



**ST. ATHAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021 / 2022**



Councillor Roger Eustace

First and foremost, as Chairman of the St Athan Community Council during 2021-22, I am delighted to present this report to all residents, something this Council will now do annually.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all Councillors representing Flemingston, Gileston and St Athan and the Council Clerk for their commitment and support given during the past 12 months for the good and benefit of residents.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide residents with information about St Athan, the Council's priorities and budget, overall performance, key achievements and service improvements we have made over the last year.

## LOCATION

### St Athan

Latitude: 51° 40' 2.11" N  
Longitude: -3° 41' 5.22" E

## KEY STATS

All Residents:	4,495
Number of households	1,446
Average household size:	2.60
Residents in households:	3,775
Residents in communal living	720
Area (hectares):	1,161
Population density (people per hectare):	3.90

## HISTORICAL DATA

Over two hundred years ago the village was known as 'Llandathan' (the 'holy place' of Tathan). Legend has it that Tathan was a son of an Irish King who landed in Portskewett Gwent and evangelised the area.

## PRIORITIES & VALUES

**Ensure** everyone can live well and safely together

**Protect** and enhance the environment

**We listen** - We will work with the people of St Athan

**We are responsible** -We will use resources wisely

**We act in the best interests of St Athan ward** - Putting residents first

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Ward Upkeep

In addition to normal maintenance works in the Ward, the Council has arranged for repair and restoration works to be undertaken at various locations, including the BT Exchange Building and Flemingston telephone box, to keep St Athan Ward looking good.

### New Biodiversity Plan

A B-Lines project is currently underway to help deal with the loss of flowers and pollinators and to improve our local environment, the results of which will be seen later this year throughout the Ward.

### Residents' Concerns

In July 2021, concerns were raised by Gileston residents about the dangers in crossing the B4265 by the Memorial, which your Council raised at both County Council and Welsh & UK Government levels. This crossing has now been included by the Vale of Glamorgan in an Active Travel Plan, for which various surveys are currently being undertaken. From our discussions with the relevant authorities, we are hopeful that a suitable solution to this problem will be found soon.

Concerns were also raised about vehicles speeding through the Ward and your Council were instrumental in the setting up of a new Community Speed Watch Group to raise awareness and act as a deterrent.

Despite the lingering aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic, your Council has had an active and successful year, during which various well supported events took place, details of which are below.

### Flower Baskets

The Council continue to arrange and maintain the fine flower baskets in St Athan throughout spring & summer for the benefit of our community.

### 4<sup>th</sup> September - Summer Fete

The original date set for the fete was 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020, but, due to ongoing Coronavirus restriction, this had to be postponed and was re-arranged for the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022, which turned out to be a fine sunny day! With over 400 people attending our inaugural event and raising £280 for local charities.

Feedback from those attending on the day, has been excellent. We are endeavouring to make this an annual event and the next enhanced Fete will take place on 2 July 2022, weather permitting and will include a 'Party in the Park' type event, where people can listen/watch acts performing while families and friend enjoy having their own picnic.



### 11<sup>th</sup> September - Autumn Community Litter Pick

By the end of the day more than 10 full bags of litter were removed from the sports field next to the Paul Lewis Community Centre, followed by a cuppa and biscuit. Well done and a huge thank you to those residents who gave up their time to improve our local environment to hopefully help restore some Community pride, particularly in those of our residents responsible for this problem.!

### 14<sup>th</sup> November - Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Day is a very important for St Athan not least because of its military connections, but because so many of our predecessors gave their lives, so we can live in peace today. Your Council supported the British Legion and others in placing the large poppies on lamp posts throughout the ward at a cost of £300. There was a great turnout of around 40 residents at the service itself and at the Memorial, which was also attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Glamorgan. Tea and biscuits were provided in the Council Hall afterwards, which allowed people to get together on this prestigious occasion.



### 28<sup>th</sup> November - Christmas Light Switch On

The Council ensured that the lights themselves were well maintained and working prior to the big day and met the installation, removal and electricity costs totalling £2,900. Thanks to Alan Bourne and his team for the fantastic organising of this successful event, which was a great start to the festive season.

### 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> December – Flemingston Carol Concert & Christmas Open Top Bus

Further well appreciated events by residents. Thanks again go to Alan Bourne and the RAF Voluntary Band for giving up their time for free and playing for the delight of our residents. Council paid for refreshments at Flemingston, where some £75 was raised for charity and a further £550, for the bus hire.

### 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Spring Community Litter Pick



Few in number, but this merry band of pickers removed a large amount of litter from collect East Camp area, before having a well-earned refreshment. Good work, thanks to all.

## BUDGET FY 2021-22

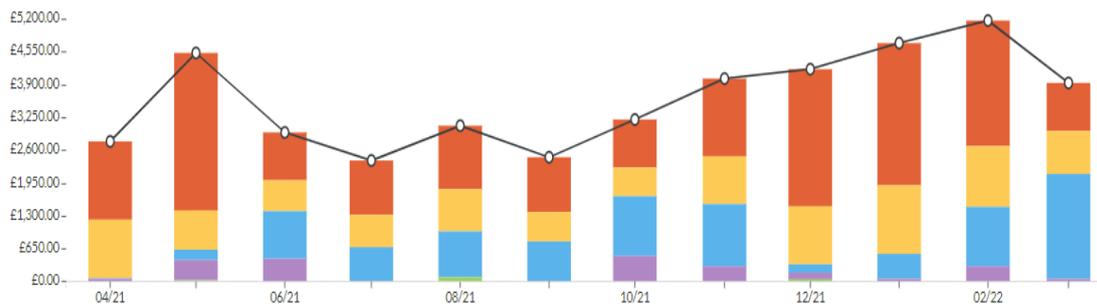
(a) Income Total **£52,684.10**

### Breakdown of Income

Bank Balance carried forward from 2020-21	£9,714.10
Income from local Taxation (Precept)	£38,473.00
Hire of Council Hall	£1,940.00
Refund HMRC	£800.55
Summer Fete	£1,756.45
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£52,684.10</u></b>

(b) Expenditure Total **£43,404.85**

### Spending Trends



### Breakdown of Expenses



(c) End of Year Balance (a) – (b) = **£9,279.25**

## Planning

The Council review all planning applications within our ward and, following consideration of all aspects, forward approvals and objections to the County Council to be included in their considerations.

## Environment

The Community Council work hard to place the environment at the heart of what we do - from looking after our villages with regular litter picks to becoming the first pollinator village in the Vale. We are in contact with the Welsh Government via the Vale's local nature partnership co-ordinator and hope to restore wildflower rich grasslands and improve local biodiversity.

Partnering with the Brownies, Air Cadets, residents, BT and the Vales Youth offending team, we have already had some success and hope to establish improved bee-lines and improve the local environment for all residents. Several new projects include the «BeeKind 🐝 Campaign, and The Golden Jubilee tree planting will all be taking place in 2022.

## Future Objectives.

We will continue to work with our residents and utilise our resources wisely to protect and enhance our environment to ensure everyone can live well and safely together.



Roger Eustace  
Chairman, St Athan Community Council