



Solva Community Council Cyngor Cymuned Solfach

Annual Report 2022 – 2023



“There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals.”

5th September 2023



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1. Foreword from the Chair

As you probably know, Ifor Thomas has stood down from his role as the chair and I am delighted that Solva Community Council (SCC) have elected me to lead them until May 2024. I have been on the council for the last two years and heavily involved in local affairs for many more. I am a resident of Solva and am deeply committed to ensuring the village and surrounding area remains as lovely a place to live as I have experienced.

Ifor, thankfully, remains on the council and will be invaluable in supporting us through the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his constant hard work. His determination and drive is second to none and without his leadership there were many times when the council would have faltered over the daunting tasks we have had to address.

During the year we have worked with the community and Eco Dewi to organise litter and beach cleanups that have had a big impact on our general environment. Thank you to all who participated.

There are many other local organisations that SCC have engaged with and we will continue to work with everyone to achieve the best results and share ideas and findings.

I very much look forward to my role as chair and with the support of the diverse and dedicated community councillor's, I am committed to trying to shape the best outcomes.

Richard Davies
Chair



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2. Introduction

- a. The SCC annual report reflects on the past year's activity and looks ahead to our plans for the coming year.
- b. It will, in addition, be part of a range of ways in which SCC engages with the community, including through its website, consultations, social media, and the village newsletter.
- c. We trust the information provided, in this our second report, strengthens our accountability, increases transparency of the work and projects we undertake, and is a proactive means of sharing information about our priorities, activities, and achievements.



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3. How Solva Community Council is organised.

a. SCC has 8 elected members who meet each month except for August.
Contact details are:



Richard Davies
(Chair)
07539 299407



Alyssia Fiander
(Vice Chair)
07714 258597



Colin Reynolds
07967 43181



Samuel Ellison
07970 602894



Rob Richards
07496 059763



Bethany Hutson
07930 725408



Joe Griffin
01437 720909



Ifor Thomas
01437 729574



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4. Code of Conduct

- a. The Code of Conduct for local authorities in Wales requires each member to maintain a Personal Register of Interest. These are available on the SCC web site: <https://solva.gov.wales/solva-community-council/>
- b. Each member has signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in which they undertake to respect the Code of Conduct.

5. SCC Sub-Committees

- a. SCC operates the following sub-committees:
 - i. **Planning.** Members: Community Councillor's Ifor Thomas, Rob Richards, Richard Davies, and Colin Reynolds.
 - ii. **Play Parks.** Members: Community Councillor's Alyssia Fiander-Houlden, Ifor Thomas, Joe Griffin, Bethany Hutson, and Sam Ellison.
 - iii. **Fireworks Display.** Members: All Community Councillors & County Councillor.

6. Financial information

- a. **Annual Return.** The SCC Annual Return for the year ended 31st March 2023, the accounting statements and annual governance statement were presented and approved by Solva Community Council, certified by the RFO, and signed by the chair on 6th June 2023. The Annual Return and all supporting documents were submitted to Audit Wales on 7th June 2023.

7. Relationship with Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)

- a. There are no formal charters or protocols to help SCC work with PCC. However, the elected County Councillor for Solva attends every SCC meeting and takes a proactive approach to PCC related matters.



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8. Training Plan

a. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires SCC to make and publish a plan about the training provision for its members and staff. Our Training Plan is available on the SCC website. Hard copies are available from the Clerk.

9. Activities.

a. **Key Objectives.** SCC has 7 key objectives. These commitments provide SCC with strategic direction and framework.

Objective 1: To conduct all Community Council business in an open and transparent manner ensuring it contributes to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (see section 16).

Objective 2: To urgently implement the adopted Climate Emergency Policy.

Objective 3: To actively support healthy living through the delivery of a safe village environment that will include an improved range of recreational and play facilities.

Objective 4: Work towards the protection and development of local green areas to improve biodiversity and space for nature within our community.

Objective 5: To actively support and promote the Welsh Language, Welsh Heritage, and its traditions.

Objective 6: To achieve the General Power of Competence and meet all statutory responsibilities set out in The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Objective 7: To accomplish more homes with greater housing choice that will foster better employment opportunities.



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b. Progress against objectives.

Activity is on track	Activity is at risk if issues are not addressed	Activity is at risk. Immediate action required	
Objective	Activities	Timeline	Lead
1. To conduct all Community Council business in an open and transparent manner ensuring it contributes to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	a. Timely posting of agendas, minutes, and notifications online and in Newsletter.		Clerk
	b. Personal Registers of Interest.		All
	c. Code of Conduct.		All
	d. Youth involvement		All
	e. Community engagement.		All
2. To urgently implement the adopted Carbon Neutrality Action Plan.	a. Implementation of SCC Carbon Neutrality Action Plan adopted in November 2021.		CC Rich Davies
	b. Solar Panels at Clubhouse		Complete
	c. Solar panels at Memorial Hall.		CC Joe Griffin
	d. Recycling of household waste such as mobile phones, computers, packaging and green waste.		All
	f. Keep Solva Litter Free		All
3. To actively support healthy living through the delivery of a safe village environment that will include an improved range of recreational and play facilities.	a. Multigenerational Path		CC Ifor Thomas
	b. New play items for lower play park		CC Alyssia Fiander
	c. New Skate Park		CC Sam Ellison
	d. Basket Ball playing area		CC Ifor Thomas
	e. Speed Indicator Devices x 2		CC Rob Richards
	f. Welcome to Solva (Road signage) x 2		CC Rob Richards
	g. Control dog fouling in public places		All
4. Work towards the protection and development of	a. Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires all community		Clerk



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local green areas to improve biodiversity and space for nature within our community.	councils to prepare and publish a plan every three years setting out what they propose to do to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote resilience.		
	b. Parc y Capel		CC Beth Hutson
	c. Play Parks		CC Alyssia Fiander
	d. Coast Allotment Project		CC Rich Davies
5. To actively support and promote the Welsh Language, Welsh Heritage, and its traditions.	a. Welsh Language Strategy 2023 to 2028.		Clerk
	b. Strategy Implementation		CC Colin Reynolds
	c. Welsh Language Interpretation Panels for Play Parks.		CC Alyssia Fiander
	d. Welsh Language Interpretation Panels for Parc y Capel		CC Rich Davies
	e. Newsletter		CC Colin Reynolds
6. To achieve the General Power of Competence.	a. Implement the relevant provisions from: The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021: Statutory Guidance for Community and Town Councils ¹ .		All
	b. Meet the Eligibility Conditions (1.8) of Act ²		Clerk
7. To accomplish more homes with greater housing choice that will foster better employment opportunities.	a. By delivering a range of homes to suit different needs for people who live or work in Solva, particularly for those on lower incomes.		CC Ifor Thomas

¹ See Part 2, Chapter 2, section 36. Part 3, Chapter 4 section 48 (3). Part 4, section 67 (7)

² <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-08/statutory-guidance-for-community-and-town-councils.pdf>



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10. Assets and services.

- a. SCC has the following fixed assets:
 - i. Lower play park.
 - ii. Upper play and skate park.
 - iii. Community Clubhouse, car park and sports pitch.
 - iv. Parc y Capel.

11. Managed Services.

- a. **Grounds Maintenance (GM)**. SCC has a GM contract for the following community areas in Solva and Whitchurch.
 - i. Parc Y Capel.
 - ii. Whitchurch church old cemetery.
 - iii. Lower play park.
 - iv. Upper play park.
 - v. Fort Road.
 - vi. Bus shelters (cleaning).
- b. **Newsletter**. SCC has a contract with a freelance editor to produce the Newsletter.
- c. **Internal Auditor**. LM Griffiths & Co Chartered Certified Accountants were appointed by SCC to deliver annual internal auditor services.
- d. **External Auditor**. Audit Wales is the external auditor for SCC.



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e. **Payroll.** LM Griffiths & Co Chartered Certified Accountants were appointed by SCC to deliver payroll services.

12. **Asset transfers in progress or completed.**

a. **Coast Allotment Project.** SCC continues to work with PCC to achieve a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) which will better enable community ownership and management over a sustained period of time. The Allotment Project is in Bro Dawel and the site is less than half an acre.

b. **Lower Solva public toilets.** If, before 5 November 2023³, PCC receive an expression of interest to either fully fund the provision going forward, or a commitment that a community asset transfer will be in place by 31 March 2024, the facility will remain open until this date to allow for arrangements to be made. SCC's agreed way forward is a CAT⁴.

13. **Activities to be undertaken with planned community engagement.**

a. To support the key objectives SCC will conduct separate consultations as needed. For each consultation SCC will:

- i. Communicate clear and unambiguous objectives.
- ii. Implement effective publicity to ensure all residents and groups have the information needed to enable participation.
- iii. Publicise the outcomes of the community consultations.

³ PCC letter dated 14th March 2023 Ref T/CC Public Toilet Funding 2023

⁴ SCC July 2023 Minutes item 9b.



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14. Achievements.

- a. Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 2022.
- b. Community Councillor Joe Griffin raised £700 at a fundraising music event in Solva. SCC donated the amount to the British Red Cross to help people caught up in the Ukraine crisis, and help those affected get food, clean water, shelter, medicines and basic medical supplies.
- c. Support to the 2022 Solva Edge Festival.
- d. Solva Firework Display 2022.
- e. Warm Rooms Programme from November 2022 to March 2023
- f. Support to the Bay View Stores Food Pod.
- g. Christmas Market on Sunday 4th December 2022.
- h. Public footpath improvements which complemented the Intergeneration Footpath Project.
- i. Establishing the Solva Surgery Working Group.
- j. Keeping Solva litter free with the help of reception children from Solva school.
- k. Twinning discussions with Solva in Alassio, Italy.



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15. 2023 /24 Priorities

a. Planned activities with budget requirements.

Srl	Activity/Project	Cost	Funded By	Key Objective supported
1	Skate Park Project	£75k (TBC)	Grants and crowdfunding	3
2	Youth Project (Basketball hoop & playing area)	£3,000 (TBC)	SCC & Edge Festival	3
3	CiLCA ⁵ qualification for Clerk	£750	SCC	6
4	Clubhouse new disabled toilet	£3,000	SCC & grants and crowdfunding	3
5	Memorial Hall Solar panels	£17k	SDF ⁶ grant and crowdfunding	2
6	Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch 2023	£900	Precept	3
7	Welsh Language Interpretation Panels	£1,000	Grants and crowdfunding	5
8	Parc y Capel project to install new electric points	£1,200 (TBC)	SCC	3
9	Firework Display 2023	£3,000	SCC	1
10	First Aid Courses for children	£200	SCC	3
11	Engage Community Caretaker/Handyman	TBC	TBC	3
12	Remembering the Fallen ⁷	£300	SCC	1
13	Community Renewable Energy Scheme	£200	SCC	2
14	Lower Solva public toilets CAT	TBC	SCC, PCC grant and crowdfunding	3
15	Speed Indicator Devices x 2	TBC	Grants and crowdfunding	3
16	Welcome to Solva (Road signage x 2)	TBC	Grants and crowdfunding	3

⁵ Certificate in Local Council Administration. Requirement to achieve General Power of Competence for SCC

⁶ Sustainable Development Fund - PCNPA

⁷ Names were currently displayed in the Memorial Hall. All names (including those from 14 (EW) Signal Regiment) should also be displayed at the War Memorial. Names of the fallen from WW1 were on the War Memorial and will be cross referenced with the Roll of Honour in the Hall.








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16. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

a. In preparing the annual report SCC has considered how the work undertaken in the past year, and planned for the following year, reflects the five ways of working, as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



		SCC Contribution (Objectives)
Long-term 	The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs	3, 6, 7
Integration 	Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies	See 18b
Involvement 	The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves	1,
Collaboration 	Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives	5
Prevention 	How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives	2, 4



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b. **Pembrokeshire Public Services Board.** The Community Council is also required to ensure that it contributes to the objectives of the Local Well-Being Plan as produced by the Pembrokeshire Public Services Board. The Public Service Board (PSB) published its first annual report in May 2018. The PSB identified two broad Well-being Objectives to act as a framework. SCC contributions to these Well-being Objectives are:

PSB Priorities	PSB Well-Being Objectives	SCC Contribution (Objectives)
Who We Are 	We want to help our people, communities, and organisations so that we can support ourselves and each other	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
Where We Live 	We want to protect and enhance our natural assets whilst optimising economic prospects, accessibility and health for all	2, 4,

c. **Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC).** Solva Community Council has ensured the 7 objectives set out in section 7 of this report contribute to the PCC corporate goals which are structured around their 5 Well-being objectives:

PCC Well-being Objectives	SCC Contribution (Objectives)
Raising overall standards of achievement	1, 6
Healthy Communities: Communities supported by affordable and appropriate housing; improving social care.	7
Increase the economy's productivity and address regeneration issues	3
Safeguarding our environment	2,4
Self-sustained and vibrant communities	5



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The Well-being of Future Generations Act gives us the ambition, permission, and legal obligation to improve our social, cultural, environmental, and economic well-being.