

Trellech United Community Council (TUCC) Annual Report 2025-6



It is a pleasure to present Trellech United Community Council's Annual Report which aims to give a taste of the work of the TUCC Community Council during 2025-26 and our commitment to work together with the community and partner stakeholders to achieve this. More information about our work is on our website <https://trellechunited-cc.gov.uk>.

We hope you enjoy reading the report and find it useful.

Cllr. Marcus Harling, Chair, on behalf of the TUCC Community Council

1. Community Council Background

Community and town councils are the grassroots level of local government in Wales, with statutory powers to influence decisions on behalf of the people in the community ward that they represent.

Community Councils provide a voice for the Community in decision making within the County Council and are often consulted. They can provide residents with help and information about how to access services, provide feedback and raise concerns with the County Council. For this reason, they are a vital part of any community. Their work falls into these main categories:

- representing the local community
- helping to deliver services to meet local needs
- striving to improve quality of life in the Community
- liaising with the County Council and other Agencies and Statutory Bodies, such as NRW, Wye Valley-National Landscape and Welsh Water, to ensure that local concerns/needs are understood

The most common topics that they get involved with are planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, helping local groups, managing open spaces, providing grants to support the work of local groups and village halls and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

The work of the Community councils is paid for through a precept, which is an element of the council tax paid by all residents. Each householder, through their council tax contributes to the running of the TUCC and this is shown separately in your Council Tax statement. The precept is set annually and presented to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) in January for the following financial year, who collect it on our behalf.

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The process of deciding on the level of precept includes the preparation of a draft budget, by considering the likely costs, plans for any projects, and setting the amount for contributions - within the guidelines published annually - and any other financial matters. Consideration is also given to the reserves held by TUCC to ensure an appropriate precept is set.

2. Community Councillors

Trellech United Community Council is made up of 14 Councillors, representing the seven wards of Trellech Town, Penallt, The Narth, Catbrook, Llanishen, Trellech Grange and Whitebrook.

We work closely with Monmouthshire County Councillors, Jayne McKenna and Richard John, who attend our meetings to discuss local issues.

Thirteen councillors have been elected or co-opted on to Trellech United Community Council. A Chair and Vice Chair are elected at the annual meeting in May. Cllr. Rosemary Decker-Thomas was the Chair of the Council in 2025/26 and Cllr. Leanne Wakerley the Vice Chair.

As at the end of the 2025/6 Financial Year the other members were Cllr. David May, Cllr. Nikki Scarr, Cllr. Stuart Geddes, Cllr. George Weston, Cllr Sallie Roderick, Cllr Ed Webb, Cllr Kate Darlow, Cllr Alan Poulter, Cllr Peter Ash, Cllr Marcus Harling and Cllr Claire Dunsford.

We carried a Cllr vacancy for the Catbrook Ward into the 2026/27 financial year and would welcome recruiting more Community Councillors.

More information about your Community Councillors, their contact details and how to be a Community Councillor can be found on the TUCC website at <https://trellechunited-cc.gov.uk>.

3. Staff

The Council has two part-time members of staff, Sue Baker, FCCA ILCA, who is the Clerk and Hayley Rouse who is the Financial Officer (RFO). The Clerk and RFO may be contacted by e-mail or phone as below. A separate Staffing Committee is in place for staffing matters.

admin@trellechunited-cc.gov.uk or phone. 07895449756

finance@trellechunited-cc.gov.uk or phone 07594 515 701

4. Meetings & Website Information

Normal meetings of the Council are held monthly on the third Monday evening of the month and considers planning applications, grants to local groups and any other matters referred to it by local residents, Monmouthshire County Council and by other statutory bodies. All meetings are open to the public and there is a forum where members of the public can raise concerns and ask questions about agenda items. As per the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021, TUCC holds multi-location meetings - namely face-to-face meetings at Pelham Hall and remotely via 'zoom' and are in English. All meetings are accessible via zoom.

Information about TUCC including the agenda for meetings, policies and news is available on the Community Council's website www.trellechunited-cc.gov.uk.

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The Community Council has adopted a member's code of conduct, and a register of interests is kept for each member. Each councillor has to declare any interest they have in items to be discussed at the start of each meeting, and these are noted in the minutes.

To support the Council, specific working groups which have been established to focus on items such as Staffing, Rights of Way and Finance.

5. External Memberships

TUCC benefits from being a member of One Voice Wales, which is the main representative body for community and town councils in Wales and provides legal advice, training, and professional advice.

The Clerk and RFO are members of the "Society of Local Council Clerks" SLCC, which is a source of information and good practice in the sector, and which also offers training courses and conferences.

TUCC also elects members to other local external bodies, as detailed below.

- Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group- TUCC has two representatives on the Wye Valley Villages Delivery Group which looks at common issues across different local Community Councils including rights of way, local services and environmental concerns.
- Llanishen Village Hall and Pelham Village Hall, Catbrook Educational Trust and the Trellech School Governing Body.
- GLEAM membership (Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement).

6. Legislation and Policy

As set out through relevant legislation and rules, TUCC have the following:

A Training Plan is in place for staff and Councillors and is regularly reviewed. One Voice Wales and SLCC provide opportunities for training and advice on specific issues.

The Community Council publishes an Annual Report which includes a Forward Plan.

A Biodiversity Report which was published in 2025/26 on the Biodiversity Duty and Ecosystem Resilience in response to the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1- Section 6. Our published bio-diversity report is here: [TUCC Biodiversity Report and Action Plan](#)

We hold our Annual Meeting in May each year to elect officers, review policies, risk assessments, working groups and asset registers.

7. Audit and Accounts

TUCC is audited by internal and external auditors annually. The internal audit is undertaken by Parsh & Town Audit Services and External Audit by the Wales Audit Office. In addition, a Finance Working Group is in place to provide additional scrutiny and support for financial matters. Key finance and accounting documents are available to view on the TUCC website under 'Finances'.

Results of Internal and External Audit of the Community Council

An internal audit of TUCC for the financial year 2025/6 resulted in a positive outcome. Audit Opinion: "All significant control objectives have been met".

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8. Finances

TUCC sets a budget annually and monitors expenditure against the budget throughout the financial year by receiving a regular report from the RFO.

- The level of precept for 2025/6 was £46,386.
- A total of £59,684.91 was spent during the year, with a further £500 carried into the next financial year for outstanding known costs from 2024-2025.
- TUCC reclaims the VAT paid for goods and services during the year and £1,564.92 has been reclaimed for 2025/6.
- A new finance system Scribe was implemented during the year to streamline financial management and reporting.
- A new payroll provider Catherine Williams, was engaged to ensure that statutory requirements over pensions and National Insurance were complied with.

Summary of Income and Expenditure 2025/6:

	Budget £	Actual £
Administration	22,493.91	24,146.60
Land Management	3,471.80	6,989.36
Community Facilities	27,755.00	19,756.65
Charities & CAB	3,950.00	3,800.00

9. Achievements 2025/6

TUCC supports the local community by providing grants for projects and facilities in the TUCC area each year and these are set out below for the Financial Year 2025/6 that were approved in the budget.

Decision under Power S145 towards running costs of the local Village Halls: running costs include utilities, broadband, insurance etc.	
Pelham Hall	£1,550.
Whitebrook Hall	£750
Llanishen Hall	None requested
Catbrook Hall	£900
The Narth Hall	£900
Total Village Hall Operating Costs Grants	£4,100

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General Power s137 LGA 1972 Grants for local projects approved in 2025/6 budget		
The Narth Singers	Contribution towards musical director	£500
Narth & District Footpath Group	Tenth Anniversary Project	£1,000
GWT	Permissive footpath	£450
The Narth Village Hall	Improved Heating system	£1,762
1st Wye Valley Brownies	Running costs for a local group in the Narth	£600
Pelham Hall	New kitchen	£2,475
Catbrook Village Hall	Remedial drainage works	£1,344
Total Project Grants		£8,131

Decision under Power S137-for Charitable Donations 2025/6	
Severn Area Rescue Association	£1,000
Decision under LGA 1972 section 144 power to support Citizens Advice	
Citizens Advice Monmouthshire-provision of services for free advice to residents within our Wards.	£2,500
Total donations	£3,500

Defibrillators 2025/6

TUCC manages 7 defibrillators across the ward, which are all visible for use on the national defibrillator portal The Circuit. This work involves regular checks to ensure that defibrillators are in good condition and are available for use, as well as ensuring that pads and batteries are replaced as necessary. We rely on local volunteers to carry out the monthly checks.

Defibrillators are available in

- Catbrook – Village Hall
- Penallt – Village Hall
- Penallt – former phone box
- Whitebrook – New Mills – former phone box
- Trellech – Babington Centre
- Llanishen – Village Hall
- The Narth Village Hall

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Babington Meadow (Penallt Recreation Ground) Charitable Organisation 2025/6

TUCC are the Trustees of the Charity that fund the maintenance of Babington Meadow and playpark and complete the Charity Commission returns.

Decision under Power S137 for Charitable Expenditure	
Penallt Recreation Ground (Babington Meadow) 2024/5 payment	£1,942.30

Land Holdings and Playparks and Dog Waste Bins 2024/5

TUCC has responsibility for several pieces of land across the Wards and we work in partnership with local volunteers and MCC for grass cutting, tree management and bio-diversity management of these. We promote and consider sustainability and biodiversity in our approach to our work and through our partners.

Grass Cutting is managed and funded by TUCC in the following areas:

Pen Y Fan Green

Catbrook Village Green

Broadstone play Park

Llanishen Village Green

Babington Meadow.

We have carried out appropriate remedial tree works in the area in 2025/6 following the MCC Tree Surveys on Pen-Y Fan green. Old signs for Penallt Village Green were replaced to ensure that the surface was protected.

Playparks

We manage two playparks in Penallt and Broadstone and undertake annual playpark inspections to ensure the safety and enjoyment for users. We plan to refurbish the Broadstone playpark in 2026/7 alongside the Catbrook Educational Trust.

Dog Waste Bins

We provide 13 local dog waste bins across the Ward to ensure our green spaces are able to be enjoyed by all and fund the regular collection of waste. We are also part of a wider Monmouthshire County Council Group that focuses on dog fouling issues and provide free dog waste bags to encourage residents and visitors to clean up after their pets.

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The following land holdings are also held by TUCC and form part of the historic Wye Valley National Landscape.

Land Holdings-Village Greens and Common Land	
Old Church Green, Penallt	Cleddon Green
The Green, Pentwyn	Catbrook Green
Trelleck Village Green	Llanishen Green
Pen y Fan Green	The Graig Common
Parkhouse Rocks Common	“Kiln Tump”, Penallt Quarry Common
Old Quarry, Botany Bay Common	Tregagle Common
Whitelye Common	Trelleck Bog Common
Organy Pool Common	Cicelyford Common
Big Pool Common	Catbrook Football Field
Rock Cottage	Broadstone Village Green
Wells Wood Common, Cleddon	Trellech Car Park
Babington Meadow PlayPark	Old Quarry Common, Trellech (Pen y Garn)

10. Consultations and Stakeholders

Planning 2025/6

TUCC was consulted on 41 planning applications by Monmouthshire County Council across the different TUCC wards by the MCC Planning Department and provided feedback on all of these, taking into account local issues of surface flooding, light pollution, foul sewage, residential amenity, biodiversity, Wye Valley National landscape/Sites of Scientific interest/conservation areas, impact on character of landscape and road safety.

TUCC worked with MCC directly and with our MCC County Councillors in raising concerns around the following:

- Rights of Way issues, blocked paths, maintenance of rights of way for residential access, footpath orders and definitive map changes. Extensive input and discussion with external agencies regarding unclassified roads in the area and the usage of them by off road motorbikes. The rights of way working group continued to highlight concerns to the relevant authorities, collating all the issues raised by residents and identifying actions that could be taken. A formal letter was sent to the Wye Valley National Landscape and other stakeholders formally raising concerns that local residents have over the classification and state of repair of some of the trails. A copy of the letter can be found here [To-Celyn-Davies-April-2025-final.pdf](#)
- Planning enforcement issues in Catbrook and Licensing requirements for the Devauden Festival following concerns from local residents.
- Sewerage 101 application in Trellech (also including Welsh Water and NRW)
- Local flooding issues and blocked drains and poor local road surface issues
- Plans to replace the Speed Indicator Signs in Llanishen alongside MCC.

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TUCC also work with MCC Planning Enforcement, local footpath groups, Village Halls and other voluntary organisations in supporting local services or raising local concerns.

11. Forward Community Plan

To review our published bio-diversity report and action plan

To refresh the Babington Meadow (Penallt Recreation Ground) Charity

To refurbish the Broadstone Playpark

To engage further with stakeholders on rights of way issues, including the local volunteer footpath groups.

To continue to engage with local Village Halls in the delivery of local services.

To continue to engage with MCC on planning matters

To continue to raise the issue of off-road motor bikes causing a nuisance to local residents and destroying local rights of way surfaces.

To have an annual Community meeting so that residents can engage more with TUCC

12. Thanks

TUCC would like to say a big thank you to all the partners, associations and individuals who have assisted with the work done during the year. Many of our achievements would not have been possible without this support. Thanks also to Community Councillors, County Councillors, MCC and the many volunteer groups in the community who are actively involved in the Community.