

Rhymney Community Council – Annual Report

For the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2026 (Prepared in accordance with Section 52 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021)

Introduction

Rhymney Community Council is pleased to present its Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2026. This report outlines the Council's priorities, activities, financial stewardship, and community impact over the 2025–26 fiscal year, demonstrating Council's continued commitment to supporting and enhancing the wellbeing of residents across the communities of Rhymney, Abertysswg, and Pontlottyn.

Governance and Membership

The Community Council comprises fourteen Councillor positions, of which ten seats were active during 2025–26, with four vacancies available for appointment through the co-option process. Councillors continue to serve in a voluntary capacity, contributing considerable time and expertise to local governance, community representation, and partnership working.

Financial Overview

For the 2025–26 fiscal year, the Council operated with a Community Precept of £38,000. The precept is the portion of Council Tax allocated to the Community Council. The precept is collected by Caerphilly County Borough Council on our behalf and provides the core funding that enables the Community Council to deliver local services, support community groups, and undertake statutory responsibilities.

The Council remains committed to prudent fiscal management, ensuring that public funds are allocated responsibly and transparently for the benefit of the community.

Education and Support for Local Schools

Rhymney Community Council continues to play an active role in the local education landscape. Several Councillors serve as Minor Authority Governors across local Primary Schools and at Idris Davies 3–18 School, ensuring strong links between the Council and the education sector.

During 2025–26, the Council contributed £1,500 to support extra-curricular activities across local schools. This funding helped enhance opportunities for children and young people, supporting enrichment programmes that extend learning beyond the classroom.

Commitment to Early Years and Youth Provision

The Council remains committed to supporting early years development and accessible community activities. In partnership with Sport Caerphilly and In House Entertainment, the Council helped develop and deliver a programme of summer scheme activities throughout August. These sessions provided safe, structured, and

enjoyable opportunities for children and families during the school holidays, reinforcing the Council's focus on wellbeing and early years engagement.

Community Safety and Partnership with Gwent Police

Rhymney Community Council continues to function as a key conduit between residents and colleagues at Gwent Police, with a standing agenda item and regular attendance from local Officers at monthly Council meetings. This ensures that community concerns, trends, and insights are shared promptly and constructively.

The Council also supports Gwent Police's Community Engagement, Education and Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy, contributing financially to their Easter, Halloween, and Christmas community engagement events. These initiatives help strengthen relationships between young people, families, and policing teams, promoting safer and more cohesive communities.

Civic Representation and Wider Community Roles

Many Councillors hold dual responsibilities, also serving as elected Members of Caerphilly County Borough Council, or as patrons, trustees, or committee members of local community centres and organisations. This includes stewardship of the Rhymney Trust Fund, which supports local causes and community development.

Councillors also represent the community on the Pen Bryn Oer Community Benefit Fund Management Committee, ensuring that residents benefit from community investment linked to renewable energy infrastructure.

Community Defibrillators and Public Safety

The Community Council owns and maintains six public-access defibrillators, strategically located across the community area. These devices provide vital emergency support during cardiac incidents, reinforcing the Council's commitment to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of residents. Regular maintenance and monitoring ensure that each unit always remains operational and accessible.

Commitment to Remembrance

The Council continues to take responsibility for the organisation of Armistice Sunday road closures, associated planning requirements, and the provision of lamppost poppies across the community area.

Councillors attend and lay wreaths at each of the four annual remembrance services held in Princetown, Rhymney, Abertysswg and Pontlloyn, ensuring that the sacrifices of past generations are honoured with dignity and respect.

During 2025–26, the Council also supported VE80 commemorations in May 2025, contributing to organisational arrangements at the Rhymney War Memorial and providing commemorative displays across all three community areas.

Christmas Activities and Seasonal Engagement

The Council delivered a full programme of festive activity during December 2025, including the provision of forty-four lamppost-mounted festive streetlights, illuminating the community throughout December and early January.

Working in partnership with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the Council again supported the popular 'Santa on a Fire Engine' community engagement event, bringing festive cheer to families across the area.

In addition, the Council provided part-sponsorship for the Parent Network's annual festive trip for disadvantaged young people, and a Community Pantomime held in Abertysswg

These initiatives help ensure that all families, regardless of circumstance, can share in the joy of the festive season.

Conclusion

Throughout 2025–26, Rhymney Community Council has continued to deliver meaningful, community-focused activity, collaborating with partners, schools, emergency services, and local organisations. The Council remains committed to transparency, responsible fiscal management, and the ongoing wellbeing of residents across the community area.

The Council looks forward to building on this work in 2026–27, continuing to serve with dedication, integrity, and a keen sense of community.