

**Northop Community Council**  
**Cyngor Cymuned Northop**  
**Annual Report 2021/22**



**Northop Church**  
**St. Eurgain and St. Peters Church Northop**



**Sychdyn War Memorial**

## **Contents Page**

1. Foreword by Councillor Linda Scott, Chair of Northop Community Council
2. Introduction to the Annual Report
3. Northop Community Council
4. Activities undertaken by the Community Council
5. Priorities of Northop Community Council
6. Achievements of 2021/22
7. Conclusion
8. Contact Details

## **1. Foreword**

On behalf of the members of Northop Community Council I would like to welcome you to the 2021/22 Annual Report.

The Annual Report for 2021/22 is the first annual report completed by Northop Community Council and members hope that you find this report an informative and helpful read. The Council welcomes your feed-back on what could be added or improved to make future annual reports more readable, informative and appealing.

The past year has been a testing time for all, with the pandemic remaining at the forefront of everyone's mind which has made meeting on a monthly basis very different from pre-pandemic working arrangements.

I would like to thank all the members of the Community Council for their dedication, commitment and sheer hard work which sometimes goes well beyond day-to-day expectations.

I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations who have worked with us, to improve the wellbeing of the communities of Northop and Sychdyn.

**Councillor Linda Scott**

**Chair of Northop Community Council**

## **2. Introduction to the Annual Report**

This Annual Report sets out to inform the residents of Northop and Sychdyn villages about the priorities and achievements of the Community Council during the period April 2021 to April 2022.

The report will also contain a brief outline of the structure of the Council and an overview of the Council's activities throughout the past year.

Wales faces a number of challenges now and in the future, such as climate change, poverty, health inequalities and jobs and growth. To tackle these challenges, we need to work together in order to give current and future generations a good quality of life and we need to think about the long-term impact of the decisions we make today.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies in Wales to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change. Northop Community Council are not subject to the duty in Section 40(1) of the Act, as they do not have a budget that exceeds £200,000 however, the Community Council still recognises the role it has to play whilst working for and with its local communities and as such, it's priorities and achievements will be set out with the objectives of the Flintshire Local Well-Being Plan in this report highlighted below.

### **Well-being Objectives for Flintshire County Council**

Flintshire County Council, together with its partners, will support the health and well-being of both the current and future generations through the following strategic objectives.

#### **AMBITIOUS COUNCIL**

- Sustaining economic growth through local and regional business development, employment and skills strategies;
- Developing the transport infrastructure and employment sites, and transport services, widening access to employment and training sites;
- Creating a supply of diverse and quality training and employment opportunities;

#### **ACHIEVING COUNCIL**

- Providing high quality, accessible, responsive and cost effective public services;
- Providing joined-up services with public and third sector partners which support quality of life in communities and for individuals and families;
- Continuing to be a high performing and innovative public sector organisation

with social values;

### **CARING COUNCIL**

- Ensuring a supply of affordable and quality housing of all tenures;
- Making early interventions to support healthy and independent living;
- Sustaining a local market of high quality and affordable service provision for those who are highly dependent on care support;
- Protecting people from poverty by maximising their income and maximising their employability;
- Giving equal opportunity to all to fulfil their lives;
- Protecting people from the risk of any form of abuse;
- Making communities safe places by working with partners to prevent crime, repeat crime and anti-social behaviour;

### **CONNECTED COUNCIL**

- Committing to resilient service models to sustain local public services;
- Supporting local communities to be resilient and self-supporting.
- Widening digital access to public services;

### **GREEN COUNCIL**

- Reducing energy consumption and using and developing alternative/renewable energy production;
- Enhancing the natural environment and promoting access to open and green space;
- Maximising the recovery and recycling of waste;

### **LEARNING COUNCIL**

- Supporting children and younger people to achieve their potential;
- Supporting learners from 3 to 18 years of age to aspire to high levels of educational attainment and achievement;
- Providing high quality learning opportunities, and learning environments and for learners of all ages;

### **3. Northop Community Council**

Community Councils are the most local tier of statutory representation. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.

Their primary purpose is to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies. They also involve themselves in a wide range of other activities including fundraising, organising community events, undertaking environmental and educational projects and much more. Northop Community Council is one of 34 Town and Community Councils in Flintshire.

Northop has a population of circa 1,058 (2011 Census) and Sychdyn a population of circa 1665 (2020). For local government purposes Northop Community Council is divided into two electoral wards, Northop and Sychdyn. There are 13 members of the Council, seven of whom represent the Sychdyn electoral ward and six represent the Northop electoral ward. The Community Council meets on the second Monday of each month (except August when there is a recess) commencing at 7pm. Prior to the pandemic, members met at the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall. However, since September 2020 all meetings have been held remotely via Zoom Pro.

A Chair and Vice Chair are elected each year by the Council at the Annual General Meeting which is held in May. The Chair of the Community Council for 2021/22 was Councillor Linda Scott, who is a resident of Northop and the Vice Chair for the same period was Councillor Joanne Millar, a resident of Sychdyn.

Details of how to contact your local Community Councillor can be found on the Northop Community Council website <https://www.northopcc.org.uk>

The Community Council employs one Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer who works on a part time basis (12 hours per week).

Despite meeting remotely via Zoom Pro due to the pandemic. Members of the public are welcome to attend any meetings of the Council. The meetings are held at 7pm on the second Monday of each month, excluding August when the Council is in recess.

Arrangements can be made to provide access details to the meeting for those members of the public that wish to participate.

The dates of all Community Council meetings, agendas and copies of the minutes, accounts and contact details of the individual Councillors can be found on the Council's website <https://www.northopcc.org.uk>

Alternatively, members of the public can contact the Clerk to the Community Council via email [clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Meeting Dates 2021/22**

12 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
10 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
August Recess	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2022
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022

The Council derives almost all of its funds from its precept. This is an additional amount which is added to Flintshire County Council Tax bills based upon Northop Community Council's estimated expenditure. For the financial year 2021/22 Northop Community Council maintained its precept at 0% increase.

Further information about the Council's finances including its annual accounts, can be obtained from the Clerk [clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk)

### **4. Activities**

Northop Community Council welcomed three new members during 2021/22, all of whom were co-opted on to the Council. The Community Council welcomed Councillor Cara Baker in April 2021, whilst Councillor Louise Higgs was welcomed in May 2021 and Councillor Levi Hamilton in December of the same year. Members thanked Councillor Ruddle and Councillor Haywood for all their hard work and community efforts as Community Councillors over the previous years.

During 2021/22 members have continued to act as representatives on the school governing bodies of both Northop CP School and Sychdyn CP School, on the committee of the Edith Bankes Memorial Hall and Sychdyn Village Hall, as well as with the Citizens Advice Bureau, County Forum and Police Consultation Group.

In accordance with requirements of the Annual Report 2020/21 undertaken by the Remuneration Panel of Wales, consideration was given to payments for all Community Councillors in the execution of their duties and all members opted not to take this payment for 2021/22.

The Community Council has continued to maintain the assets that it owns throughout 2021/22. An urgent repair to the roof of the bus shelter in Northop was undertaken, maintenance of the Northop Car Park and Band Hall site has been ongoing on a twice monthly basis from March to October, as well as an unsafe tree being removed from the Car Park in Northop and the Sandhole Field in Sychdyn. All works have been funded by the Community Council.

A significant amount of Council time during 2021/22 was spent dealing with matters relating to a piece of land owned by the Community Council known as the Sandhole Field. Members have been involved in the consideration of matters relating to the clarification of ownership of the land, possible sale of the land, rental of the land (both in the short and long term) and agreement terms.

Northop Community Council also own land in Northop which they have maintained for many years. Again, a significant amount of Council time during 2021/22 was taken up with clarifying ownership of Band Hall site, liaising with Flintshire County Council who own the land and Northop Silver Band who lease it and giving consideration as to whether to continue to fund the maintenance of the site and renewal of the maintenance contract.

On a larger scale, Northop Community Council have agreed to undertake the repair to the gully on land they own in Northop which is used as a Car Park. During 2021/22 Council have obtained several quotes for the repair work of the gully on the Northop Car Park site and have also commissioned a structural engineering report. To date a consultant has been employed to manage the car park repair and members are currently considering contract options.

The Internal audit and External audit were completed for 2021/22 and we continue to await the outcome of the External Audit. The conclusion of audit will be undertaken once the External Audit is complete.

All Council members have been offered remote training opportunities during 2021/22 from One Voice Wales. Code of Conduct training has also been requested from Flintshire County Council for both new members and for longer standing members who would like to renew their training. It will be arranged following the May elections. The Clerk has also completed her ILCA training. Although funded by her employers in her additional role, it will benefit Northop Community Council.

## **5. Priorities of Northop Community Council for 2021/22**

### **To promote and represent the community's views and aspirations at local level**

Northop Community Council's main priority during 2021/22 was to continue to hold monthly meetings and transact Council business remotely throughout the year despite the pandemic, maintaining the safety of members and employee of the Community Council, whilst still ensuring public participation was possible when requested. Having commenced remote meetings in September 2020 and continuing to do so throughout 2021/22, the Council were successful in achieving this priority.

Looking forward, a follow-on priority of the Council is to consider the introduction of multi-location meetings and to ensure that there is adequate equipment in place to enable such meetings to take place. A trial is planned for May 2022.

### **To strive to improve the quality of life for all residents of Northop and Sychdyn;**

**To promote sustainable policies that strive to improve the environment to meet the needs of residents and visitors for both the present and future;**

**To work in partnership with other local organisations for the improvement in the quality of life of those residents living in Northop and Sychdyn;**

**To help create a socially inclusive and caring community that embraces all residents and which seeks to develop their wellbeing, knowledge, understanding and mutual co-operation;**

**To strive for a pleasant, clean and safe environment;**

## **6. Achievements.**

### ***Reducing energy consumption and using and developing alternative/renewable energy production.***

The Community Council has invested in more efficient and environmentally friendly use of energy sources in recent years which will result in reduced carbon and energy costs over time. During 2021/22 a priority of the Community Council was to complete the upgrading of the street lighting columns in Northop during, replacing its street lighting with LED lanterns which use less energy and are more environmentally friendly. This was achieved, with all street light upgrading programmes across Northop and Sychdyn villages now complete.

### ***Maximising the recovery and recycling of waste***

During 2021/22 the Community Council liaised with Refill Wales with the aim of promoting the reduction of the use of plastic bottles in both villages. The Council has approached local hostelrys with a view to consider providing the opportunity for people to refill their water bottles on their premises.

### ***Enhancing the natural environment and promoting access to open and green Space***

The Community Council aims to maintain and enhance the bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change within its communities.

During 2021/22 the Community Council supported the diversion order at Northop 21 and 22 footpaths and it has resolved a long-standing issue in the area and enables

use of some fantastic routes and scenery and has match funded the repair and improvements on various local footpaths, in conjunction with Flintshire County Council and PROW (Public Rights of Way).

During 2021/22 the Community Council have also committed to further match funding projects which will improve and enhance the footpaths in both Northop and Sychdyn villages, with the improvements commencing in 2022/23.

The Community Council has continued its opposition to the Red Route in Flintshire as the A55/548 Deeside Corridor Project is a major concern for our communities with regard to the impact upon wildlife and increased traffic problems. The group opposing this project, Stop the Red Route, continues to keep council updated on a regular basis.

As well as linking in as part of Flintshire's well-being objectives, this achievement also links in with the Welsh Government's objective for a Resilient Wales - *a nation which maintains and enhances a bio-diverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and capacity to adapt to change.*

***Providing joined-up services with public and third sector partners which support quality of life in communities and for individuals and families***

Northop Community Council strives to support local groups, clubs and organisations which promote physical and mental well-being and who encourage healthier living. During 2021/22 the Council has continued to provide the annual grants to local organisations including Sychdyn Memorial Hall, Edith Bankes Memorial Institute, Northop Silver Band, St Peter's Churchyard and Flintshire Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Additional grants were also awarded to Sychdyn Bowling Club, to assist them in repairing the viewing shelter and railings which had been significantly damaged during Storm Arwen. Community donations were also awarded to a group in Sychdyn, to replace damaged planters and provide funding to maintain the floral displays. The Community Council continue to support local events and have agreed to consider funding requests for events to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during 2022 across both villages.

In awarding these annual grants, Northop Community Council are continuing to support cohesive communities which are attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities and promote and protect culture, heritage and the Welsh language, as well as encouraging people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

In 2021/22 Northop Community Council also approved the expenditure of £1500 towards the cost of improvements at Sychdyn Play Area. Sychdyn Carnival Committee were able to fund £2000 and Aura Libraries and Leisure Services have agreed to match fund the total amount put forward by the Council and Carnival Committee of £3500, enabling improvements of up to £7000 to be made. We are currently awaiting the installation of the new play equipment. Members have also approved the decision to continue to build on this match funding opportunity and will set monies aside in the budget each year following 2021/22 to allow for any future play area improvements to be made in Northop and Sychdyn play areas. Should there be a year when funds are not required, the monies allocated will accrue.

The Community Council continues to support the Community Heartbeat Trust on an annual basis and ensure the community defibrillator is in good working order.

Another priority was to continue to fund the Flintshire County Council Playscheme for 2021/22 and this was achieved with Northop Community Council funding three weeks of the Summer Playscheme at a cost of £2857.80 at both Northop and Sychdyn villages. All sessions were free of charge for children aged five to twelve years.

The Community Council have also confirmed funding in principle for Summer 2022/23 for both Northop and Sychdyn villages.

Northop Community Council continue to identify and report local matters on a monthly basis to Streetscene and request that the County Council undertake the required work. These issues have included the request for dog waste bins and the repair of existing dog waste bins, traffic lights reported as being out of order and repaired, fly tipping reported, drainage issues on the road from Northop to Sychdyn, reported overgrown footpaths from Northop to the College, Sychdyn to Mold and Sychdyn to Northop. Also, the request to repair potholes and both pavement and road surfaces and replace village signage.

As well as linking in as part of Flintshire's well-being objectives, this achievement also links in with the Welsh Government's objective for a Healthier Wales - *a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.*

***Making communities safe places by working with partners to prevent crime, repeat crime and anti-social behaviour***

The Community Council was able to continue to meet remotely on a regular monthly basis despite the pandemic during 2021/22 and arrangements put in place for members of the press and public to attend remotely should they request to.

Northop Community Council continues to provide support to local community groups and organisations in providing one off grants or donations and an annual commitment in the case of local village halls which provide a wide range of opportunities for local residents to meet and connect.

Representatives of the Community Council attended Remembrance Services in both Northop and Sychdyn villages in November 2021 and monies from the community donations budget were allocated to fund remembrance wreaths to commemorate the event. The Chair and Vice Chair were able to lay them at services at the War Memorial in Sychdyn and at Northop Church. In attending such events, the Community Council remember the contribution to society made by our Armed Forces. Attending events such as this, also help to support healthy lifestyles and aging well by bringing people and communities together, creating a cohesive community.

The Council supports local events including the Sychdyn Carnival and Remembrance services across both villages, although due to the pandemic these events which help communities to connect have not been able to take place during 2021/22. Members have agreed that they would be willing to support and consider financial assistance, if requested, for any events that may be planned in May 2022, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Council continue to work closely with other agencies including North Wales Police, the South Flintshire PCSO's and the local Senedd member. Members have met and walked the villages with PCSO Ryan Thomas and Hannah Blythyn MS and been able

to highlight local issues including parking problems and help to ensure that the communities of both Northop and Sychdyn remain safe and that there is regular communication with the local PCSO's.

We have a Councillor representative who attends the South Flintshire Police consultation events.

Two VAS signs were installed during 2021/22, one in Sychdyn village and one in Northop, with the aim of reducing the speed of vehicles in these areas and the risk of traffic accidents and making both villages safer places to live.

As well as linking in as part of Flintshire's well-being objectives, this achievement also links in with the Welsh Government's objective for a Wales of Cohesive Communities - *attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities*.

### ***Supporting local communities to be resilient and self-supporting***

The Residents and Young Citizens Awards are an annual award given by Northop Community Council to recognise the positive work undertaken by local individuals and/or groups for their communities. The awards, which encourage activities that enhance the local area and its residents and promote community engagement, were delayed due to the pandemic and were held in May 2021. For the first time, the Community Council received two nominations for the Residents Award and a group nomination for the Young Citizens Award. Councillor Bateman presented the recipients with their awards at a brief outdoor ceremony due to the pandemic requirements at the time.

### ***Providing high quality learning opportunities, and learning environments and for learners of all ages***

Through the Residents and Young Citizens Awards, the Community Council raises awareness of the importance of volunteering and how it offers an alternative path to young people, providing an opportunity to build their skill set and gain experience within a working environment. The Council also actively encourage and welcome volunteers to assist with the local events organised in the villages including litter picks,

assisting at local events such as the Sychdyn Carnival and at events planned to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in May 2022.

### ***Widening digital access to public services***

Northop Community Council have continued to ensure their website is maintained and updated on a regular monthly basis and details all the legally required information. During 2021/22 the Council developed an accessibility statement regarding website accessibility which is shared on the website home page, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations. Draft minutes are also published (within seven days of the meeting) as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

## **7. Conclusion**

Despite difficult circumstances during 2021/22, Northop Community Council has continued to meet regularly and perform its duties competently. The Community Council will continue to do so as the new financial year commences in April 2022, focusing on its priorities, representing its communities and engaging with local residents.

## **8. Contact Details**

### **Northop Community Council Contact Information**

Northop Community Council  
Ivy House,  
Fron Park Road,  
Holywell,  
Flintshire  
CH8 7UT

### **Clerk to Northop Community Council and Responsible Finance Officer:**

Sue Lovell

Telephone: 01352 711507

Email: [clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerk-northopcc@hotmail.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.northopcc.org.uk>

Information is also shared on the noticeboards at the following locations across both villages:

Post Office Northop

Noticeboard Edith Bankes Memorial Hall Northop

Sychdyn Village Hall

Premier Shop Sychdyn

### **Northop Community Councillors 2020/21**

Councillor Linda Scott	Chair of Northop Community Council
Councillor Joanne Millar	Vice Chair of Northop Community Council
Councillor Linda Deane	Northop Ward
Councillor Jarred Livesey	Northop Ward
Councillor John Carlin	Northop Ward
Councillor Rob Mackey	Northop Ward
Councillor Alison Brebner	Northop Ward
Councillor Alan Watkin	Sychdyn Ward
Councillor Marion Bateman	Sychdyn Ward
Councillor Louise Higgs	Sychdyn Ward
Councillor Cara Baker	Sychdyn Ward
Councillor Levi Hamilton	Sychdyn Ward
Councillor Pauline Lawton-Hughes	Sychdyn Ward

## **Northop Community Council Schedule of Meetings for 2022/23**

April 2022

10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

9<sup>th</sup> May 2022

14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

13<sup>th</sup> June 2022

12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

11<sup>th</sup> July 2022

9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

August Recess

13<sup>th</sup> February 2023

12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

