

# Annual Report 2025 – 2026

## Ilston Community Council



## **Introduction from Chair Nigel Hollett**

Welcome to the Annual Report for Ilston Community Council 2025–2026.

The Local Government (Wales) Act 2021 Statutory Guidance imposes a duty on all community and town councils to produce an annual report.

We again want to take this opportunity to increase our contact with residents, and encourage them to engage in local democracy.

Our question is *'What do you want from your Community Council'?*

The statutory guidance also imposes responsibilities on councillors as individuals. These include continual professional development and a requirement to integrate other legislation within our plans and activities, e.g. Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

We are the lower tier of local government in Wales, but are the eyes and ears on the ground so to speak. Where possible, we deal with matters ourselves. If not, we raise issues with Swansea Council (known as the Principal Authority). We do this via the appropriate council officers or through our Ward Councillor (Pennard) Lynda James with whom we have established a healthy working relationship.

It is important to stress that community councils help as a pressure group to bring matters to the attention of the Principal Authority, and get things done. With the exception of the Clerk, all members are volunteers who give their time, and professional knowledge for the benefit of the community.

It's been another busy year, and this report gives us the chance to share what the Ilston Community Council (ICC) has been doing on your behalf, and how we plan to move forward into 2026–2027.

The other Councillors and the Clerk who also acts as the Responsible Financial Officer remain unchanged and we note the hard work put in by all the Community Councillors and the Clerk here at Ilston Community Council.

We would also want to keep everyone updated with regard to the changes coming up in May 2027 when Ilston Community Council will be abolished and merged into Pennard Community Council to form a new Community Council and this is noted later in the report.

## **Your Community Council**

Ilston Community Council serves the community made up of the area surrounding Nicholston, Parkmill, Lunnon and Ilston

Ilston Community Council consists of eleven Councillors in total although currently we only have nine appointed and employ a part-time Clerk who also acts as the Responsible Financial Officer.

The Councillors are:

Nigel Hollett, (Chair)

Dale Ponting (Vice Chair)

Roy Church (Vice Chair)

Ian Brown

Sue Mobbs

Nick Huffer

Benjamin Beynon

Steve Pleydell

Ifan Lloyd

Whilst there have been no elections for new councillors in 2025-2026, we have had a number of vacancies throughout the year, one of which has been filled by co-option. We were joined on the Community Council this year by Dr Ifan Lloyd who was coopted onto the Council by the Councillors

At the time of publication (May 2026) 2 vacant Councillor role remains

The Community Council sits six times a year, sitting every other month in January, March, May, July, September and November and we invite members of the public to attend the meetings.

## **Employees**

Ilston Community Council has one employee, Mr Paul Sizer who acts as our Clerk and Responsible Financial officer (RFO). Paul works an average of four hours per week and can be contacted on our email address of: [Clerk.ilstoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:Clerk.ilstoncommunitycouncil@gmail.com) or through his mobile telephone number of 07974760934

Paul also acts as the Clerk and RFO to Reynoldston Community Council so we can share some costs between the two Community Councils.

## **Training**

No formal training was undertaken by the council in 2025-2026, however Councillors are able to access the full suite of online training available through One Voice Wales. Although no formal training has taken place this past year, all Councillors and the Clerk have kept up to date on all relevant matters which might affect our Community Council.

## Finance Summary 2025-2026

### Receipts received:

| Receipts    |              |           |
|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Precept (1) | Interest (2) | Misc. (3) |
| £8,338.00   | £84.14       | £190.00   |
| Total       |              | £8,612.14 |

### Payments made:

| Payments for 2025- 2026                     |        | Notes |
|---------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Clerks Salary & NI Contribution             | £3,534 | 4     |
| Grants                                      | £4,000 | 5     |
| Insurance                                   | £264   |       |
| OVW & SLCC memberships                      | £180   |       |
| ICO Data Protection Fee                     | £47    |       |
| Internal Auditor expenses                   | £74    |       |
| Councillor Expenses and allowances          | £468   | 6     |
| New Defibrillator cabinet                   | £575   | 7     |
| Fixing costs for new Defibrillator cabinets | £300   | 8     |
| Tourism Swansea Bay membership              | £150   |       |
| Website hosting charge                      | £150   |       |
| Clerk's expenses                            | £77    |       |
| Payroll accountants fee                     | £75    |       |
| Total                                       | £9,894 |       |

### Summary Income, expenditure and reserve position

|                                           |        |
|-------------------------------------------|--------|
| Balance as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025  | £7,664 |
| Income for the year                       | £8,612 |
| Expenditure for the year                  | £9,894 |
| Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 | £6,382 |

## Notes to the accounts

### Precept (1)

Despite an expenditure greater than income for the year, the Community Council is still in a secure position and we have applied for a precept for 2026/20207 of £9175

### Interest (2)

The interest received is from deposits held at Barclays Bank

### Misc. Income (3)

The Misc. Income comprised of compensation payments received from HMRC and Barclays Bank

#### **Clerks Salary & NI Contribution (4)**

A national pay rise for Clerks was introduced by the National Association of Local Councils in October 2025 and backdated to April 2025. The Clerk's hours and pay grade remained unchanged throughout the year. The Clerk's Contract of Employment allows a band increase per year but the Clerk has forgone this increase only accepting the basic pay rise.

#### **Grants (5)**

The Community Council have awarded grants to local organisations as follows:

|                                    |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|
| South Gower Community Bus          | £1,000 |
| Ilston Church graveyard            | £1,000 |
| Parish of Penmaen Church graveyard | £1,000 |
| Penmaen Village Hall               | £1,000 |

#### **Councillor Expenses and allowances (6)**

The Councillor expenses and allowances were made in accordance with the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales: annual report 2025 to 2026

#### **New Defibrillator Cabinet (7)**

Later in the Annual Report we discuss the new defibrillators we have installed in our community. To conform to all the requirements the Community Council had to purchase one cabinet which is listed as a Fixed Asset of the Community Council in the sum of £575

#### **Installation costs of new Defibrillator cabinets (8)**

Two of our three cabinets have been installed in the community and connected to an electricity supply kindly donated by the host locations. The cost of these installations was £300

#### **Audit Wales Fees**

We received no fee from Audit Wales for their work in the last year and expect their invoice to appear in the 2026-2027 accounts.

#### **Internal Auditor**

We are eternally thankful to Alan Hill of Penmaen who has acted as the Internal Auditor for the Community Council.

Each year Alan audits the accounts of Ilston Community Council and writes a report to Audit Wales on his findings. These reports are available to see through the Clerk on request.

## Fixed Asset Register

The fixed asset register shows the new defibrillator cabinet listed to our Fixed Asset register as follows:

| Asset             | Location                      | Purchase Cost £ | Purchase/Installation Date | Notes                                       |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Bench             | Penmaen Church Green, Penmaen | 600.00          | November 2011              | In good condition – hardwood                |
| Bench             | Chestnut Tree, Ilston         | 600.00          | November 2011              | In good condition – hardwood                |
| Bench             | Sandy Lane Bridge, Parkmill   | 0.00            | November 2011              | Written off in accident and replaced by CCS |
| Defib and Cabinet | Shepherds Shop Parkmill       | 0.00            | February 2026              | Provided by Ambulance Trust                 |
| Defib and Cabinet | Gower Inn Parkmill            | 0.00            | February 2026              | Provided by Ambulance Trust                 |
| Defib             | Ilston                        | 0.00            | February 2026              | Provided by Ambulance Trust                 |
| Defib Cabinet     | Ilston                        | 575.00          | March 2026                 | From Heartbeat Trust UK                     |
| <b>Total</b>      |                               | 1775.00         |                            |                                             |

## External Audits

With the internal audit now complete, the Annual Return will be sent to Welsh Audit for inspection for 2025 - 2026.

Once we receive our final Audit report the accounts will be available for public inspection and notices of their availability will be placed on the Village noticeboards and on the website.

## **Our achievements during 2025-2026**

### **South Gower Community Bus**

We have actively addressed important community infrastructure including transport. An example of this is the Nicholaston to Mumbles Community Bus. This venture is a joint enterprise between Pennard (the lead), and Ilston Community Council. The driving force behind the project has been Cllr Lynda James. There is a huge amount of negotiation and, ongoing fundraising ongoing to make this happen

### **Defibrillators**

We were very grateful for all the hard work of our Clerk who has sourced three defibrillators through the Ambulance Trust at no charge to ourselves. These defibrillators also come with two cabinets which have to be connected 24 hours a day to an electric supply.

We are very grateful to Shepherds and The Gower Inn both in Parkmill for allowing us to fix the cabinets on the walls of their premises and also connect to their power supply.

The third defibrillator is at a site in Ilston and will be placed there as soon as it can be fitted. We have purchased this cabinet as it cannot be connected to a power supply but we are assured by the suppliers that their cabinet does not require an electricity supply.

The three defibrillators have all been placed on "[www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk)" which is a nationwide listing of all defibrillators and is accessible to everyone and also the Ambulance Service who can guide anyone who requires a device to their nearest one. All cabinets are unlocked at all times.

We have planned a Defibrillator/CPR training event in early May to show residents of our community how to use the devices. If the event is popular, we plan to offer another event later in the year around October/November time.

### **Landscape and Community**

An agreement with National Trust to fence off boundary of Penmaen East National Trust carpark has been agreed to deter overnight camping which in the past has resulted in litter and rubbish as well as anti-social behaviours.

An agreement to improve the fire breaks around properties at Three Cliffs and Nott Hill.

We have organised a new footpath on the A4118 opposite Tor View carpark

We lobbied, with our Council Ward member, along with our Council Ward member, Swansea Council with regard to the new drainage in Parkmill. This led to a site meeting with the Swansea Council Chief Drainage Engineer. The meeting resulted in priority works which has resolved the flooding issue to the satisfaction of residents whose homes were flooded.

The Community Council obtained and distributed several hundred sandbags in the last year distributing them to vulnerable residents in Ilston and Parkmill, and stockpiles at The Heritage Centre and Guide Centre. The council played a key part in getting funding and was instrumental in organising the construction and surfacing of the footpath from Maes yr Haf to Sandy Lane. This is an essential safety boost for pedestrians

The stream through Parkmill was regularly polluted by sewage discharge from the Pennard Treatment works. This was identified by a councillor and site meetings with Welsh Water and the Environment Agency have instigated remedial works

Significant water supply disruption had occurred in the Penmaen area for several years. A public meeting was organised by the council, attended by residents and the Welsh Water Officer. This resulted in replacement of the local water main in 2024 with an investment of several million pounds and continual monitoring by the Ilston Community Council Councillors

The Community Council have also been instrumental in getting the Local Authority to tackle the Knotweed issue in Ilston and Parkmill valleys.

### **General**

A local Traffic Report was prepared after significant resident consultation- to help with local safety concerns and site meetings held with representative of Swansea Council.

The Community Council consider local requests to the Planning Department at Swansea Council. We have limited powers; however, we have a responsibility to represent our constituents of their needs and always try to be constructive in our comments.

Over the year we have sent and received various communications from:

- Tonia Antoniazzi MP
- Rebecca Evans MS
- Eluned Morgan MS First Minister of Wales
- Swansea Council- various departments

We would like to also note we have an excellent working relationship with the local Swansea Council ward member Mrs Lynda James who is exceptionally supportive of our efforts and is able support us with finance and lobbying where appropriate.

### **Ilston Emails**

Ilston Community Council keep in touch with the community through an email listing which makes contact with the vast majority of the residents of the area. Anyone who wishes to join the email list can do so via the Clerk to the Community Council.

### **Looking forward to 2026-2027**

As we look ahead to the coming year, Ilston Community Council remains committed to strengthening our community and preparing for the changes that may lie ahead with the forthcoming merger.

### **Democracy & Boundary Commission Cymru's review**

A significant issue this year was the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru's review of Community Council arrangements across the City and County of Swansea. The review was carried out by the Commission on behalf of the Swansea Council.

For Ilston Community Council, the recommendation was to merge ourselves with Pennard Community Council, and form a new Community Council with just two Councillors for the Ilston Community Council area.

The Community Council have made comments and raised concerns about the agreed merger but they have not been accepted and the merger will go ahead in May 2027.

There are plans going forward for representatives of Ilston Community Council to meet with the current Pennard Community Council to discuss how the merger will be performed.

### **Tor Car Park**

In early 2026-2027, Swansea Council have agreed to resurface the Tor Car Park. This has been driven by Cllr Lynda James along with a grant from Ilston Community Council

### **Bus Shelters**

One bus shelter in our community has been removed at Nicholston Cross by of Swansea Council as it was in a dangerous condition and is awaiting replacement. Again, with the support of Cllr Lynda James, Ilston Community Council have awarded a grant to assist with the renovation of the remaining bus shelters and the removal of the Perspex and replacement, not just for aesthetic matters but also for the safety of our children and residents of the community.

This Annual Report was approved by the Ilston Community Council on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026.