



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

# 1 OVERVIEW

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2023 – 2024 was the first complete year that Llanbadoc Community Council managed the additional ward of Little Mill. The four wards that are encapsulated by Llanbadoc Community Council are: Little Mill, Monkswood, Glascoed & Llanbadoc.

## 2 COUNCILLORS

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### 2.1.1 Little Mill

- Colin Deakins
- Julian Bowen-Sargent
- Hannah Dando (Joined in 2024) following a vacancy))
- Geraint Spacey (joined in 2023)

### 2.1.2 Monkswood

- Jo Storey

There is a vacancy in Monkswood.

### 2.1.3 Glascoed

- Jenny Carpenter

There is a vacancy in Glascoed.

### 2.1.4 Llanbadoc

- Jan Clarke
- Ann Bowyer

### 2.2 THE FOLLOWING JOINED LCC AS NEW COUNCILLOR:

- Hannah Dando (Co-Opted)

### 2.3 THE FOLLOWING COUNCILLORS RESIGNED DURING THE YEAR:

- Geraint Spacey (resigned solely due to health concerns)

### 3 PROJECTS & UPDATES

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The lottery grant and subsequent environmental project which was carried out in conjunction with The National Lottery & Transport for Wales and their Active Travel Plan was completed. New trees were planted in Twyn-Y-Cryn woods as part of the project. The trees were planted to enhance the woodland for the benefit of footpath walkers and to introduce new species of trees into a Beech heavy woodland.



The Pathcare Group, a team of volunteers who maintain footpaths throughout Llanbadoc, led by John Wright, carried out significant path improvement works in Twyn Y Cryn to divert the access path from Glascoed Lane (Opposite the Lilacs) into the woodland. The footpath was diverted to higher ground and steps were introduced which led to a new footbridge over the brook. This means that walkers are no longer required to walk through the low-lying ‘boggy area’ and then through the brook.

Refreshments were provided for all volunteers who attended.

LCC now has the benefit of owning good quality maintenance equipment which was purchased through the lottery grant and can be used for maintenance work across sites owned and managed by LCC.

LCC contacted Farming Connect Wales with a view to becoming a member to access information and funding opportunities to enhance reporting on agricultural, woodland, and common land owned and managed by LCC. The application was accepted.

Annual woodland management continued with woodland surveys requested for the following sites: Little Mill Play Area, Common Y Fal, Pergoed Woods and Llanbadoc Island.

LCC Part-funded a solar-powered SID (Speed Indication Sign) has been installed on the A472 eastbound in Monkswood. The remainder of the funds for the device came from MCC.

LCC continues to manage the park and play area in Little Mill adjacent to the Village Hall.

A new accessible swing was installed at Little Mill play park using funds that had been transferred from Goitre Community Council when LM was transferred to Llanbadoc. The new swing has been well received.



LCC has been working with the trustees of Little Mill Village Hall in seeking grants that may be used to upgrade and improve the hall and its facilities.

The removal of Japanese Knotweed carried out by a contractor has been completed.



New signage to promote the one-way system at Llanbadoc Island was purchased.

New signage was put up in Llanbadoc Island including the welcome sign and one-way system.

In response to concerns from residents' signage for 'no camping' has been put up at Llanbadoc Island. It was agreed that the area renowned for campers will be used for the planting of wildflowers to make it difficult for tent placement.

A dozen bird boxes were ordered with a majority being installed at Twyn Y Cryn and the remainder to be distributed to other sites owned / managed by LCC.

An appeal was submitted to CADW to reconsider the listing status of the K6 telephone box at Llanbadoc Island so that LCC can commission a company to carry out restoration work. The appeal was rejected, and the telephone box

remains listed. However, MCC Heritage Planning has stepped in offering advice for how the telephone box can be enhanced and improved without the requirement of a total restoration project. This project is ongoing.

Clerk met with the site manager of BAE in Glascoed to touch-base and discuss the ongoing relationship between BAE and LCC. The emergency cascade system was discussed and BAE reassured LCC that the system in place works effectively.

Additional annual maintenance was carried out: the cattlegrid at Llanbadoc Island car park was cleared out, balsam was removed from the brook and the riverbanks were cut back. The copse adjacent to the Church at Llanbadoc was cleared up.

LCC approved the installation of an information board on behalf of SEWRIGS which will serve as the start of a new Llanbadoc Geology Trail. The sign is not yet installed.

Two lengths of removable bow-top fencing were installed at the playpark in Llanbadoc Island to improve access for a mowing machine to enter the common. This will improve future maintenance carried out on the common.



LCC continues to provide dog waste bins in Llanbadoc, Monkswood and four in Little Mill, the annual cost is £1,310.40 (For the year)

LCC continues to attend meetings for the Usk Town Masterplan (Usk TC Improvement Plan) and are awaiting the outcome of the surveys that have been conducted.

LCC are aware of the poor road condition in the county make regular submissions to MCC through the 'My Monmouthshire App'.

LCC continues to provide defibrillators with one in Monkswood and the other at Little Mill Village Hall. These are regularly monitored. There is also a defibrillator at Glascoed which is monitored by residents.

Councillor Deakins attended the annual service of remembrance at St. Mary's Church Usk and laid a memorial wreath on behalf of all Llanbadoc residents.

There was no increase to the precept following on from 2022/2023.

Glascoed common will now be left to grow wild with a path in the centre. The common will be cut at the end of summer to allow sufficient time for the wildflowers to seed.



## 4 COUNTY COUNCILLOR PARTICIPATION

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County Councillors Meirion Howells and Tony Kear have attended most LLC Council meetings and have been very active with sending and responding to emails.

LCC has made every effort to work with County Councillors and ensure that any issues or matters raised by members of the public that cannot be resolved by LCC are sent onto County Councillors. LCC is overall satisfied with the relationship it has with County Councillors and looks to continue working with them.

## 5 TREE MAINTENANCE.

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Tree surveys were carried out on four sites. Quotations have been received and the work will be greenlit in May 2024 subject to accepting a quotation for the work.

## 6 GRANTS OUTGOING.

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<b>Month / Year</b>	<b>Grant</b>
<b>April 2023</b>	£50 to Young Farmers Gwent
<b>November 2023</b>	£105 for selection boxes for Little Mill Village Hall Children's Christmas Party
<b>February 2024</b>	£340 to Little Mill 1 <sup>st</sup> Scout Group for purchase of a new portable URN and portable tea making equipment.
<b>February 2024</b>	A pledge of up to £450 towards league approved cricket balls for Monkwood cricket club
<b>March 2024</b>	£250 to Monkwood & District Women's Institute towards the cost of a laptop
	Total grants paid out: £1,195

## 7 DONATIONS RECEIVED.

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N/A

## 8 2022-2023 AUDIT.

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The internal audit for 2022/2023 was completed with no issues raised.

LCC was tasked with a full audit from the Welsh Audit Office. All documents have been submitted as requested but the audit has not yet been completed and returned.

## 9 2023-2024 AUDIT.

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John Turner has agreed to carry out the internal audit for 2023/2024 and will receive it by the end of May 2024.

## 10 POLICIES AND PROCEDURAL DOCUMENT UPDATES:

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Model Standing Orders adopted by LCC.  
Financial Regulations.