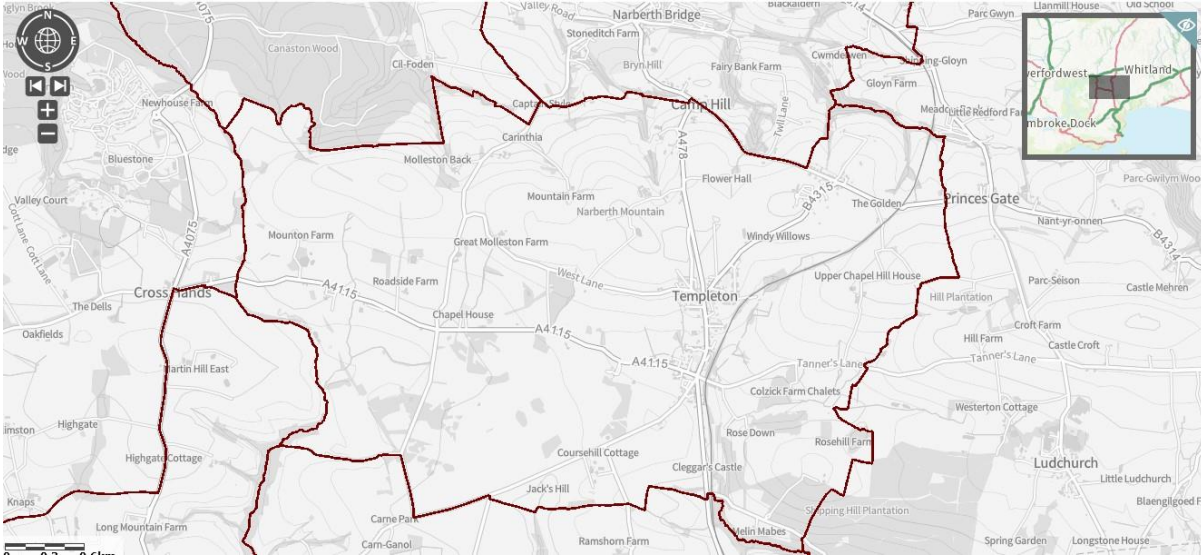


# Annual Report for Templeton Community Council 2022-23

## Background

Templeton Community Council is the tier of local government that is closest to the communities and people that it serves, and it is focussed specifically on the interests and concerns of the people who live or work in the Templeton, Cold Blow, Molleston, Allensbank, Woods Cross, Peter's Finger and Mounon area including of course the various farms and other businesses in the area.



The Council is composed of nine Councillors. These are elected to that position every five years by the local people. The Council works closely with the various local groups and associations such as Templeton Community Association, Templeton Community Hall Trust, Templetots, St. John' Church, Templeton URC, as well as Templeton Primary School. The Council has two part-time employees, the Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer and the Hall caretaker

The Council owns the Templeton Community Hall, which it leases to the Templeton Community Hall Trust who manage the premises on a day to day basis. It also owns the Village Green and the north Green which are next to the Hall, plus the Play Park opposite, as well as the car parking areas next to the Play Park, next to the Hall and in Knights Court.

## Priorities

Our priorities are to support the people we serve and to enhance the area in which they live and work. To do this we readily work with other bodies such as Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services, PLANED and all of the groups mentioned above – we are well aware that no one small group of people can get everything done and we do appreciate all the effort so many other people put in to help our community thrive.

The Council has neither the resources nor the legal ability to cover or manage everything that it is asked to do, and as the local Council we are sometimes expected to deal with things which are actually the responsibility of another body. We do our best though! Examples include fixing broken streetlights, sorting out potholes or road damage, or dealing with fly-tipping. When this happens, the request is passed on to the relevant body.

We are always open to new ideas of how we can support and help you, and assure you we will do what we can, so please do get in touch via the Clerk – contact details at the end.

## Activities and Achievements

After a couple of years when all our lives were dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic, in we were able to come together in person once more, and 2022 saw two major events that were of international importance – the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and then her funeral a few short months later. The Council took full part in the local planning and activities for these, with a superb parade through the village by Templeton School and the Saturday events on the Green. I am sure you will agree with us that the murals that were put up on the bus stop at the top of Templeton were superb – all credit to Templeton School for those.



The Council and community were also then represented at a special service upon the death of Her Majesty.

We also once more were able to hold the bonfire and firework display on the Green – as ever very well attended, and enjoyed. Thank you to everyone who came along and supported your local event.

We jointly produced and distributed a local newsletter to residents this year, and hope to make this a regular way of keeping people aware of what is going on in their community.

We were able to get funding to provide support to the local community during the cost of living crisis over the winter months. Aware that both food and fuel costs might be causing difficulties for some, we and other local groups organised a series of events to bring people to the Hall, to enjoy themselves and hopefully provide a respite from the pressures of daily living. These ranged from drop in soup and roll evenings by Templeton Together, to family-orientated events involving both Templeton School and St John's Church, and also a special visit by Santa, with a little help from Narberth and Whitland Rotary Club.

There was also a chance in the final event in March to come along and try out some of the normal Hall activities such as Fitsteps, Karate and yoga – and where else could you see Maggie Moo from Moo Music learning karate?! – some work needed on her technique, I think...





Finally the Council invested in two purchases to enhance the Hall and improve the facilities it provides to you all. It bought a solar battery so that solar energy can be stored and used actually in the Hall – cheaper fuel bills so helping to keep the Hall hire costs low as much as possible. It also has bought a container for storing various items that currently are located offsite. This will make it easier to set up events and manage the equipment we have.



## **Biodiversity**

The Council recognises the importance of improving the natural biodiversity of the area, indeed of the whole country, and works to positively support such initiatives. It is one of the factors considered when we consider our responses to local planning applications, and also any chemicals to be used by the Council, for example for the grass cutting contract or when treating the Play Park equipment. As a rural community we do encourage all local landowners to use bee-friendly agricultural habits as much as possible.

Adopted June 2023

The Hall renovation and extension in 2019 and subsequent landscaping of the North Green deliberately included biodiversity considerations from the outset, including not just additional green space for the community but also provision of fruit trees, soft fruit bushes and herbs for community use and to attract pollinators, and the bordering hedges retained as much as possible. The Council welcomed the planting of annual bulbs on the North Green by residents in 2020.

Information on the importance of biodiversity that is received is publicised locally, whether by email, posters, or on social media. This is an ongoing process. A recent example in 2022-23 is the information on Yellowhammers present and nesting on the Airfield site.

The use of local contractors is favoured where this is reasonable to reduce travel and fuel pollution for example. This is an ongoing practice not limited to any year. Safeguarding the environment generally was a key consideration when the Council decided to install a solar battery in the Community Hall – not just reducing the Hall's use of electricity perhaps generated from carbon resources, but also putting in a measure of protection from electricity price rises in the medium term for all Hall users.

### **Looking forward**

At the time of writing the Coronation celebrations have just taken place, and the Council was delighted to be able to play its part to support that event – thank you to all who yet again have put so much time and effort into the planning and organising and running the actual event on the day.

We will continue to provide fixtures and items for the Hall because we want to ensure it stays a modern and well-maintained facility at the heart of the community – we know how much you appreciate it, and we want to keep it that way! Our current plans for 2023-24 include making sure we have a full set of crockery and cutlery as well as glass washer and dishwasher.

We also have a long-term aim to update the Play Park equipment – it is well-used, but we know that some of the equipment does need replacing in the next few years.

### **Contact details**

Your Community Councillors are:

**Kathrin Williams;**      **Jason Jennings;**      **Liz Burns;**      **Barbara Priest;**  
**Peter Morgan;**      **Mark Simpkins;**      **Jane Ashbridge;**  
**Elwyn Morse** who is also the Pembrokeshire County Councillor for this area

**Vicky Mitchell** is the Clerk/RFO – [clerktcc@gmail.com](mailto:clerktcc@gmail.com)

Our website is <https://templeton-community-council.wales> . On it you can find out more about the history of our area, what is happening now including the monthly MoD firing and other use of Templeton Airfield and also the work of the Council. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/TempletonCommunityCouncil/>

Any queries, just get in touch.

June 2023

Adopted June 2023