

REDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Mill stones and old stonework associated with the Redwick Cider Mill

“ANNUAL REPORT”

2022 - 2023

WELCOME:



*Cllr Kath James
(Chair, Redwick Community Council)*

On behalf of the Councillors of Redwick Community Council I welcome you to our first 'Annual Report'.

This report is a legal requirement under new Welsh Government legislation – “Local Government and Democracy Act (Wales) 2021”.

Also within this Act is the need for the Community Council to produce a training plan for Councillors and Staff *(This can be found on the Council's*

website www.redwickcc.org) and it is obliged to hold 'Hybrid Meetings' where members of the Council and the public can access all Council meetings in person, or remotely (Councillors or members of the public wishing to access the meetings remotely should contact the clerk in advance of the meeting they wish to attend)

In this report, you will find details of what we have done during the Financial Year 2022/2023 with details on how we have spent the Precept and Community Fund monies.

The Council is very much aware of the wonderful 'community spirit' we have in Redwick and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and thanks to everyone involved in organising and attending events. Your support in these matters is what makes Redwick such a great place to live.

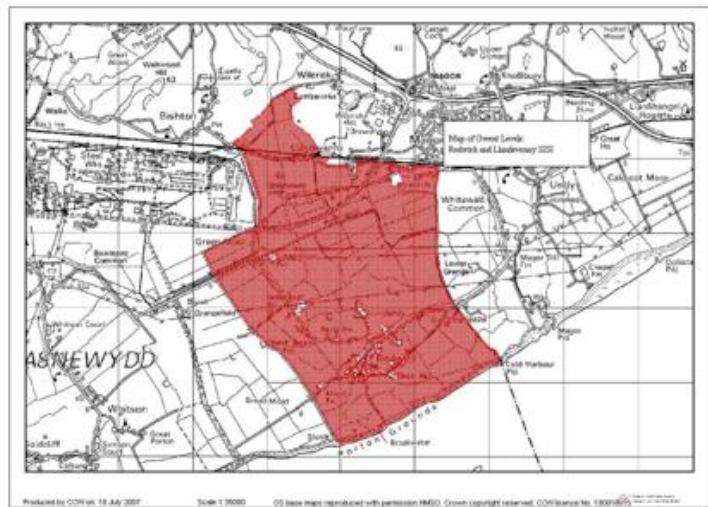
Cllr Kath James
June 2023

ABOUT REDWICK:

Redwick, originally a medieval village is sited on what is known as the Gwent Levels, and close to the shoreline of the River Severn. The village comprises of a diverse range of architectural styles attractively dispersed among small orchards and open spaces, all set within an ancient and striking man-made landscape of drainage ditches and flat fields. The working farms within and surrounding the

village maintain a tangible sense of the agricultural origins of the settlement, as a working community.

The Gwent Levels are included within the CADW / ICOMOS / CCW Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest representing an example of man-made landscape dating back to the Roman period when land was reclaimed from the sea (River Severn). The village of Redwick also stands within a SSSI area, supporting a rich and diverse habitat abundant with wildlife throughout the year. The nearby River Severn is a registered RAMSAR site.



Map showing the extent of the Redwick & Llandeveyri SSSI

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

The earliest written record of Redwick Community Council (or 'Redwick Parish Council' as it then was) dates from 4th December 1894. At that time the Council met once a year at Redwick School with the inaugural meeting being held under the authority of the Parish Council's Act.

Mr William Waters was unanimously elected Chairman of the meeting to discuss the consideration of a potential Parish Council, when following a show of hands, the vote was 27 for a Parish Council and only 14 against.

Redwick School, the Council's meeting venue, was owned by the Church at this time and so the then Vicar, Reverend B. Birbeck, felt that a small charge should be made for the use of the building. Accordingly, it was agreed that the princely sum of one shilling per meeting would be levied.

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TODAY:

Redwick Community or Ward encompasses the village of Redwick and outlying dwellings with an electorate of 166 (*Jan 2023*). The Redwick Community Council comprises of five councillors, supported by a Clerk to the Council and meets bi-monthly in the Village Hall, when members of the public are welcomed to attend

and make representation to the Council. The Council welcomed some new Councillors following the elections in May 2022. It also saw a change of staff with a new clerk being appointed in February 2023.

Redwick also forms part of Newport City Council's Llanwern Ward to which there is one elected City Councillor representing the residents of Redwick at the Principal Authority level.

Redwick Community Council's role is to look after the interests of all Redwick residents and work towards preserving its heritage and values, and ensuring it remains a pleasant and safe place to live.

The Council owns two parcels of land within the village – The Pound and Prince Charles Garden and is responsible for the safety of Redwick's playing field.

The Council undertakes grass-cutting across several areas within the village, ensuring the Village looks tidy and presentable for residents and visitors to the village.

The Council manages the 'Community Fund' on behalf of residents, which comprises of 'Community Contribution' monies received from several local energy companies running Wind Turbines.

The Community Council has consulted with residents as to whether the Community Council should be disbanded, or whether it should remain in its current format. If the Community Council were to disband a village Community group could be formed to monitor and administer the Community Fund (monies received as Community contributions from several energy companies, and the Council's assets distributed to the new community group or the various existing community groups. The Community electorate have voted to hold a poll to make a final decision on the future of the Community council.

WHAT & WHY:

The Community Council when exercising its powers (*the right to spend monies*) needs to ensure that it is mindful of the Welsh Government's "Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015" and should consider the Act's goals when undertaking projects within the community.

When the Council administers and handles the monies from the ‘Community Contributions’ (monies received from various energy companies) these goals also need to be considered.



The Welsh Government’s “Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015” contains seven (7) goals aimed at improving the well-being of residents across Wales, and particularly within the individual communities.

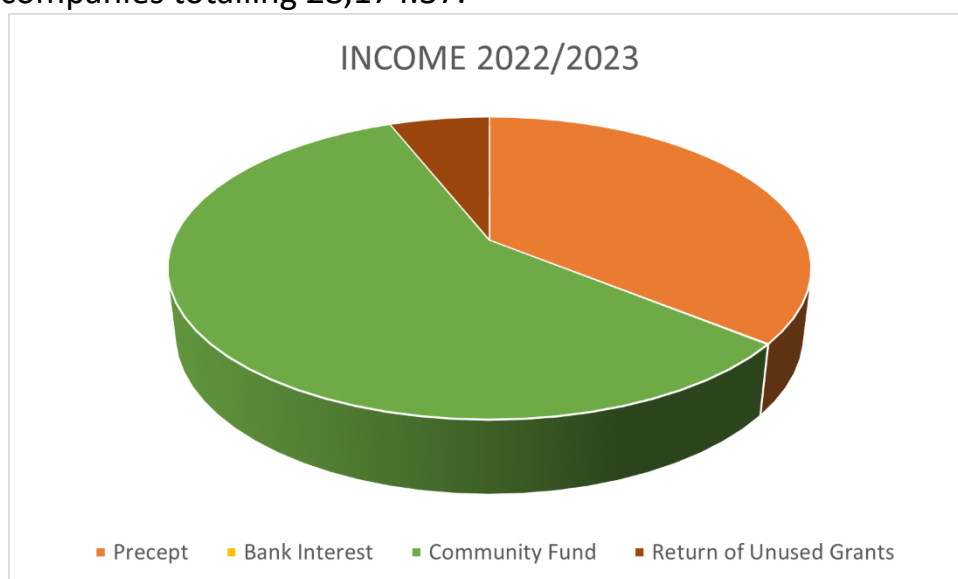
Councils need to consider all goals, not just 1 or 2. For a small council this can be extremely difficult.

Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 seven goals logo

Finances for 2022/2023

For the year 2022/2023 the Community Council set a Budget and Precept of £5,035.00 for day to day running of the Community Council covering such items as staff salary and statutory payments, audit, insurance, stationery.

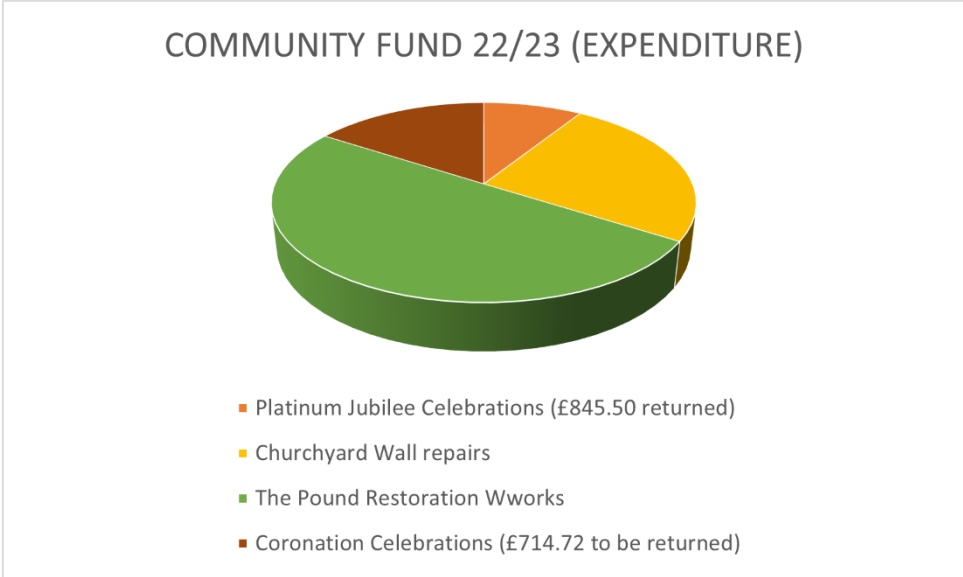
Also, during the year, the Community Fund received contributions from various energy companies totalling £8,174.37.





The Community Council overspent its budget in 2022/2023 by £1689.09 but this deficit was absorbed from the Council’s Reserves.

At the beginning of the financial year the Community Fund started with a balance of £23,920.85 The Council administered several grants totalling £19,395.00 on behalf of the Community Fund during the year, with unused grant money totalling £714.72 coming back in.



A total of £1,785 was granted for the Village Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, which included planting an Oak tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The Community Council later funded the cost of a plaque for the tree.



Cllr Kath James (Chair) installing the plaque next to the Oak tree planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II

The grant monies for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the planting of the Oak tree met several of the Welsh Government’s “Well-being goals”.

- A resilient Wales – maintaining a biodiverse natural environment by planting the Oak tree.
- A healthier Wales – helping with people’s physical and mental well-being by providing a community event which all could attend.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – maintaining a well-connected community by providing the opportunity for all to belong, by way of a Village residents photograph.



Village Photo taken at the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

- A Wales of vibrant culture – encouraging people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation – by providing a community event.



Platinum Jubilee celebration tea party and cakes

The Church of St Thomas the Apostle was given a grant of £5,000.00 towards the repairs to the Church's Graveyard wall.

Whilst the Council does not have the power to contribute to 'religious' entities, it can contribute to the tourism trade, and to the upkeep of a churchyard. Due to the church's proximity to the Village Cider Mill (*an attraction for visitors to the area*) it was important to ensure that the wall was in a safe condition.

Church of St Thomas the Apostle

By granting monies to assist with repairs to the wall, the Council met the Welsh Government's "A Wales of vibrant culture" goal. Repairs to the graveyard wall will assist in preserving the heritage and values, and ensuring Redwick remains a pleasant and safe place to live and visit.



Cider Mill wall seen over the churchyard wall of St Thomas' Church



Again, the Council met the Welsh Governments Well-being goal; “A Wales of vibrant culture” goal with a grant of £10,000 to cover repair costs to Redwick Pound. Renovating the Pound will preserve the heritage of the Pound for future generations of Redwick residents and visitors alike.

Residents were delighted to be able to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III by holding a community event. £3150.00 was granted from the Community Fund to help pay for putting on the event. The event again met several Well-being goals”.

- A healthier Wales – helping with people’s physical and mental well-being by providing a community event which all could attend and participate, including the road races for the youngsters of the village.
- A Wales of cohesive communities – maintaining a well-connected community by providing the opportunity for all to belong and take part.
- A Wales of vibrant culture – encouraging people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation – by providing a community event which all could attend and take part in, such as the road races and the ‘Scarecrow trail competition’.



One of the many scarecrows around the village depicting the Coronation of King Charles III

Many Scarecrows could be found around the village depicting the Coronation celebrations.

Scarecrow depicting Charles II playing polo.



The Future for Redwick Community Council in 2023/2024

The Council has set a Precept for the Financial Year 2023/2024 of £4910.00 this will cover the cost of day-to-day expenditure for running the Council. If in the near future the community decides to disband the Council, this will be the last Precept that the Council will make.

Should residents not vote to disband the Council, then it will look into the cost of replacing the play equipment at the playing field and seek grant funding to hopefully cover the majority of the costs.

The Community Council will also continue to maintain the grass cutting it currently undertakes across the village, and to administer the Community Fund on behalf of residents.

June 2023

