OVW awards in the highly commended category In-depth consultation on the needs of the community – see web-link: http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Community_Engagement_20133.aspx New allotment site planned Delivering a MUGA for the village – supported by a range of grants Improving diversification within the village</p>

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	<p>to maintain the wide range of services and facilities that are provided for community benefit.</p> <p>The Council has never received a qualified audit report which demonstrates that for a small to medium size council it is clearly fit for purpose on financial management grounds within the current local government landscape. The Independent review of the sector commissioned by the Welsh Government not so long ago clearly recognised that the sector is fit for purpose and would suggest that any major change is difficult to justify. The current community boundary reviews being undertaken fail to appreciate the importance of local engagement by councillors and the focus on reducing councillor numbers is likely to adversely impact on the effectiveness of councils and could have the perverse effect of undermining the fitness of purpose of community and town councils.</p>	
<p>3. Governance and scrutiny arrangements and its impact on accountability and transparency.</p>	<p>The Finance & Governance Self-Assessment Toolkit for Community & Town Councils published by the Welsh Government has helped us to review our financial management, governance and accountability procedures and introduce further improvements to improve our infrastructure. The publication of practice development notes by One Voice Wales as well as the excellent training provided by the organisation has further helped our internal arrangements and further enhance our ability to provide excellent services to the community.</p>	<p>Since the inception of the council, it has never received a qualified audit Annual report on our website See: http://www.llandough-cc.co.uk/Annual_Reports_20135.aspx Statutory Training Plan in place and Councillors have taken up relevant training The Clerk/RFO is CILCA qualified</p>
<p>4. Scope of digital and new technology to improve decisionmaking, service provision and</p>	<p>The council have invested heavily in IT to improve the council's ability to reach the whole of the community</p>	<p>Installation of hybrid facilities in the council chamber enabling multi-location meetings as well as installing WIFI and projector in the hall to</p>

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<p>participation in local democratic processes.</p>		<p>facilitate presentations to local people on the work of the Council All Councillors have Council email addresses Cloud storage back-up of documents in place Bespoke accounting package used Use of local social media – Facebook and Next-Door Council website Some use of Survey Monkey for survey work</p>
<p>5. How new powers and responsibilities for this tier of government are utilised to support communities.</p>	<p>We engage with a number of partner organisations and committees throughout the Vale to ensure any new powers or initiatives are utilised by the council</p>	<p>Being part of: Community Liaison Committee LLAIS Cymru East Vale Wellbeing Hub working party Vale Public Services Board Unfortunately, one of the three criteria for claiming eligibility for the general power of competence (e.g. % of elected councillors) has not been met.</p>