

Cyngor Cymuned

Rhigos

Community Council

Chairs Report 2025-2026

It has been another busy year for the Community Council with lots of valuable work going on behind the scenes to make improvements for the residents and children of the village.

Several grants have been obtained by the Community Council to enhance the Community Centre and as a result we now have solar panels installed as well as a battery so that electricity can be stored as well as sold back to the grid. This in the long term will save on electricity bills at the centre as well as hopefully providing an income. Also, thanks to Rhigos Solar we now have grants available to the community of up to £500.00. The Community Council have been successful in obtaining National Lottery Funding to assist in reducing our carbon footprint and electricity consumption at the Community Centre. This will be help in making it eco friendly and thanks goes to Councillor Mairwen Evans for all her hard work in getting this grant. The Community centre water and heating pipes have also been insulated.

The Community Council was successful in obtaining a period poverty grant from RCTCBC and products are now freely available at the Community Centre.

A Warm and safe spaces grant was also applied for and granted by RCTCBC. This has been used to fund free community coffee mornings where warm drinks and snacks were provided as well as sessions where advisors attended to discuss how to save on energy bills and keeping warm during the winter months.

A Christmas tree was donated by the Hirwaun and District Gardening Society. This tree was planted and the Community Council held a very successful tree lighting ceremony having purchased new solar lights and decorations. Penderyn Choir very kindly provided the entertainment with Carol singing and the warm and safe spaces grant provided hot drinks and snacks.

The sad closure of Rhigos school was, in the end, something that could not be prevented despite all the hard work by the residents and Councillors who gave up their free time to protest and write letters to RCTCBC in defence of the school. The Youth Club has however, been a valuable meeting point for the children of the village so that despite being separated into different schools in the locality, they can come together and continue to enjoy being part of a strong community. The Youth Club also accessed funding from the warm and safe spaces grant and was able to provide hot drinks and snacks on several occasions for the children.

A SMART TV screen has been purchased and installed at the Community Centre and this has been a successful addition in enabling the Community Council to hold TEAMS meetings. Children at Youth Club have been able to play games and attend cinema nights held by the Carnival Committee.

There has been an Increase in Community Centre use up by at least 80% over the last two years and therefore an increase in income for the Community.

A Biodiversity report has been completed and will be available imminently on the Community Council website.

This financial year grants of £500.00 have been awarded to five very deserving groups within the village. Youth club, Senior citizens, The Carnival committee, the Allotment society and Cynefin, a group that has been set up to look at ways in which the school building can be used for the benefit of the community.

As a result of the new Welsh Government Legislation in relation to business recycling ,waste has been organised at the Community Centre and Cemetery into separate bins with more regular collections.

Blind dog only signs have been installed at the Cemetery and Community Centre.

Rhigos Community Coffee morning has been a very successful addition to community. Held every Wednesday morning and offering some free sessions from the warm and safe spaces grant through the winter months, it has been very well attended and will in future include sessions where topics of interest will be discussed by invited guests.

The Community Council is in the process of obtaining benches for the park opposite the community centre and for around the village in conjunction with RCTCBC as well as signs to direct visitors to the cemetery.

Finally, the Community Council would like to give a special mention to the Caretaker Kathleen Thomas who recently retired from her post. She has been a dedicated member of the Community Council Team for many many years, taking over from her father who previously held the post. The Community Council would like to thank her and wish her well for the future.

We look forward to serving the community in 2026 and remind everyone that minutes are available on the Community Council website, at the village shop and the New Inn Rhigos. They are also distributed to volunteers in the village to discuss with those who have no access to social media. The Community Council website is also a source of information for the statutory obligations of the Community Council.

Best wishes to you all for 2026

Chairperson Councillor Patricia Oliver

12.02.2026