

# PENNARD LIFE

Spring/Summer 2023 Pennard Community Council

## NEW WEB SITE

Our new website has gone live. The address for the new site is:

<http://www.pennardcc.gov.wales>.

If you go to the old site you will automatically be directed to the new one.



## WELCOME TO PENNARD LIFE

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of Pennard Life - the newsletter produced by Pennard Community Council. The aim of this newsletter is to inform the community about what the council are doing and our future plans. We hope you find it interesting and informative. Being mindful of the environment this newsletter has been produced using recycled paper and vegetable inks.

## NEW LOGO



To go with the new website, we have also given our logo a makeover. We hope you like this fresh new look.



As the cost of living crisis continues, Pennard Community Council keeps looking for new ways to help people in our area.

We would like to remind people of the Pennard Energy, Food, and Technology Assistance (PEFTA) scheme which operates in order to make sure nobody goes hungry in our community. For more information contact the Clerk on 07825 225567. Last year we secured grants worth £8000 from Pennard Charity and £8000 from Swansea Support Funds 2022/23 to buy food and essentials to help community members in what are difficult times for all of us. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Pennard Charity and Swansea Council for their assistance.

We now have a bank account set up to receive donations to this scheme.

If you would like to make a donation please contact the Clerk for details.



**WARM  
HUBS**



The warm hubs were not as well attended as we hoped, if you have any views on the idea please let us know, so we can look at how best to do things next winter. We would also like to hear from you if you used the facility and what you thought. We are planning community lunches in Kittle and Pennard on July 16th to coincide with the Ironman road closures. You can find more details on this at the end of this newsletter.

## PERIOD POVERTY SCHEME

We were recently successful in securing a £2000 grant from Swansea Period Dignity Grant 2022/23 to provide free, reusable and eco friendly period products, these have been extremely welcomed and are available as follows. Re-usable products can be found at: Pennard Stores  
Muddy Mail Room  
The Library  
Well Pharmacy  
Eco products are in the Toilets at  
The Hall  
Muddy Mail room  
Three Cliffs Coffee Shop  
The Beaufort Arms  
If you don't see them just ask they are available to all who need them.

**No one should need to go without.**





# YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The members of your Community Council are:

Cllr Keith Atkins MBE - Southgate  
Cllr Rachel Carter - Southgate  
Cllr Ralph Cook - Southgate  
Cllr Darran Hickery (Vice Chair) - Southgate  
Cllr Lynda James - Kittle  
Cllr Cari Jones - Southgate  
Cllr Susan Rodaway (Chair) - Southgate  
Cllr Steve Sheriff - Southgate  
Cllr Will Smith - Southgate  
Cllr Leanne Richards - Southgate  
Cllr Elsbeth Rodaway - Southgate  
Cllr Christos Georgakis - Southgate  
Cllr Karen Penny - Kittle

They are all doing their best for you and the community. You can contact any of them, or the Clerk, all details are on our website:  
[www.pennardcc.gov.wales](http://www.pennardcc.gov.wales).

We currently have 1 vacancy in Kittle.  
If you are interested in joining us and would like to know more, get in touch with the Clerk on 07825 225567 or [clerk@pennardcc.gov.wales](mailto:clerk@pennardcc.gov.wales) for more details.



## LOOKING BACK OVER 2022-23

Over the last year your Community Councillors have been working hard representing your views and making things happen in the community, there have been 56 Full Council and Committee meetings. We continue to use Zoom to conduct our meetings remotely, but since February, have also been able to hold the Full Council Meetings in a "Hybrid" format, or multi-location. This provides Councillors and members of the public with the ability to join the meetings in person at the hall, or online from wherever they may be located. Similar to last year, the public attendance at our meetings has increased on pre-pandemic years due to the ease of joining our meetings using the remote software.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023-24

The 2023-24 Budget continues to put in place funding to improve services to the community including:

- The refurbishment to the Community Hall.
- Adaptation to the entrances to the park and field to allow wheelchair and mobility scooter users access.
- Environmental improvements within the community in line with our Climate and Ecological Emergency Plan and our Section 6 Biodiversity Plan.

The development of a community garden and growing space

You will recognise some of these improvements as some have been pushed into 2023-24 from last year due to the lack of contractor availability

The full budget report and Annual Report can be found on the Council Website

# PENNARD BURIAL GROUND

The Pennard Community Burial Ground, adjoining St. Mary's Church, has served the Pennard Community for 73 years. It is a dignified, peaceful and well kept area. The burial ground has benefitted from new contracts for maintenance of the area, enhancing the environment, which is enclosed by mature hedges and trees. The Burial Ground Committee ensure that the area is well planned and maintained, so ensuring that it is a suitable area for burials to be conducted in the best possible environment, which is also an ideal place to visit in the times and years to come.

Regular risk assessments are carried out at the ground, and any remedial work to be carried out following these assessments is carried out without hesitation to ensure that the place is safe and appropriate.

Occasionally we need to contact the owners who leased the plots for a deceased relative. Sometimes these have moved away or become non contactable, we ask community members to ensure that their details, as held by our clerk, Mrs. Jan Crocker, are kept up to date please!



On this last point, it is not unusual for relatives expecting to use an existing plot for the burial of a loved one do not have the right to the use of the plot. It is wise to keep these rights up to date. If a community member is uncertain if their ownership of the lease is correctly recorded and up to date I would urge them to contact the Clerk.

The committee for the Burial Ground plans for the future, ensuring there is an amount put into the reserves each year, to enable additional Burial Ground land to be purchase in the future when needed.

KEITH ATKINS MBE  
CHAIR, LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE,  
2022-23



## MOLEHILLS

You may have noticed more mole activity in the burial ground than in the past, this is due to our Biodiversity plan stating that we would no longer exterminate the moles. We will however continue to remove the excess earth for use in filling in dips and holes that occur around the grounds.



# PENNARD PLAY PARK

We have continued with the improvements to the Park and Playing fields we hope the new paths have meant less muddy feet on the way to school and a safe path around the toddler area. We have also refurbished the boules court ready for the warmer weather. Why not get a team together and resurrect the boules competitions of old.



We hope you like the new colourful benches, picnic set and accessible games table we thought the coloured recycled plastic alternative would really brighten the park up and they certainly do.



Our new Rota Roka has been installed replacing the very stiff see saw, hope you have fun on this one.



Cllr. Rodaway testing the Rota Roka! One of the many advantages of having a younger Councillor.

**The Community Halls can be rented from as little as  
£13 per session**

**Here are some of our users in action**

**If you are interested in joining a class contact the  
Clerk on 07825 225567 for details**

# **Pennard Community Hall**

## **What's on**

**Mon**

**Bowls - pm**  
**Archery - eve**  
**Garden Society - eve (monthly)**

**Tue**

**Parent & toddlers - am**  
**Badminton - pm**  
**WI - eve 1st Tue monthly**  
**Yoga - eve**

**Wed**

**Badminton - am**  
**Yoga - eve**  
**Market 2nd Wed montly**

**Thur**

**Art - am**  
**Dog training - eve**

**Fri**

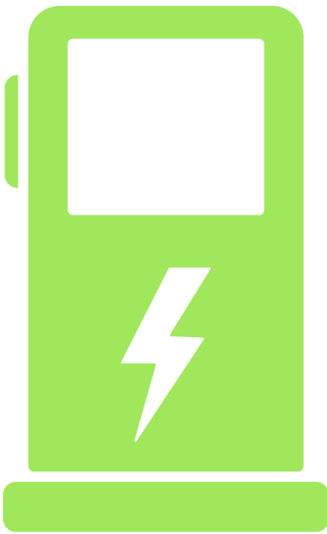
**Pilates - am**  
**Rugbytots - pm**  
**Archery - eve**

**Sat**

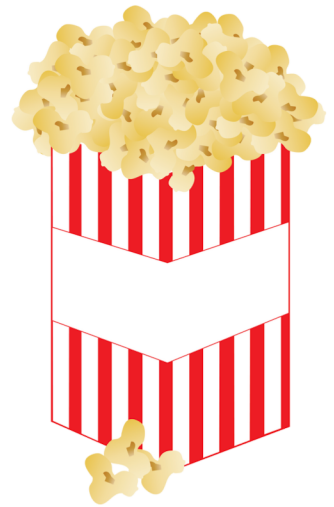
**Dog training - am**  
**(occasionaly)**



# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING



Thanks to everyone who took part and popped their ideas onto the platform as well as all those who voted for the marvellous ideas. The winning idea was the Community Bus which has been a great success, but as the Council had already agreed to support this initiative, the next idea was chosen to receive the funding . This idea was the installation of Electric vehicle charging points in the villages. It is envisaged that, depending on the survey, a point would be installed at the community hall with perhaps a second at the burial ground carpark. The second most popular idea was for a community cinema which we are also looking into.



On the Youth Project side of things, as most of the ideas put forward revolve around the youth club and youth provision we have postponed any decision pending further discussions with the young people in the community so they get what they actually want.

## POOPER SNOOPER APP

Pooper Snooper is a project that seeks to empower people to tackle a messy problem.

Dog waste is a significant problem in the UK. There are approximately 8.5 million dogs in the country with roughly 25% of all households currently owning a dog. And with each dog needing to defecate up to 5 times every day that could mean a staggering 42.5 million dog poops per day that need to be dealt with.

Many dog owners are responsible and clean up after their pooch but we all know that too many are not as socially responsible, leading to the pollution of environments that are there for us all to enjoy and share. Not only an inconvenience, dog poo also poses substantial health risks to humans (particularly young children) and to animals including commercially important livestock.

Pooper Snooper lets you highlight the problem of dog fouling wherever you are and puts dog fouling on the map! The app also allows you to record and find the location of bins so that it's easier than ever to find where to dispose of your doggy deposits.

The Councillors are about to embark on an exercise to inspect all the footpaths in the community. They will also be gathering bin information to pop on this app, which is free to download from your application store. You too can do this if you wish.



# YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU! COME AND VOLUNTEER

There are many ways in which you can help your community and make it a better place to live for all the residents. Many local people responded to our last appeal for volunteers when the pandemic began. They helped to deliver medicines or do shopping for older and more vulnerable members of the community. they also simply rang people living alone for a chat. This work was greatly valued and has continued to this day.

We still need volunteers for all sorts of areas, such as:

- \* Phone buddies - ringing an isolated person for a chat
- \* Posting letters or parcels in the P.O.
- \*Collecting medication from the pharmacy
- \*Local shopping
- \* Helping in the community garden
- \* Delivering leaflets

If you can spare the odd hour here or there, please contact the clerk on [Clerk@pennardcc.gov.wales](mailto:Clerk@pennardcc.gov.wales) 07825 225 567



## We Need Your Help At The Community Garden



**JOIN NOW**

We would like to say a huge thank you to the community members who go out every weekend and clear the rubbish from the road sides, the cliffs and around the car parks (both the main National Trust one and the burial ground).

If you would also like to do your bit for a cleaner environment the Community Council has supplied litter picking equipment to three hubs around the villages - The Beaufort Arms, Pennard Stores and the Muddy Mailroom. You can also pick up the Council Blue bags there, which once filled with your litter pickings can be placed next to one of the Council bins for collection





## WHAT ACTION TO TAKE IF YOU ENCOUNTER COWS IN PENNARD

During the warmer months there can be up to 150 cattle freely roaming around Pennard and the surrounding cliffs and beaches.

Here is some Public Information regarding grazing farm animals in public places from the Health and Safety Executive:

### FARM ANIMALS GRAZING

Be aware that grazing farm animals on the commons may present a risk to the public.

Please observe the following precautions-

1. Keep dogs on a leash whenever near grazing animals, unless animals chase the dog, then just let go of the dog.
2. Keep young children under close parental control.
3. Do not come between cows and their calves.
4. Observe the presence of a bull (or bulls) and do not go between them and the cows.
5. Do not approach within 5m of grazing cattle.
6. Do not walk between closely assembled grazing animals



## A LITTLE PUBLIC INFORMATION RELATING TO GULLS



Please note - Gulls have basic legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and it is illegal to intentionally kill any bird, damage, destroy an active nest or its contents.

It is recognised that feeding and observing wild birds in our gardens and parks is a popular and educative pastime and is to be encouraged. But gulls are not garden birds.

The natural habitat for a Herring gull (the species most commonly seen in urban parks and gardens) is marine and coastal. But in recent decades increasing numbers have been enticed inland by the ready availability of waste food from human sources.

Wrongly, such waste food is being supplemented by a few householders, no doubt well-meaning, who put out additional food on the ground. This is usually bread - which is unnatural and harmful to gulls especially their young.



# LOCAL AREA COORDINATOR (LAC) IN PENNARD



\*SEREN ALDRON is our LAC

Swansea is the first Local Authority in Wales to have a Local Area Coordinator in every part of the county. This means everyone has access to a person who has a range of connections, information and skills that can benefit you, whilst you identify what your good life looks like.

\*LACs want to ensure that "All people live in welcoming communities that provide friendship, mutual support, equity and opportunities for everyone."

A LAC works alongside you and your community while you:

- Make new connections and friends
- Get involved in groups and activities
- Overcome personal challenges
- Get your voice heard by people in power and being involved in improving public services
- Make your contribution to your community
- Think about what your good life looks like.

How does it work?

\*We will take time to get to know you, your family and your community.

\*We will support you to:

access information in a variety of ways, be heard, be in control and make choices,

\*Identify your personal strengths, goals and needs,

\* Find practical ways of doing the things you want or need to do

\* Develop and use personal and local networks,

\*Plan for the future,

\*Help you to be part of and contribute to your community and to access support and services.

Seren also has details of the clubs and events taking place around the villages contact her for more information.

Contact Details:

Seren Aldron

Tel: 07814 939431

Email: [seren.aldron@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:seren.aldron@swansea.gov.uk)





# BIODIVERSITY PLAN AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY STEERING GROUP



The Council has recently published its 2022 Biodiversity report which you can find published on the Council Website. It looks at:

- how we can embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement
- raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance
- safeguard principal species and habitats
- restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks
- tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature based solutions, address invasive species as well as how we plan to use improve and share evidence along with supporting other organisations in all aspects of biodiversity

As part of Pennard's Biodiversity action plan you may have noticed that some areas of Pennard park have been left unmown this year. This allows native wildflowers the chance to grow and complete their flowering cycle, providing essential forage and habitat for our endangered pollinators. So far we have spotted: Ox eye daisy, cuckoo flower, Speedwells, Scarlet pimpernel, Forget-me-nots, Rampion fumitory, Common vetch, Red campion as well as the usual daisies and buttercups and much more. If you spot any other flora or pollinators in the park please do let us know.



**DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY** 

Back in 2019 we declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and with the help of the Climate Emergency Steering group formed from members of the Community and Councillors we produced our first plan, the time has come to revisit this, to look at what has been achieved and what we need to change as we move forward. If you are interested in being part of the new steering group please contact the Clerk with your details.





## **PENNARD ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

On the 16th of March, Pennard residents and PAT members, Cari Jones, David Naylor and Phil Brophy met with Jack Palmer, Swansea Council Active Travel Officer. The meeting was rescheduled from the 8th of March when we had invited Mr Palmer to attend the Pennard Active Travel meeting but he was unable to attend. PAT members discussed with Mr Palmer the need for safe active travel in and around Pennard. The group highlighted the lack of safe walking, cycling and horse-riding provision particularly along the main road (B4436) through from Bishopston through Kittle and Pennard to Southgate. The group shared the outline suggestions given in the Pennard Community Newsletter which include short term improvements such as traffic control measures (lower speed limits and advisory cycle lanes) between Kittle and Southgate; off-road uphill cycle provision on the Northway and Kittle hills; and safe routes to Pennard Primary as well as a longer term desire for a dedicated shared use path separated from the main carriageway. The group discussed how to take this forwards in terms of raising the profile with the council, stages of development and attracting funding. It was suggested that PAT should show support for improvements through evidence from local businesses and residents. This would enable the project to move to feasibility and development stages.

Pennard Active Travel will be attending the next Swansea Active Travel Forum in May to present on the need for improved active travel provision for the area.

If you are interested in being involved, Pennard Active Travel aims to meet in the Southgate Club at 7pm every second Thursday of the month, apart from Easter/Christmas etc. To contact us or to check when we are meeting that month, please contact [pennardactivetravel@gmail.com](mailto:pennardactivetravel@gmail.com).

## **THE GREEN PATH**

After a very long wait we are pleased to be able to tell you that the Green Path from Green Lane to Pennard Primary School had been approved by Swansea Council Highways Dept. With the help of a grant the path will soon be under construction and a much needed access between the two villages will have begun.



# INTRODUCTION TO SEE AROUND BRITAIN

See Around Britain is a disabled people's organisation doing some vital work in Wales, across the UK and in Europe. See Around Britain runs a unique, fully inclusive and interactive multilingual photographic App, which helps everyone to decide if a venue is suitable for their access needs; no other organisation provides this. Everything from transport access to washroom facilities can be viewed in a series of photographs of venues. The app is multilingual so can greatly assist refugees and the vital support that food banks and Warm spaces provide. All you need is a phone! Take pictures of places you've been to and you've loved and send them to See Around Britain along with a short description of how accessible they are and why you love them. This information will also be of use to advertise the accessibility of local businesses. Unfortunately there are currently only 2 entries based in Pennard on the See Around Britain website/app and given the immense benefits that See Around Britain brings to disabled people, especially when planning visits and travel arrangements, See Around Britain are specifically looking for support to help progress their work in the Pennard and Gower area. If you have a passion for travelling they are also looking for Venue Description Writers to help write descriptions of submitted photographs and Photo/Video Surveyors to help take photos to cover the Pennard and Gower areas and increase the visual information available on their website.

For more information, please go to their website <https://seearoundbritain.com/> or contact their founder Marg McNiel on [support@seearoundbritain.com](mailto:support@seearoundbritain.com).

<https://seearoundbritain.com/venues/st-marys-church-pennard>

<https://seearoundbritain.com/venues/pennard-swansea-open-daily-free-admission>



## **New Accessibility Working group.**

Pennard Community Council have initiated a new accessibility workgroup to work toward making information, activities, and/or environments sensible, meaningful, and usable for as many people as possible. If you are you interested in being part of this contact the clerk on 07825 225567





# YOUTH PROVISION

Recently we have been in discussion with Swansea Youth Services regarding bringing some Youth provision back to the community. We hope this will include a Youth Club, cinema/games nights and perhaps some holiday provision for the Summer break. If you have any youth worker qualifications, experience or just want to help out contact the Clerk on 0782522556

There have been some new additions to Council over the past 6 months, including an Eighteen year old who is very keen to bring these provisions to Pennard.

We are also looking to form a Youth Council with an age range from 11 to 25, this will feed into the main Community Council and will look to represent the needs and views of the young people in the community, a very useful addition I am sure



## AND FINALLY....

We are pleased to announce that we have had an unqualified audit result for the financial year 2021/22. Our Clerk has achieved her CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) Qualification. Which is a tremendous amount of work and we would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her on her continued outstanding work for and on behalf of the Council. These two successes, along with us having at least ten elected Councillors, means that the Council can now use the General Power of Competence. This not only means we have joined a very small group in Wales able to use this Power, but we now have the ability to help the Community with more schemes such as PEFTA , Period Poverty etc. than ever before.

