

WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2026 AGM

CHAIR'S REPORT - YEAR APRIL 2025 TO MARCH 2026.

2025/26 was another busy year for WCC, with much of the business once again generated by our dealings with The Vale Local Authority, including the ongoing and protracted negotiations over a tenancy agreement for the Sports Pavilion and Field. Indeed, May 2025 marked the 10th anniversary since we originally asked The Vale for the transfer of The Pavilion to Wick Community Council! (NB: as of May 2026 negotiations over the lease are still unresolved.)

Nonetheless WCC remains committed to securing the use of both Pavilion and Sports Field for the benefit of the local community, and remains confident that this will finally become a reality in the next year.

Perhaps the most significant event for WCC in 25/26 was Welsh Government acceptance of the recommendation of The Boundary Commission to merge the Wick and St Donats Community Councils and set up a new Community Council from May 2027.

WCC Clerk Conway Hawkins has since been in discussions with the Clerk of St Donats CC over the implications of the merger. Among agreements made by WCC have been that WCC employ a paid Clerk/RFO in advance of the merger, and that ethical banking be considered when the new Council's bank Account is set up.

Meanwhile WCC continued to pursue a number of other matters during the year on behalf of local residents, as well as helping to support a range of activities and events in the community.

These included making grants to both Wick Fete and to Wales Air Ambulance; joining other representatives from the community in providing a wreath for Remembrance Sunday; paying for the Village Xmas Tree and lights on the Small Green; launching a pilot dog poo bag dispenser scheme on The Sports Field in response to residents' concerns; and agreeing to sponsor the cost (£1,000) of a marquee to enable Wick Fete to go ahead in 2026 whatever the weather!

Also in 2025 WCC oversaw the installation of the new Drinking Water Fountain on the Village Green; the provision of a third Defibrillator for the Village, located on the front wall of The Village Shop; funded 6 weeks of Summer Play Activity delivered by Play Rangers and assisted by Wick Youth Club; and successfully applied for funds to install a Skate Board Ramp on the Sports Field – it is hoped that this will be in place by the summer of 2026.

In February 2026, following publication of the proposed Revised Local Development Plan (RDLP) and plans for a possible housing development on the Heol Fain site, WCC published a questionnaire seeking views and concerns of Wick residents, and encouraging people to respond to the consultation.

At the end of the 2025/26 year, Councillor Phil Murphy resigned as a councillor, while kindly offering to remain RFO to complete the Annual Return and to continue in that role until a paid Clerk/RFO is appointed.

I therefore thank Cllr Murphy, along with all my fellow Councillors, for their entirely voluntary work on behalf of the Wick community over the course of this year, and in particular our Clerk, Cllr Hawkins, for his tireless pursuit of a wide range of matters on the Community Council's behalf, including once again working to ensure that The Pavilion, in the absence of management support from The Vale Council, nonetheless remains open for community use.

We look forward to working together on our community's behalf for one last year of Wick Community Council before the merger with St Donats CC and the creation of a new Community Council in 2027.

David Ambrose, Chair, WCC

May 2026.