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ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2026

'One Council Three Communities'



Cyngor Cymuned **Llanarmon yn Iâl** **Community Council**

Introduction

Welcome to this Annual Report I hope that you will enjoy reading about the work of Llanarmon-Yn-Iâl Community Council and the people we serve.

This annual report contains a summary of the work 'One Council, Three Communities' has carried out over the past 12 months.

I would like to invite you to the Annual Community Council Meeting on Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7pm in Canolfan Dewi Sant, Eryrys, CH7 4BX. The meeting will be your chance to meet, hear from and ask questions of your Community Councillors. *If you have any specific questions, please send them to the Clerk prior to the meeting.*

This is my fourth Annual Report that describes some of the ways in which we are working to deliver well-being for future generations of Llanarmon-Yn-Iâl, Eryrys and Graianrhyd residents. Due to a lack of applications for the Community Councillor positions during the May 2022 Elections and despite constant advertising and invitations to the Community we are running on a reduced members Council. We currently have vacancies for 3 Councillors. We have just 2 elected Community Council members (both from the previous Council) and 5 Co-opted Council members, who have worked hard to improve the facilities of our community.

The Council would like to show appreciation and thank our Clerk of the Council Mrs Norma Wright. Norma has served this Council since December 2007. Norma is the backbone of the Council, working tirelessly to ensure that we deliver services which benefit both our residents and visitors; 'Thank You' to Norma for her excellent work.

I would like to thank the individuals and organisations who have worked with us to improve the wellbeing of the communities in Llanarmon yn Iâl, Eryrys and Graianrhyd. The Council cannot work alone and relies on their effort and support to make a real difference.

We are especially pleased that during 2025, Phase 2 improvements took place at the Llanarmon Playing Field with the creation of a large play area. During the last 12 months, we engaged with the Community and School to gain feedback via Questionnaires regarding their wishes for the field. The grant was approved Spring 2025. Summer of 2025, was taken up by tender discussions and selection, with the work finally being completed in September.

Recent improvements to Graianrhyd Playing Field have been successful, with the field in daily use now. This project has been supported by a team of local volunteers.

Councillor Susan Jones
Chair Llanarmon-Yn-Iâl Community Council

This Annual Report Is about Llanarmon yn Ial Community Council

The Council

A Community Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own which is quite separate from that of its members. Its lawful acts, assets and liabilities are its own and not those of its individual members. Any decisions taken by the Community Council are the responsibility of the whole body, and it is irrelevant if any particular Member agreed or disagreed with any particular proposal.

A Community Council can legally raise money through the Precept – a levy which its residents pay through the Council Tax. (Our Precept was £23,562 in 2025/2026 and £24,740 Precept in 2026/2027). It also has a range of powers which allows it to spend this public money on the services which it provides. Parish/Town Councils were established in 1894 by an Act of Parliament and were further reformed into Community Councils by the Local Government Act 1972, when Wales was divided into communities.

The Community Council has a duty to ensure that the rules for the administration of the Council are followed—the Council must appoint a Chair, appoint a Clerk, appoint a Responsible Financial Officer, appoint an independent and competent internal auditor, if requested hold an Annual Meeting of the Council and keep records of all decisions related to Council business.

Council meetings are held once a month at 7pm on the first Wednesday, except for August when the Council is in recess. We hold an AGM in May each year and public meetings over issues when required. When a full council of 10 members of Council to represent around 1300 residents there are Committee meetings held on an ad hoc basis –at the moment due to so being only 7 councillors the whole council make all the decisions; as it isn't viable to have separate committees. When running with a full quota of councillors there could be Finance, Bonfire, Quarry, Community Development and Website Committees; others will be arranged as activities require i.e. Fund-Raising Committees.

Unlike County Councillors, they do not receive a wage but can receive £156 remuneration plus £52 for office consumables per annum, plus various other allowances (for child-minding, attendance allowance, taking an office of responsibility, financial loss travel & subsistence etc) which are paid in arrears in March. Councillors are all entitled to WAG mandatory set expenses payments. However, ALL current serving Llanarmon yn Ial Community Councillors have personally elected not to take any expenses. So, in other words, they really give their services free to the residents they represent.

All Councillors attendance records at the meetings are published on the webpage.

<https://www.llanarmon.com/council/councillors/attendance/>

Individual Community Councillors are elected by the electors of the community under Section 16 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972 every 5 years. A Councillor can also be returned by local by-election or co-option. Anyone elected as a councillor cannot act as a councillor until they have signed the formal declaration of acceptance of office.

This includes an undertaking to abide by the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council.

All Councillors declarations of interest are published on the webpage.

<https://www.llanarmon.com/council/councillors/declarations-of-interest/>

Members are also required to declare any gifts over the value of £25 and to declare interests which they have, for example, in any companies, associations or affiliations with groups, bodies or Individuals. It is the individual Councillor's duty to declare an interest and leave a meeting if any issue being discussed could be perceived as securing any type of advantage to the Member.

**Biodiversity by Llanarmon Yn Ial Community Council;
Report is available on the website**

Section 1: Biodiversity Report for Year Ending 2023 - 2025

Section

2: Action Plan for 2026 - 2028

Reference: Environment (Wales) Act 2015 Part 1 – Section 6

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

<https://www.llanarmon.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2022-2025-REPORT-2026-2028-ACTION-PLAN-Biodiversity.docx>



Councillors have a duty to act properly and responsibly in their role as a councillor. They have a responsibility to attend community council meetings when summoned to do so (reasons given for no attendance are minuted although not automatically accepted by the Council as valid). When summoned to a meeting, Councillors will have been provided with an agenda, minutes and reports. This allows them to have fully prepared themselves of any outstanding matters which they took responsibility for. Also, ensuring they are properly informed on the matters to be discussed, and have to act upon. They have a responsibility to act on behalf of the whole electorate, and should take an interest in all issues equally, and represent the views of the wider community in the discussions.

The Chair

The Chairperson is elected by the Members at the Council's Annual Meeting and serves usually only for 12 months, (but can be voted on for another term of office). The Chair is in a position of authority in presiding at meetings of a community council. With the advice of the Clerk, the Chair is responsible for ensuring that effective and lawful decisions are taken at the meetings of the Council.

There are several aspects to being a good Chairperson including giving their time with commitment to the role: being involved with the community, a willingness to appreciate the views and experiences of others and the ability to manage meetings in an orderly manner. It is important that there is mutual respect between the Chair and the Clerk and between the Chair and the other Members.

The Chair has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote. No single individual councillor (including the Chair) can make a decision on behalf of the Council. The Chair is responsible for involving all councillors in discussion and for ensuring that members keep to the point. The Chair is often the public face of the Council and in this respect will be expected to convey the corporate view and not his/her personal view.

The Clerk

The Clerk is employed by the Council to provide administrative and professional support for the Council's activities. Any other members of staff employed by the Council are responsible to the Clerk who is their line manager.

The Clerk's primary responsibility is to advise the council on whether its decisions are lawful and to recommend ways in which discussions can be progressed.

The Clerk takes their instruction from the Council as a whole and not from any individual Councillor. It is the Clerk's duty to implement the decisions taken by the Council, although certain actions can be delegated by the Council, so that the Clerk may act on their behalf.

The Clerk may also be the Council's Responsible Financial Officer. The role involves a broad spectrum of work and responsibilities, including financial management, personnel management, administration, estates management, project management, and health and safety.

Whilst it is good practice for the Clerk to consult on the content of an Agenda with the Chair, it is the Clerk who has the final say as the Council's "proper officer" and legal signatory of the agenda. All correspondence for the Council should be addressed to the Clerk.

Functions carried out by the Council

The Council is responsible for **three community graveyards**:

St Garmon's, Llanarmon with the grade two listed Hearse House. The graveyard walls are under constant review following the recent survey report; these will be revisited when any changes are noted. The 2 benches and flowering plants are now established as a "Reflections Memorial Garden" area set up at the back of the Church. Unsociable behaviour was reported last year and has unfortunately continued over the last 12 months. There are many empty glass alcohol bottles being dumped on graves. Due to this behaviour additional Security Cameras have been added on to the CCTV system at the Llanarmon shop to cover areas of the Graveyard. Signs have been put up to warn that CCTV is in operation, and it may lead to prosecution. Dog fouling has also been reported in the graveyard area.

Maes Y Droell cemetery is regularly maintained. With wild rare orchids being found – see our Biodiversity Report

Eryrys Church Yard is also regularly maintained. Volunteers are required to complete the Dry-Stone walling project on the boundary.

The Council is responsible for **two playgrounds**:

Llanarmon playing field - Phase 1 work was completed. This included hedge planting for the creation of wildlife corridors along with a number of fruit trees which once established will provide fruit for the Community and sensory plants. Internal fence work maintains a barrier to fence off the children's equipment and football pitch from dogs and dog fouling. The remaining side and top area are open to everyone including dogs. It was not designed or fenced off as a designated dog area, dogs should still be on leads and fully under control, with all fouling being picked up, bagged and binned. A ban of dogs had been suggested on the playing field due to the risks of dog attacks and contamination from fouling, so the compromise was to fence off the play equipment. For residents requiring designated Dog Secure areas, there are such areas run in the local towns such as Maes Barcio in Ruthin.

Phase 2 has also now been completed. Following a summer of tender reviews and lots of planning, Llanarmon Playing field has had a large overhaul of play equipment. A grant over £ 90,000 and additional money from the Council has provided a large area of equipment.

The Park was officially opened by Darren Millar on Saturday 25th October, with Refreshments and Entertainment provided by the Council.




FUN DAY


& OFFICIAL PARK OPENING

Llanarmon Playing Field
Saturday 25th October 2025
12 noon to 2 pm


 Project funded by
 The National Lottery & Community
 Everybody welcome!

DIWRNOD O HWYL
& ARORIAD SWYDDOGOL Y PARC
Maes Chwarae Llanarmon
Dydd Sadwrn 25 Hydref 2025

12 pm i 2 pm


FREE
 HOTDOGS &
 ICE CREAMS
 for Under
 16's

HOTDOGS A
 HUFEN IA AM
 DDIM i blant
 dan 16 oed



County Councillor Terry Mendies conjured up a trick or two, too!



Bonfire Night was again a successful event run by Council members and local volunteers; more volunteers are always needed. This year there was a Firework display only due to the complaints regarding the bonfire residues on the field.

A special “Thank you” to families of the Councillors who spent time setting up and lighting all the Fireworks.

All associated Risk Assessments had been completed before the event again by Council members.



The Community Field in Graianrhyd is being well used and is especially useful during all the rainy days. It is frequently used for Picnics etc. The field is in daily use.

Planters have been built for the field and are awaiting a load of soil to fill them ready for the planting for vegetable seeds.



Volunteer – Gwyndaf Jones has also been busy making Bug Houses and Bird Boxes for placement on Graianrhyd Field.





The Community Council owns two fields of grazing land which are both rented out.

Local charities and groups are encouraged to participate and requests for small grants are seriously considered. The Council takes its representative role on behalf of the community seriously.

Planning - The Community Council is not the planning authority and is not the decision maker in respect of any planning application. The Community Council is a consultee and is entitled to reach its own conclusions in respect of the representations that it wishes to make in respect of any application. The Community Council is clearly entitled to take account of the views of residents in its deliberations but is not required to have exactly the same opinion. All residents are reminded that anybody who wishes to, can submit their own representations directly to Denbighshire County Council in support, or as an objection.

A Prosperous Llanarmon yn Ial

At the end of the financial year 2025/2026 we had much less money to carry-over than for a number of years. This was in line with the budget to use the reserves for the Llanarmon Playing Field new play equipment being installed. We were also very pleased and with great thanks to the National Lottery for an amazing grant of £91,805. The Council maintains reserves to cover unexpected eventualities and considers its current level is acceptable to meet most contingencies.

Bank Statement Ending 31/3/26	£
Main Community Bank account	£7,901.51
Reserves (for next election, Graianrhyd play equipment)	£5,264.42
Defibrillator/Fireworks 3981	£5,866.24
	£19,032.17
<u>Annual Reconciliation</u>	
Opening balance B/F 1/4/25	£34,272.18
Income 2025/2026	£139,735.85
Less Expenses 2025/2026	£154,975.86
Cash balance 31/03/26 C/F	£19,032.17

This Council has engaged and purchased as much as possible with local business where appropriate and will support proposals for new business opportunity. Llanarmon yn Ial Community Council has supported a number of local groups and organisations who requested assistance and who meet or support residents in the Council's area. During the financial year, the following were awarded grants / donations.

£ 100.00 Llanarmon-Yn-Ial Show. Prize money for Children's Classes

£150.00 Ysgol Bro Famau (donation)

£49.35 Pensioners Event contribution

£300.00 Wales Air Ambulance (donation)

£50.00 The Royal British Legion (Poppy Wreath)

£1,600.00 Canolfan Dewi Sant (Insurance donation)

Supporting the local hall with a grant of £1,600.00 towards their Insurance costs, ensures Canolfan Dewi Sant remains open for the community.

Resilient Llanarmon-Yn-Ial

Llanarmon-Yn-Ial Community Council continues to offer training opportunities for the Clerk and councillors to ensure that the best possible service is provided to the public.

The Council retains active membership of One Voice Wales. This ensures that Llanarmon-Yn-Ial can express its views and be represented when policy decisions that may or do affect services provided to the public are being taken by government.

The council retains membership of The Society of Local Clerks Advice and guidance on legislation and procedures is regularly sought to ensure that the Clerk is properly informed on current and new legislation to ensure compliance and advise Council accordingly.

The Council maintains its commitment to send representatives to the Denbighshire County Borough Council Community Councils Liaison Forum.

A Healthier Llanarmon yn Ial

The Council embarked on a programme of improvements to its play facilities by facilitating the installation of the skate park in previous years, enabling children in their development of life skills. We are especially pleased as mentioned earlier that the park has been fully refurbished.

We are continually looking for a parcel of land in Eryrys for a play area. If there is ever to be a new housing development in Eryrys the Community Council will be pressing for a play area as part of any planning application and commuted sum.

It is the intension of the Community Council to aid further plans of the Graianrhyd community field, in partnership with a Village Fund Raising Team.

All the equipment will be inspected annually by an independent agency and is monitored weekly by a qualified but retired H&S Warden volunteer for the council. The Council has a responsibility to maintain the play equipment to a high safety standard and to keep the playing fields in good condition.

There continues to be a serious dog fouling problem in the community, but there were new official signs to discourage antisocial activity. The dog-bag dispensers at the entrance of the playing fields are continually refilled.

Vegetation is regularly cut back around the two playing fields, which are also regularly mowed.

A More Equal Llanarmon-Yn-Ial

The Council adopted its Equality and Diversity Scheme and strongly supports both equality and diversity in all of its activities. The Council donates to various community groups and to third party providers and charities that provide services for disadvantaged groups in the community.

Llanarmon-Yn-Ial of Cohesive Communities

The Community Council hopes to this year to be in a position to have a manned information stand by councillors with information, and advice. This will give additional support to The Llanarmon Show, and Tractor Run in Eryrys as a means of engaging with communities and providing an opportunity for residents to come together at a local venue.

The Council is mindful of the importance of Remembrance Sunday to all sectors of its communities, and Members attended commemoration events held locally.

The community council regularly receives complaints about inconsiderate parking in Llanarmon village. The inconsiderate parking can cause some real safety concerns,

disruption to the bus services, and the blockage of routes for larger vehicles as well inconvenience to neighbours. Residents and Visitors should be mindful of where they park always allowing accessible routes for the Emergency Services.

Similarly, in Eryrys, complaints about inconsiderate parking particularly when there is a successful function being held at the Community Centre. Llanarmon Community Council are still in consultation with Denbighshire County Council Highways, SSI officers, Country Services, Darren Millar, along with our County Councillor Terry Mendies in trying to create a parking area along the edge of Hen Ardd to elevate this problem.

The Council has established good working relationships with the Police and engages with local representatives to ensure that an exchange of information regarding its communities is always maintained.

In addition, we feel the CCTV, which is installed in Llanarmon Community Shop, contributes to a safer community and aids the Police in the detection of local crimes, particularly with the theft of central heating oil from residents' homes.

Llanarmon-Yn-Ial of Vibrant Culture & Welsh Language

Whilst Council is aware that the Welsh language is not the predominant language in the Llanarmon yn Ial area, there are pockets of Welsh language activity and the Council does take its role in promoting and increasing the visibility of the language, for example; Bilingual signage; Formal public notices arising, elections are published bilingually at Council premises, and other opportunities may be explored in future, in accordance with the Council's Welsh Language Scheme aspirations. The Council have been looking for grants / funding for Welsh Lessons to be held in Canolfan Dewi Sant.

Globally Responsible

Llanarmon-Yn-Ial Council has worked with Countryside Services, Environment Group and the Conservation Society to raise awareness of environmental matters and appreciates the work that they do in the community. Discussions with the local school and other environmental groups with regard to wide-ranging biodiversity and environmental activities, is hoped to be developed further.

The Council Biodiversity plan has been fully updated and a number of Action points raised for the next couple of years ahead.

<https://www.llanarmon.com/council/responsibilities/parks-open-spaces/>

<https://www.llanarmon.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2022-2025-REPORT-2026-2028-ACTION-PLAN-Biodiversity.docx>

We aim to hold a bi-annual cycle repair workshop with e-bikes demonstrations; a Bat & Bird box making workshops and Youth activities on Llanarmon Playing Field in the educational shelter. We hope to arrange the continued restoration of the walls in Dewi Sant by holding dry-stone walling workshops in Eryrys once the required stone has been sourced.

Grounds maintenance contracts are up-to-date, and we thank our Contractor Hugo Watts (and family) for their outstanding work around the villages, helping to protect the natural environment in all the council's grounds. Leaving borders around the boundaries of Llanarmon and Graianrhyd playing field uncut to attract more pollinators and wildlife.

The Council recycles their waste whenever possible and engages with users regarding waste management. Ink and toner cartridges are disposed of responsibly.

Competent Council

The Council is taking steps to satisfy tests of competency. A new Council was elected in May 2022, and further new members have since been coopted on the Council. Councillors are always provided with briefing papers to inform them of Council's policies, procedures and administrative arrangements, and where relevant, training opportunities are regularly made known to Members- the Council have a training plan in place.

Any Casual Vacancies will be advertised and filled as soon as practicable. Council is benefitting from the experience of its staff that are provided with training opportunities where relevant.

The Council's annual accounts are audited and scrutinised independently by JDH Services and then again by Audit Wales each year. The Council has effectively maintained its responsibilities, by setting budget levels which reflects the Council's philosophy and sound management of its financial systems. Audited Account are published on the website.

<https://www.llanarmon.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/MASTER-ACCOUNTS-2025-2026-LLan.xlsx>

The Community Council has no intention of accumulating funds. The money raised via the Precept is to be used for the good of the community in the many planned projects. The railings of Dewi Sant, Eryrys have been repainted and the stake park in Llanarmon has been repainted along with the goal posts. The next project hopefully will be installing play equipment into Graianhryd Playing Field.

Agendas, minutes, accounts and contact details can be viewed on the Llanarmon website and are placed on the three village notice boards after each meeting by the Clerk.

A Charter is in place to govern the Council's relationship with Denbighshire County Borough Council.

Staying Informed

As a Council we are always looking to ensure the community are kept up to date with the latest decisions of the Council and that we are aware of issues impacting those within the three villages.

Our main communication is through the Website www.llanarmon.com

The website is improving with Facebook and Whatsapp information, containing a wealth of information relating to the entire community, including;- Responsibilities and contact details for Councillors, Meeting agendas and minutes, News and Governance Documents.

During the years on Whatsapp residents were invited to express their views on matters affecting both the local area and the county. Graianrhyd residents were involved in a survey concerning the Graianrhyd Playing Field; and a public meeting will be held in July 2026 concerning issues raised.