

IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

PATHS TO WELLBEING

Our application for grant funding to the Paths for Wellbeing scheme has been successful and we will be collaborating with Ramblers Cymru to produce walks/maps, plant trees, install wildlife boxes etc. We hope the first leaflet including maps will be ready Spring 2022 and will include walks in Litchard and Coity. It is hoped that the work to plant trees in Coity playing field will take place in the coming months.



in partnership with BCBC and in the coming months we will collaborate with them again to reinstate the footpath that runs on the opposite side of the top of Heol Spencer, parallel to the M4, to Pantypwllau.

maintenance schedule for pockets of land on Litchard Hill, Heol y Groes and Heol West Plas is on-going. We also carried out the work to remove the weeds from around the castle wall.



ALLOTMENT GARDENS

There's been high demand for allotment plots in the last year, with 27 on the waiting list as we go to print, and so we're in the process of looking for land to set up a second allotment garden.



Improvements continue at our current site, with more tree maintenance works planned in late November and repairs carried out to the communal shed.

At present a full plot is £40 and this will increase to £42 for 2022/23.

To apply for a plot and be added to our waiting list, please contact the Clerk or apply via our website's allotment tab or our contact us page www.coityhighercommunitycouncil.co.uk/allotments/

COITY PLAYING FIELD

In addition to the tree and bluebell bulb planting in this area, we are considering adding wildlife boxes, a bug hotel and some wild flowers. Earlier this year, working in partnership with Wales & West, we installed two picnic benches.

MAINTENANCE

Our Rights of Way footpath maintenance schedule has continued throughout the year and we've also funded two additional weed sprays of the main spine roads through Litchard, Pendre and Coity. Our



TREES

In addition to the trees to be planted in Coity playing field, we will be replacing the missing trees in Litchard Fields and work was carried out to remove the overgrown hedges and bushes to the side of the Litchard Park play area at Tanyrallt Avenue, Pendre.

RIGHTS OF WAY

In early 2021 we successfully completed the footpath that now runs from the top of Heol Spencer to the Parc Prison entrance. The footpath is now well used and gives pedestrians a safe place to walk from Heol Spencer across to the 'Pines'.

The new footpath was created working

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

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COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2021

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Dear Residents

As Chair of the Community Council it is my privilege to welcome you to the Autumn/Winter edition of our newsletter.

The COVID pandemic is still with us and I must give my thanks to the NHS and the Princess of Wales Hospital for their wonderful work during these trying times.



The Community Council will be placing more daffodils this year to the side of the path into the hospital as a memorial to those that have suffered or passed away due to Covid.

The coming winter months may yet prove challenging.

Unfortunately again some of our plans for this year have been cancelled such as the summer play schemes in Coity and Litchard Primary schools.

Our floral displays in each ward this year have been gorgeous, with the planters and floral basket displays and this year once again we will be adding more daffodils in time for spring, with the addition of bluebells and tree planting in Coity playing field.



Once again this year, the Community Council will be continuing the pursuit of asset transferring play areas throughout the wards.



The autumn/winter will continue to keep us busy with attendance at Remembrance Services, setting the budget for 2022/2023, organising our Christmas decorations with an additional Christmas tree at Gerddi/Trem y Castell, the purchase of lighting column motifs on the bottom spine road at Parc Derwen and additional solar lit trees on Coity by-pass.

This newsletter is provided for your information and we hope you enjoy reading it. If you wish to give us some feedback or make suggestions to enhance your community, please contact us.

The Community Council remains committed to providing services to the residents of our area.

Councillor Alan Wathan
Chair of Council

COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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NEWS

WHAT'S NEW SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER?



Asset transfers continue with the transfer of the Joslin Terrace play area in Pendre, following the huge success of the transfer and refurbishment of Litchard Park, Tanyrallt Avenue.

We've replaced the bench off Heol y Groes, Litchard with a remembrance bench and replaced the bench on Litchard Common.



A total of 11 sacks of daffodil bulbs will be planted this year along with 4 boxes of bluebells. Thanks to Pride in Coity for planting the ones in Parc Derwen.

Our Coity village defibrillator has been moved from the side of the Post Office to the side of the garage next to the Six Bells.



In partnership with BCBC a dog waste bag dispenser has been installed near our bin and bench on the Heol y Groes roundabout.

At Christmas 2021 we added more Christmas decorations. The pit at Parc Derwen was funded by a grant from Persimmon. Solar lit trees were added at Joslin Terrace and Oakwood View in Pendre. This year will see a new pit constructed to hold a 20ft tree at the entrance to Gerddi and Trem y Castell.

The war memorial has had an update with the names re-written.

WHAT'S NEW TO COME?

3 new noticeboards at Oakwood View, Gerddi'r Castell and Joslin Terrace. Taylor Wimpey donated £500 towards the cost of the one at Gerddi'r Castell.

Remembrance benches at Heol Spencer and Heol West Plas.

A speed warning sign at the top of Heol Spencer and bollards at Litchard Cross to prevent cutting through from the traffic lights.

3 dog waste bag dispensers in Parc Derwen and will be working in partnership with Pride in Coity, who will refill the dispensers.

A dog waste bin near our dispenser at Joslin Terrace and we are looking into suitable bins for our reinstated footpath at Heol Hopcyn John

A defibrillator is earmarked for Oakwood View in Pendre.

The financial support of BCBC's litter scheme Love It, Don't Trash rolled out via the 2 primary schools.

SAFETY

Annual safety inspections of Heol y Groes, Litchard Park, Coity Castle and Great Western Avenue play areas have just taken place.

SAFER ROUTES PROGRESS

Once again working in partnership with BCBC we've been successful in attracting funding of £174,000 for Coity Higher's third phase of our Safer Routes funding from the Welsh Government and this will now see a



footpath, crossing and actuated speed sign on Heol Simonston, the upgrading of the footpath from Great Western Avenue playing fields to Pendre and the path to the rear of Litchard Primary School. The work at Heol Simonston is currently being carried out.

COMMUNITY ACCESS PLAN

Our successful plan is in the process of being updated and will see the addition of further works within the 3 wards. We hope this work will be completed by March 2022, and once approved by full council, we will publish it on our website.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY AWARD

At the end of the summer term, we offered to provide Litchard and Coity Primary Schools with a trophy and £50 of vouchers to they can recognise the contribution made by a child or group of children to the community. Litchard Primary School decided on a group of 5 award this year, those winners were Ayva Mutlow, Poppy Collins, Lauren Day, Jessica Evans-Mcleod and Freya Jenkins and Coity Primary selected Zach Daniel as their individual winner.

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES

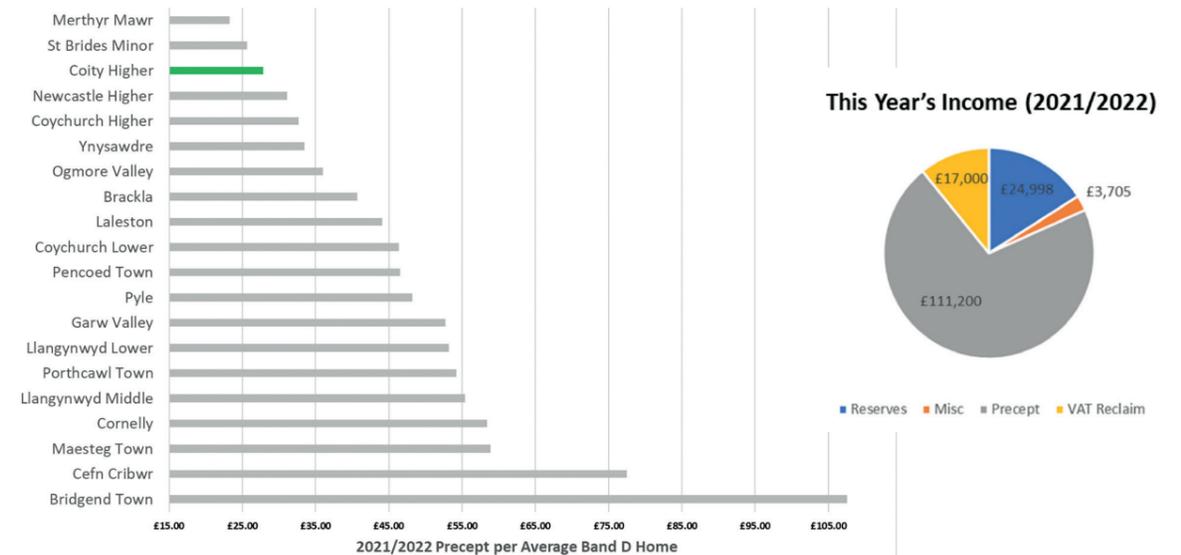
In the last financial year we've supported many groups and organisations, including providing financial support of £700 to Pride in Coity, Hope Rescue and the Wales Air Ambulance.

FINANCES

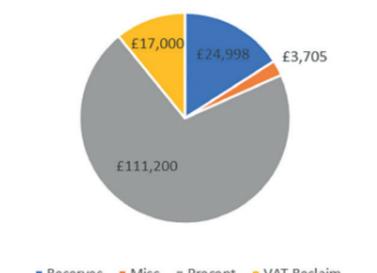
Most of the community council's funding is raised through council tax collected by BCBC on our behalf. The council also applies for grant funding where available to support specific projects.

Budget setting starts in the autumn. A draft budget is developed by the Finance & Resources committee that estimates expenditure for the next year and forecasts the proportion to be funded through taxation. This is known as the 'Precept'. The full council agrees the final budget in December's meeting.

The council also receives modest revenue from the allotments to cover general maintenance. In addition to this we are paid to maintain rights of way on behalf of BCBC.



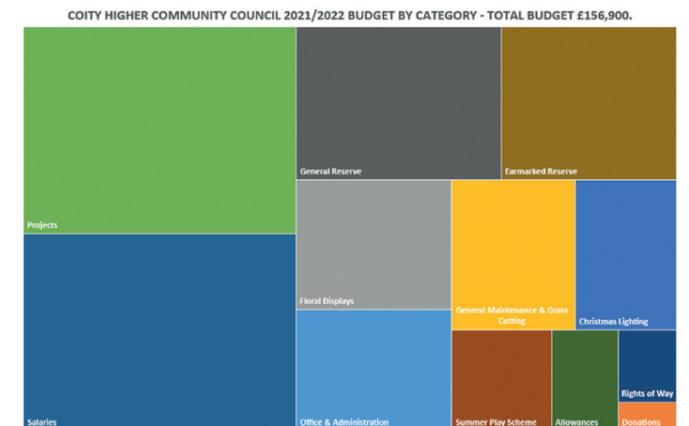
This Year's Income (2021/2022)



The budget for the current financial year is £157,000 funded by £111,000 precept, £17,000 reclaimed VAT, £4,000 miscellaneous funding and £25,000 from reserves. At £27.84 per Band D property Coity Higher has the third lowest precept in the Bridgend County Borough meaning that if you live in Coity, Litchard or Pendre your overall council tax will be less than most equivalent properties in the BCBC area.

A copy of our budget can be seen on the community council's website along with audit reports, councillor's allowances and minutes of the Finance & Resources meetings. The chart on the left summaries how this year's budget will be broken down. General reserves provide insurance against unforeseen expenditure. Earmarked reserves are for specific projects or to ensure funding for projects to continue if grant funding is unavailable.

The budget is reviewed at every council meeting. Prudent management has ensured that the council's auditors have given the council a clean bill of health. The clerk will actively seek grant funding for projects and services through the year. As a result of this in 2020/2021 only 64% of income was generated by taxation with a further £45,000 derived from external sources.



Last Year's Income (2020/2021)

