

Pendine Community Council

Annual Report 24/25

A warm hello to all the residents of Pendine.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, introduced as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of each financial year, that a community council must prepare and publish a report (an “annual report”) about the council's priorities, activities and achievements during that year.

This is our report for 2024/2025, Pendine Community Council hopes this will be of heed to you. There were four appointed Councillors of Pendine Community Council in 23/24. Councillors are office holders who sign a declaration of acceptance of office upon their election or appointment - they are therefore a part of the local government structure of Wales. Although they carry out many community activities on a voluntary basis, they are not volunteers.

At the head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from among its serving Councillors. The Chairman for 2023/24 was Councillor Andrew Shaw, the Vice-Chair was Councillor Sara Bruce-Goodwin. The council has the opportunity to appoint 7 councillors and two Youth Representatives. A Community Youth Representative represents the youth sector and is a ‘voice’ on the Community Council for local issues affecting young people. There was no Youth Representative for 24/25, but councillors would welcome further youth representation in future.

Historically, the council met on the third Tuesday of the month but due to venue availability, we currently meet formally on the third Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm at Llanmiloe Resource Centre or other communicated venue. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings.

These are very structured meetings with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity at the start for public questions, but it is a working meeting rather than a public presentation. Depending on what projects are being dealt with, in order to be more proactive, members may meet in between monthly meetings and bring matters back to the full council.

Your Community Council

The Community Council owns the foreshore from the MOD sign right through to the New Inn at Amroth, the play area by St Margaret's Church (at the top of the hill) , Hafan y Mor Motor Home Park, Gordy Woods, Beach slipway and top car park and the grass areas on the hill. The Council provides promenade lighting, seats throughout the community and Christmas lights.

Organisations can apply to the Council for small grants to organise community events and activities. The Council works with Carmarthenshire County Council and as a statutory consultant, comments on planning applications. The Council is not responsible for Rights of Way, but regularly brings access issues to the notice of Carmarthenshire County Councils Rights of Way Officer.

Your Community Councillors for 24/25 were:

Cllr Andrew Shaw - Chair

Cllr Sara Bruce-Goodwin – Vice Chair

Cllr Steve Rundle

Cllr Hayley Thomas

Message from the Chair for 24/25 – Cllr Andrew Shaw

Whilst I did say it last year, it still remains an honor and privilege to have served Pendine Community Council as Chair for the third year.

On behalf of the Council I would like to thank Sara Bruce-Goodwin for her dedication and hard work in supporting the local community as Sara took the decision to step down from the council.

I would also take the opportunity to thank the Clerk for keeping us all on track – not an easy task! Seriously whilst we are a small community council the workload for the Clerk and Cllr's is significant, however enjoyable and rewarding.

We have built on the successes of last year and again achieved a significant amount, for which the annual report will cover.

We have greater scrutiny on financial matters which ensures governance in the way we manage our budgets and decision making process.

My thanks to all Councillors, volunteers, beach collectors, businesses for the support provided. Also to the members of the public who have attended any of our monthly meetings.

Thank you to Llanmiloe Community Association for supporting us with their venue for our monthly meetings, it's always very-much appreciated.

Our ambition as Cllr's remains high, however, currently we are only 3 and the workload is significant we therefore have to manage and achieve realistic objectives. This can be frustrating as we want to do more and there is a lot to do. Anything we do needs time and effort along with available willing resources. Therefore, my ask would be for people to come forward and sign up as a community councilor.

Myself and other councillors look forward to meeting with, working alongside all the familiar faces and new ones, as we look to collectively make a difference to our fantastic village.

May 2025

Andrew Shaw

Chair – Pendine Community Council

Achievements for 24/25

- May 2024 was host to the successful *Picnic on the Green* event aimed at bringing our vibrant community together. Blessed with sunshine, the day featured a variety of activities including stalls, delicious homemade cakes, refreshing Pimm's, and a series of fun sporting challenges. Residents of all ages took part in the friendly competitions, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere.

A special thanks goes to our dedicated volunteers, whose time and enthusiasm made the event possible, and to Cllr Sara Bruce-Goodwin for her leadership in organising and coordinating the team and of course to the Children of Llanmiloe School for their fantastic entries for the competition. The event was well-attended and warmly received, reflecting the strong community spirit that defines Pendine.

- 2024 saw the launch of our wonderful outdoor produce market – a fantastic new addition to the Pendine community calendar. The market quickly became a popular fixture, offering a wide array of diverse local produce, handmade crafts, and a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike to come together and support small businesses.

While the Welsh weather presented its fair share of challenges, the markets were, overall, a great success and will return for the 2025 season.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Steve and Liz Rundle and Nicola Bellarby for their tireless work in organising and coordinating the markets, as well as to all our stallholders for their commitment and energy. We are also extremely grateful to Parkdean for kindly allowing the use of their car park as our market venue, and to the Davies family of Shore House for generously providing the use of the old garage for the final market when adverse weather struck.

- June welcomed the much-anticipated return of the VHRA Hot Rods to Pendine. The event continued to grow in scale and popularity, drawing visitors and car enthusiasts from across the UK. The village was brought to life with a fantastic display of vintage hot rods, creating a vibrant atmosphere and a notable increase in footfall and revenue for our local businesses.

The 2024 event saw an inspiring show of community spirit, with local businesses coming together to host live music events and decorate their premises in a warm

welcome to VHRA participants and guests. There could be no more fitting setting for such an event than Pendine's iconic Sands of Speed.

Over the weekend, more than 1,600 cars were parked on the beach, generating in excess of £8,000 in parking income alone—an incredible achievement that highlights the event's growing economic value to the area.

A special thanks goes to all our dedicated volunteers who were on the ground throughout the event, working hard to keep operations running smoothly, and to the Community Council for giving up their time and working tirelessly to help make the weekend such a success. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the VHRA for bringing such a wonderful event to our community and for their continued partnership.

- A special thank you goes out to our dedicated wardens, Andrew Couzens and Rylan Allcock, and our beach parking collectors for their incredible work throughout the 2024 season. Thanks to their commitment, professionalism, and friendly approach, beach parking operations ran efficiently and smoothly.

Their efforts were clearly reflected in the year's results, beach parking revenue rose to £23,079.88, compared to £16,268.72 in 2023, representing an impressive increase of £6,811.16.

Well done to all involved! I'm sure everyone will agree that Andrew and Rylan were a fantastic addition to the Council's seasonal team and were warmly welcomed into the community.

As their employment concluded at the end of the summer season, we extend our sincere thanks to both for their hard work, dedication, and the positive impact they made. You will be greatly missed, thank you once again. Not to forget extended thanks to the Chair, Andrew Shaw and Councillor Steve Rundle for supporting the team.

- Filming income for 2025 totalled £7,882.00. While this represents a decrease from 2023, the Council is pleased with this figure given that no major productions were booked this year.

Pendine continues to be a sought-after filming location, and the Council remains proactive in promoting our unique coastal setting. We are actively advertising and reaching out to the industry in the hope of welcoming new productions to the village in the near future. We look forward to seeing Pendine featured in future film and television projects.

- August saw the launch of our very first Beach Sandcastle and Family Fun Day. Although the weather initially forced us to postpone, the rescheduled event was a

resounding success with a fantastic turnout. Attendees showcased some truly impressive sand sculptures, adding a splash of creativity to the shoreline.

We were thrilled to welcome donkeys back to the beach for the first time in over 20 years, much to the delight of families and children. Entertainment was provided by the ever-popular DJ Dusty Miller and the unforgettable Crazy Clayton, both of whom were adored by the younger attendees. The day was made even more vibrant with a wonderful array of stalls and traditional fairground rides.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the day possible. We look forward to building on this success and making the event even bigger and better in 2025.

- Following the completion of the final stages of development, the Pendine Motorhome Park known as Hafan Y Mor, officially opened in February 2024. We are proud to report a net income of £22,097.55 in our first year of operation.

With an average occupancy rate of approximately 29%, we consider this a fantastic achievement for a brand-new venture. Encouragingly, we are already seeing a strong pattern of return visitors, highlighting the park's growing popularity and potential.

- The end of November saw the return of our much-loved Christmas event—now in its second year and growing stronger! The evening brought the community together with fantastic stalls, a wonderfully upgraded Santa's Grotto, and a truly magical touch as snow began to fall, adding to the festive spirit.

A heartfelt thank you to LCA for the loan of the sleigh, which ensured Santa arrived in style. Special thanks also go to Santa himself, our dedicated volunteers, stall holders, Pastor Hadyn, and the children of Llanmiloe School, whose beautiful carol service warmed all our hearts. We also extend sincere thanks to the local businesses who kindly donated raffle prizes.

It was a truly special evening, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Christmas 2025.

- October saw the welcome return of the Dredgers Motocross event on the beach, now organised by Let's Go Racing. This high-energy spectacle brought valuable footfall into the village during the off-season, providing a fantastic boost for local businesses and creating a vibrant atmosphere in the quieter months.

Following its success, the event returned for a second outing in March 2025, once again drawing crowds and showcasing Pendine's unique ability to host exciting events all year round.

We're delighted to see this tradition continue and thank the organisers for their hard work and enthusiasm.

- In January, Pendine Community Council froze the Precept again at 21/22 levels. e.g. £45 on a band D property.
- In February 2025, we said farewell to our Vice Chair, **Cllr Sara Bruce-Goodwin**, following her resignation from the Council. We extend our **deepest gratitude** to Sara for her unwavering **commitment, energy, and dedication** during her time in office.

Sara played a **pivotal role** in many community projects, most notably her **huge involvement in the purchase of the slipway**—a milestone achievement that simply **would not have been possible without her drive and determination**. Her leadership and tireless efforts have left a lasting impact, and she leaves behind a legacy of meaningful contribution to the village.

Thank you, Sara, for everything you gave to the community and the Council. You will be greatly missed.

Vision Statement

The Community of Pendine is at the heart of everything we do. The needs and wishes of the residents are at the forefront of Pendine Community Council's priorities. Our aim is to foster community spirit and engagement to ensure Pendine is a safe, welcoming place to live and visit. Our objective is to enhance the facilities where possible for the well-being and benefit of all our residents and visitors.

Budget/Precept

The Precept for 24/25 was £7,838.55. Pendine Community Council's objective is to keep the precept as low as practically possible. We intend on keeping the Precept at current levels for 25/26.

The Precept is a Tax that the Community Council charges their local residents in order to cover spending on services delivered in the community. The Precept remains static at 24/25 levels for 25/26.

Audits

Each year an audit is conducted on all the council's financial activities.

Internal Audit

An Internal Audit was carried out in June 2024 for the year ending 31st March 2024.

External Audit

As of the end of the 2024/25 financial year, the Council had not yet received the audited accounts from Audit Wales. This matter remains ongoing, and the Council continues to seek updates to ensure the process is concluded in a timely manner.

Street Lighting

The council is responsible for several streetlights throughout the village. A number are under the responsibility of Carmarthenshire County Council. We kindly ask, any issues arising with the streetlights are reported to www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/travel-roads-parking/report-a-problem-on-a-road/report-a-faulty-street-light/.

In the event of an emergency please call 01267 234567 during office hours or 0300 333 2222 outside normal office hours.

Police

Pendine Community Council maintained strong links with Dyfed Powis Police and our Community support officers. We try to obtain regular updates on crime statistics for our area which are relatively low.

The current PCSO's for our area are:

Hefyn Davies

Sarah Thomas

They are contactable by calling 101 and asking to be transferred to Whitland Police Station.

Key Council objectives and priorities for the year 25/26

1. Putting the Community at the heart of all we do with more community events e.g Family Fun Day, Christmas, Produce Market.
2. We have begun development of a 5-year community plan, shaped by resident feedback, to ensure Pendine continues to thrive. This includes:
 - Targeted enhancement projects supported by our dedicated volunteer group
 - Ongoing repairs to the small and main slipways, including chains and posts
 - Promenade tidy-up and maintenance
 - Improvements to greywater disposal at Hafan y Môr
 - Installation of a new community planter, funded through the Christmas event and brought to life with help from our volunteers
 - Exploration of grant opportunities to support upgrades to key facilities such as the Village Hall and car park

Recognition and Thanks

Pendine Community Council would like to express their sincere thanks to:

- Sara Bruce-Goodwin, our sincere thanks to our Vice Chair following her resignation, for her dedication to the Council. Her hard work and commitment, especially in helping to secure the slipway purchase, have been vital to our success. Sara's contributions have played a significant role in shaping the future of our village.
- Shane Swale for composing our bespoke Tide Time tables which make Beach parking possible.
- All involved with the production and distribution of the Local Newsletter.
- All the volunteers who have assisted in events throughout the year for their hard work. We look forward to your continued support in 2025/26 and beyond.
- The RNLI lifeguards, for doing a great job keeping the beach safe for swimmers this summer season.
- Parkdean for their funding of the RNLI lifeguards for 2024 and allowing us to use the Scoops car park for events.
- Llanmiloe Community and Jamie Rugg for allowing Pendine Community Council to use the resource Centre for meetings.
- All the local businesses who donate raffle prizes for our community fundraising events.
- To Steve and Nicole, of Extreme Clean for assisting in tidying up the Community.
- To Andrew Couzens and Rylan Allcock, and our Beach Collectors for their contribution and service to Pendine Community Council.
- To Owen Bowen for his hard work tidying up the railings at the entrance to the Attractor project.