

CYNGOR CYMUNED
BRYNCRUG
COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

Contents

	Page Number
Executive Summary/Chairman's Statement	3
1. Bryncrug – Our Area and Community Council Annual Report	4
2. Councillors and Sub-Committees	5
2.1 Councillors	
2.2 Meetings in 2024/25	
2.3 Sub Committees	
3. Key Contact and Information	6
4. Governance and Compliance	6
5. Our finances and how we spend the annual precept	7-8
5.1 Income	
5.2 Expenditure	
5.3 Donations	
5.4 Audit and Compliance	
6. Activities & Achievements	8-9
7. Councillors elected and co-opted since May 2022 Election	10

CHAIRMAN'S END OF YEAR REPORT

2024/25 started with six elected/co-opted Council members. Towards the end of 2024/25, a seventh co-opted member joined the Council. Two seats remain but due to the responsibilities put upon them with both the Council and the R J Roberts Charity, this is proving somewhat difficult to achieve.

We have worked tirelessly this year to maintain Dolgoch Falls (R J Roberts Charity) which has sustained substantial damage due to Storm Darragh and a section above the first waterfall will have to be cordoned off permanently due to being unstable. There is a helicopter lift planned to deliver materials to rectify step height issues with some of the bridges as well as footpaths maintenance. The Falls encourage many visitors to the area which generates substantial income, and benefits many of the businesses in the locality which are dependent on the seasonal trade so keeping on top of maintenance is crucial.

We have attempted maintenance on some of the assets in the village and will continue throughout 2025/26 to update and undertake maintenance on the remaining assets.

The Internal and full External Audit for Bryncrug Community Council (23/24) has been completed and Certificate of Completion received. The 2024/25 Audit, which is a basic audit, is prepared and ready for submission to Gwynedd Council Internal Auditor.

The 24/25 Audit for the R J Roberts Charity is in order and ready to be submitted to Gwynedd Council for inspection.

For the year 24/25 Councillors annual allowances remained at £208 - £156 towards home working expenses and £52 towards office consumables. This year, except for the newly appointed Councillor saw all Councillors claim this allowance.

Our Precept for 24/25 remained the same as 23/24 as our finances showed a stable position, which ultimately meant we could hold off any increase. With the current climate as it is, things are not easy for many people and therefore any small saving on the Council Tax bill is beneficial.

We continue to pay £2,000 per year to Gwynedd Council to keep the public toilets in Bryncrug open and maintained throughout the summer months, which benefits both tourists and locals.

I would wish to thank all the Councillors for their continued support and especially those who have assisted with volunteering work when requested. Lastly, but not least, the Clerks contribution has been phenomenal, and we can all see what a mess we were in at the time of her appointment but that we are in a much better position moving forward.

Hopefully we will continue to provide the community with the level of service expected in the 2025/26 year and can continue to make Bryncrug a better Community.

Alan Jones - Chairman of Bryncrug Community Council Date : 21/04/2025

BRYNCRUG

The Area is covered by Bryncrug Community Council along with the community ward of Dolgoch.

Bryncrug falls within the Eryri National Park and has a population of 622 on its Electoral Register (2011) with the community ward covering Dolgoch. The River Fathew flows through the village and into the River Dysynni. To the southwest of the village stood Ynysmaengwyn, a mansion built in 1758 but now demolished. To the south stood Cynfal motte-and-bailey castle, built in 1137 by Cadwaladr ap Gruffydd, brother of Owain Gwynedd. Mary Jones, famous for walking to Bala at the age of sixteen to buy a Bible, lived in the village when older, and was buried in the village after her death in 1864. The football club, Tywyn & Bryncrug FC play their home matches in the village.

Bryncrug Community Council are Trustees for the R J Roberts Charity, referred to locally as the Dolgoch Charity. The Charity is responsible for the maintenance of land open to the public. There are walking trails, bridges and a series of three waterfalls. Dolgoch is listed 4th on Trip Advisor as an attraction within the Eryri National Park and is within a 10- minute drive of Bryncrug.

1. Bryncrug - Our Area and Community Council Annual Report Community Council Annual Report 2024/25

In February 2021 the Community Council was advised of the introduction of a new duty under the Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act, to produce an annual report as soon as practicable after the 1st of April 2022 and annually thereafter.

There is no template for a community council annual report as the format and level of detail is expected to reflect the size and scope of council activity. However, the overarching purpose of the report is to provide the Community Council with an opportunity to detail its governance and financial arrangements, and demonstrate the work undertaken to both address any local concerns and improve the local area.

This is the fourth Annual Report for Bryncrug Community Council, which covers the financial year 2024/25.

2. Councillors and sub committees

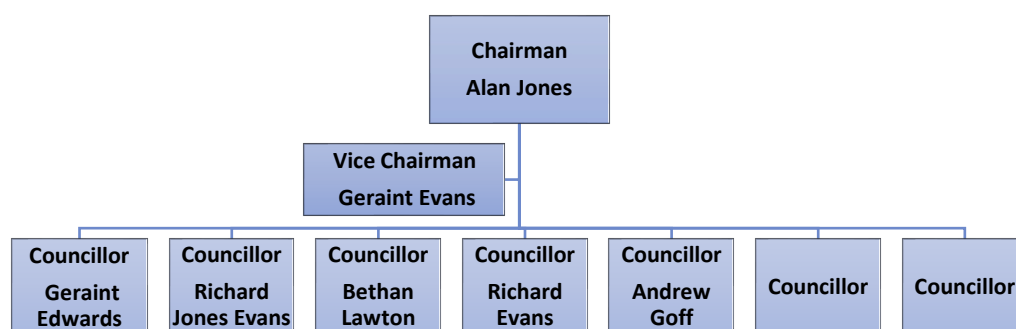
Bryncrug Community Council at 31.03.25 has seven elected members and holds eleven formal meetings a year. The meetings take place on the third Monday of the month except for August when there is no meeting.

A Chair and Vice-chair are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting in May. Community Councillors are elected every five years. The next election will be in 2027. The present Councillors are members of the Community Council until May 2027.

The County Councillor for the ward is invited to attend every meeting.

2.1 Our Councillors in 2024/25

During 2024/25 the elected and co-opted members comprised: - further details on page 10



County Councillor for Bryncrug – Mrs Bethan Lawton

Email: cynghorydd.bethanwynlawton@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Tel: 01654 711851 **Mobile:** 07747443619

Clerk to the Council – 15th May 2024 – present - Mrs Jane Jenkins

clerc@cyngorbryncrugcouncil.co.uk

2.2 Meetings in 2024/25

In 2024/25 there were twelve formal meetings held on the following dates: -

April – 15.04.24	May – 20.05.24	June – 17.06.24	July – 15.07.24
August – <i>no meeting</i>	September – 23.09.25	October – 21.10.24	November – 18.11.24
December – 16.12.24	January – 19.01.25	February – 17.02.25	March – 17.03.25

Dates of Meetings along with Minutes of the meetings held are made available on the village notice board and on the Bryncrug Community Council website.

2.3 Sub committees

There was no sub committees held during 2024/25.

3. Key contact and information

The key contact for the Community Council is

Clerk– Mrs Jane Jenkins

2 Tal y Bont

Dolgellau

Gwynedd

LL40 1UA

 - clerc@cyngorbryncrugcouncil.co.uk

Website – <https://www.cyngorbryncrugcouncil.co.uk>

4. Governance and Compliance

Bryncrug Community Council has several policies to support the governance of the Council which are updated and/or reviewed annually. These policies are available to view on the Council website.

Code of Conduct for Members

Standing Orders

Financial Regulations

S6. Environmental Policy

Donations Policy

GDPR – Data Protection

Asset Register

Risk Assessment Register

Training Policy

Language Policy

5. Our finances and how we spend the annual Precept

5.1 INCOME - The total income received in 2024/25 was **£26,074.39**.

Precept	£13,350.00
VAT	£ 860.38
Interest	£ 257.17
Maintenance	£ 223.23
Other (Admin)	£ 11,383.61

Note: Other (Admin) included the sum of £6,582.83 P&D Dolgoch Falls caused by a bank account issue preventing payments into the correct account.

5.2 EXPENDITURE – In 2024/25 the total expenditure was **£25,027.80**

Administration	£19,797.17
Utilities/Services	£ 263.32
Maintenance	£ 1,773.87
Donations	£ 300.00
VAT	£ 773.45

Note: Administration expenditure includes £6,582.83 transferred back to Dolgoch Falls for P&D.

The administration and the running costs for the Community Council form part of the highest spend in the year and includes insurance, audit payments, clerk's salary and expenses which during this year were higher due to additional admin required, licences and membership of the One Voice Wales.

The second largest area of spend relates to maintenance works and this includes grass cutting, public footpaths, and the playpark, replacing benches, maintaining defibrillators and a contribution of £2,000.00 to Gwynedd Council to keep the public toilets open throughout the summer months in Brynchrug.

5.3 Grants and Donations 2024/25

There were no grants obtained in this period.

Brynchrug Community Council made charity donations in 2024/25 totalling £300.00 to help support important local services and local organisations.

Those donations were to:

Dail Dysynni	£100.00
URDD Gobaith Cymru	£50.00

Swyddfa NFU	£50.00
Claire Davies	£100.00

5.4 Audit and Compliance

Audit for financial year 2024/25

As a small Community Council there are several annual financial actions that are required to be completed throughout the year. In 2024/25 the audit actions will comprise of preparation of the budget, receipt of the Audit Notice, close and balance the cash book for the year, and completing the annual return. An internal audit will be carried out by the Auditor's Office at Gwynedd Council and when complete will be sent to Audit Wales for the external audit. The Certificate from Audit Wales confirming completion of the 2023/24 financial year has been received.

6.Our Activities and Achievements in 2024/25

The activities and achievement of the Community Council in 2024/25 to improve the local area were many and include: -

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

- Responding to Snowdonia National Park planning applications.
- Responding to planning notifications from Gwynedd Council Planning.
- Responding to licensing matters from Gwynedd Council.
- Responding and Reviewing of Government consultations as requested.

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

- Reviewing of Gwynedd Highways works programmes.
- Liaising with Gwynedd Council, Highways Department on highway issues, including road closures and traffic management issues

SAFETY

- Arranging for annual ROSPA inspection to be carried out at play park.
- Reporting of overgrown trees and weeds, drainage issues, boundary wall damage, blocked footpaths, road marking refurbishment to Gwynedd Council
- Dealing with overgrown trees and weeds on public footpaths.

REPRESENTING COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Site visits with organisations i.e. Gwynedd Highways/ /ROSPA/Welsh Water/National Resources Wales
- Continuation of partnership with Gwynedd Council, and contribution made, for the provision of public toilets in Brynchrug.
- Maintenance of Dolgoch Falls and its associated assets
- Attending Remembrance Sunday to represent the local community.

FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

- Successful Internal and External Audit achieved for 2023/24.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- No increase in local precept for 2024/25 due to a stable financial situation
- Updated Asset Register, Risk Assessment Register for insurance purpose.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Updating and reviewing Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct for members, Donation Policy, S6 Environment Policy, and Training Policy.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

- Represented the Bryncreg area at Remembrance Sunday Church Service.
- Representation on local committees (Y Ganolfan) and community events.

ASSET MAINTENANCE

- Bus shelters, historic water pumps, Little Garden, benches and planters maintained and updated where required

REPRESENTATION

- Approximately 70% of Council meetings achieved 100% attendance.

7.Our Councillors

Cllr. Alan H Jones – alanhugh74@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr. Geraint Evans – stwmper75@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr. Richard J Evans – richlesa@aol.com

Cllr. Geraint Edwards – geraintnigeria@gmail.com

Cllr. Richard C Evans – cmjcynfal@hotmail.com

Cllr. Bethan Lawton – cynghorydd.bethanwynlawton@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Cllr. Andrew Goff – andywgoff@hotmail.com