

ARTHOG COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 1ST APRIL 2025 TO 31ST MARCH 2026

Once again, a difficult year in different ways. The three Villages, especially Fairbourne are still in recovery after the 12 years of the threat of decommissioning, however, there is now light at the end of the tunnel.

The Village of Fairbourne is still being pestered by Media, Academic and TV Stations from all over the World, to comment on how Fairbourne is dealing with the threat of decommissioning. Now matter how many times they are told that the conversation has now changed, and that Fairbourne is now being treated exactly the same as any coastal community, and that it is the science that will dictate what happens next, and of course funds being available to manage and build on existing flood defences. They keep on coming back. The Community Council and the Partnership now have a common thread as to how these requests are answered. However, we are unable to stop media etc visiting Fairbourne and speaking to residents, who may or may not have an up-to-date knowledge of what has happened and what is happening.

One piece of really great news is that Fairbourne now has its own specific Evacuation Plan. By this I mean that a tailor-made document now exists detailing how, when and where the blue lights would come to Fairbourne in the event of a catastrophe occurring. This is a “Red Sensitive” document and therefore will not be for general release to the public.

NRW commenced a programme of reconstruction of the shingle bank in Fairbourne in February. This had been expected to start in November 2025 but was delayed due to bad weather and other factors. This has now been completed, and it is hoped will stay in place for a considerable number of years, that is, unless we have a serious named storm. The Village is very grateful for the care and attention that NRW pays Fairbourne. They are only ever a phone call away.

The Village is looking clean, bright and tidy, one reason for this is that the ACC qualified for a small amount of funding from Cyngor Gwynedd and The Welsh Government for a Sensory Boat garden, complete with sweet smelling herbs, all edible, and a real compliment to the Promenade in front of Penrhyn Bar and Grill. The Sensory Boat has its own Facebook page with many sweet pictures of residents and visitors alike appreciating it.

The ACC also has a Councillor dedicated to picking up litter and keeping the promenade path free of weeds. One thing the ACC and its Councillors is NOT prepared to do is pick up dog poo after neglectful owners who do not pick up their dogs mess, and there is a lot of it on the whole length of the Promenade path and in most of the roads in Fairbourne.

The ACC is still working on a way to keep the Promenade path at the top Car Park free for all users to be able to negotiate without bumping into the bonnets and boots of cars that over parked the path. This has caused some exclusions for wheelchair users and pushchair users alike. Signs don't seem to work. The 999 phones, all three, are slowly

being dismantled along the path, all the way from Friog to Penrhyn Point. There are no spare parts for these phones to maintained unfortunately.

During 2025, the funding donated by Little Door Film Company was spent in many wise ways. This included money towards the new Welcome to Fairbourne Sign and the Planter in which it sits. A nest swing has been installed in the Playpark, however, at the moment it is being vandalised and is decommissioned for repair. The Police have been notified. There is a plan to possibly add a basketball hoop to the tennis court area. Safety issues and standards are currently being investigated. A new equipment box is on order and will be placed in the tennis court, this will house the tennis nett and uprights. Unfortunately, the previous uprights were stolen so the tennis court has not been used for tennis for quite some time. However, 5 a side football remains popular, and a seating bench has been placed in the court for spectators.

The Golf Club continues to attract new members. The two Village Halls attract a varied number of clubs and activities. The Bars and the Café's appeared to be doing well, although it is sad to note that the Springfield Hotel is once again shut and does not look to be reopening any time soon. The Curry house in Fairbourne has reopened much to the delight of many people. The miniature railway as always attracts visitors to Fairbourne, and it will be interesting to see how visitor numbers are affected by the increase in fuel costs currently in place.

Friog has a seat and double planter box at the Openreach Station, this is well used by people doing a circuit of the Villages. We try to keep the planters looking bright and clean and spring plants will again be planted in the next couple of weeks. Arthog requested that a bench be placed on the Mawddach Trail and with permission and the blessing of Eryrie (SNP) this has been accomplished.

The ACC will once again be doing its best to answer questions and help with queries that may be raised during the 2026 to 2027 season.

April 2026