



Bronington Community Council
serving the wards of Iscoyd, Bronington and Tybroughton

Chair's Annual Report

May 2024 – April 2025

Dear Residents

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Community Council's annual report of our various activities over the past year.

Firstly - Thank You!

The council is very much a team, and I would like to thank all my fellow councillors who have given up a great deal of their time in a variety of ways throughout the year, all without remuneration, and have done so to help make our very special communities even better. Thank you too to our clerk Mrs Ruth Shackleton, who has provided sage advice and sound administration, and to our ward County Councillor Jeremy Newton, with whom we have liaised on a number of road and other issues.

I especially wish to thank all those non-councillors who have been integral to our activities this year, whether Jayne, Liz, Sue and the rest of the monthly Bronington coffee morning crew, Hazel and co for the fabulous Christmas decorating, or those numerous residents who have attended our monthly meetings this year bringing their concerns and suggestions to the council's attention.

Our Area - Your Council

Our area covers nearly 9000 acres and includes the communities of Fenn's Bank, Bronington, Redbrook Maelor, Iscoyd, Whitewell, The Chequer, Eglwys Cross, Tybroughton and part of Higher Wych. This area is divided into three wards, each of which is represented by several councillors, whose job it is to represent and equally serve every resident in their area.

Community Councillors - the equivalent of parish councillors in England - are your first port of call if you have any local issues, concerns, or suggestions for local improvements.

All your councillors' names and contact details are available on the council website www.bronington-cc.org as well as on the council's noticeboards.

Annual Meeting

The council year began in May 2024 with our annual community council meeting, always held in May of each year and proceeding our regular monthly meeting. I was honoured to be returned again as chair of the council for the year with Cllr Louise Lindsay again returned as vice chair.

Other appointments made for the year included reconfirming Cllr Steve Swinden as our representative on the Bronington School governing board where he was at the time the Chair of Governors, and Cllr Louise Lyndsay as our rep on the Whitewell Parish

Rooms committee.

Cllrs Mark Watson and Dave Evans continue to represent the council on the Hanmer Charities Board.

Grant Funding

Our annual grant application process produced a number of responses, and in May we were pleased to provide the following financial support:

Bronington Guides - £959 for outdoor camping equipment

Whitewell Parish Rooms - £813 for a new water heater

Bronington Bronies - £639 for hoodies, neckers and entry to the Eiffel Tower on Paris trip

Bronington Children's Club - £1000 for a new heating system

In addition in November we provided £1000 each to St Mary's, Whitewell and Holy Trinity, Bronington churches for upkeep of their grounds.

Bronington Community Room

The Community Council continue to lease the Community Room from Bronington School, and run it for the benefit of the wider community. Over the course of the year a wide variety of groups have made use of it, including Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, various Bronington Church events, coffee mornings, yoga classes, craft club, walking group, and council meetings. In addition the community room has hosted the monthly mobile library service as well as being used in July 2024 as the local polling station (thereby allowing the school to stay open on an election day!)

With the exception of the yoga classes all groups have continued to enjoy use of the Community Room without charge, with the rental cost coming from Community Council funds, and we hope to be able to continue to do this in the year from May 2025.

We have continued to make improvements to the facilities, including the purchase of 40 new stacking chairs and a rather splendid yellow trolley for £1127 in June 2024 (the previous folding chairs being positively lethal!), and 2 new electric heaters in October.

We will shortly be putting out a further call for old photographs of the neighbourhood that we can have blown up to decorate the walls.

Remembrance Sunday

Last November for the first time the Community Council laid wreaths on behalf of our community at the two Remembrance Sunday events held in our area. I had the honour of laying a wreath in Bronington and our Vice-Chair Louise Lindsay did the same at the Iscoyd memorial. Both events were beautifully coordinated and as always very moving, and it was an honour to be able to contribute. We hope to continue doing so in forthcoming years.

Happy Christmas

The Community Council staged two free Christmas events on Saturday 21st December, a special Christmas coffee morning in the Bronington community room and an evening Christmas get together in Whitewell Parish Rooms: altogether a jolly day of Christmas jumpers, mulled wine, mince pies, carol singing, children's activities, Christmas quizzes, Christmas entertainment, Christmas raffles, and of course, despite his busy schedule, Father Christmas.

Thank you to all who attended, and to everybody behind the scenes whose efforts made both events so festive.

Bronington Play Area

We have now been responsible for the Barry Barlow Play Area for more than 10 years and continue to ensure that the grounds are well kept and equipment well maintained, as per our annual ROSPA inspections. This year we have effected further repairs to the climbing frame, the main piece of play equipment in the playground, but it is now really looking its age, and in the coming year we will be actively addressing its replacement. This will provide an opportunity to rethink and redevelop the play experience we offer more generally.

Planning issues

An important role of any community council is the scrutiny of local planning applications. We are obliged to study every planning application in our area against an objective set of planning criteria, and then respond in one of three ways: Support, Object (with reasons), or No Comment.

This year we have had a wide range of planning applications come before us, and at times there has been keen debate, including with members of the public attending. Anybody affected is welcome to come and have their say on a planning application up for consideration: these are itemised in the published agenda preceding each meeting.

War Memorials

The Community Council owns and is responsible for the three war memorials at Bronington, Iscoyd, and the bus shelter memorial on the A525 at Eglwys Cross. We regularly monitor the fabric of all three memorials, but they have required nothing further than grass trimming and tidying this year.

Defibrillators

With the support of Mr Andy Watts of Whitewell we have continued to monitor and maintain the three defibrillators in our area, their locations being outside Bronington School, outside Whitewell Parish Rooms, and in Iscoyd (at the site of the former Wellness Centre), with the council providing replacement pads and batteries as required.

In the event of an emergency each defibrillator cabinet opens easily by turning a handle, and no code is required. Simple-to-follow instructions are prominently displayed on each unit.

Community Space

One setback this year was that we did not have our lease for the land opposite the shop site in Bronington renewed by the Hammer Estate. In December 2024 we had put the work out to tender to prepare the site for community use including relaying 38 m of hedge to let light back into the space, as well as removing old fencing and several trees. The second phase was to include landscaping the site, planting bulbs and installing a timber bench, amongst other things.

Altogether we'd set aside £2000 for this project, so we were disappointed to discover in February 2025 that the lease had been passed to the new owners of the Bronington shop site opposite. However we have been pleased to see the progress that has been made since, and are sure that this space will be a great asset to the community, as of course will be the revived village shop.

School Federation

In 2023 the Community Council, after lively discussion and deliberation, collectively decided to oppose the then proposed federation of Bronington and Penley Madras primary schools, believing that for financial, geographical and other reasons it would not be the best option for our school. At the time we received quite a lot of flack for adopting this position.

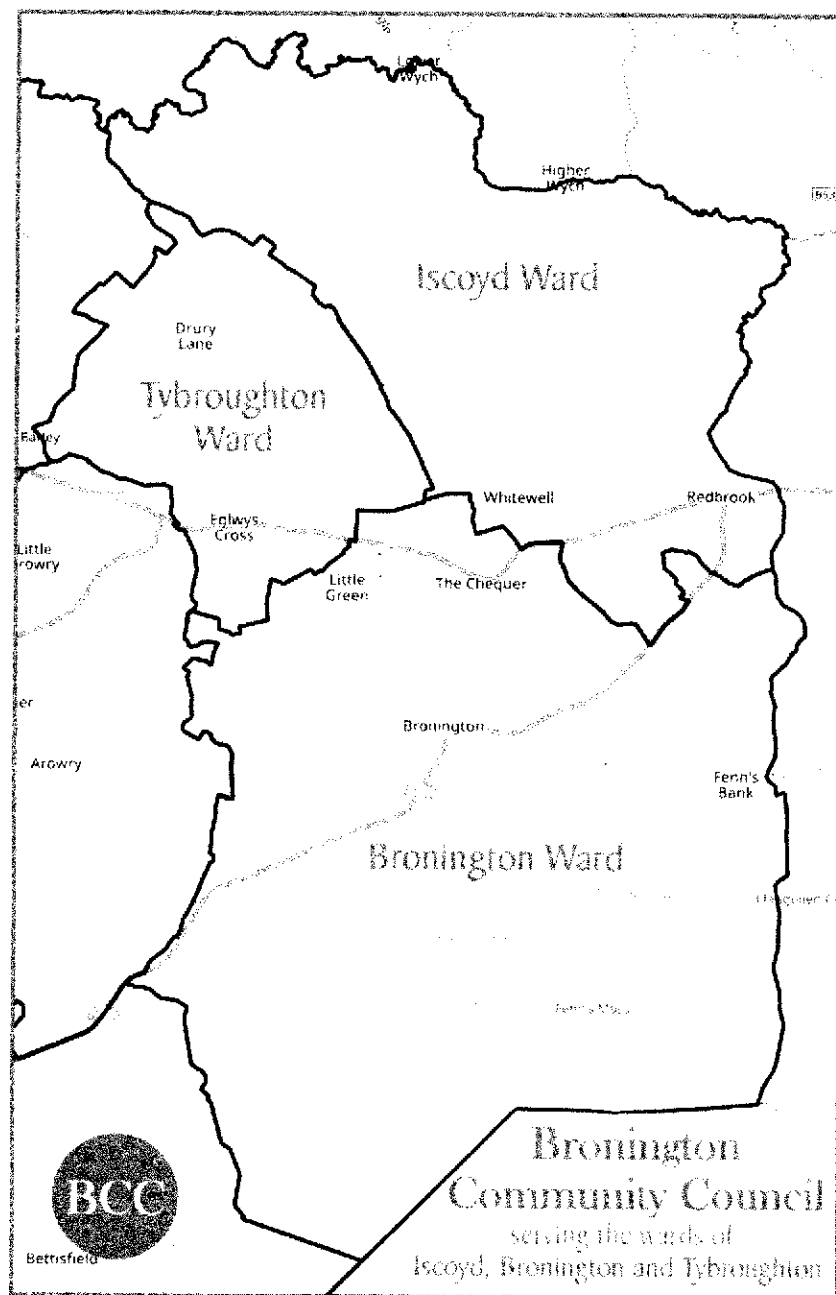
In the event the planned federation did not go ahead, and things moved on with the arrival of new head Mrs Emma Jones, and an association with Mrs Jones's federation of Borderbrook and St Paul's Schools. Whilst pupil numbers remain tight things have transformed positively in many ways for Bronington School since 2023, and in January this year we were delighted to write in support of the formal federation of the three schools as the Maelor Church Schools Federation, which we hope will be instrumental in ensuring our school's future.

It must remain an absolute priority for our community to retain its own school, and the Community Council will continue to give Emma and her staff every possible support in the coming period.

Ben Martin

Chair, Bronington Community Council

May 2025



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024-2025

Balance Brought forward	£21376.02
May 2024	

RECEIPTS

Precept	24150.00
Community Room Rental	965.00
Monies received at Coffee mornings	2308.00
VAT refund	968.38

Total Receipts	£28391.38
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LESS PAYMENTS

Salaries	5535.32
Admin, Room Hire	574.44
Insurance	803.38
Churchyard donations	2000.00
Maintenance War Memorials	165.00
Audit Fees	736.00
Barry Barlow Play Area	2760.00
Christmas	383.88
Membership	268.00
Room Rental	180.00
Community Room	1379.04
Community Room equipment	939.19
Grants	3667.14
Website	50.00
Donations (from coffee mornings)	2007.00
Match funded donations	1531.00
Cllr Expenses Payments	1560.00
Bank Charges	4.25
Bronington School (share of election)	125.00
Donation Homestart	111.00
VAT (to be reclaimed)	874.98

Total Payments	£25654.62
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Closing Balance	£24112.78
April 2025	

Full details of Bronington Community Council's income, expenditure and annual audits, as well as a wide range of other council documents, are available on our website

www.bronington-cc.org