

Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

Corris - Our Area and Community Council Annual Report



Corris Community Council

Is made up by 4 wards including the villages of
Corris - Corris Uchaf - Pantperthog - Aberllefenni.



Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

Introduction

At the beginning of 2021 the introduction of a new duty under the Local Government and Democracy (Wales) Act came into effect, requiring Community Councils to produce an annual report as soon as practicable after the 1st of April 2022 and annually thereafter. The purpose of the report is to provide the 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 our first report, hopefully you will find it informative.

Councillors

There are 9 seats on Corris Community Council. All Councillors sign a declaration of acceptance when accepting the position of councillor. They are part of the local government structure of Wales. They take on an unpaid position and whilst they do many acts voluntarily within the community, they are not volunteers.

Corris Community Councillors are as follows:

Cllr Simon Quincy (resigned June 21)
Cllr Rod Edwards (resigned April 22)
Cllr Helen Lewis (resigned July 21)
Cllr Kevin Richardson (resigned June 21)
Cllr. Janet Davies
Cllr. Tom Edwards
Cllr. Eirlys Jones
Cllr. Jayden Mumford (co-opted July 21)
Cllr. Janice Taylor (co-opted July 21)
Cllr. Sharon Wells
Cllr. Alex Jones (co-opted Sept 21)
Cllr. Marit Olsson

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman were elected during the Annual Meeting of the Council 13th May 2021.

Chair	Vice Chair
Cllr. Marit Olsson	Cllr. Rod Edwards

Meetings

Council meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of every month, except January and August, at 7pm in Corris Institute. Meetings were in previous years shared between Corris and Pantperthog. After the Covid-19 pandemic new Government legislation states that Councils should be able to offer hybrid meetings. Due to the necessity of being able to offer virtual meeting capabilities they are currently held in Corris Institute which has Wi-Fi.

Corris Community Council now offers hybrid meetings with the possibility for Councillors and members and public to join remotely.

Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

The meetings are structured around the agenda which is produced and publicised by the clerk the weekend before the meeting. Members of the public are welcome to attend and have the chance to speak at the beginning of the meeting, they must then remain silent unless the Chairman allows them to speak at any other point in the meeting. Members of the public will be asked to leave for matters which are confidential.

The council have formed two sub-committees. One to oversee the Community funds and one to oversee the Cemetery. The sub-committees have no authority to make decisions and are only to oversee and advise the full council of the situation when decisions are needing to be taken. The Corris Uchaf Community Group oversees and advises on the use of the funds raised from the sale of Eglwys Zinc. The Eglwys Zinc funds are restricted and can only be used for Corris Uchaf.

Sub-committee members are:

Community Funds

Cllr. J. Davies

Cllr. M. Olsson

Cllr. J. Mumford

Cemetery

Cllr. A. Jones

Cllr. E. Jones

Cllr. J. Mumford

Corris Community Council assets:

Corris Community Councils assets include: King George V playing fields, the orchard and folly, 2 playgrounds, benches, bus shelters, band instruments etc. A full list of assets can be found on the Corris Community Council website.

Budget/Precept

The Council's budget for 2021/22 was £11,135 and the precept requirement was £9,330. Here is a brief explanation of how the precept is calculated:

The budget for the Community Council was £11,135. The anticipated income would be made up of VAT reclaimed, cemetery fees, land rental, interest and bursaries estimated to £712. Keeping the precept to the same amount as financial year 2020/2021 £9330 would bring the total income to £10,042, leaving a shortfall of £1,093. In addition to this, there should also be at least 2-3 months expenditure buffer in the bank. The Council predicted a reserve carried forward at the end of the financial year (31 March 2021) £3,928. Using £1,093 of this to cover the budget would leave £2,836 as buffer at the end of the year. Based on these calculations the council decided to keep the precept at the 20/21 level. The Tax Base for the 2021-22 financial year of equivalent Band D properties is £296.90 and the cost per Band-D property: £31.42.

At the end of the financial year 31 March 2022 the council had actual spent £9,139.71. The council's full expenditure can be found on our website.

Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

Audits

Each year an Internal and External Audit is undertaken. The Internal Audit was completed in June 2021. The audit opinion was: **Assurance can be expressed in the governance arrangements and the financial statement of Corris Community Council for the 2021-22 financial year based on the tests conducted.** For the year ending 31 March 2021 there were no recommendations. The internal audit was undertaken by Gwynedd County Council.

The External Audit undertaken by Audit Wales has not been completed.

Annual Community Support

The council sets a budget annually to be able to offer financial assistance to local groups and organisations. Some is included in the general budget but the council also have access to a restricted fund of donated funds.

Applications are viewed in June and December.

In 2021 -2022 Contributions were given to the following groups:

Pantperthog village hall	£300
NSPCC	£ 25
Macmillan Cancer support	£ 25
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£ 50
Dawns I Bawb	£ 50
Air Ambulance	£100
Corris United Football Club	<u>£500</u>
TOTAL	<u>£1,050</u>

Community Engagement

During the year we have been involved with a number of community engagement initiatives including clean up days in the playground and cemetery

Corris Community Council maintains a strong link with North Wales Police and our Police Community, receiving regular emails to share with the community regarding scams and other matter arising in the community.

Playgrounds

The Community Council organised two clean-up days in the Corris playground (Nov and Feb). The days were advertised on Facebook in different groups. As this is a new initiative by the Council the attendance by the public was low but we hope this will grow with time.

In Corris Uchaf the days were organised by the Corris Uchaf Community Group.

During these days the shrubbery was cut back, edges weeded and safety matting cleaned. During the year Corris playground needed repairs done. In June, 2 flat swings and 2 cradle swings were replaced and the multi climb unit had the slide entry safety bar replaced. The cost of repairs was £1,958.06 plus VAT.

Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

In December, Corris Community Council secured a grant of £13,300 from Gwynedd County Council towards play equipment in Corris playground. Corris school council was asked to help to decide what equipment to purchase. After consultation with the other pupils, it was decided that a trampoline and a monkey bar was the most popular choice.

Due to long waiting times for the equipment following Covid-19 pandemic the equipment was installed in May 2022. The cost of the equipment was £ 14,595 plus VAT. Costs above the GCC grant was paid from the Community Funds (2022/23).

Further work is planned in both playgrounds in 2022/23.

Cemetery

In September the Corris Community Council arranged a clean-up day in the cemetery. Again mainly councillors attended with only a few people from the village taking part. The paths were cleaned off and later pressure washed.

The shed was cleaned out and some tools were purchased to make future clearing days easier. Some trees that were damaging the fence were cut down and the wood was donated to local businesses.

Due to the amount of work involved with the maintenance and safety of the cemetery a sub-committee was appointed in June 2021 to oversee the work needed.

Due to safety the risk, unstable headstones were taped off and adverts put in local papers asking relatives to contact the Council.

KGV, Community Orchard and other Council land

The fence in the King George V fields along the river was fixed to stop sheep entering the football field. Signs were put up by stile. A contract was signed with Corris United Football Club for the continued use of the field.

A contract was also signed for the Pump Track. The development of the pump track is progressing well.

Corris Community Council applied for and was awarded a 'Places for Nature' pack which included plants, raised beds and tools. These were installed in the Community Orchard. A new sign was also ordered and installed at the Orchard. A clean-up day was arranged to tidy up the orchard for the winter.

Due to the cost involved in the grass cutting contract it was necessary to put the contract out on tender. The tender was announced and advertised in September 2021. The appointed contractor started work in 2022/23 year.

Other work undertaken.

- ❖ Due to the amount of felling to be undertaken in the area the Community Council arranged meetings with NRW and Tillhill to discuss how the work would be undertaken and how to avoid, as far as possible, any timber being taken through the village. A site meeting was held with NRW in Aberllefenni led by Cllr Tom Edwards and Sam Brown from Tillhill attended the September meeting. There were a number of meetings all through the year with Tillhill and NRW. The Community Council was also in contact with all parties when complaints were made regarding lorries driving through the village

Corris Community Council Annual Report for the financial year 2021/22.

- ❖ From early in the year the Community Council was in discussions with C P Productions to secure Corris as one of the locations used in Netflix/Sony production of “Lady Chatterley’s lover”. After several meetings and negotiations Corris was confirmed as a film location. Local extras were recruited and the filming was completed in October 2021. C P Productions donated £5,000 to the Community Council which has been reserved to support community groups and projects.
- ❖ A bus shelter has been relocated to Aberllefenni.
- ❖ The Council supported the petition for a 30mph speed limit by Braich Goch.
- ❖ The Council signed a lease to take over the Corris Uchaf toilets for Community use.
- ❖ The Council observed the NHS day, Corris school made the banner placed in the archway of the Institute and the church bells rang 73 times at 8pm.
- ❖ New notice boards were commissioned for Corris, Aberllefenni and Pantperthog. (Corris Uchaf notice board was installed in 2020/21).
- ❖ The Council sold a small piece of land in Corris Uchaf. The funds were added to the Community Fund to be spent on support for community groups and projects.
- ❖ Gwynedd County Council were contacted 8 times regarding problems with roads.
- ❖ Gwynedd County Council were contacted 2 times regarding problems with waste.
- ❖ 4 issues were reported to NRW.
- ❖ The Council completed 7 surveys and consultations regarding developments in the local area.
- ❖ There was 1 funeral in the year and 2 headstones were relaced in the cemetery.
- ❖ A Facebook page was created for information.

Key Council Objectives for the Year 2022/23

- Improve playground facilities.
- Further improvements of safety issues in the cemetery,
- Further community engagement

Budget – 2022/23

The approved budget for 2022/23 was £13,160 with a precept request of £9,330 (same as 2020/21 and 2021/22). At the start of this financial year the council held £21,094.56 in the account whereof £17,524.80 was to be paid towards the installation of the playground equipment.

For more information about the council, council business and to see regular updates please view our website:

[Cyngor Cymuned Corris Community Council](#)

Clerk: Sarah Mumford, The Institute Corris, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 9SP.

Tel: 07894451103

Email: corriscommunitycouncil@gmail.com