



VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2025 / 2026

Our vision: Valley — a place where individuals and families thrive, and where people want to live.



In memory of Councillor Ken Taylor

1955 – 2026



Cllr Ken Taylor served Valley Community Council with dedication from June 2013 until his passing on 18 May 2026. During his years of service, he held the offices of Vice-Chairman and Chairman, always placing the interests of the community at the heart of his work.

A passionate advocate for Valley and a proud supporter of the Welsh language and local community life, Ken's commitment, wisdom and good humour left a lasting impression on fellow councillors, residents and all who had the privilege of working alongside him.

Valley Community Council records its sincere gratitude for his dedication to public service and respectfully dedicates this report to his memory.

May he rest in peace, and may his contribution to the community be remembered with lasting appreciation.



Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the Annual Report of Valley Community Council for the 2025/26 financial year.

Last year was a year of building; this has been a year of looking after what we have built, and of putting the Council itself on a firmer footing for the years ahead.

The year began well. In May we officially opened the new basketball court at Parc Mwd, a facility that exists because two young people in our community asked for it. That is worth saying plainly: you asked, we listened, and it was built.

Alongside the opening we launched a community survey, because the same principle should shape everything else we do. The pupils of Ysgol Gymuned y Fali have since taken part in a survey of their own, designed jointly with the Council, and what they have told us, including that some do not always feel safe at Parc Mwd, will feed directly into the review of our Council Plan.

Valley Community Council serves a population of approximately 2,326 residents across the community of Valley (Y Fali), encompassing the village of Valley, Llanynghenedl, parts of Four Mile Bridge and the surrounding rural areas, according to the 2021 Census.

Our largest undertaking was at Ynys Wen. The drainage works were completed in November at a total cost of £32,100, funded partly by a Public Works Loan Board loan and partly from reserves, with remedial work carried out in the spring. It is not a project that lends itself to a photograph, but it was a necessary one, and my thanks go to Cllr Bill Rogerson MBE and the Ynys Wen committee for seeing it through, along with the risk assessment and headstone works that followed.

We also took on responsibility for the play area at Parc Mwd and secured £10,000 towards its improvement, together with a Crime Prevention Fund grant for new signage. Set against that progress is the persistent vandalism at the park, which continues to divert money that ought to be spent on improvement into repair instead.

I am grateful to our local PCSOs for their increased presence and for the police surgery held at the Pavilion, and to the schoolchildren whose own designs now appear on the dog-waste signage around the village.



The new basketball court at Parc Mwd, officially opened in May 2025.



Chairman's Foreword

continued

There were significant changes within the Council. In September we said goodbye to our Clerk, Mrs Rhianwen Sheldon, after two and a half years of steadfast service, during which the way this Council operates changed a great deal for the better. In September we welcomed Ms Anwen Jones as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and I want to record my thanks for the calm and thorough way she has taken up the role.

Among much else, this year has brought a full review of our policies, a new Biodiversity Plan, an updated training plan, an overhaul of our IT and translation equipment, and quarterly budget monitoring that gives members a much clearer view of the Council's finances.

We also welcomed new members to the Council and said farewell to others, and I thank every councillor for the hours they give. A great deal of this Council's work is done quietly, in the background and without reward.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairs of the Council's committees, particularly the Finance and Personnel Committee, the Parc Mwd Committee, and the Parks and Ynys Wen Committee. Their leadership, commitment and hard work have been invaluable in overseeing these important areas and ensuring that the Council's responsibilities are carried out effectively. I am equally grateful to all committee members for the time, knowledge and dedication they have contributed throughout the year.

I will not pretend the financial picture is an easy one. Burial income at Ynys Wen fell sharply this year, and unbudgeted costs — vandalism chief among them — made the year a demanding one to manage. After careful scrutiny by the Finance and Personnel Committee, the Council set a precept of £68,100.79 for 2026/27, an increase of 11.65%. No council makes such a decision lightly, and we took it only after examining every heading of expenditure and reviewing every commitment, including the free public car park we continue to fund on Station Road. We will go on seeking grant funding wherever it is available so that the burden carried by residents is kept as low as it reasonably can be.

Looking ahead, the Community Benefit Fund associated with the National Grid works at Penrhos represents a genuine opportunity for Valley, and I would encourage every resident to take part in that consultation when it opens. Our twinning arrangement, still in its early stages, is intended as a long-term investment in our young people. And the community consultation now under way will shape a refreshed set of aims and objectives — a plan built on what residents have actually told us they want.

It is a great honour to Chair a Council that serves the community in which I was brought up and educated. Valley has played an important part in my life, and I remain deeply committed to supporting its residents and protecting the character of the community.

As Chairman, I will continue to work with fellow councillors, the Clerk and local organisations to serve the people of Valley, listen to residents and make responsible decisions. I am also committed to ensuring that public money is managed carefully, that the Council delivers value for money and that our local facilities and services continue to meet the needs of the community.

It is a responsibility I do not take lightly, and I will continue to serve with integrity and dedication.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks to staff and learners of Ysgol Gymuned y Fali, Valley Football Club, the Valley Community Group and the Bro'r Llynnoedd Alliance, as well as the many volunteers who give their time to support litter-picks, planting days and other community activities. Their commitment, enthusiasm and community spirit help to make Valley the special place it is today. This Council exists to serve you, and we will continue to listen, work collaboratively and act in the best interests of everyone who lives and works in our community.



CLlr Neil R Tuck, Chairman / Cadeirydd, Valley Community Council



The Chairman and Vice-Chairman present a farewell gift to the departing Clerk, Rhianwen Sheldon.



Year at a Glance



13 Councillors

serving four wards



£106,683

total income received in 2025/26



£10,100

grant funding secured



Parc Mwd

improvements delivered



New bike rack installed

in Valley car park



New Clerk

appointed to her role in September 2025



Precept received

£60,995



£103,961

total expenditure in 2025/26



£26,001

earmarked & general reserves maintained



Ynys Wen

drainage project completed



New dog-waste signs

installed across the village



£54,005 year-end balance

the Council remains financially secure



Learners from Ysgol Gymuned y Fali designed signs for Parc Mwd, urging dog owners to pick up after their dogs!



The Chairman receives a cheque from PCSO Ashley Dacre, funding new signage to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Further information — full accounts, minutes, policies and audit documents:

www.valley-community-council.wales

Representing you



Councillors present a farewell gift to the departing Clerk, Rhianwen Sheldon, in appreciation of her service.

Valley Community Council represents 4 wards within the community

- 13 Community Councillors representing the four wards of Gorad, Village, West and Llanynghenedl, serving a community of around 2,326 residents (2021 Census).
- Membership changed during the year, with vacancies arising from time to time. These were managed through the appropriate election and co-option procedures in accordance with statutory requirements.
- Three sub-committees and one working group support the Council's work, covering finance and personnel, Parc Mwd, parks and Ynys Wen Cemetery, and report their recommendations to the Full Council.
- The Council employs one member of staff: the Clerk to the Council, who also serves as the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) and supports the Council in its administration, governance and financial management.

Leadership

Chairman

Cllr Neil Tuck

 chairman@valley-community-council.wales

Vice-Chairman

Cllr Gordon Browne MBE

Vision & Mission

Vision

Valley — a place where individuals and families thrive, and where people want to live.

Mission

To engage with the community and do our utmost for every resident.

For full membership details, please see the website
www.valley-community-council.wales

Key Achievements 2025/26

Supporting residents, improving local spaces, and representing your voice.



Open & transparent governance

The Council continued to hold public meetings, publish agendas and minutes online and review its key governance policies.



Listening to the community

Residents were engaged through consultations, community events and correspondence, with local concerns raised with partner organisations.



Investing in local spaces

Significant drainage improvement works were completed at Ynys Wen Cemetery and the programme of improvements at Parc Mwd continued.



Improving Ynys Wen Cemetery

Remedial works were carried out to headstones following safety assessments, improved signage was installed and long-term maintenance continued.



Enhancing Parc Mwd

New surfacing, gates and posts were installed, together with practical works making the site safer and more accessible for the community.



New basketball facilities

The new court at Parc Mwd was formally opened in May 2025 and continues to be enjoyed by children and young people across the village.



Investing in play facilities

A grant of £10,000 was secured through the Play Space Improvement Fund and used to improve and repair local play equipment.



Community safety

The Council worked closely with North Wales Police and local PCSOs, raising vandalism, anti-social behaviour and parking concerns.

PROUD TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF VALLEY

Key Achievements continued

Sound governance, strong partnerships and support for local life.



Improved security at Parc Mwd

Support was secured through crime-prevention funding and invested in CCTV, signage and improved security at the Pavilion.



Smooth staffing transition

A new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer were appointed, ensuring continuity of Council services throughout the changeover.



Supporting the environment

The Council continued its biodiversity work and environmental responsibilities while maintaining and improving community green spaces.



Supporting the local economy

The free community car park in Valley continued to be provided and maintained, supporting residents, visitors and local businesses.



Supporting our community

A total of £300 was awarded in donations and grants to local groups, voluntary organisations and charitable causes during the year.



Strengthening governance

Key policies and governance documents were reviewed and adopted, strengthening financial controls, training and statutory compliance.



Improving communication

Continued investment in the website and public communications made notices, minutes and updates easier for residents to access.



Working in partnership

Positive working relationships were maintained with Isle of Anglesey County Council, North Wales Police and local community groups.

WORKING TOGETHER TO DELIVER FOR VALLEY

More of What We Delivered

Practical work, local traditions and care for the places we share.



Supporting the Welsh language

Bilingual communications, documents and meetings continued, with investment in translation equipment so members and residents can take part in either language.



Supporting Valley's Christmas tradition

A £100 contribution was provided towards the village Christmas tree in 2025, helping the Community Group continue the tradition.



Maintaining lifesaving equipment

Oversight of the Gorad defibrillator continued, working with its guardians to keep the facility available and properly managed.



Strengthening links with the school

Direct Council representation on the governing body of Ysgol Gymuned y Fali was maintained, with a new representative appointed.



Planned maintenance of parks and play areas

A 2025/26 Repairs and Improvements Action Plan was introduced and RoSPA inspections of Spencer Road and Parc Mwd were commissioned.



Councillor and staff development

An updated Council Training Plan was reviewed and formally approved, including future training and budget requirements.



Developing biodiversity improvements

The One Voice Wales Biodiversity Officer visited Valley in March 2026, and the Council's three-yearly biodiversity report has been completed and published on the website.



Supporting Remembrance

Valley's annual Remembrance commemorations continued to be supported, including services at St Michael's Church, Ynys Wen Cemetery and the school.



Acting on neglected properties

Concerns were raised about unsafe and neglected buildings on Station Road, where the County Council has previously acted to make a property safe.



Caring for community assets

The Millennium benches were repainted and repair work was carried out to the wall at Parc Mwd.



Hybrid meetings

Meetings continued to be held on a multi-location basis, so members and residents can join either in person or online.

SMALL PROJECTS, REAL DIFFERENCE

How we managed and invested your money

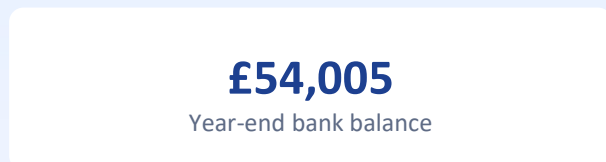


WHERE OUR FUNDING CAME FROM?

£60,995 Council Precept
£10,100 Grants & external funding
£35,588 Local income (fees & services)

HOW THE MONEY WAS USED?

- Maintaining parks and open spaces
- Ynys Wen Cemetery improvements
- Community safety initiatives
- Day-to-day services and repairs



Spending was carefully managed throughout the year, ensuring resources were used efficiently while continuing to deliver key services and improvements for the community.

Where our £106,683 income came from



The Council remains in a strong and stable financial position moving into 2026/27.

Finance & Personnel Committee minutes and budget monitoring:
www.valley-community-council.wales

Governance & Transparency



Code of Conduct

All councillors are required to follow the Code of Conduct and are offered training to support their understanding of their responsibilities in public office.



Published online

Agendas, minutes and policies are published online — visit our website to view them at any time.



Public meetings

Decisions are made openly at public meetings. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings that are open to the public, in person or online.



Financial oversight

Financial regulations have been updated, with regular checks and audits ensuring money is well managed.



Training

Councillors and the Clerk are offered training opportunities to support them in their roles.

Meeting attendance

29 formal Council and committee meetings were held during the year.

Community Council

76%

Finance & Personnel

90%

Parks

85%

Ynys Wen Cemetery

90%



Councillors thank Padre Mike Hall in recognition of his valuable contribution to the community.



**OPEN, ACCOUNTABLE AND WORKING FOR OUR
COMMUNITY**

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

Our Priorities

-  Maintain and improve parks and open spaces
-  Continue works at Ynys Wen Cemetery
-  Invest in Parc Mwd and community facilities
-  Maintain free village parking for residents

Financial Focus

-  Deliver a balanced budget for 2026/27
-  Manage rising costs and inflation pressures
-  Maintain appropriate financial reserves
-  Seek external funding to support projects

Planning for the longer term

Maintain

We will continue to prioritise essential repairs and maintenance across Council-owned facilities and public spaces, ensuring that they remain safe, accessible and well maintained for residents and visitors.

Sustain

We will manage increasing service and operational costs responsibly, balancing financial pressures with the need to protect essential services and maintain sound financial management.

Deliver

We will continue to deliver good value for residents by focusing resources where they can make the greatest difference and ensuring that Council services remain effective, responsive and relevant to local needs.

Invest

We will seek opportunities to invest in community facilities and public spaces, making the best use of available grants and external funding to support improvements and long-term development.

Protect

We will continue to protect Council assets and community spaces by responding to vandalism, improving security where necessary and ensuring that facilities remain safe, welcoming and available for everyone to enjoy.

Engage

We will strengthen our engagement with residents, local organisations, volunteers and community partners, encouraging greater involvement in projects and working together to improve Valley for the benefit of the whole community.

COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE



Contact Details



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Address

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Residents are welcome to attend Council meetings that are open to the public, in person or online, and are given a reasonable opportunity to make representations about any business to be discussed at the meeting.

Residents are also welcome to forward concerns to the Clerk.

Meeting dates, agendas and updates are available on our website.

This Annual Report was approved and adopted by Valley Community Council on 16 September 2026 (Minute Reference: 107/2627).