

Annual Report 2022 – 2023

It has been an honour and privilege to have served the Gelligaer Community Council as Chair for the past year.

This year has been a busy and challenging one. Following the 2022 council elections we elected seven new Community Councillors to our team and they are all now working tirelessly to enhance and support our communities. I am also pleased to say that all our Community Councillors are now Plaid Cymru representatives.

There have been many challenges, not least with the cost of living crisis which has affected us all. With this in mind our Community Council agreed once again not to raise the Community Council tax charge and managed to continue to support our volunteer led organisations in the community. We have seen an unprecedented rise in the needs of our local food banks and we have supported their essential work this year and will continue to do so in the future.

It was good to celebrate the champions of our community at our annual event at Llancaiach Fawr where individuals were thanked for their services to voluntary causes in our area.

I enjoyed visiting local residents who were celebrating special birthdays and anniversaries. It was an honour to share their special day.

We have continued to develop environmental projects in our areas, organising litter clean-ups and tree planting. To further enhance our environmental work we have employed a part time environment officer to advise and work on future projects.

Working with volunteers we entered the “Wales in Bloom” competition for the first time and won the Silver Gilt Award in the small towns category. We were delighted to see such wonderful contribution from schools in the area with their colourful wheelbarrow displays.

I would like to pass on my best wishes to the long-standing Community Councillors that stood down at the last election and thank them for their valued contribution over many years.

I would also like to thank my fellow councillors who have been extremely supportive over the last year and a special thanks to our clerk Ceri Mortimer for her dedication and sound advice. I would like to extend my best wishes to the incoming Chair for a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Cllr Martyn James