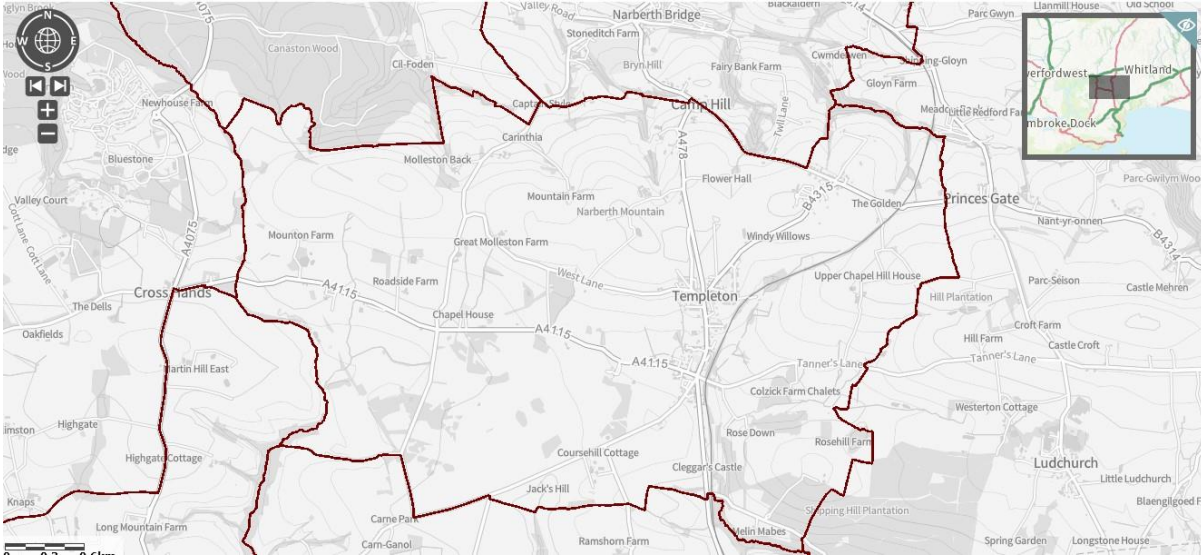


# Annual Report for Templeton Community Council 2023-24

## 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 is pleased that it is able to work 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 which is the organisation 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

In 2023 there was of course King Charles' coronation, and we were delighted to support the celebrations that took place locally for this event. Below is an image of the commemoration coin that was presented from us to all primary school children in our area.



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 followed that up by again working with Narberth and Whitland Round Table to persuade Santa to once more visit the Hall in December – again a popular event appreciated by both children and their parents.

We appreciate how important the Hall is to many local people, who use it for exercise classes and for private events. We therefore did a full review of the catering facilities there, and added a dishwasher to the glasswasher that was there, plus bought in more crockery and cutlery to ensure there is plenty for even the largest event that is held there.

We also know how well the Play Park is used, and so we invested in some new surfacing around most of the equipment to make it safer and better for use all year round.



## **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.

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 back in 2020 and are pleased they continue to thrive.

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**

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 2024-25 include fully redecorating the Hall internally to keep it looking fresh.

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 – [clerkcc@gmail.com](mailto:clerkcc@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 plans for Templeton Airfield and also the work of the Council. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/TempletonCommunityCouncil/>

Any queries, just get in touch.