

Un Llais Cymru



One Voice Wales

One Voice Wales Best Practice Case Studies 2025

One Voice Wales Awards Winners 2025	
Category	Council
1. Best Governance Initiative Joint Winners	<u>Pontypool Community Council</u> This project describes a vibrant Annual Report which emphasises accessibility, impact on the community, financial considerations and digital solutions. The report can be viewed on the above website. Lisa McMail <u>LMcMail@pontypoolcc.gov.uk</u>
	<u>Blaenavon Town Council</u> This Annual Report, with its focus on accessibility, achievements and partnership work showcases the Council's approach to collaboration, accountability, sustainability and impact. The report can be viewed on the above website. Kevin Warren <u>kevin.warren@blaenavontowncouncil.co.uk</u>
2. Best Democratic Health Initiative	No outright winner.

<p>3. Best Use of Digital Resources</p>	<p><u>Rhossili Community Council</u></p> <p>An overhauled website now sits alongside a complimentary community website. These resources support an accessible Council which emphasises digital solutions. Dedicated email accounts, on-line training, digital consultation exercises are some of the innovative tools used to meet these challenges.</p> <p>Councillor Gill Boulding <u>gill.boulding@rhossilicc.org.uk</u></p>
<p>4. Best Sustainability Initiative</p> <p>Joint Winners</p>	<p><u>Carmarthen Town Council</u></p> <p>The 2024 Carmarthen Children's Climate Conference was delivered using the General Power of Competence. The Council worked with partners to host an outstanding experience for participating schools. The event contributed to national and local sustainability goals, promoting a globally responsible Wales. As a bilingual event, it accommodated language groups in breakout sessions and bilingual joint sessions.</p> <p>By bringing together schools from across the area, the Council strengthened community cohesion, while sessions on waste reduction and carbon footprints encouraged a more environmentally resilient generation.</p> <p>Councillor Heledd ap Gwynfor <u>hapgwynfor@carmarthentowncouncil.gov.uk</u></p>
	<p><u>Mumbles Community Council</u></p> <p>The Council is committed to sustainability through its Sustainable Procurement Policy, which ensures procurement decisions align with carbon reduction, responsible sourcing, and local economic development.</p> <p>Kerry-Leigh Grabham <u>kerryleighgrabham@mumbles.gov.uk</u></p>
<p>5. Best Environmental Project</p>	<p><u>Mumbles Community Council</u></p>

	<p>The Four Seasons Sensory Garden is an accessible, engaging, and environmentally beneficial space for the community. It provides year-round sensory stimulation through a diverse selection of plants, textures, colours, and scents, ensuring inclusivity for all visitors, particularly those with sensory processing needs. A standout feature is the Rain Garden, a nature-based solution that enhances the sensory experience while contributing significantly to local environmental resilience. Community engagement and publicity play central roles.</p> <p>Kerry-Leigh Grabham kerryleighgrabham@mumbles.gov.uk</p>
6. Best Heritage and Culture Initiative	<p><u>Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen Community Council</u></p> <p>The Council began the restoration of the Bedwas Workmen's Hall to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this important venue. The Council's submission describes the project management and funding arrangements in detail as well as the social history of an iconic venue.</p> <p>Councillor Christopher Morgan Morgac15@caerphilly.gov.uk</p>
7. Best Tourism Initiative	<p><u>Guildsfield Community Council</u></p> <p>Guildsfield's Winter Fayre 2024 was a highly successful tourism initiative that actively supported the local tourism economy while promoting the unique cultural heritage and identity of this rural village. Engaging local businesses was critical to the success of an event which made an important contribution to the local economy. The fayre also led to the exploration of additional tourism initiatives, such as guided walking tours and collaborations with local accommodation providers.</p> <p>Councillor Amy Williams amy.og@icloud.com</p>

<p>8. Best Community Engagement Initiative</p>	<p><u>Blaenavon Town Council</u></p> <p>The Council's commitment to strengthening community ties and ensuring that local voices shape the town's future helped shape two key engagement events in 2024. The Community Wellbeing Day in May and the Blaenavon Civic Event in October were proactive approaches to community engagement, demonstrating a commitment to partnership with residents. The Council has also described how community engagement helped inform Council strategy in this historic Gwent town.</p> <p>Kevin Warren <u>kevin.warren@blaenavontowncouncil.co.uk</u></p>
<p>9. Best Youth Engagement Initiative</p> <p>Joint Winners</p>	<p><u>Mold Town Council</u></p> <p>Mold Town Council has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to youth engagement by establishing and reinvigorating the Mold Town Youth Council. This initiative ensures that young voices within the community are heard and represented.</p> <p>The Council's submission describes a range of innovative initiatives which show how a Council can engage and inspire the next generation to become proactive members of their community. Parking, vaping and distribution of information have all been examined and improved by the young people. The project has helped to make Mold a safer and more cohesive place for all.</p> <p>Jo Lane <u>townclerk@moldtowncouncil.org.uk</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Pontypool Community Council</u></p> <p>In partnership with Torfaen County Borough Council, the Council provides accessible and engaging youth clubs across the Pontypool area. The clubs cater to young people aged 8 to 18, offering a range of activities designed to support personal development, well-being, and social engagement.</p>

	<p>Funding of staffing, resources, activity costs, and venue hire, ensures that services remain accessible and free at the point of use.</p> <p>Lisa McMail LMcMail@pontypoolcc.gov.uk</p>
10. Best Older Persons Initiative	<p>Mumbles Community Council</p> <p>Coffee with Friends was launched to address social isolation and improve community engagement among older residents after Covid. Recognising the challenges many seniors face in staying connected, the Council created a welcoming, inclusive space where older persons could meet regularly, enjoy conversation, and build relationships. Collaboration with partners such as businesses, volunteers and other community groups has helped to deliver an initiative that fosters friendships, combats loneliness, and enhances the well-being of older persons.</p> <p>Kerry-Leigh Grabham kerryleighgrabham@mumbles.gov.uk</p>
11. Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project	<p>Buan Community Council</p> <p>The Council worked alongside key partners to transform an old school field into a playground for the children of the area. The Council's submission describes the project management arrangements, communication channels and funding streams which helped deliver a safe environment where children could play and enjoy themselves outdoors within a small community on the Llŷn Peninsula.</p> <p>Nia Jane Owen-Midwood Clercbuan@outlook.com</p>
12. Best Initiative addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis	<p>Mumbles Community Council</p> <p>With the support of grant funding from Swansea City Council, the Council developed an innovative, community-focused initiative to enhance social, physical, and emotional well-being through free play-based activities. Recognising the post-Covid challenges of social</p>

	<p>isolation, financial strain, and limited access to enriching experiences, they transformed community spaces into hubs for inclusive, outdoor play sessions. These events create opportunities for children to engage, socialise, and learn, while reinforcing a sense of community spirit in safe, welcoming local spaces.</p> <p>Mumbles Crop Collective (MCC) is a community-led initiative designed to combat the rising cost of living by empowering residents to grow their own food. MCC provides accessible, sustainable solutions to food security challenges. The initiative offers hands-on learning opportunities for individuals of all ages and backgrounds, ensuring that growing food is both achievable and sustainable.</p> <p>Support Café is a welcoming community hub which provides advice and support over coffee cake. By combining play-based solutions, food support, and key funding partnerships, this initiative exemplifies a collaborative approach to tackling the Cost-of-Living crisis, delivering lasting benefits for families and the wider community.</p> <p>Kerry-Leigh Grabham kerryleighgrabham@mumbles.gov.uk</p>
<p>The Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council Service of the Year, sponsored by Unity Trust Bank.</p> <p>Joint Winners</p>	<p>Mumbles Community Council</p> <p>Kerry-Leigh Grabham kerryleighgrabham@mumbles.gov.uk</p> <p>Guilsfield Community Council</p> <p>Councillor Amy Williams amy.og@icloud.com</p> <p><i>The assessors recognised the overall performance of each of these Councils, whose achievements are described above. The award has been shared between a larger and smaller Council.</i></p> <p><i>The announcement of Joint Winners reflects the assessors' acknowledgement that, across Wales, Councils vary considerably in terms of</i></p>

	<p><i>resources, challenges, culture, and opportunities. Overall however, the 2025 Awards reflect a Community and Town Council sector which is responsive, dynamic and driven by an ambition to meet community needs across a vast range of initiatives.</i></p>
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**One Voice Wales Awards
Highly Commended 2025**

Category	Council	Project Overview
1. Best Governance Initiative	Criccieth Town Council Cwmaman Town Council	Each Council was recognised for the quality of its annual report. Each report can be seen on the website of each Council.
2. Best Democratic Health Initiative	Blaenavon Town Council	The Council's submission to the Torfaen Council's community review provided a robust defence of local democratic health. The Council argued against the proposed reduction in Council members and outlined the detrimental impact this reduction would have on the town's governance, demonstrating the operational, democratic, and strategic implications. Democratic engagement and diversity feature strongly.
3. Best Use of Digital Resources	Abergavenny Town Council Cwmbran Community Council	Abergavenny Town Council is committed to making the town accessible, welcoming, and inclusive for everyone. A 3D accessibility walkthrough of the Town and Market Hall, created in partnership with 3DPi and Matterport, is a game-changing resource that puts the

		<p>community first, ensuring that everyone can explore and enjoy Abergavenny with confidence.</p> <p>Colleagues in Cwmbran utilise digital solutions to explain what the council is delivering, gain feedback to shape and refine projects, celebrate success and innovation and to see which services the community value. "Feedback Friday" plays a big part!</p>
4. Best Sustainability Initiative	Carmarthen TC Llanengan Community Council	<p>In 2024, Carmarthen Town Council undertook a community energy feasibility study funded by UK Government SPF money to explore practical ways of helping Carmarthen achieve net zero by 2050. The study focused on fostering active collaboration across all sectors of the community to identify targeted actions at specific locations, premises, and within key community groups. Key outcomes are described.</p> <p>Following regular engagement with the community, Llanengan Community Council/Menter Rabar were able to submit a comprehensive business plan to Cyngor Gwynedd to transfer the former school building in Aber-soch to the community. One of the decisions was to create a community garden, promote walking or cycling, and establishing business units. Collaboration with partners has played a big part.</p>

5. Best Environmental Project	Criccieth Town Council	The Council is proactive in responding to statutory requirements by annually publishing a report on its work relating to its duty & working with community & partners on activities impacting biodiversity e.g. Criccieth in Bloom & Friends of the Nature Garden. Projects promote sustainability & biodiversity through implementing sustainable & environmentally friendly practices, ensuring participation from children to old age, helping them experience & value nature, leading to action to protect & enhance nature & biodiversity.
6. Best Heritage and Culture Initiative	Mold Town Council	Bailey Hill is a historic local site of significant cultural and heritage value, carefully preserved and promoted through the collaboration efforts of Flintshire County Council, Mold Town Council and local charity Friends of Bailey Hill. As a Green Flag Award-winning park, Bailey Hill has become a dynamic hub for heritage, culture, and community engagements.
7. Best Tourism Initiative	Abergavenny Town Council	Abergavenny Town Council has long championed the importance of culture and community in enhancing tourism. One of its most successful initiatives is the annual sponsorship of the Abergavenny Food Festival roof decorations, a unique and visually stunning display that transforms Abergavenny Market Hall each year. The event supports the arts and encourages community engagement and sustainability.

8. Best Community Engagement Initiative	Aberporth Community Council Llanengan Community Council Crickhowell Town Council	<p>Aberporth Community Council sought the views of the community on key priorities. A range of communication tools were used. Provision of toilets was a key project. In Llanengan, the Council worked with the community to transform a historic school site into a multi-purpose community hub, a community garden, cafe and heritage exhibition.</p> <p>In order to understand community problems and target resources more effectively, Crickhowell Town Council embarked upon a community-wide public engagement exercise to develop a 'Place Plan'. This process allowed the community to identify its needs and provide ideas and solutions to resolve them, as well as to understand the opportunities that exist and how to make the most of them.</p>
9. Best Youth Engagement Initiative	Guilsfield Community Council	<p>Guilsfield Community Centre, in partnership with the Guilsfield Community Council, has played a crucial role in fostering youth engagement within the village. Through its leadership and ongoing support of local youth initiatives such as the Guilsfield Young Farmers Club, Guilsfield Amateur Dramatics Group and Montgomeryshire Youth Theatre the Council has created a dynamic and inclusive environment for young people to engage, develop skills, and contribute to their community.</p>

10. Best Older Persons Initiative	<u>Llandough Community Council</u> <u>Blaenavon Town Council</u>	<p>Llandough Community Council is committed to respond to the needs of the community and encourages community participation. In 2021, the Council organised a survey of residents to assess the needs of older persons and this was repeated in 2024. The goal was to see what could be done to address wellbeing goals. The Council consulted with the Older Persons Commission who assisted with the preparation of the survey. Key outcomes are described in the Council's submission.</p> <p>Colleagues in Blaenavon have launched the monthly Blaenavon Befriending Film Club, held at Blaenavon Workmen's Hall Cinema. The initiative provides an opportunity for elderly residents to enjoy a free screening of a film with refreshments while also socialising with others in the community. Many residents identify this as the highlight of their month!</p>
11. Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project	No award	
12. Best Initiative addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis	<u>Gwernyfed Community Council</u> <u>Bedlinog & Trelewis Community Council</u> <u>Cwmaman Town Council</u>	A range of initiatives are described in these applications. Highlights include a warm hub in Gwernyfed, a community hub that serves both Bedlinog and Trelewis, a community festival in

	Cwmbran Community Council Haverfordwest Town Council Mold Town Council Welshpool Town Council	Cwmbran, a project to “Feed the Community” in and Haverfordwest, school uniform recycling in Mold and a project to share excess fruit and vegetables in Welshpool.
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**One Voice Wales Awards
Commended
2025**

Category	Council
1. Best Governance Initiative	<u>Bedlinog & Trelewis Community Council</u> <u>Abergavenny Town Council</u> <u>St Bride's Major Community Council</u>
2. Best Democratic Health Initiative	No award
3. Best Use of Digital Resources	<u>Bedlinog & Trelewis Community Council</u>
4. Best Sustainability Initiative	<u>Abergavenny Town Council</u>
5. Best Environmental Project	<u>Carmarthen Town Council</u> <u>Pyle Community Council</u> <u>Kerry Community Council</u> <u>Mold Town Council</u> <u>Rhossili Community Council</u>

6. Best Heritage and Culture Initiative	Abergavenny Town Council Pontypridd Town Council Buan Community Council
7. Best Tourism Initiative	Llanengan Community Council
8. Best Community Engagement Initiative	Rhossili Community Council Guilsfield Community Council Cwmaman Town Council Buan Community Council Llanfairfechan Town Council Maesteg Town Council
9. Best Youth Engagement Initiative	Carmarthen Town Council Llanelli Town Council
10. Best Older Persons Initiative	Pontyclun Town Council Cwmaman Town Council Llandrindod Wells Town Council
11. Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project	Abergavenny Town Council

12. Best Initiative addressing the Cost-of-Living Crisis

[Llanfairfechan Town Council](#)
[Nantyglo & Blaina Town Council](#)
[Aberporth Community Council](#)