



ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

of

Cowbridge (Ancient Borough) with Llanblethian Town Council

Contents Page

Contents	Page
About Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council	3
Message from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor	4
Community Well-being in Cowbridge	5
Town Council Amenities, Assets & Services	9
Relationship with the Vale of Glamorgan Council	10
Your Town Councillors	12
Councillor Training	13
Meet Your Town Councillors	14
Councillor Surgeries	17
Council Meetings	18
Public Access to Meetings and Committees	19
Accessing Meetings and Committees	19
Accessing Council Information	20
Council Officers and Staff	21
Finances	22
Audit	24
Grant Aid	24
Placemaking	25
Hiring Cowbridge Town Hall	28
Cowbridge Museum	29
Cowbridge Community Cinema	30
Community Events Group	30
Community Events	31
Contact Us	32

About Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is a local government body responsible for the administration of the town of Cowbridge with Llanblethian in the Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. The Town Council operates at the most local level of government and represents the interests of the local community.

The responsibilities of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council typically include the management and maintenance of the local amenities and facilities it owns, including Twt Park, Southgate Park, Limes Cemetery and the Town Hall on the High Street. It is also involved in local planning matters, commenting on planning applications within the town's jurisdiction. The Council works closely with the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council to champion local needs directly, such as the joint Placemaking Plan and lobbying on behalf of the town for service improvements.



Additionally, the Town Council organises and supports local events and initiatives to enhance the community's well-being.

The Town Council meets monthly to discuss and make decisions on matters affecting Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin. These meetings are open to the public, allowing residents to attend and express their views or concerns.

The Town Council also encourages community engagement and has sought feedback or input from residents on various issues via consultations, Councillor Surgeries and social media.

The Town Council office is located at Cowbridge Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD.

The Town Hall office is open Monday to Friday from 9.30am and has this year extended its opening hours to 2pm. Please feel free to drop in to see the Chief Officer and Deputy Chief Officer within these hours. Alternatively, should you wish to arrange to meet with the Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer outside of these hours, please contact us to arrange this.

Message from the Mayor Councillor Geraint Baty



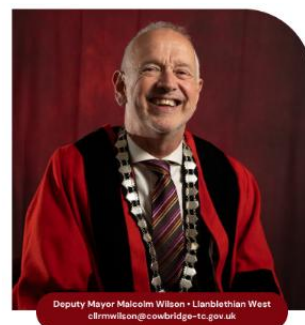
It has been a special honour for me to serve as Mayor for our Ancient Borough for the last civic year. A year I approached with some trepidation turned out to be a tremendous experience. My gratitude to our hardworking staff and my fellow Councillors for making it a productive as well as a pleasurable year.

The Placemaking Plan is well and truly established and we are starting to see the benefits. Our events, such as the May Fayre and Christmas Parade were bigger and better than ever and as usual, our traditional Civic Parade and Remembrance Service provided great spectacle. More plans and strategies are also under way.

I would like to thank my family and friends for their fantastic support throughout the year for my charitable events and coffee mornings. I was delighted to raise almost £5,000 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. A special thank you to my daughter Mayoress Hannah who was by my side throughout. I look forward to next year continuing all the good work under the leadership of Mayor Councillor Malcolm Wilson, who was a great support to me as Deputy.

Message from the Deputy Mayor

It has been a privilege to serve as the Deputy Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council during the 2025-2026 civic year. Supporting Mayor Councillor Geraint Baty throughout his tenure has been a rewarding experience. Geraint has led our community with dedication, and an unwavering commitment to the town, and working alongside him has provided invaluable insights into the enduring strength of our local civic traditions.



Together, we have navigated a busy and productive year, engaging with residents, supporting local initiatives including starting to implement our placemaking plans, developing a scheme to refurbish the town hall, and championing the unique heritage of our beautiful market town. This collaborative experience has laid a firm foundation for the year ahead, ensuring continuity and stability for the council's ongoing projects.

Looking forward to the 2026-2027 civic year, I am deeply honoured to step into the role of Mayor for a second time. It is a profound privilege to represent Cowbridge and Llanblethian once again, and I am eager to build upon the momentum generated over the past twelve months. A core priority for my upcoming mayoral term will be supporting a cause very close to my heart: Dementia Friendly Cowbridge.

This fantastic local charity does vital work in our community, fostering inclusion, raising awareness, and providing essential support networks for individuals living with dementia and their families. Throughout the coming year, our civic events and fundraising efforts will be dedicated to championing this wonderful organisation. By working together, we can ensure that Cowbridge remains a compassionate, supportive, and truly inclusive place for everyone. I look forward to working with my fellow councillors and the wider community to make the coming year a resounding success.

Community Well-being in Cowbridge

The *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (“the Act”) aims to improve the social, economic, environments and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act is seeking a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long-term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

The Act requires us to “act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. This requires us to continually reflect upon the five ways of working set out in the Act:

Long Term

Integration

Involvement

Collaboration

Prevention

The Seven National Well-being Goals

To create an improved Wales for residents now and into the future, the Act sets out 7 national wellbeing goals:



Credit: Welsh Government

The Town Council has a duty to take reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives as set out in the Vale of Glamorgan Public Service Board Well-being Plan 2023-2028 (“the Well-being Plan”). It also has a statutory obligation to publish an annual report of the progress made by the Town Council towards the Well-being Plan to ensure transparency and accountability.

Working Towards the Three Vale Well-Being Objectives

To achieve the National Well-being Goals set out in the Act, The Vale of Glamorgan Council has set 3 new Well-being Objectives in their Plan to achieve the vision of the future throughout 2023 to 2028, to consider within the Cowbridge context:

- 1. A more resilient and greener Vale** By understanding and making the changes necessary as individuals, communities and organisations in response to the climate and nature emergencies.

What we have achieved so far:

The Town Council now leases an electric van as part of making changes to make the Vale greener. The new vehicle does not produce emissions which are harmful to the environment, reduces noise pollution and has a lower carbon footprint.

The Town Council includes in its bio-diversity plan the planting of trees and wildflowers, the provision of summer flower displays on the High Street, planters on the riverside and in the Council parks, cemetery and green areas. These are maintained throughout the spring and summer months and throughout the year, as necessary.

We have installed a recycled plastic Coronation Bench in the Town.

Our team regularly monitors, evaluates and assesses the impact of our bio-diversity initiatives. By collaborating with local organisations, we strive to achieve a well-rounded approach to conservation.

We believe that conserving bio-diversity is a collective responsibility. We actively encourage community involvement and engagement in our conservation efforts. By raising awareness and fostering a sense of ownership among our residents, we create a stronger commitment to protecting our natural environment.

Young people from local schools have taken part in the Town Council's bio-diversity project, planting trees, placing bug and bat boxes and planting wildflowers.

The 2023-2025 Section 6 Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Bio-Diversity Report was published following a review of our bio-diversity actions over the past 3 years. A copy of this report can be found on our website at: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Cowbridge-Town-Council-Biodiversity-Report-Section-6-2023-2025.pdf> or can be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

Regular bio-diversity updates can be found on the bio-diversity page of our website: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/biodiversity/>.

Future Priorities

Continually monitor and improve our bio-diversity

Encourage community collaboration

Engage with schools to take part in bio-diversity initiatives throughout the year

2. **A more active and healthier Vale** By encouraging and enabling people of all ages to be more active and to promote the benefits of embracing a healthier lifestyle.

What we have achieved so far:

The Town Council promotes a healthy lifestyle for all. Walking and cycling are encouraged, with numerous signed footpaths across the town.

We have, through section 106 financial contribution, funded outdoor exercise machines in Bear Fields to promote fitness and mobility at no cost.

As part of Placemaking, we have collaborated with the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the consultation and design of an accessible and inclusive skatepark in Bear Fields. The Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) has also been improved for sport and running activities, promoting active living for all ages.

We have also worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council who, following a public consultation, are now in the planning and development stages of renewing the footpath and steps across Police Fields and Geraint's Way, helping to enable and encourage walking and cycling.

We are working towards developing further Walking Routes around Cowbridge.

We have set up a Footpath Forum Group with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, walking group Valeways and local Community Councils around Cowbridge.

We have funded equipment for a Cowbridge running group.

We have funded a health and well-being event for youth groups and young people.

We maintain the safety and upkeep of playground and sporting equipment across Cowbridge.

There are many independent community groups based regularly at Town Hall promoting health and fitness, such as Zumba classes, Line Dancing and Pilates. Well-being and physical health for older people is promoted by groups such as Cowbridge Dementia Friendly and U3A.

Future Priorities

Improving walking, cycling and running paths as part of our Placemaking Plan

Improving Active Travel, collaborating further with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, to ensure people are connected with their communities

Support local Park Runs and charity Fun Runs in Cowbridge

Improve transport links

3. **A more equitable and connected Vale** By tackling the inequities that exist across the Vale, engaging with our communities and providing better opportunities and support to make a lasting difference.

What we have achieved so far:

Town Hall Maintenance and urgent work on Grade II* Listed Building.

We have prepared a comprehensive bid for funds to refurbish the Town Hall to improve a key community space used by and connecting all.

We have set up a community council group to increase communications with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, allowing further opportunities to advocate on behalf of the community.

A monthly reduced-price community cinema has been set up in Town Hall.

We have promoted and celebrated diversity and inclusion in Cowbridge by flying flags, lighting up Town Hall and publishing information on our website and social media with Pride, Black History Month, Autism Awareness, Mental Health Awareness, Diwali and Rosh Hashanah.

We have run a Warm Space in Town Hall throughout October to February, providing a family, warm and safe space with free food and drinks for everyone, providing support to the most vulnerable within our community.

Future Priorities

Placemaking Plan, making improvements to Town Hall to reflect local needs and bring the community together

Improving accessibility and inclusivity for all

Arrange free community groups that can be enjoyed by all

Promoting and celebrating diversity and inclusion

Identifying and providing support to the most vulnerable within our community

To find out more, you can find a link to a summary of the Well-being Act:

<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf>

A link to the Vale's 2023-2028 Well-being Plan: [Full-Vale-PSB-Well-being-Plan-2023-2028-Eng.pdf](#)

Town Council Amenities, Assets and Services

Cowbridge Town Council is responsible for managing the following principal assets and services:

Cowbridge Town Hall (<i>Grade II* Listed Building</i>)
The Limes Cemetery
Southgate Park
Twt Park
Llanblethian Playing Fields
The Limes Shed
Cowbridge War Memorial
Land by the Ford, Factory Road, Llanblethian
Emms Cottage, Llanblethian
Village Green, Piccadilly, Llanblethian
Holy Cross Churchyard
Bins in Limes Cemetery, Southgate Park, Twt Park and Llanblethian Playing Fields



Southgate Park



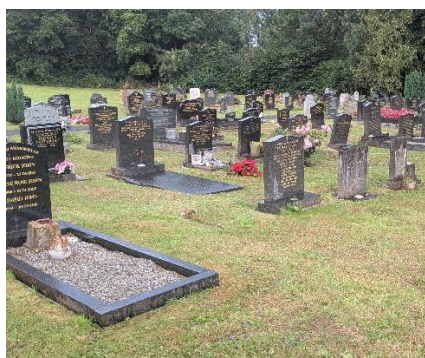
Twt Park



Llanblethian Playing Fields



Cowbridge War Memorial



The Limes Cemetery



Holy Cross Churchyard



Cowbridge Town Hall

The Town Council is additionally responsible for:

Supporting and funding community events (such as the May Fayre, Remembrance Sunday, Christmas Lights and Reindeer Parade)
Championing local needs and lobbying authorities
Commenting on local planning matters
Ongoing maintenance of our local amenities, assets and services
Managing Town Hall hires
Supporting community wellbeing and bio-diversity
Publishing and managing financial reporting.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council and other public bodies are responsible for all remaining public assets and services.

Relationship with the Vale of Glamorgan Council

As your most local tier of government, Officers and Councillors of the Town Council raise community issues and champion local needs directly with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

The Town Council works in partnership with Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor, Charles Champion, who is also a Cowbridge Town Council Councillor. Councillor Champion listens to issues raised by the Town Council relating to the responsibilities of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and takes up matters for action with relevant officers within the Vale of Glamorgan Council.



Poplar Park

Deputy Mayor Councillor Malcolm Wilson serves on the Community Liaison Committee, which organises its work modelled on the agreed Charter with Community and Town Councils. Representatives from the Town Council collaborate with the Vale of Glamorgan Council regarding the Placemaking Plan through consultation with residents of Cowbridge to improve key areas of the Town. Further information regarding this can be found on pages 25-27 of this Report.

Public areas within Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin that are not owned by Cowbridge Town Council are owned and managed by the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council and other public bodies directly.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council owns and manages:

Poplar Park
Bear Fields
Police Fields
Cattle Market Car Park
Town Hall Square Car Park
Old Hall
Cowbridge Library
Physic Garden
Roads throughout Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin
Setting the Well-being Objectives that the Town Council must help to deliver
All bins in Cowbridge except in The Limes Cemetery, Southgate Park, Twt Park and Llanblethian Playing Fields, which are managed by the Town Council



Old Hall



Cowbridge Library



Bear Fields



Physic Garden



If anything needs to be reported regarding matters relating to assets and services of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, they can be contacted directly:

Vale of Glamorgan Council contact details	
Website	https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/do_it_online/Report.aspx
E-mail	c1v@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Telephone	C1V Contact Centre, 01446 700 111

Should you require the Town Council's support in advocating for a matter relating to the Vale of Glamorgan Council, please contact the Council.

Your Town Councillors

During the year 2025-2026, the Council comprised of 15 Councillors representing the residents of Cowbridge, Llanblethian and Aberthin, providing services and facilities designed to enhance the social and environmental well-being of the community.

The Councillors who were in office and who left office during 2025-2026 were:

Cowbridge

Cllr Kate Thomas
Cllr Peter Carter
Cllr Rowena Harbour
Cllr Valerie Ellis (elected in 2025-2026)
Cllr Nathaniel Board (co-opted in 2025-2026)
Mayor Revd Cllr Heather Weddell (passed away in May 2025)
Cllr Lianne Evans (resigned in 2025-2026)

Llanblethian West

Deputy Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson
Cllr Gwen Baty
Cllr Danial Sami
Cllr Terry Williams

Llanblethian East

Cllr Cecilia Hannigan-Davies
Cllr Gareth John
Cllr Sue Bond
Cllr Ruth Chapman

Aberthin

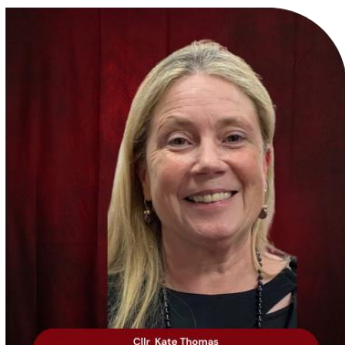
Mayor Cllr Geraint Baty
Cllr Charles Champion

Councillor Training 2025-2026

Councillor	Course
Cllr Danial Sami	New Councillor Induction (One Voice Wales) The Council (One Voice Wales Module 1) The Councillor (One Voice Wales Module 2) The Council as an Employer (One Voice Wales Module 3) Understanding the Law (One Voice Wales Module 4) The Council Meeting (One Voice Wales Module 5) Local Government Finance (One Voice Wales Module 6) Health and Safety (One Voice Wales Module 7) Chairing Skills (One Voice Wales Module 10) Creating a Community Plan (One Voice Wales Module 12) Use of IT, Social Media and Websites (One Voice Wales Module 16) Safeguarding Group B (St John's Ambulance) Cyber Security Training (NCSC) Sight Cymru Awareness Training
Cllr Sue Bond	New Councillor Induction (One Voice Wales) The Council (One Voice Wales Module 1) The Councillor (One Voice Wales Module 2) Understanding the Law (One Voice Wales Module 4) Cyber Security Training (NCSC) Sight Cymru Awareness Training
Cllr Ruth Chapman	Finance and Governance Toolkit (One Voice Wales Module 24) Making Effective Grant Applications (One Voice Wales Module 17) Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Kate Thomas	AI Effect on Planning Responding to Planning Part 1 AI Training for Smart Towns Understanding the Law (One Voice Wales Module 4) Cyber Security Training (NCSC) Sight Cymru Awareness Training
Cllr Charles Champion	Cyber Security Training (NCSC) Sight Cymru Awareness Training
Deputy Mayor Cllr Malcolm Wilson	Cyber Security Training (NCSC) Sight Cymru Awareness Training
Cllr Terry Williams	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Peter Carter	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Rowena Harbour	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Mayor Cllr Geraint Baty	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Gwen Baty	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Cecilia Hannigan Davies	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Gareth John	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Valerie Ellis	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)
Cllr Nathaniel Board	Cyber Security Training (NCSC)

Meet Your Town Councillors

Cowbridge Ward



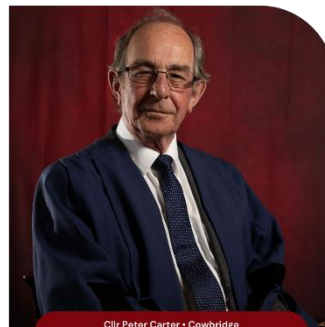
Cllr Kate Thomas
kthomas@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Kate Thomas

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Finance & Governance

E-mail: cllrkthomas@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Peter Carter • Cowbridge
clrpcarter@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Peter Carter

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall, Staffing

E-mail: cllrpcarter@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Rowena Harbour • Llanblethain West
cllrharbour@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Rowena Harbour

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall

E-mail: cllrrharbour@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



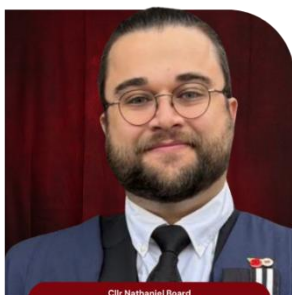
Cllr Valerie Ellis
cllrvellis@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Valerie Ellis

Reform UK Party

Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities

E-mail: cllrvellis@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



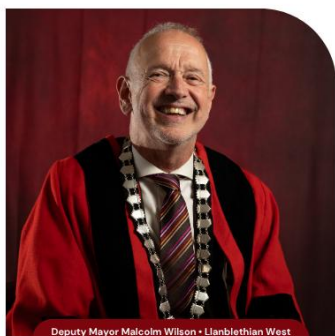
Cllr Nathaniel Board
cllrnboard@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Nathaniel Board

No party affiliation

E-mail: cllrnboard@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Llanblethian West Ward



Deputy Mayor Malcolm Wilson • Llanblethian West
cllrwilson@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Deputy Mayor Councillor Malcolm Wilson

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall, Finance & Governance (Chair), Staffing, ex officio Leisure & Amenities

E-mail: cllrwilson@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Gwen Baty • Llanblethian West
cllrwbty@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Gwen Baty

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall, Finance & Governance

E-mail: cllrwbty@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



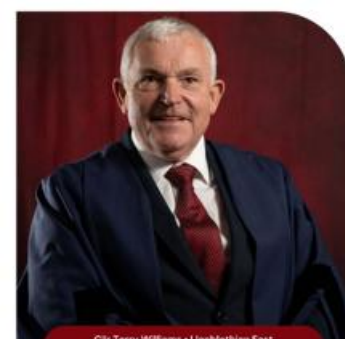
Cllr Danial Sami • Llanblethian West
cllrdsami@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Danial Sami

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall (Chair), Finance & Governance

E-mail: cllrdsami@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Terry Williams • Llanblethian East
cllrwilliams@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Terry Williams

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities, Staffing

E-mail: cllrwilliams@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Aberthyn Ward



Mayor Geraint Baty • Aberthyn
cllrwbty@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Mayor Councillor Geraint Baty

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Town Hall, Finance & Governance, Staffing, ex officio Leisure & Amenities

E-mail: cllrwbty@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Charles Champion • Aberthyn
cllrccchampion@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Charles Champion

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities (chair)

E-mail: cllrccchampion@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Councillor (Conservative Party)

E-mail: ceachampion@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Llanblethian East Ward



Councillor Cecilia Hannigan-Davies

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities

E-mail: cllrhannigan-davies@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Ruth Chapman

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Finance & Governance

E-mail: cllrchapman@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Gareth John

No party affiliation

Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities,
Staffing

E-mail: cllrgjohn@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Sue Bond

No party affiliation

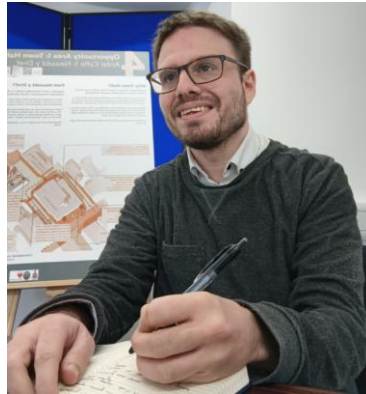
Committee Membership: Leisure & Amenities, Town Hall, Finance & Governance

E-mail: cllrsbond@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk

Councillor Surgeries

The Council started holding drop-in Councillor Surgeries in 2025-2026 where local residents can meet face-to-face with Councillors to talk about any concerns or issues, seek advice, highlight important areas for consideration or raise any ideas related to council services and local matters.

The Surgeries also enable Councillors to increase their accessibility to the community and to consult with the public on issues which will inform and shape the Council and Cowbridge as a whole.



The issues raised by the community have been discussed further in Council Meetings and raised with the Vale of Glamorgan Council. We have also reached out to other agencies, such as the Police, to raise concerns brought to the attention of Councillors through the Surgeries.

The Councillor Surgeries have been held throughout the community such as in Town Hall, the Cowbridge Museum, Old Hall and Waitrose Supermarket as the Council works to improve their visibility and reach out within the community.

The Councillor Surgeries have included public Consultations, to allow the Council to gain views from the public on matters such as the draft Budget for the next financial year, a future vision for the town and to inform the public on the Placemaking Plan.

Our anonymous Suggestions box is also situated in the foyer of the Town Hall office as well as at our Councillor Surgeries.

Suggestions can also be e-mailed to us at: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.

Councillor Surgeries are held every other month and are advertised on our website, social media sites and on our noticeboards.

Full Council Meetings

During 2025-2026, the Full Town Council met on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. In accordance with the *Local Government (Wales) Act 2021*, meetings of the Council are hybrid with the facility for Councillors and the public to attend in person in the Town Hall Council Chamber or virtually over Teams.



Committee Meetings

Leisure and Amenities Committee - meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm.

Town Hall Committee – meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm.

Finance and Governance Committee – meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 8pm.

Staffing Committee – quarterly and meetings when required

All of the standing Committees were also hybrid for Councillors and the public to attend in person in the Town Hall Council Chamber or virtually over Teams.

Public Access to Meetings and Committees

The public and press are welcome to attend all Full Council Meetings and Committee Meetings in person in the Town Hall Council Chamber or virtually over Teams.

The public have the opportunity to speak for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item.

Questions can be asked of Council. These must be requested 24 hours in advance of the meeting to the Chief Officer at co@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.

Please note the meeting will be recorded and later deleted following approval of the meeting minutes.

The press and public have no statutory right to take photographs or to use any means which would enable any person not present at a meeting to see or hear the meeting. Permission to record meetings in this way requires specific approval of the Council in advance.

Accessing Meetings and Committees

Access In Person

Access to the Town Hall Council Chamber is via High Street through the left-hand door. Notice of attendance is not required.

Access Virtually

Please contact the Town Hall office for the link to the Teams meetings: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.

Council Agendas

All Council Agendas for Full Council Meetings and Committee Meetings are published on our website and on display on our Town Hall noticeboard three clear days in advance of a meeting. The Agenda notices are on display in our noticeboards around the town in Llanblethian, Aberthin and Clare Garden Village, however these may not contain the full copy of the agendas due to noticeboard size restrictions. All Agendas can be found on our website on the following link: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/category/agendas/> or can be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

Council Minutes

All draft and subsequently approved Full Council Meeting and Committee Meeting minutes are published as soon as practicable on our website on the following link: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/town-council-minutes/>. They can also be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

Accessing Council Information

Publication Scheme

Full details of available Council information can be found in our Publication Scheme, which is available at: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/publication-scheme/> or can be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

If you wish to view the documentation reviewed ahead of a Committee or Full Council Meeting, these can be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

Council Noticeboards

Council documents relating to notice of meetings, audits and any other necessary information are displayed on the Town Hall Council noticeboard.

Details of community events and posters are posted in the Town Hall Community Events noticeboard and on our website and social media.

There are also noticeboards in Llanblethian, Aberthin and Clare Garden Village containing important documents and information on community events (space allowing).



Clare Garden Village



Llanblethian



Aberthin

Advertising your Community Event

If you wish for your event to be advertised by the Council on our noticeboards, website and social media, please e-mail your poster or information to: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or drop a poster into the Town Hall.

Council Officers and Staff

The Council employs four members of staff to carry out the range of functions and services on behalf of the Council and to implement decisions taken by members.

Staff during 2025-2026 were:

Chief Officer from 2nd June 2025
(role formerly named Town Clerk)

Natasha
Alexander



Deputy Chief Officer,
Acting Town Clerk until 1st June 2025

Clair Helen
Davis



Amenities Supervisor

Tim Stephens



**Town Hall Caretaker,
Macebearer**

Baz Jenkins

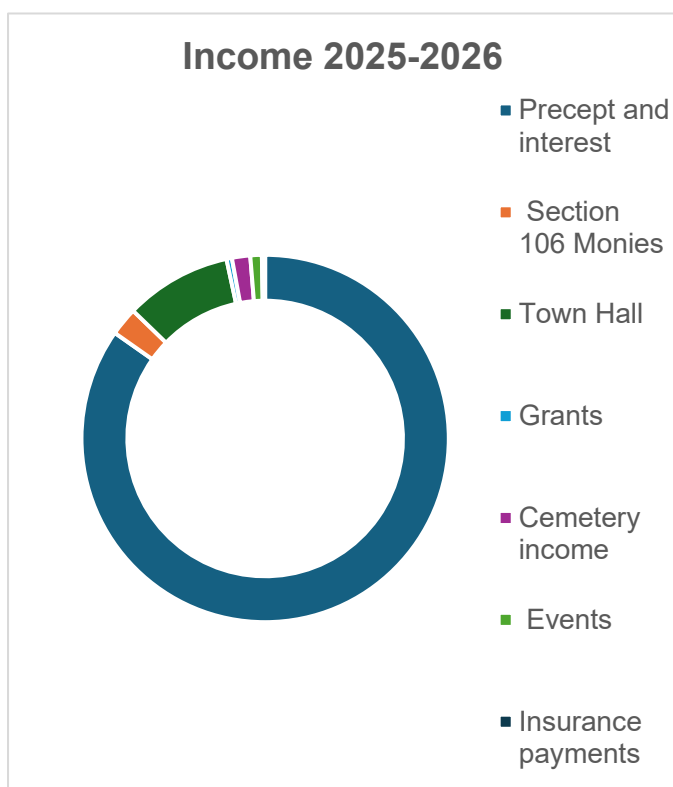


Finances

The main source of funding for Town and Community Councils are the funds raised through a Precept (a charge) to Council Tax under *section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992*.

The Town Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with *section 50* of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2025-2026 the total income to the Town Council was £419,977; the Precept was £354,528.00 of this. A band D property for Council Tax paid £117.51 for the year towards the Town Council running costs. The remaining income generated by the Town Council comes from hire charges for the Town Hall Rooms, Cemetery Fees, interest, grants and *section 106* monies.

This income supports local services and events like the Christmas lights on High Street, Aberthin and Llanblethian, May Day celebrations, ongoing maintenance of Twt Park, The Limes Cemetery and the Town Hall grade II* listed building, summer floral displays, Placemaking and community planning initiatives.



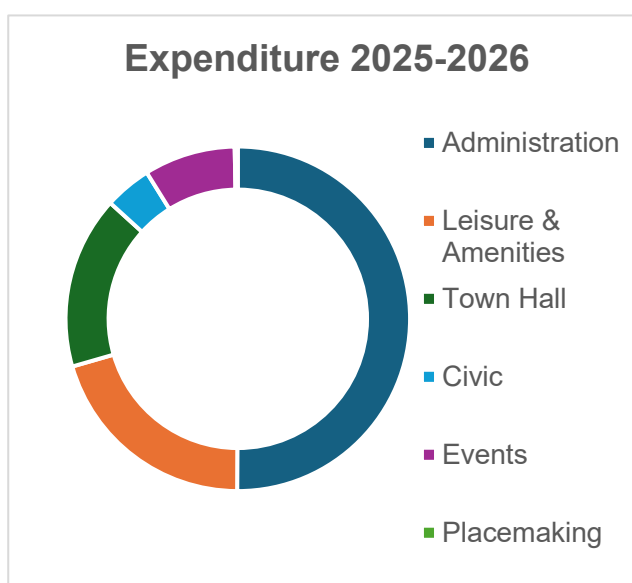
Income

The greatest proportion of income in 2025-2026 came from the Precept and Interest of £355,901.00 totalling 85% of income.

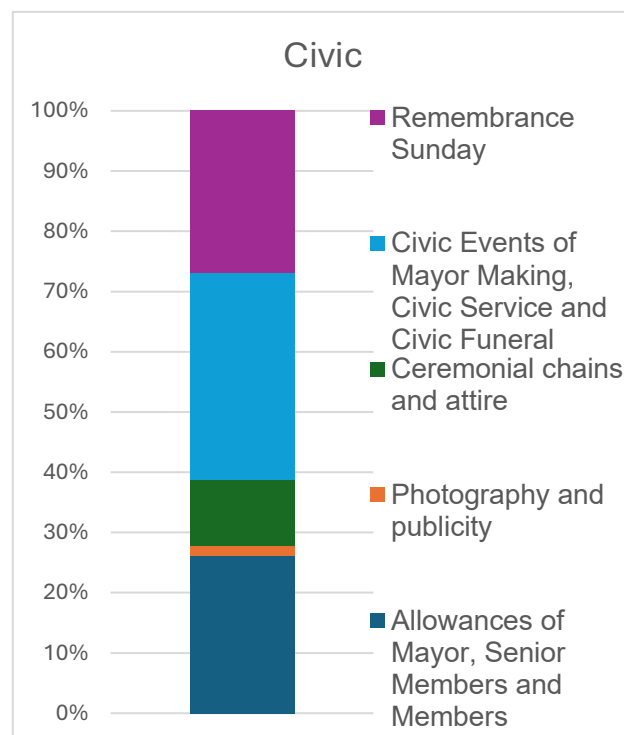
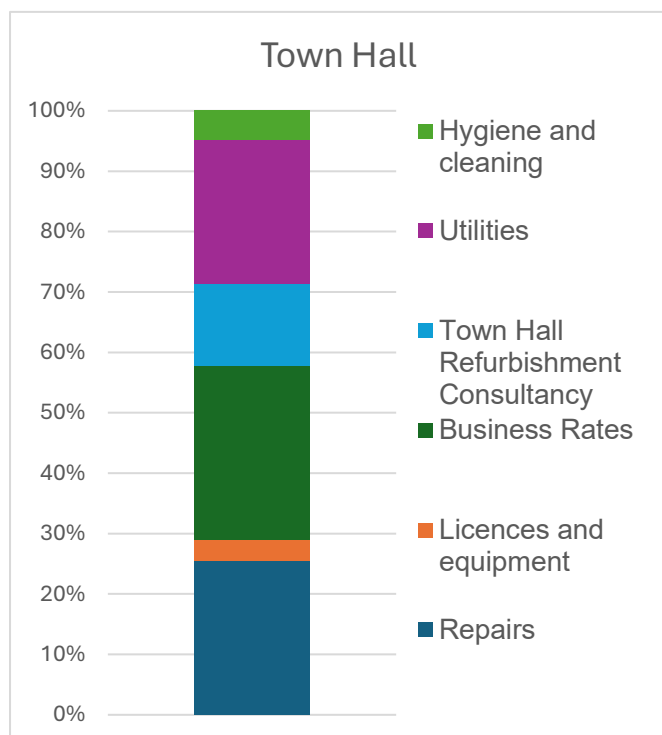
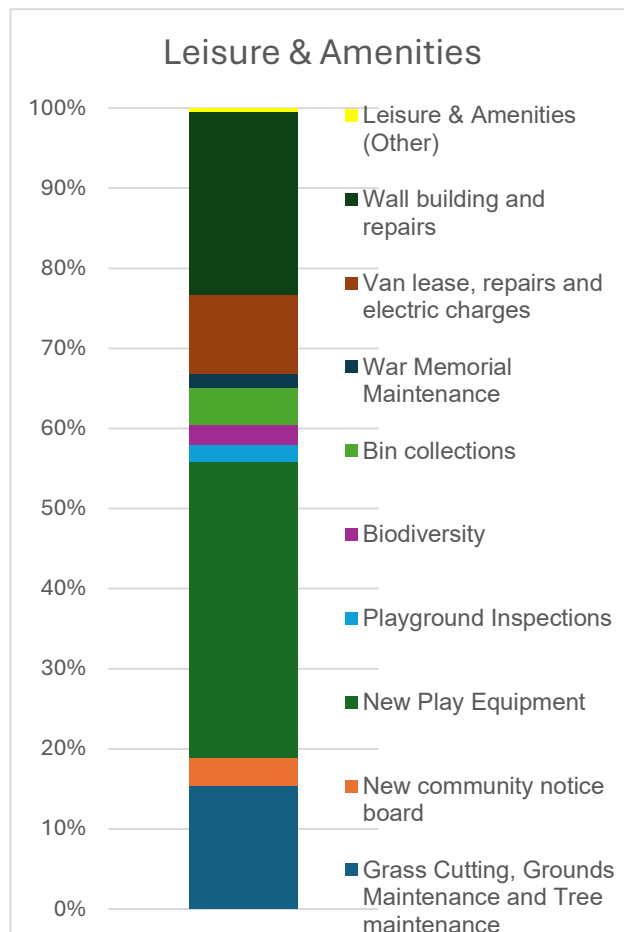
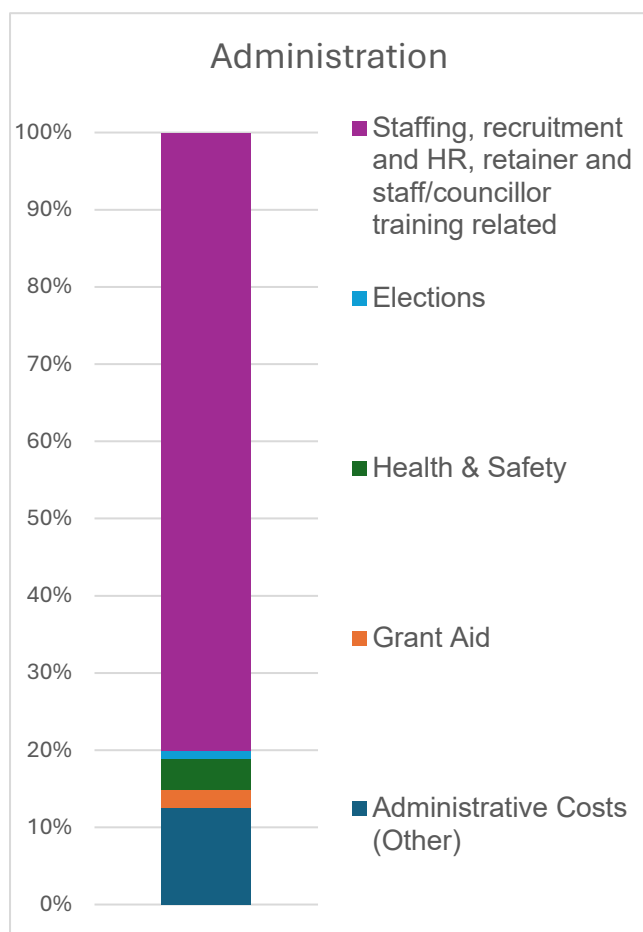
The remaining income came from: Section 106 Monies of £10,461.00 (2.5%), Town Hall hire charges of £39,423.00 (9%), Grants of £2,000.00 (0.5%), Cemetery income of £6,747.00 (1.5%), Events of £4,255 for the Christmas Market and Christmas Grotto and the May Fayre (1%) and Insurance payments of £1,190 (0.5%).

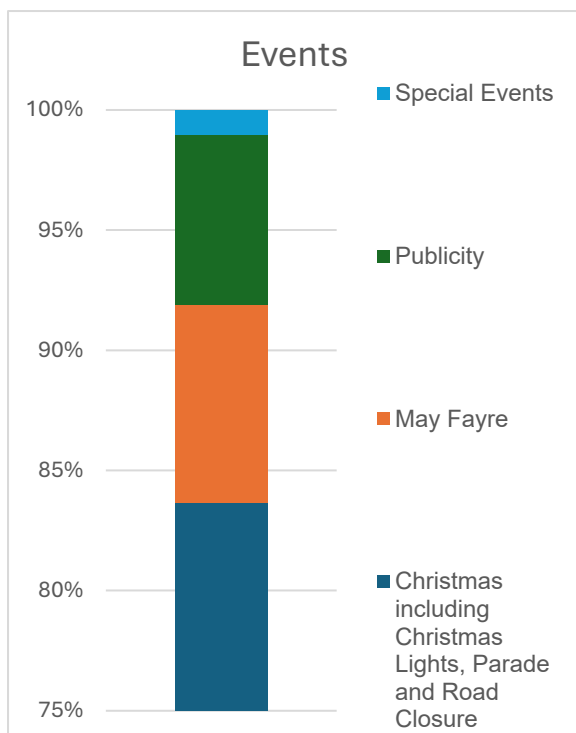
Expenditure

The Town Council's spending over 2025-2026 was £424,098.00, which was distributed as: Administration of £212,313.00 (50%), Leisure & Amenities of £86,810.00 (20.5%), Town Hall of £68,729 (16%), Civic of £18,663.00 (4.5%), Events of £36,362.00 (8.5%) and Placemaking of £1,221.00 (0.5%).



Within each of these accounts, expenditure is calculated as:





Any additional spending above the budgeted amount is deducted from the Council's reserves.

Audit

The Town Council has several financial audits, reviews and internal controls throughout the year to ensure the appropriate and proper use of the budget. Management Accounts are reviewed monthly by the Responsible Financial Officer and Finance and Governance Committee to ensure that expenditure spent is running in line with our income and forecasted spending.

The Town Council publishes our Management Accounts on our website regularly for transparency and to allow for review by residents. The Town Council makes its accounts available for public inspection each year under

the *Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004* and the *Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014*. Also, the *Section 31 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004* allows an elector to raise objections or representations to the external auditor.

Grant Aid

The Town Council has allocated funds in its budget to support non-profit or charitable community organisations that can demonstrate a genuine need for financial assistance to benefit local residents by providing services, enhancing quality of life, improving the environment or positively promoting the Town Council.

The first round of applications run from 1st April to 30th June and the second round of applications run from 1st October to 31st December.

The Town Council have funded projects including:

A High Street Map identifying Cowbridge shops and points of interest, supporting and promoting local businesses

The advancement, education and personal development of older people

Keyboard and equipment for choir practice to enable community and charitable performances

Community-focused music festivals to reach a demographic that includes a concert for people with learning disabilities, dementia groups and local care homes

An event to celebrate, recognise, appreciate and inspire women, including to advance the cause of gender equality and empowerment

A health and well-being event to build resilience and develop team building, leadership and employability skills to benefit youth groups and young people in the community who are at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

The Grant Aid Form can be found on our website on the link <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/grant-aid/> or can be requested by e-mailing: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or dropping into the Town Hall office.

Placemaking

What is the Placemaking Plan?

A community-driven 10-year strategy led by the Vale of Glamorgan Council working collaboratively with Cowbridge Town Council to shape the future of Cowbridge by making it a vibrant, well-connected place that reflects local needs and identity. The plan was published in June 2025.

How has the Placemaking Plan been developed?

The plan was developed throughout 2024-2025 through extensive public engagement —surveys, workshops, and events — to ensure its projects reflect residents' aspirations.

The plan categorises initiatives into those that can be delivered immediately, ones needing medium planning, and longer-term projects requiring investment and partnerships.

What are the planned objectives of the Placemaking Plan?

The design is people-centred, enhancing public spaces, amenities, cultural life, and local services—places where residents feel connected and proud.

Town Centre & Heritage
Focusing on Cowbridge's historic character, including the medieval town wall and heritage sites, to strengthen local identity.
Movement & Accessibility
Prioritising walking, cycling, public transport, and safe routes — especially around schools — to promote healthier, sustainable travel.
Re-imagining Old Hall & Gardens
Exploring adaptive reuse of the Old Hall — including gallery, learning, and business spaces — with evolving community consultations.
Public Realm Improvements
Enhancing High Street, Town Hall Square and surrounding areas with better pedestrian zones, seating, signage, and lighting.

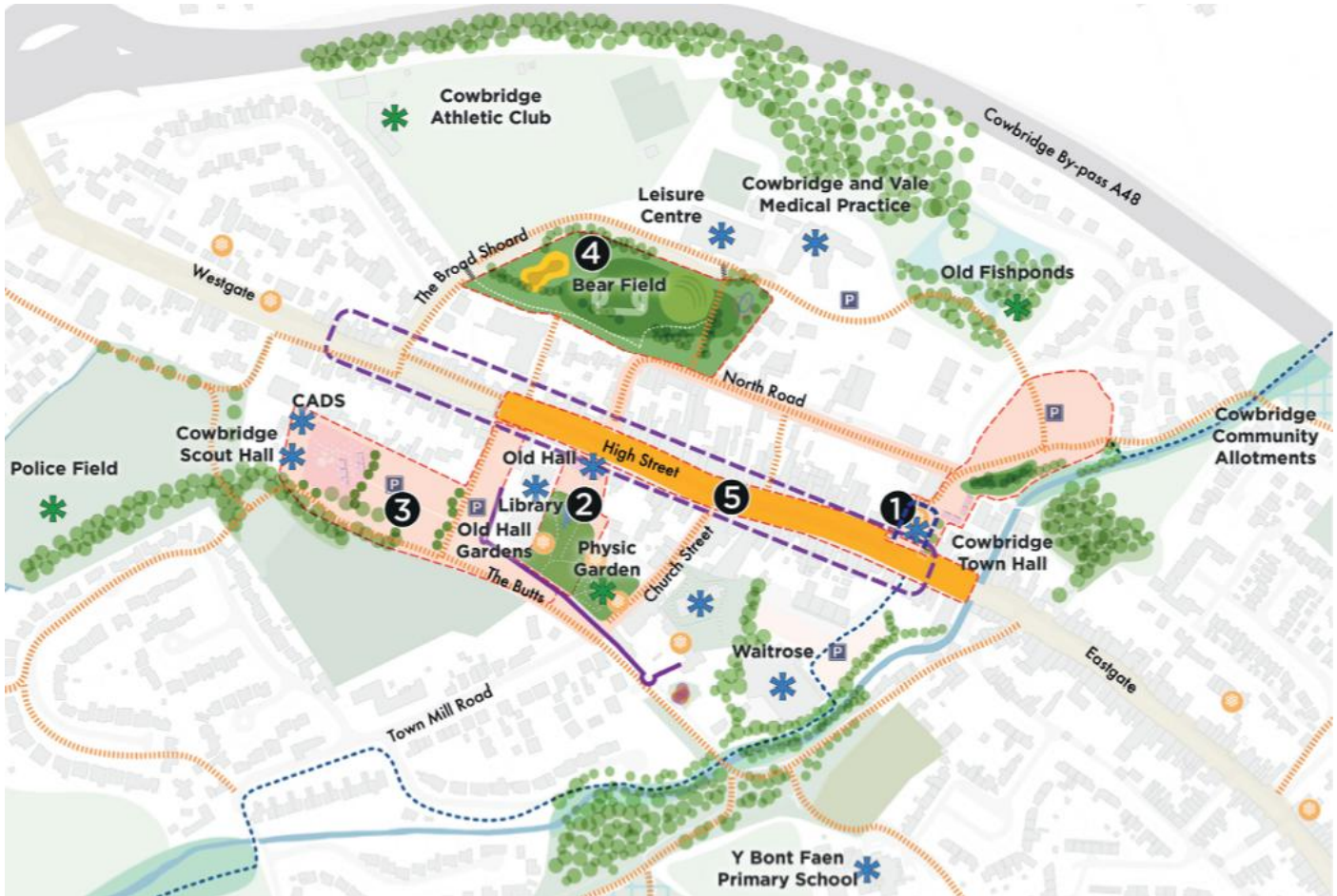
How will the Placemaking Plan be governed?

Through Vale of Glamorgan Council-led Place Boards and collaborative partnerships as well as through working groups guiding specific projects and driving these forward.

How will the Placemaking Plan be funded?

Funding for implementation of the Placemaking Plan will largely come from the Welsh Government and the UK Government under the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* as well as through additional grant funding and *section 106* monies

The Placemaking Plan Development Process



Opportunity Area 1: Town Hall Square
 Opportunity Area 2: Old Hall & Old Hall Gardens
 Opportunity Area 3: Former Livestock Market Site
 Opportunity Area 4: Bear Field
 Opportunity Area 5: High Street

Where can I find a copy of the Placemaking Plan?

The Placemaking Plan can be found on our website on the following link:
<https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Documents/Working/Placemaking/Cowbridge-Placemaking-Plan-2025.pdf>

A paper copy for reference can also be read in the Town Hall Office and at our Councillor Surgeries.

Where can I find updates on the Placemaking Plan?

Our website contains regular updates: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/place-making/> as well as the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website: <https://participate.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/placemaking-cowbridge-2>

Placemaking Updates 2025-2026

Footway across Cowbridge Police Fields

A community public consultation was carried out on a proposed footway across Cowbridge Police Fields, for which there was overwhelming support.



Areas consulted on for improvement works

The route will be made safer, cleaner and usable all year round. The proposal includes a new 3-metre-wide resin-bound rubber footpath, which is permeable to allow rainwater to soak through, designed to protect tree roots and suitable for use in all weather conditions. The existing steps leading to Geraint's Way will be replaced to be safer and more accessible. Following consultation, it is approved that the footway will extend into Geraint's Way.

Bear Fields



Proposed skate park

Following extensive public consultation, one of the biggest messages received was that there are not enough good places for teenagers and young people to be active, have fun and feel safe. Bear Field, next to Cowbridge Leisure Centre came up again and again as a space with lots of potential.

Works started in 2025-26 to replace the old skate ramps and install a new multi-level skate park which is inclusive and accessible and a multi-use games area ('MUGA') to make it more exciting, modern and better connected to the rest of Cowbridge. The works were completed in June 2026.

Cattle Market Car Park Improvement works have been carried out to the Cattle Market Car Park to make this safer and less-resistant to wet weather, enhancing driving and walking experiences throughout the autumn and winter months.



Cattle Market Car Park



Cross Inn Footpath lights

Cross Inn Footpath Lights

Lighting has been installed on the footpath to Cross Inn, making the area safer for all. The lights have multi-use sensors to protect bats in the ongoing endeavour towards biodiversity and protecting wildlife.

We were pleased to host the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government, Jayne Bryant MS, at Town Hall in March 2026 to discuss Cowbridge Placemaking and show her the work that has started to the skate park on Bear Fields as one of the first major Placemaking projects.



Hiring Town Hall

Cowbridge Town Hall is available for hire for any community or private event, including weddings ceremonies and receptions.

Throughout 2025-2026, 67 unique hirers hired a Hall at the Town Hall, an increase of 6% on the previous year. A number of these hirers hire the hall on a regular basis for community events, including dance classes and educational classes. Income from Town Hall hire over the year was £39,423.00, seeing a 14% increase in income compared to the previous year.

Main Hall

Our Main Hall provides a flexible facility with a capacity to seat 120 people (47ft x 28ft). Uses of the space include a large meeting room, conference room, dance studios, parties, wedding receptions and funeral wakes.

Lesser Hall Suite

Our Lesser Hall provides a flexible facility with a capacity to seat 60 people (41ft x 14ft). Its flexible options have made it popular to hire in the Cowbridge area for many different types of events. Uses include as a large meeting or conference room, craft markets, food fayres, dance studios and parties.

The Halls are fully accessible, include a sound and light system with projectors, screens, speakers and microphones, Wi-Fi, stage including access to changing facilities and parking at the back of the venue.

Based on your requirements the room could be set-up in many different ways, so please include full details at the time of booking. Should you wish to clarify any information, you can contact us via our website or e-mail us at: enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.

The link to a video showcase of Cowbridge Town Hall areas for hire: <https://cowbridge-tc.gov.uk/the-town/town-hall/#more-1210>.



Main Hall



Lesser Hall

Cowbridge Museum



Cowbridge Museum Trust is based at the Town Hall displaying two rows of prison cells, originally part of a 'House of Correction', which were first built around 1576. They remained unchanged in the centre of the building, which evolved into the Town Hall. Over several years in the nineteen eighties, a group of local residents, notably Marion Eveleigh, invited the public to donate items of interest. These donations formed the foundation of what is now a collection of exhibits within the cells and adjacent corridors.



The Museum is run entirely by volunteers; some are Trustees, while others are involved in the care and development of the collection or in welcoming and assisting visitors. New volunteers are always welcome.

In 2015, the Museum was granted full Accreditation as part of the Welsh Government Quality Assurance scheme. In 2024, the Museum had its accreditation renewed.

Cowbridge Museum is a vital resource for our community, preserving the rich history of Cowbridge through artefacts and stories that maintain our identity.

Cowbridge Museum fosters community engagement through events and workshops, enhancing social ties among residents. It is more than just a collection of artefacts; it is a living institution that celebrates and engages with our community's history and culture.

Cowbridge Museum is free and open on the first and third Saturdays of the month, 10am – 4pm.

You can find more about Cowbridge Museum here: <https://www.cowbridgemuseum.com/about-us>

Community Events Group

The Cowbridge Community Events Group is a dedicated team of local volunteers whose passion and hard work lie at the very heart of our town's civic life. Operating with an independent spirit, this group steps up to coordinate some of our most cherished local events. By managing everything from complex logistics and safety protocols to volunteer coordination and entertainment line-ups, they ensure that these events run smoothly, safely, and remain completely free for everyone to enjoy.

Their efforts are most visibly showcased during our landmark annual celebrations. In the spring, they bring the community together for the vibrant May Fayre, complete with traditional stalls, live entertainment and family activities. Later in the year, they transform the High Street into a winter wonderland for the spectacular Reindeer Parade and festive light switch-on, crafting magical memories for local children and families.

Looking to the future, the group is ambitious to expand its calendar by introducing new social initiatives—such as community dances—to further combat isolation, bring the generations together, and keep the vibrant community spirit of Cowbridge and Llanblethian thriving all year round.

To contact the Community Events Group about volunteering, e-mail: non@greysheep.com.

Cowbridge Community Cinema

The Cowbridge Community Cinema was launched in 2025-2026 as part of the Community Events Group, with the aim of hosting screenings on the last Thursday of each month, aside from occasional exceptions.

The first event was a Halloween special featuring the classic Hocus Pocus, aimed at families. Attendees were encouraged to dress up in their favourite Halloween costumes, creating a fun and inclusive atmosphere for all ages.



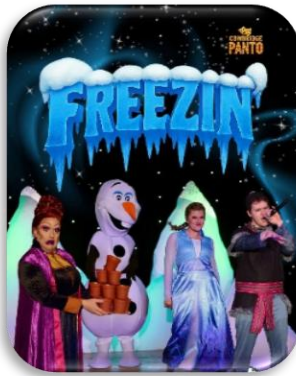
Since then, the group have screened Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale and a Bruce Springsteen feature. Audience feedback has been central to shaping the cinema's development; the group have actively sought suggestions on both film selection and ways to improve the overall experience. This input has helped the group develop a forward programme extending into the summer, including Oscar nominees and winners such as Sinners, Hamnet, and One Battle After Another. The group also hosted a special afternoon matinee in May, screening Matilda the Musical to broaden our offer and appeal to younger audiences and families.

Looking ahead, the group are committed to continuing the cinema's development by maintaining an open dialogue with their audience. Ongoing feedback will remain key, helping us refine both their film programme and the overall cinema experience as they grow.

Community Events

Cowbridge has enjoyed numerous community events throughout 2025-2026, from events organised by the Town Council and by the Community Events Group for the new Mayor's Civic Sunday, May Day, VJ Day, Remembrance Sunday parade and Christmas lights switch-on and Reindeer Parade, Santa's grotto and market and a Iolo Morganwg 200 year commemoration day.

The town has also seen many wonderful independently arranged events bring the whole community together, such as the Golden Oldies Cinema by Dementia Friendly, Cowbridge Big Weekend, Flower Festival, Women in the Bible, Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, Cowbridge Pride, Arts and Crafts Market, CrossFEST, Moo-La-La Festival, River Thaw Discovery Day, Cowbridge Music Festival, Cowbridge Town Twinning Fashion Show, The Glamorgan Icarus with u3a, Harley Davidson Rally, Cowbridge Art Society Exhibition, Cowbridge Panto: Freezin' and Coffee and Cars.



Contact Us

The Town Council office is located at Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD.

The Town Hall office is open for drop-in Monday to Friday, 9.30am until 2pm.

Alternatively, should you wish to arrange to see us outside of these hours, please contact us to arrange this.

You can contact Cowbridge Town Council on:

Chief Officer	Mrs Natasha Alexander
Chief Officer E-mail	co@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk
Council E-mail	enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk
Telephone	01446 773 385
Town Hall Office	Cowbridge Town Council, Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD
Website	www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk
Social Media	Facebook, Instagram and X: Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council
Opening Hours	Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 2pm



Natasha Alexander
Chief Officer
June 2026