

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2024 TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH  
2025

A difficult year in many ways with some highlights at the latter end of 2024 and early 2025. The Village of Fairbourne is still recovering from the fake news and lazy negative reporting over the last 10 years referencing decommissioning by 2054, which in fact was never going to happen. Both Arthog and Friog have been affected by the decommissioning story, but all three villages remained positive and buoyant. Late 2023 and early 2024 the Fairbourne Partnership was told by Cabinet member Berwyn Parry-Jones that decommissioning had never been discussed, voted upon or put on the statute books at any Cyngor Gwynedd Cabinet Meeting, therefore, it was a myth. Open mouthed as the Fairbourne members of the Partnership were, at least at that point Fairbourne felt like it had a bright and buoyant future. Residents started to make repairs, and investing into their properties. Properties are selling as soon as they come on the market, the only stigma left over from the previous 10 years is that it is still almost impossible to get a mortgage so therefore most property sales are cash funded. This of course means that it is very difficult for the young of the village to get onto the property ladder unless they are funded by the bank of mum and dad.

The Village shops and attractions seem to be all working well and thriving. The annual scrape on the beach were laid down in time for Easter 2024, in fact two scrapes. This meant that with much less difficulty, visitors and residents alike could access the beach.

The Golf Club offers the opportunity for golfers to play without taking out a membership and always seems to be busy, given the right kind of weather.

The named storms at the end of 2024 and early 2025 caused a small amount of damage to the promenade. The storms moved shingle from the beach up onto the car parking area. Quite a lot of it has been cleared and put back on the beach. NRW have as always been very attentive to shifting shingle back into position and for this the community is very grateful.

A highlight at the end of 2024, although not for all, the Village via the ACC was approached by a film company interested in using some of the locations and properties within the Village to make a Netflix/SKY episodic drama called “Under Salt Marsh”. Residents involved were compensated, properties used were redesigned for the drama and then reinstated and owners compensated, the Golf Club was used as a prime location point, the Springfield Hotel was also used, the three main stars stayed at Penmaenuchaf Hall Hotel, and best of all the ACC received a charitable donation, all of which went to bettering the Fairbourne Playpark, commissioning a new welcome to Fairbourne Sign, (the base of which was built and designed by Jack Evans of Bwlchgwyn Farm) numerous seats, picnic benches and planters for all three Villages. Also, as a result of the film company paying for the use of the two car parks in Fairbourne, the Village benefited from extra funds from the 10% scheme. The benefits were spread far and wide and great deal of North Wales benefited.

The Precept was increased by £1000.00 for this coming financial year as the result of requirements for the ACC to look after two cemeteries and in with conjunction with Cyngor Gwynedd, keep footpaths open, and make payment towards the shingle scrape to the tune of £500.00. This means that the ACC will be able to continue its donations to the local two Village Halls, the Fairbourne Amenities Trust and the Welsh Air Ambulance. A further donation this year of £500.00 went towards reinstating the Christmas Lights and parade for the young of the three Villages from the Little Door Donation. Big thanks to Helen Roberts and her colleagues for getting this actioned.

The four village representatives meet every three months with the members of the Partnership Board, in the Dolgellau Council Offices. This works very well. All stakeholders are invited and most attend. It gives the Faribourne Representatives the opportunity to air concerns and report back positivity to all interested parties.

The ACC is still struggling to resolve Golf Club issues dating back to 2019. However, the new lease for the additional land granted by Cyngor Gwynedd to Arthog Community Council is now in place for a further 25 years thus giving continuity.

The ACC has tried its best to enhance the biodiversity of all three villages by keeping the carbon footprint as low as possible.