



# MCC ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

2025/26

## MARCHWIEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

You have the first edition of an annual recap of the activities of your Community Council. We hope it is informative. ChatGPT Free Edition was utilised as a very useful tool to draft.

**Shaun Jones**

Locum Clerk

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# MARCHWIEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

Financial Year 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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## Chair's Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report of Marchwiel Community Council for the financial year ending 31 March 2026.

This has been a significant year for the Council. Following a prolonged period during which the Council faced challenges in fulfilling all of its responsibilities effectively, considerable progress has been made in restoring sound governance, financial management and operational effectiveness.

The Council has continued to serve the community through local events, environmental stewardship and investment in public assets, whilst also addressing a number of important legacy issues. I would like to thank fellow councillors, our Locum Clerk, local volunteers and residents for their support throughout the year.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to improving local amenities, enhancing community pride and delivering projects that benefit all residents of Marchwiel.

**Councillor Sharon Lloyd**  
Chair, Marchwiel Community Council

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## About Marchwiel Community Council

Marchwiel Community Council is the elected local authority representing the residents of Marchwiel. The Council works to improve quality of life within the community, manage local assets, represent local interests and support initiatives that benefit residents.

The Council consists of eleven elected members who work on behalf of the community and oversee the Council's statutory responsibilities and local services.

The Council remains committed to transparency, accountability and effective community leadership.

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## Governance and Financial Recovery

A major focus during the year was the continued improvement of the Council's governance and financial administration.

Significant progress was achieved through:

- Completion of the outstanding financial audits for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- Strengthening of financial controls and governance arrangements.
- Improved compliance with statutory requirements and best practice guidance.
- Re-establishment of effective administrative and decision-making processes.

This work has played an important role in restoring the Council's ability to perform its functions effectively and provide confidence in its financial management arrangements.

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## Council Improvement and Recovery

The 2025/26 financial year marked an important period of improvement and recovery for Marchwiell Community Council.

The Council inherited a number of significant governance and administrative challenges that had developed over several years and which impacted the Council's ability to fully discharge its responsibilities. During the year substantial progress was made in addressing these issues and strengthening the Council's overall effectiveness.

Key achievements included:

- Completion of the outstanding audit processes for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- Strengthening of financial management procedures and internal controls.
- Re-establishment of sound governance practices and statutory compliance arrangements.
- Improved member awareness of legal responsibilities, financial accountability and good governance through ongoing support and training.
- Successful completion of the final repayment of the five-year loan used to finance the conversion of 69 footway lights to energy-efficient LED technology.
- Development of a forward programme of community improvement initiatives and external funding opportunities.

The Council recognises that continuous improvement is an ongoing process. The progress made during 2025/26 has established a stronger foundation for future service delivery, community engagement and effective local leadership.

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## Community Events

The Council successfully organised and supported two popular community events during the year.

### Summer Gardening Competition

The annual Summer Gardening Competition celebrated the efforts of residents to improve the appearance of the community and encouraged environmental enhancement, gardening and community pride.

### Christmas Lights Switch-On Event

The Christmas Lights Switch-On brought residents together to celebrate the festive season and strengthened community spirit within the village.

These events continue to provide valuable opportunities for residents to come together and contribute positively to community life.

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## Burial Ground Maintenance and Storm Recovery

During the year Storm Darragh caused damage within the Marchwiel Burial Ground.

The Council responded promptly by undertaking clean-up and repair works to ensure that the Burial Ground remained safe, accessible and respectful for visitors and families.

The Burial Ground continues to be maintained as an important community asset and place of remembrance.

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## Street Lighting Project

The Council completed the final repayment of the five-year loan used to finance the conversion of 69 footway lights to energy-efficient LED lighting.

The project has delivered long-term benefits through reduced energy consumption, lower maintenance costs and improved environmental sustainability. Completion of the loan repayment marks an important financial milestone for the Council.

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## Financial Summary

The Council remains committed to ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly and transparently.

Financial Item	Amount
Annual Precept	£52,500
Total Expenditure	£46,650

Expenditure during the year supported the Council's statutory responsibilities, maintenance of community assets, community events, storm damage recovery works and governance improvements.

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## Council Meetings and Participation

The Council held eleven Full Council meetings during the financial year 2025/26.

Councillors demonstrated a strong commitment to the work of the Council during a year of significant recovery and improvement. Overall attendance at Council meetings was approximately 67.5%.

Several members achieved attendance levels in excess of 80%, with some members attending every meeting held during the year. This level of participation enabled the Council to maintain effective decision-making, progress important governance improvements and continue delivering services to the community.

Attendance records are maintained by the Clerk and are available for public inspection in accordance with the Council's transparency obligations.

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## Training and Development

The Council recognises the importance of training and continuous development.

Throughout the year the Locum Clerk, Mr Shaun Jones, provided extensive on-the-job support, guidance and training to councillors. This assisted members in strengthening their understanding of governance, financial management, legal responsibilities and good practice within local government.

This investment in member development has contributed significantly to the Council's ongoing improvement programme.

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## Community Engagement and Communications

Marchwiell Community Council recognises the importance of maintaining open communication with residents and ensuring that community views are considered when decisions affecting the village are being made.

During 2025/26 the Council supported and promoted a range of community initiatives and engagement opportunities, including the Summer Gardening Competition and the Christmas Lights Switch-On event.

The Council also coordinated community crocus planting on local green amenity land, helping to enhance public spaces whilst supporting environmental and biodiversity objectives.

A significant area of engagement during the year related to the proposed Solar Farm development. The Council worked to ensure that residents were informed about the consultation process and encouraged community participation throughout the consultation stages. The Council sought to represent local views and ensure that community concerns and aspirations were appropriately communicated to developers and relevant authorities.

Throughout the year the Council's Facebook page continued to play an important role in keeping residents informed. The page provides regular updates on Council activities, community events, public notices, local projects and matters of interest affecting the community.

The Council remains committed to developing effective and transparent communication channels and encouraging greater community involvement in local decision-making.

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## Biodiversity and Environmental Stewardship

Marchwiell Community Council recognises its responsibilities under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.

The Council manages a number of important environmental assets within the community, including Marchwiell Nature Reserve, the Community Burial Ground and other areas of public green space.

During the reporting period the Council continued to implement measures that support biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Particular attention has been given to the management of the Burial Ground, where long-established grassland provides habitat for a range of species of ecological importance.

The Council has adopted a "No Mow October" approach within appropriate areas of the Burial Ground to support the protection of rare waxcap fungi and other grassland

species. This management approach helps maintain habitats associated with unimproved grassland and contributes to wider biodiversity objectives.

Members and volunteers have also supported ongoing maintenance and restoration works within Marchwiell Nature Reserve, helping to improve access, maintain facilities and enhance the site's value as an important local environmental asset.

The Council remains committed to balancing environmental protection with the provision of safe, accessible and well-maintained community facilities and will continue to consider biodiversity impacts when undertaking future projects and maintenance activities.

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## Priorities for 2026/27

The Council has identified a number of important priorities for the coming year.

### Restoration of Marchwiell Nature Reserve

Building upon previous biodiversity and conservation work, the Council intends to undertake a significant programme of restoration and enhancement at Marchwiell Nature Reserve.

The project aims to improve habitats, enhance biodiversity, improve visitor access where appropriate and increase opportunities for residents to enjoy and learn about the natural environment.

### Pride in Place Projects

The Council has identified four key Pride in Place projects designed to improve the appearance, attractiveness and usability of community spaces.

Grant funding applications have been submitted to support the delivery of these projects and the Council looks forward to working with residents, partner organisations and funding bodies to bring these improvements forward during 2026/27.

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## Conclusion

The 2025/26 financial year has been one of recovery, consolidation and progress for Marchwiell Community Council.

The Council has successfully addressed significant governance and administrative challenges, completed three outstanding audit cycles, strengthened financial management arrangements and restored confidence in its ability to effectively serve the community.

Alongside these improvements, the Council has continued to deliver valued community events, respond to local issues such as Storm Darragh damage, maintain important community assets and complete the final repayment of a major infrastructure loan.

Looking ahead, the Council is well placed to build upon these achievements through the restoration of Marchwiell Nature Reserve and the delivery of a number of Pride in Place projects designed to enhance the local environment and community wellbeing.

The Council thanks residents, community groups, volunteers and partner organisations for their continued support and looks forward to working together to further improve Marchwiell in the years ahead.

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## Publication Details

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Financial Year: 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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