

LISVANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Lisvane Community Council (LCC) for the year ending 31 March 2023.

LCC is essentially a non-political Council and comprises of the following 10 Community Councillors all of whom are Lisvane residents:

Cllr Stephen Finch (Chairman)
Cllr Ron Kelly (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Steve Best
Cllr Clive Bolton
Cllr Helen Hancock
Cllr Vernon Hanson
Cllr David Jones
Cllr Eirlys McNeil-Watson
Cllr John Rees
Cllr Angela Whittle

Two groups report to the Council, namely the Staff Working Party and the Policy Committee:

Staff Working Party	Policy Committee
Cllr Eirlys McNeil-Watson Cllr Clive Bolton Cllr David Jones Cllr Ron Kelly	Cllr Steve Best Cllr Clive Bolton Cllr Vernon Hanson

The Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer is Mr Haydn Davies
7 Cherry Orchard Road, Lisvane, Cardiff, CF14 0UD
Email: clerk.lisvanecc@btinternet.com
Tel: 07979 530278

BUDGET

The Council's only significant source of **income** is its Precept. This is the amount that Cardiff Council collects from Lisvane residents for LCC as part of its Council Tax arrangements. The Precept in 2022-23 was £61,000. For the typical household in Lisvane this amounts to around £3 per month.

The Council's **expenditure** largely related to:

- Finance Costs (for redevelopment of Lisvane Old School Community Centre)
- Staff Salaries and Pensions
- Grants to community groups including Library to cover their rent and Lisvane Festival
- Funding to maintain the Community website
- Maintenance of Lisvane War Memorial

During the year, the Trustees of Lisvane Old School Community Centre were able to return £100k to LCC (which had effectively been provided as a bridging facility for VAT reclaims/contingency) and this enabled LCC to repay early a variable rate loan with the Public Works Loan Board.

A full breakdown of expenditure is available in the Annual Accounts. All Councillors waived an annual allowance payment to each of them of £150 and none claim the attendance allowance of £30 per meeting.

RELATIONSHIP WITH CARDIFF COUNCIL

The Council works closely with local Cardiff County Councillors Emma Reid-Jones, Sian-Elin Melbourne and John Lancaster and has a very good working relationship with Cardiff Council Senior Officials and Staff.

In January 2019, along with the other Community Councils in Cardiff, LCC signed a Charter with Cardiff Council which sets out a framework of how Community Councils and Cardiff Council can work together. Regular meetings are held with the Director of Legal and Governance at Cardiff Council along with meetings with the Head of Planning and Electoral Services Manager

TRAINING PLAN

All Community Councillors attend training courses as appropriate and LCC is a Member of One Voice Wales which undertakes most of the training needs of local Councils. A Training Plan for Members and staff has been published on the website.

AUDIT

Accounts ending 31 March 2023 will be subject to an Internal Audit by a qualified Accountant and also an External Audit by the Auditor General for Wales. The outcome of all Audits are published on the Council's Website.

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Representatives of the Cardiff Council Standards Committee periodically attend and observe meetings of the Council and then provide feedback. The last visit was 11 April 2022 where the management of the LCC meeting was described as "very good".

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2022-23

The Council's main objective was to make a success of the Lisvane Old School Community Centre following its recent redevelopment by working closely with its Trustees. An additional part time member of staff was appointed wef 1 April 2022 in order to ensure that the community centre is properly resourced and supported.

The Council will continue to scrutinise every planning application and to make comments to the Head of Planning where appropriate. Members are pleased that a number of its Objections made in 2022-23 were upheld by the Planning Authority.

The LCC is actively consulting on the Replacement Local Development Plan.

ASSETS

The Council owns the freehold land of the Lisvane Old School Community Centre which is leased to Trustees who run it.

The Council also owns the Lisvane War Memorial

ACTIVITIES

The Council's Village Plan team issued Welcome Packs to residents of the new housing developments.

The Village Plan team also raised a substantial sum of money as a donation to Cardiff Foodbank and also arranged for several food donation boxes to be located in strategic locations in Lisvane. The Village Plan team is now looking to address wellbeing issues within the community and in particular loneliness.

The Council provides funding for the community Library's annual rent which enables it to operate from the Lisvane Old School Community Centre

In conjunction with the local Churches and SW Police the Council is pleased to facilitate the annual Remembrance Sunday event at the War Memorial.

RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS

LCC is represented by three Members who have been appointed by LCC as Trustees of Lisvane Old School Community Centre as well as being represented on the governing body of Llysfaen Primary School by Cllr Hancock. Three Members are part of the Lisvane Environmental Group and several Members are actively involved with the Friends of Cefn Onn Parc and the Friends of Coed Y Felin Woods.

LCC is pleased that Tomorrow's Generation (TG) occupies the annexe at Lisvane Old School Community Centre. TG is a dyslexia school for young people (age 7-11).

LCC has a close working relationship with the local Police and in particular with the Police Constable Support Officer and is represented at PACT meetings by Cllr Hanson. PACT stands for Partnerships and Communities Together and is a forum where the Police and other community groups that Lisvane serve meet with residents.

The LCC is pleased to support the development plans to expand the Library offering within the LOSCC building.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Council's main achievement in 2022-23 was to jointly manage with Trustees the successful re-opening of Lisvane Old School Community Centre following a major redevelopment the previous year. Feedback from residents has been hugely positive and the centre has become a vibrant and key part of the community. Its popular café is used by

visitors of all age groups and a wide range of community activities take place at the centre 7 days a week. LCC was able to borrow sufficient funds from the UK Public Works Loan Board and Members are confident that the loan structuring and financial arrangements made will ensure that debt serviceability will continue to be affordable particularly as all existing borrowing is charged at a low fixed rate of interest.

The Council also manages a Lisvane community website. In addition to part of the website being used by LCC, much of it features details of most if not all of the community groups in Lisvane

During the year a village booklet was published and delivered to households giving details of key community and business contacts, activities and local information.

PRIORITIES

To build on the success of Lisvane Community Centre to date and to take it forward to meet the needs of an expanding community

SUMMARY BY CHAIR

This year has seen the culmination of many years hard work by members of the LCC and LOSCC Trustees with the opening of the magnificent Lisvane Community Centre, a facility which will provide a focal point for many village organisations and activities for years to come. The amount of work undertaken by those involved to deliver this project over a 15 year time span deserves our full recognition.

The rapidly changing environment around Lisvane will be a major focus of the Council over the next few years as it attempts to minimise the impact on current village life, whilst at the same time welcoming the large number of new families moving in around us. Dialogue with the key stakeholders in these developments will endeavour to ensure that the transport infrastructure, education, health facilities and local environment are all fully addressed to maintain a sensible local balance between town and country.

Cllr Steve Finch
Chairman
Lisvane Community Council