

RHOSDDU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2024 – 2025

Chair: Cllr S Gittins

Vice-chair: Cllr J Billington

Cllrs: L Lewis, J Ryan, M Lynch, W O’Grady, B Williams-Morris, C Smith, B Chowdhury, B Murray

County Councillors: D Bithell, M Jones, A Williams

Clerk: Mrs S Roberts

Community Agent: Mrs M Woodfine-Jones



After the successes in 2023 – 2024, we put time, effort and resources into making Rhosddu a better place to live.

Community.

The Community Council continued to provide funding for essential services. The Council funded the three school crossing patrols – there is still a vacancy on New Road. The four playgrounds were inspected and minor defects were made safe.

A new children’s playground was erected in the Prices Lane field. This had been long awaited. The location is next to one of the key walk-to-school routes and has been well-used!

A history sign was erected on the Wats Dyke field telling the history of the Dyke itself. Two new benches were erected on the field, both having a mining history motif.

The Community Council provided core funding for both the 2024 Rhosddu FunDay and the Garden Village Fete. The weather was good on both days. Live music, children’s entertainments were provided and refreshments were available. The takings from the FunDay provided a donation of £1400 for the Mines Rescue Station. Takings from the Fete went to a range of local causes including St Margarets, Bethel Chapel, the Institute, Wrexham Litterpickers and Bitesize Youth Theatre.

We went to town with Christmas spirit this year. Festive lights were erected along New Road, Rhosddu Road and Chester Road. A Christmas tree was once again put up in Garden Village. A festive lunch for Rhosddu pensioners was provided at the Lager Club. A Carol Concert and Service in conjunction with the Salvation Army was organised by our Community Agent. The Salvation Army band and Rhosddu School provided the music and food was laid on by the local Spar. Father Christmas paid a visit!

The Rhosddu in Bloom competition was held again. The winning entries were of a remarkably high standard this year, despite the dismal and cold spring. We were

pleased to see Springfield participating again. We also nominated Community Champions to reward people trying to make a positive change to Rhosddu. This year's recipients were Carolyn "Connie" Conniff and Claire Smith.

The Citizens Advice Service were invited to start outreach sessions in Rhosddu to signpost and help residents with particular needs. These were started in the Salvation Army Citadel and funding was provided for the rest of the year and pledged for the following financial year.

The Community Council made donations to the following organisations –

Ysgol Rhosddu, Ysgol Plas Coch, Calon FM, Wrexham Sounds, Wrexham Allotment Association, Mines Rescue Station, Nightingale House, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, National Eisteddfod, Air Ambulance and Wrexham Multicultural Choir.

Organisations and charities based in Rhosddu are invited to apply for donations throughout the year.

We jointly funded the purchase of a defibrillator with the Railway Inn. This is now in place at the Railway and is accessible through the emergency services.

Environment

Once again, we funded the supply of dog poo bags in Stansty Ward.

More swift boxes were put up in East Avenue and Colliery Road. Early signs are that the boxes have been successful in attracting swifts back into Rhosddu!

A further tranche of funding was received from the WCBC Low Carbon Communities initiative. A biodiversity report has been started.

Community Agent

Our Community Agent, Mandy, continued with her outstanding work among the over-50s in Rhosddu.

Games and workshops were organised at Cae Glo and Maes Derwen throughout the year. Classes in using air fryers and smartphones, in energy efficiency and Tai Chi were provided. A walking group met regularly. Walking football sessions at Colliers' Park were introduced. Mandy regularly supported the Welcome Wednesday sessions at the Bethel Chapel. She set up drop-in support sessions for signposting and advice at the Railway Inn and at the Cunliffe Centre.

Mandy attended on-going training in autism awareness, domestic violence, safeguarding, EDI and modern slavery.

Community Centre

Slow progress was made towards handing the building back to WCBC. WCBC were formally advised in May that we wished to terminate the lease on the building. After a 6 month period, meetings with WCBC were started. The insurance claim for the storm damage incurred was not resolved and by the end of the year had made no progress. Internally, the old paperwork was sorted and made ready for disposal. Complete sets of minutes dating back to when the Community Council was formed in 1985 were put together and handed to Wrexham Archives for safekeeping. Audit documents for the last six years were collected and have been stored at Little Acton Community Centre.


Council

Councillor Beth Williams-Morris stepped down from the Council. We welcomed Councillor Claire Smith onto the Council. Claire brings valuable experience from the Citizens Advice Bureau with her.

Sadly we learnt of the passing of ex-Councillor Brenda Roberts, one of our longest serving Community Councillors.

Our Clerk, Sandy Roberts, worked hard to set up our website which can be found at www.rhosddu.cymru. Having a website is a requirement for all Town and Community Councils. The website hosts all documentation pertaining to the Community Council and is accessible to all residents. Sandy has put all our protocols, procedures, regulations, and standing orders into place, leaving us on a much better footing going forward.

Audit Wales found no major discrepancies in our annual audit. The Community Council is financially sound with sufficient funds to fulfil our statutory duties.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Gittins', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steve Gittins

Chair

Rhosddu Community Council 2024 - 2025