**MEIDRIM COMMUNITY COUNCIL (MCC)**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Meidrim Community Council is the tier of local government that is closest to the community and people it serves. It focusses on the interests and issues of those who live or work in the Meidrim area.

Meidrim Community Council is a Community Council in the county of Carmarthenshire in South Wales. The community is bordered by neighbouring communities of: Bancyfelin; Trelech; Abernant; Newchurch and Merthyr; St Clears; Llangynin; and Llanwinio.

Meidrim has a parish [church](http://meidrim.org.uk/clubs-groups/church), [three chapels](http://meidrim.org.uk/clubs-groups/chapel), a pub, a [primary school](http://meidrim.org.uk/clubs-groups/school), a village green, a [park](http://meidrim.org.uk/clubs-groups/welfare-committee), a Youth Hall and car park with public conveniences. It also boasts a number of self-catering cottages in the surrounding area making it popular with tourists, as well as a number of [local walks](http://meidrim.org.uk/local-walks).

The Village Green is owned by Meidrim Community Council and the Public Conveniences and Car Park are leased from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Council has nine Councillors who are elected every five years. In between elections, additional members can be co-opted.

The Council has one part-time employee, the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

# Priorities

The Council’s work is focussed on supporting the people that its serves, and enhancing the area in which they live and work. To do this it works with others bodies, including various departments of Carmarthenshire County Council.

The Council does not have the resources or the legal right to manage everything in the community. However, please do report issues to the Council such as broken streetlights, potholes or fly tipping and we will ensure it is passed on to the relevant body. The Council is open to new ideas, for example, identifying opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the community and developing the environment for the children in our community. Please do get in touch with the Clerk – contact details at the end of this Report.

MCC are not paid for being Councillors. They all serve the local community as volunteers but can claim minor expenses. Since 2018 there has been a mandatary £150 a year allowance for Councillors however, Councillors can elect to forgo the allowance by informing the Clerk in writing that they don't wish to receive the allowance.

Additionally, the Council works closely with Ysgol Meidrim and runs a free Parent and Toddler Group in the school.  Also, that the Council takes part in the annual Macmillan Coffee morning which brings the community together to raise money for the charity.

# Financial information

The Community Council determines its precept request each year. A precept is the amount of money the Community Council requests from the County Council to enable it to fulfil its function. The Council publishes its accounts on the website and posts them on the noticeboard.

# Activities over the past twelve months

MCC has worked together with the Welfare Committee to install a new playground fence and improve the Riverside Walk footpath. Additionally, MCC has supported the upgrade of playground equipment with funding.

The village footpaths have been much improved due to hard work carried out by members of the Council. MCC is pleased to announce the upcoming implementation of the "Meidrim Trails Network" which has been made possible with the help of the YnNi Teg Bwlchgwynt turbine community fund. This involves colour-coded and named circular routes corresponding to a map that will be placed in the bus shelter. These routes will be named after local geographical and historical features. This also includes new custom colour-coded way-markers to mark these routes, which will begin and end in the village, avoid dangerous roads and comprise a number of footpaths, tracks and landscape features, all of which is designed to make the footpath network more user-friendly and to encourage more people to use it, without having to travel to the coast, mountains or popular tourist hotspots.

Village Green- tried the hay meadow and grass is collected.

Traffic calming – more has been done to address this issue within the village with speed bumps and the road by New Inn.

A new fence has been erected behind the bus shelter.

Car Park/PCs – burst pipes have been repaired, heating and lighting updated and damaged external area repaired with concrete. Defibrillator positioned on external wall of PCs.

Notice boards have been repaired.

**Biodiversity**

MCC already has a policy in place relating to biodiversity in the community which includes.

Monthly/regular litter picking programme involving MCC and local volunteers.

Planted with community involvement - the Community Orchard, comprising native trees which benefit wildlife as well as being educational to the village school. Dead trees recently replaced with new.

There is a planned maintenance programme for the Village Green, which is to keep grass short for public and school sports and activities, with the edges/hedges trashed once a year to leave spring flowers and wildlife on the riverbank to flourish.

There is ongoing monitoring and subsequent removal of invasive species, i.e. Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam.

Two large planters have been positioned in barren spaces in the village with community involvement in planting and maintaining.

A native wildlife friendly hedge has been planted at the Car Park together with a number of bee and butterfly friendly Sedums.

There is ongoing planting of spring bulbs and summer climbers on the riverbank, so that residents and visitors may appreciate and enjoy their surroundings.

There is involvement of the public in using public footpath network. Local volunteers are now maintaining and reporting footpath issues plus clearing litter all around the village. “Ranger” appointed from MCC committee to oversee this ongoing programme.

Some untouched/unspoilt land and woodland has been left entirely for nature/wildlife, with a public footpath running through it.

Prior to Covid a village-wide garden competition was organised with emphasis on wildlife friendly gardens. This was well supported within the village.

# Meidrim Community Council Contact Details

County Councillor Jean Lewis

Chair Cllr Tess Sinden

Vice Chair Cllr Matt Barnikel

Cllr Rona Crane

Cllr Ellie Gadd

Cllr Steve Kind

Cllr Dyfrig Mason

Cllr Selwyn Runnett

Cllr Dan Robinson

Cllr Buddug Thomas

Glyn Phillips Caretaker

Sue Milligan Clerk/RFO – suemill1958@gmail.com