

LISVANE COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Lisvane Community Council (LCC) for the year ending 31 March 2024.

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

Cllr Ron Kelly (Chairman)
Cllr Steve Best (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Clive Bolton
Cllr Steve Finch
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 2023-24 was £67,000. 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 Lisvane Community Library Assoc (to cover their rent), Lisvane Men's Shed, Friends of Coed Y Felin, Friends of Parc Cefn Onn and others
- Funding to maintain the Community website
- Maintenance of Lisvane War Memorial

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 2024 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 visit of 11 April 2022 described the management of the LCC meeting as being "very good". At the time of writing, feedback for the visit of 12 February 2024 is awaited but is expected to be similarly positive.

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR 2023-24

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 2023-24 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 Village Plan team is a group comprising of representatives from various community groups and during 2023-24 was actively addressing wellbeing issues within the community. The group has supported a number of events aimed at tackling loneliness and exercise for older people.

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 expanding services of the Community Library and provided grant funding for their 2023 and 2024 Literary Festivals.

ACHIEVEMENTS

The Council's main achievement in 2023-24 was to jointly manage with Trustees the successful running of Lisvane Old School Community Centre following a major redevelopment of it. 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

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

The year has been extremely busy for all Councillors and thanks go to the support provided by the Clerk to the Council and his Assistant.

The Old School Community Centre has been used during the year and the LCC will continue to support its operation.

The LCC will be commenting on the proposed Cardiff Replacement LDP later in 2024 and all efforts will be made to ensure that additional large housing development will not destroy the village.

Cllr Ron Kelly
Chairman
Lisvane Community Council