St. Fagans Community Council

NEWSLETTER/*CYLCHLYTHYR – SPRING/ GWANWYN 2025

Vacancy

Councillor Bhupendra Pathak has recently resigned from the Community Council and will be greatly missed. The Council appreciates his hard work.

As advertised on our noticeboards and website, we are currently seeking a new member for the Community Council, and would be particularly interested in hearing from candidates living in the Maes-Y-Deri/ Goitre Fach areas.

Further information can be found on our website and Facebook page.

If you are interested in applying, please forward a letter outlining the experience and personal qualities you would bring to the role, and the contribution you believe you could make, serving as a member of the Community Council to clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales.

Westfield Park Survey

Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas, feedback, and completed a survey about potential projects in the Westfield Park green space.

We asked what you would like to see in the space and here are the top responses (ranked from most selected to least selected):

1. Natural play equipment
2. Picnic tables or similar
3. Wildflower meadow
4. Traditional play equipment
5. More trees (completed)
6. Community garden
7. Concrete table tennis etc.

People also said they wanted:

- Better path to the pond
- Better pond maintenance
- Better wheelchair access
- Something for teenagers
- Improvements to the football pitch
- Owl and bat boxes
- Better maintenance and cutting back of weeds and bushes

Several residents said they would like to be informed and involved in community gardening, litter picks, and other events. We will be in contact with you soon about forthcoming plans.

We will also be holding a public meeting to present our next steps towards implementing some of these ideas. Details will be posted on our website, noticeboards, and Facebook page in due course.

Rhydlafar Maintenance Team



For some time, Rhydlafar residents have been volunteering at weekends to maintain and tidy up the open spaces around the estate, even though the park falls within the jurisdiction of Cardiff Council.



Twenty residents have volunteered in total so far. The group has been busy cutting back overgrown areas, tidying path edges, and clearing pathways in the park.

One of the residents participating said “I have enjoyed helping to improve our local park. It is satisfying, and a good way to get to know our neighbours”.



If you would like to be part of the group, please contact Councillor Bethan Devonald on: 07801 896310 or e-mail: **bdevonald@stfaganscc.gov.wales**.

*** Sylwch y gallwch gael mynediad at y cylchlythyr hwn yn Gymraeg ar ein gwefan/ Please note that you will be able to access this newsletter in Welsh on our website.**

Traffic and Parking

Village Hall Parking

Please note if you are using the car park at the rear of the Village Hall (owned by the Plymouth Arms but operated by Europarks) you will need to ensure your registration number is logged, otherwise you are liable to be fined. Whilst recently, there has appeared to be a grace period for parking, this is no longer the case.

Parking on the Pavement

The Neighbourhood Policing team have been issuing tickets to vehicles parked on the pavement, obstructing the footpath. Please be aware that they will be patrolling the area regularly.

Speeding

The police have recently been monitoring the speeds of traffic in St. Fagans, particularly in the village itself. There was an alarming number of cars recorded travelling in excess of 30mph and the data has been forwarded to GoSafe Wales, as evidence for intervention.

All those who registered as speeding have been sent warning letters, and the police advised that they will continue to carry out unannounced surveillance checks.

The Council has requested average speed cameras, (such as those installed at Groes Faen). However, GoSafe Wales has advised that the area does not meet the criteria. The Council will continue to raise this issue with the help of the police and MS Mark Drakeford.

A further suggestion has been made, by the Councillors, to reverse one of the right of way signs through the village. Reversing one sign would stop traffic coming from the Museum end of Crofft-Y-Genau Road having priority through the entire village. MS Mark Drakeford is taking up this suggestion with Cardiff Council.

Why 20mph makes a difference

Safety, in the event of an accident, has been the driving force behind the implementation of the 20mph speed limit – especially when there is likely risk to pedestrians and cyclists.

The kinetic energy (KE) of a moving car is given by the equation ½ MV^2, where M is the mass of the car, and V it's velocity.

For a 2 tonne car travelling at **20mph** the energy is 0.5x2x(20x20) or 400 units. A car travelling at 20 mph will have a **stopping distance of 40ft.**

For a 2 tonne car travelling at **30mph** the energy is 0.5x2x(30x30) or 900 units. A car travelling at 30mph will have a **stopping distance of 75ft.**

A 50% increase in speed results in more than double the destructive power of the car and almost double the stopping distance!

Roads and Pavements

The Community Council is not responsible for roads or pavements. However, we can report issues and follow them up, which was evidenced by the Community Council's complaints to Cardiff Council, regarding the condition of Michaelston Road, resulting in recent improvements.

In addition, whilst the work was being undertaken by Cardiff Council, some of the Community Councillors picked litter, clearing a huge amount of rubbish over a number of sessions.



If you have any problem areas in your locality, please let us know by contacting clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales. **It would be helpful if you could include pictures and a What3Words reference or postcode of the location.**

Replacement Cardiff Local Development Plan – Deposit Consultation



We were delighted that so many of you attended the public meeting on Thursday 20 March. Many thanks to Councillors Frances Lewis, Bethan Devonald, John Griffiths, and Clare Lewis for the preparation work, arranging and running the

meeting, and to Simon Gilbert (Head of Planning) for giving his time to present at the meeting.

The Community Council has submitted its comments to Cardiff Council and a copy of the response can be viewed on our website. The consultation closed on the 15th April 2025.

Dog Fouling

Sadly, we continue to receive reports of dog fouling. We would remind dog owners, sitters, and walkers, that it is your responsibility to clear up after your own dog (or the dog/s you are responsible for) and that fines can be imposed.

Instances of dog fouling can be reported to Cardiff Council (who are ultimately responsible) here: **https://tinyurl.com/mr3tdjnk**.

Although we understand the majority of owners/ walkers/ sitters are responsible, it is a serious problem as dog poo when left, carries harmful bugs which can lead to infection, asthma, and even blindness in humans. Fouling can also contaminate soil and water, harming the environment.



St. Fagans Cricket Club

We were delighted to hear that the St. Fagans Cricket Club had a successful season in 2024 with the 1st XI winning the South Wales Premier League, the League T20 Cup, and the Welsh Cup.

The junior section is flourishing with AllStars and Dynamo sessions held each Friday evening.

The under 15s got to the semi-final of the ECB National Cup.

Congratulations to all involved – we look forward to further updates on the 2025 season.

Plant Giveaway



Our first plant giveaway/ plant swap of the season took place on Sunday 23 March from 11am – 1pm in Westfield Park.

These are becoming regular events, providing a chance to swap excess seeds or plants, to pick up a plant, or just to meet people from the local area.



The Council are grateful to Councillors Aneka Rao and John Hughes, who have put a tremendous effort in to organising these events, encouraging people outdoors.



The councillors will be holding another event on **Sunday 4th of May**. This will coincide with the start of the summer **Play in the Park** events which proved very popular last year.

If you would like to hold an event for the benefit of the local community, the Community Council may be able to help by sharing information about your event, potentially lending equipment, or providing a small contribution towards costs. Please contact: clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales.

Invasive Laurel

South East Rivers Trust organised a clearance of invasive laurel earlier this year. The event was really well attended and clearing the area has made space for tree planting. Thanks again to Ollie Wicks who is making a real difference in the area, and to the many volunteers who turn up to help.

Trem-Y-Coed

Fexco Property Management Services (property management company for the Trem-Y-Ceod estate) has confirmed that developer, Charles

Church, has financed and arranged for signage and seating to be placed at the wetlands area at the Trem-Y-Coed estate. The installations should take place soon – perfect timing for summer.

St. Fagans Park



Thanks to 'Local Places for Nature' we were granted a package providing materials for additional planters in St. Fagans Park.



Councillors Griffiths, Hughes, McCarthy, and O'Brien gave their time to install the beds. Thanks to the Councillors and to Gareth from 'Local Places for Nature'.





First fruit was spotted on the trees planted in St. Fagans Park, at the side of the railway, last year. Hopefully this is a sign of things to come, and that the other trees will also flourish this year.

Thanks to Ollie at South East Wales Rivers Trust for arranging the supply and installation of an





information board detailing wildlife found in and around the River Ely.

The South East Wales Rivers Trust also donated and hung bat boxes in the trees by the river in St. Fagans Park. We hope the bats will make good use of them.

Heritage Project Update - Battle of St Fagans 1648

The working group is continuing to gather information and ideas for this project. Thank you to those who have been in touch to express an interest in being involved, and as soon as the project is ready to move forwards, we'll be in touch.

The group is keen to gather as much information about the battle as possible, so if you have any knowledge, stories, myths, legends, records, books, or artefacts to share please get in touch: **clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales**.

Orchard



Many thanks to Dave King from the Cardiff Rivers Group who helped remove the scrap metal from the orchard site.

One sheet of metal has been left to provide a habitat for slow worms who like to bask in the warmth from the metal, when it has been heated by the sun.





It was pleasing to see apples on the trees planted in the orchard. The Community Council did apply for an orchard package but, due to the limited space, the request was declined.

In a bid to manage the space well, an application was made to, and granted by Cardiff Council, to remove the tree infected with ash dieback. The tree has now been felled, and the chippings and logs have been retained in order to enhance habitats for wildlife.



Thank you to those who expressed an interest in helping to manage the site last year – we have not forgotten you. We are hoping to compile a plan for the orchard soon, now that the diseased tree has been taken down.

Coed Caerdydd



Coed Caerdydd is a 10 year project which aims to increase the number of trees in Cardiff. As part of its work, Coes Caerdydd has provided additional trees for Rhydlafar Park, and replacement, as well as additional trees, in Westfield Park.



Coed Caerdydd is also reviewing the trees in the park at St. Fagans, as well as the orchard, and, hopefully, we will be able to plant some additional trees this winter.



Many thanks to Chloe, from Coed Caerdydd, and all the volunteers.

Scams

The Community Council is aware of a number of scam texts and e-mails which are circulating.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) provides a wealth of information to help spot and protect yourself from scams. You can find more information here: **www.ncsc.gov.uk/.**

Thinking about the current scam texts, we thought it would be helpful to include a brief summary from the NCSC on how to spot a scam:

Authority: Is the message claiming to be from someone official? For example, your bank, a government department, a solicitor or doctor. Criminals often pretend to be important people or organisations.

Urgency: Are you told you have a limited time to respond? (such as within '24 hours' or 'immediately'). Criminals often threaten you with fines or other negative consequences.

Emotion: Does the message make you panic, fearful, hopeful, or curious? Criminals often use threatening language, make false claims of support, or tease you into wanting to find out more.

Scarcity: Is the message offering something in short supply, like concert tickets, money or a cure for medical conditions? Fear of missing out on a good deal or opportunity can make you respond quickly.

Current events

Are you expecting to see a message like this? Criminals often exploit current news stories, big events or specific times of year (like tax reporting, winter fuel payment) to make their scam seem more relevant to you.

How to check if a message is genuine:

If you have any doubts about a message, contact the organisation directly. **Don't** use the numbers or address in the message – use the details from their official website.

Remember, your bank (or any other official source) will **never** ask you to supply personal information via email, or call and ask you to confirm your bank account details. If you suspect someone is not who they claim to be, hang up and contact the organisation directly. If you have paper statements or a credit card from the organisation, official contact details are often written on them.

Pension Credit

From recent news sources you may be aware that not everyone who is entitled to pension credit is claiming it. You can check whether you are eligible here:
www.gov.uk/pension-credit

Alternatively, if it is easier to access help by phone you can call:

Age Cymru: 029 2043 1555
Advicelink Cymru: 0800 7022 020

Precept 2025-2026

Each year community councils issue a precept, which is the amount of money they require from Council Tax payers in their area. This year an increase of around 5% has been requested. In part to keep up with inflation and increased costs, but also to ensure that improvements can be carried out in the area where possible. Below are some details of larger projects which the Community Council is currently planning for.

Completed in 2024-2025:
Drainage works to Rhydlafar park – cost split with Cardiff Council, Community Council contribution £6725.65.

Projected works 2025-2026:
Design work commissioned for the creation of a permanent path on the slope between Westfield Park and Trem-Y-Coed, to improve access for pedestrians, pushchairs, and wheelchairs.

Following the design work, it is envisaged that the path creation will, hopefully, be funded by Cardiff Council and the Community Council.

Refitting of perished tiles in the play park at Rhydlafar – works carrying on from improved drainage (as mentioned above).

Improvements to Westfield Park – detailed plans are still to be decided.

Litter Picking

The next litter picking will take place on **10th May 2025**. Details of locations will be posted on Facebook and the website.

We are aware, and grateful, that many of you pick litter outwith organised collections, and would encourage you to register with Keep Wales Tidy.

Keeping Costs Down - Water

Water bills have risen by 27% this year. Dŵr Cymru is offering some free items to help you reduce your water usage, and consequently, your bills. To access the items, you need to sign up to 'Get Water Fit' at:
www.dwrcymru.com/en/help-advice/get-water-fit

Phone Box



BT has now removed the telephone equipment from the phone box outside the Old Post House.

The Community Council is planning to adopt the box in order to keep it in good repair and repurpose it as a plant/ seed/ book exchange.

If anyone would like to be involved in the upkeep of the box, please e-mail:
clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales.

St. Fagans in Fabric



The Cutting Edge Textile Group ran a very successful event at St Fagans Museum on 25-26 April to support International Intergenerational Week.



As well as showing their St. Fagan's inspired textile and mixed media artwork, there was a variety of activities suitable for all ages.

The children enjoyed stamping and colouring and were particularly interested in being given the opportunity to have a go at sewing. They could either colour an image on fabric and stitch it or they could stitch an owl. The parents soon got into the swing of sewing too. All were delighted with their makes.





Cutting Edge welcomed around 650 visitors over the two days which was amazing. Cutting members also had a great time - so much so, they were talking about doing it again!

John's Gardening Corner

May in the garden is a busy month. Watch out for late frost (keep fleece at the ready) and keep on top of the weeds.

You can still sow brassicas - broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and kale. The main crop of peas can be sown towards the end of the month. Set up stakes and netting before sowing to save any possible damage to plants later.

Thin carrots late in the day to deter the carrot fly and get the fleece back on as quickly as possible. French beans placed in rows under a cloche will do well, as will runner beans. Continue sowing of beetroots, turnips, swede, lettuce and radish. Sweetcorn with protection, can also be sown.

In the greenhouse, tomatoes, peppers, cucumber and aubergines can be planted in a border, growbags, or large pots. It is still too early for outdoor tomatoes. Remember to water your plants, especially any potatoes you have planted.

Slugs are attacking at ground level and the air force of birds are dropping from the skies, so don't forget the netting.

June is on its way and it's the last month for sowing many crops.

Keep up the good work!

Allotments



Within the agreement for the newly built properties at Cae St. Fagans, there is a parcel of land designated for allotments. These will only be made available when there is sufficient interest in leasing the plots. Please note that you are not making a commitment by registering your interest.

If you are interested in an allotment and wish to be added to the list, please e-mail your name, address, and contact telephone number to clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales.

Community Council Remit

County or county borough councils (also known as local authorities) have a legal responsibility to provide services such as education, environmental health, social services and town and country planning for their whole county. Their powers extend to include roads and pavements where these have been adopted, although trunk roads fall within the remit of Welsh Government.

Community and town councils represent individual communities or towns within a county. Community Councils represent their communities with regards to local issues, often working with local authorities to resolve matters or to highlight issues impacting their communities.

St. Fagans Community Council attempts to provide support for all areas of the district. It seeks to make the area a more pleasant place in which to live. Examples of such actions are maintaining the community's green spaces, reviewing planning applications (and objecting where there may be a negative impact on the existing community), working with Cardiff Council on local parks, identifying areas for improvement, providing Christmas lights, and smaller actions such as organising litter picks and maintaining planters.

We realise it can be frustrating when you cannot get trees and vegetation cut back quickly when it's needed where you live, but all reports are taken seriously. Where the Community Council has no power to rectify the problems, we always report them to Cardiff Council for action and follow up on the issues raised. Although it can take some time (as was the case with Michaelston Road area) the Council continues to pursue these matters.

Our Community Councillors work to foster close relationships with local Cardiff Councillors and Cardiff Council employees, working to achieve change together.

Hopefully, this short explanation will help further understanding of the remit of the Community Council in contrast to that of Cardiff Council.

If you would like to raise any concerns or issues within the area, in the first instance, please e-mail

clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales. Alternatively, the Council meets monthly and sets aside time for members of the public to attend and raise any concerns or issues. Details of the meetings can be found on local noticeboards, or on the website: www.stfaganscc.gov.wales.

Play in the Park

Councillor Aneka Rao will be hosting Play in the Park events again this summer on:

- Sunday 4th May
- Sunday 1st June
- Sunday 6th July

Events run between 11am-1pm in the Westfield Park green space (by the football pitch). The events are free, and anyone is welcome to join.



A variety of games and activities will be available including rackets and balls, paint, bubbles and much more. It's a chance to meet other families in the community and enjoy our local green spaces.

Details are available on FB and the website. What3words location: galaxy.list.picked

VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025

This year sees us celebrating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. In commemoration of the many who died fighting, and securing freedom for our country, we will again be joining with others throughout the land, by raising our flag and lighting the Lamp Light of Peace.

The short ceremony will take place in St. Fagans Park on the 8th of May. Further details can be found on our website, Facebook page and noticeboards.

Contacts

If you would like to contact the Community Council, you can:

Visit our website: https://stfaganscc.gov.wales/

E-mail: clerk@stfaganscc.gov.wales

Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StFagansCC

Or contact our Community Councillors:

Councillor John Griffiths (Chair)
Mobile: 07939 606715
E-mail: jgriffiths@stfaganscc.gov.wales

Councillor Frances Lewis
Mobile: 07972 134658
E-mail: flewis@stfaganscc.gov.wales

Councillor John Hughes
Mobile: 07799 434994
E-mail: jhughes@talktalk.net

Councillor Chris O'Brien (Vice-chair)
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Councillor Bethan Devonald
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You can contact your local Cardiff Council Councillors as follows:

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