



# National Awards Conference 2024 Report

**Main Conference Sponsors:**



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# Introduction



**Lyn Cadwallader,  
Chief Executive**

“Welcome to the One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 2024, to our guests, supplier organisations and delegates including new Clerks and Councillors attending for the first time. I hope you find today’s conference informative, thought-provoking and stimulating – and that you will take your learning and help to deliver better and new practices in your own communities.

It is great to see so many of you engaging with this year’s National Awards and a record number of nominated projects were received. We have a list of presenters who have given up their valuable time to contribute to today’s Innovative Practice Sessions, which always proves very successful and enjoyable for delegates. This conference outlines the positive outcomes achieved by One Voice Wales and Community & Town Councils during 2023–24. We will discuss the future challenges and opportunities for the sector as well as update you on some of the new areas of work we will be undertaking in the coming year.

There has been a healthy level of membership numbers during the last twelve months. Over 91.5% of all councils are in membership of One Voice Wales, or 670 out of the 732 Councils in Wales. This is the highest membership level since the formation of One Voice Wales. Plans are already in place to drive increases in membership in 2024–25. One Voice Wales continues to argue that local councils should be the bedrock to bringing about a renaissance of our communities in Wales. Additionally, we will be engaging in closer working relations with Welsh Government, Audit Wales, WLGA, NRW, National Parks, Police & Crime Commissioners, NALC, SLCC, Planning Aid Wales, WCVA and others to make this a reality in 2024–25. We continue to drive new organisational developments including improved communications channels and a revised and improved governance structure for One Voice Wales.”

# Utility Aid - Main Conference Sponsor



**“It is a pleasure to sponsor the One Voice Wales Annual Awards. We must take up the chance to celebrate and recognise the achievements of community and town councils across Wales.**

**As the Partnership Manager at Utility Aid, I have the privilege to work with organisations like One Voice Wales and NALC, who provide a strong voice in representing council’s interests and supporting their vital work. In my role, I operate with the same mindset. For those who haven’t heard of Utility Aid before we are an energy consultant and brokerage supporting the third and fourth sectors with their Net Zero ambitions and energy procurement needs.**

**There is nothing special about the energy we sell. In fact, it’s the same energy as all our competitors provide.**

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**Where others confuse customers with hidden terms, we’re an open book.**

**And where others do all, they can make as much money from their customers as possible, we do all we can to make as little.**

**Everything we do, we do it differently.**

**Our customers are a privilege.**

**One we will never take advantage of.**

**Good luck to all the finalists and thank you for the difference you make to your community each day”.**

**Emily Berry, Partnership Manager, Utility Aid**

# Conference Agenda

One Voice Wales National Awards Conference  
Wednesday 27th March 2024  
Hafod a Hendre, Royal Welsh Showground

## Agenda

09:30–10:30 Registration and Exhibition

10:30–10:35 One Voice Wales Chair's Address

10:35–11.15 Keynote Address: Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive of One Voice Wales: 'Future Developments at One Voice Wales and the Community and Town Council Sector'.

11:15–12:20 Innovative Practice Sessions Part 1:

Annual Reporting (Councils A, B, C)

Environmental Projects (Councils A, B, C)

Sustainability Projects (Councils A, B, C)

Community Engagement / Democratic Health Initiatives (Councils A, B, C)

12:20–1:30 Lunch and Exhibition

1:30–2.30 Innovative Practice Sessions Part 2:

Tourism Projects & Heritage Projects (Council A, B, C)

Youth Engagement projects (Council A, B, C)

Devolution of Services or Assets/ Community Initiatives including Cost of Living Actions (Council A, B, C)

Use of Digital Resources (Councils A, B, C)

2:30–2:50 Event Sponsor's Address – Utility Aid

2:50–3:50 Awards Ceremony

3:50–4:00 Chair's Closing Comments

4:00 End of Conference

# **Award Categories**

**Best Annual Report**

**Best Environmental Project**

**Best use of Digital Resources**

**Best Community Engagement Initiative**

**Best Tourism Initiative**

**Best Sustainability Initiative**

**Best Youth Engagement**

**Best Heritage Initiative**

**Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project**

**Best Community Initiative including Cost  
of Living Actions**

**Best Democratic Health Initiative**

**The Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council  
Service of the Year**

**The next section details the Award Category, a  
photograph of the winning council and an advert from  
the Award Sponsor.**

Award Category	Best Annual Report
Winner	Pontypool Community Council
Highly Commended	Chepstow Town Council Criccieth Town Council
Commended	Abergavenny Town Council Penarth Town Council New Radnor Community Council Presteigne and Norton Town Council
Winning Submission	<p>Our Annual Report received a revamp for 2022-2023 with a modern design, bright images and a focus on making data accessible to the public. Tying in the fresh branding of the Pontypool Community Council logo with key information and stories relevant to its community, the whole staff team worked collaboratively, bringing together information from their departments. By using innovative online software, we were able to take the original word document and create a smart and professional design in-house". Via our website, the annual report is available to view on Issuu, a free online platform that creates a 'flip-book style layout so the public can read the report online as if it were a physical magazine, making for a more enjoyable experience without printing paper copies unnecessarily.</p> <p>Visit: <a href="https://pontypoolcc.gov.uk/">https://pontypoolcc.gov.uk/</a></p>
Sponsors	Clear Councils





**Lisa McMail, Clerk of Pontypool Community Council said “It’s a privilege to be part of the One Voice Wales Awards. As a Community Council we strive to support our community, to create lasting change and innovative projects that lift up our area and build new connections. Coming together with community and town councils across Wales through the One Voice Wales network is a way of building new connections on a wider scale; it is a wonderful opportunity to meet like-minded people, recognise achievements and learn from each other, and sharing new and innovative ways to support our individual communities”.**



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Award Category	Best Environmental Project
Winner	Criccieth Town Council
Highly Commended	<p>Pontypridd Town Council  Blaenavon Town Council  Coity Higher Community Council  Mumbles Community Council</p>
Commended	<p>Abergavenny Town Council  Aberporth Community Council  Bedlinog &amp; Trelewis Community Council  Presteigne &amp; Norton Town Council  St Fagans Community Council</p>
Winning Submission	<p>Criccieth Town Council is proactive in responding to the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. We recognise that the need to aid nature's recovery is urgent; we work with the community and partners on services and activities that impact on biodiversity including 'Criccieth in Bloom' and 'Friends of the Nature Garden'; we have a range of people take part, from children to the elderly, helping them experience and value nature, leading to action to protect and enhance nature and biodiversity through sustainable and environmentally friendly projects.</p>
Sponsors	WooWoo Waverless Toilets



**"Criccieth Town Council is absolutely delighted to win the Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council Service of the Year 2024. It was an honour to be presented with such a prestigious award at the One Voice Wales National Awards Conference and is a credit to everyone involved with the important work that Criccieth Town Council undertakes throughout the year", said Dr.Catrin Jones, Clerk of Criccieth Town Council.**





**“PUBLIC TOILETS ARE NO LUXURY: IT’S HIGH TIME WE BEGIN TO SEE THEM AS BASIC AND ESSENTIAL PARTS OF THE COMMUNITY – JUST LIKE PAVEMENTS AND STREET LIGHTS – THAT ENABLE PEOPLE TO BENEFIT FROM AND ENGAGE WITH THEIR SURROUNDINGS”**  
SHIRLEY CRAMER CBE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH.

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**BEN NEVIS CAR PARK – SCOTLAND**



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**NO PLUMBING – NO ELECTRICITY – NO OVERHEADS – COST EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS**

Award Category	Best use of Digital Resources
Winner	Abergavenny Town Council
Highly Commended	Llandeilo Fawr Town Council
Commended	Pennard Community Council Pontypool Community Council
Winning Submission	Innovative use of digital resources, showcasing a commitment to transparency, accessibility and community engagement. In 2023, we undertook a significant website relaunch, transforming it into a dynamic platform that not only informs but actively involves our residents.
Sponsors	Vision ICT



**“We are incredibly proud of our team’s achievements at the One Voice Wales awards,” commented Mayor Cllr Anne Wilde, Abergavenny Town Council.**

**“These accolades reflect our ongoing commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community engagement. We are honoured to be recognised for our efforts and look forward to continuing to serve our community with dedication and excellence.”**





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Award Category	Best Community Engagement Initiative
Joint Winners	Blaenavon Town Council and Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council
Highly Commended	Blaenavon Town Council Carmarthen Town Council Mumbles Community Council
Commended	Bangor City Council Barry Town Council Bay of Colwyn Town Council Darren Valley Community Council Llandeilo Fawr Town Council Llandough Community Council Neath Town Council Prestatyn Town Council Trefeglwys Community Council
Winning Submissions	<p><u>Blaenavon</u>: instigated a genuine community conversation around health and well-being and collaborated with local organisations to identify engagement opportunities aligned to several key objectives including locations for engagement, identify Individual/group needs, incorporate an innovative place-based approach, costs to residents, and develop stronger links across the community.</p> <p><u>Newtown</u>: Established a Town Partnership to build connections for better community engagement between the council and the community; extensive community consultation setting out a wide range of community needs/aspirations; explore the feasibility of a town partnership between the business, public and voluntary sectors in the town.</p>
Sponsors	Parish Online



**“We are delighted to announce that Blaenavon Town Council was recognised with 11 national awards at the One Voice Wales Awards 2024. Blaenavon was the category award winners for Best Community Engagement Initiative.” said Kevin Warren, Clerk of Blaenavon Town Council.**



**Blaenavon Town Council**

**Cllr Dr Nathan Matthews, Mayor of Blaenavon, said “Blaenavon Town Council were also awarded five Highly Commended awards for tourism, democratic health initiative and environmental projects, as well as four commended awards for youth engagement and cost-of-living project. The council will not rest on its laurels, we aim to build on these successes and are committed to making Blaenavon a better place to live, visit and invest.”**

**Town Clerk of Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town Council, Ed Humphreys said "It was a great pleasure to attend the One Voice Wales National Awards Conference 2024 and a privilege to achieve recognition as joint winner for Best Community Engagement Initiative. One of the striking features of the day was to see, hear and meet so many good people doing good things, individually and collectively, and to recognise publicly one another's efforts. The event helped showcase the best and most innovative work of local councils, the elected representatives closest to their communities, and demonstrates a 'can-do will-do' way of working. Truly inspiring and reinvigorating."**



**Newtown & Llanllwchaiarn Town Council**

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Award Category	Best Tourism Initiative
Winner	Criccieth Town Council
Highly Commended	Blaenavon Town Council
Commended	N/A
Winning Submission	<p>We produced a community and culture led tourism strategy, improving both the tourist offer and their experience of Criccieth and the quality of life of residents. The Council led on a number of imaginative projects with residents involving hundreds of volunteers in support of our Community Plan developed with the community. Projects include Town Map, Public Art Works, Croeso Dolig &amp; Christmas 'Trees', Gardening and the John Ystumllyn Rose, National Eisteddfod 2023 and Post Box Toppers.</p>
Sponsors	<p>Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)</p>

**Clr Delyth Lloyd, Chair of Criccieth Town Council:**  
“It’s an honour to receive these awards which provide clear and independent recognition of the breadth of activity that the Town Council has achieved in partnership with Criccieth community. The awards are also a testament to our many innovative collaborations and success in achieving funding. We will build on these successes to ensure Criccieth continues to be a better place to live in and visit.”





# AMDAN Y CLLLC

Mae Cymdeithas Llywodraeth Leol Cymru (CLLLC) yn cynrychioli buddiannau byd llywodraeth leol ac yn hyrwyddo democratiaeth leol yng Nghymru. Prif ddibenion WLGA yw hyrwyddo safonau ac enw da maes llywodraeth leol a helpu'r awdurdodau i ddatblygu polisiau a blaenoriaethau a fydd yn gwella gwasanaethau i'r cyhoedd a democratiaeth.

Rydym o'r farn mai fframwaith democrataidd ac iddo atebolrwydd lleol yw'r ffordd orau o gynnig gwasanaethau. Dylai fod gan bobl sy'n defnyddio'r gwasanaethau hynny gymaint o ddylanwad ag y bo modd ar ddulliau eu trefnu, eu rheoli a'u hariannu.

## ABOUT THE WLGA

The Welsh Local Government Association represents the interests of local government & promotes local democracy in Wales. Its primary purposes are to promote better local government, to promote its reputation & to support authorities in the development of policies and priorities which will improve public services and democracy.

We believe that services are best provided within a democratic framework of local accountability & that the people who use public services should have as much of a say in the way they are organised, managed & funded as possible.



[www.wlga.cymru](http://www.wlga.cymru)  
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Award Category	Best Sustainability Initiative
Winner	Presteigne and Norton Town Council
Highly Commended	Carmarthen Town Council
Commended	Abergavenny Town Council Llangattock Community Council
Winning Submission	<p>We commenced work to become a Dark Sky community in 2018, working closely with the community, Powys County Council and Dark Source. Dark Sky status was achieved in January 2024 and announced by the International Dark Sky Association. The objective has been to reduce light pollution and improve the lighting in the Town by installing appropriate streetlights. This project will reduce the environmental impact caused by streetlights, increase the beneficial effect on wildlife, especially night flying insects, birds and bats and finally enable the residents, amateur and professional astronomers to see the glory of the night sky clearly.</p>
Sponsors	Blachere Illumination

**“We are delighted to receive this award, and thank the many people involved including Leigh Harling-Bowen, Kerem Asfuroglu of Dark Source for his time, expertise and help, and Powys County Council’s highways department”.  
said Mayor Cllr Beverley Baynham of Presteigne and Norton Town Council.**







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Award Category	Best Youth Engagement
Winner	Llanelly Community Council
Highly Commended	Llanboidy Community Council
Commended	Blaenavon Town Council Carmarthen Town Council Neath Town Council
Winning Submission	Engaged with the local primary school in developing a Community-Led Plan to complete projects to improve the play opportunities for our young people via a whole-school consultation and with specific age groups in purchasing items for the playing fields. The Council has regular contact with the Senedd (the pupil representative group) and allows class exhibitions for parents in the community hall, and pupils are encouraged to use the library. The project allows pupils to understand the process of local government and what can be achieved, and allows the Council to play an active part in the lives of our young people.
Sponsors	Cloudy IT

**“We are delighted to receive this prestigious annual award for Best Youth Engagement from One Voice Wales. The Council has made great efforts in the last few years to get young people locally to voice their views on what facilities they would like in the area, and we are delighted that we have been able to provide popular and well-used play options for all ages.” said Cllr Grahame Nelmes, Chair of Llanelly Community Council.**





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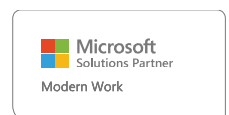
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Award Category	Best Heritage Initiative
Winner	Blaenavon Town Council
Highly Commended	<p>Criccieth Town Council</p> <p>Mumbles Community Council</p> <p>Tregaron Town Council</p>
Commended	<p>Pontypool Community Council</p> <p>Blaenavon Town Council</p>
Winning Submission	<p>In collaboration with renowned south Wales photographer Walter Waygood, in 2023 we championed an initiative to honour and celebrate the intangible cultural heritage, spirit and resilience of the Blaenavon community, through an exhibition and book. The town, like many others in south Wales, was grappling with finding a renewed purpose following the decline of its industrial base. However, the townspeople, their institutions and cultural identity, forged in industry, showed resilience and determination amid socio-economic change. Seeking to express his appreciation for the town that helped launch his career, Walter approached us for support in completing his 'Family of Blaenafon' exhibition and the accompanying book.</p>
Sponsors	National Association of Memorial Masons



**Cllr Dr Nathan Matthews, Mayor of Blaenavon, said:**  
“The sheer volume of awards that the council has received provides clear and independent recognition of the breadth of activity that our hardworking officers and members have delivered in Blaenavon over the past year. It is also testament to the strength of our local partnerships, innovative collaborations, and the wonderful Blaenavon community who take part in the many initiatives that the council organises or supports.



# The National Association of Memorial Masons.



Providing high standards of workmanship and service to burial authorities and consumers alike has been the constant objective of NAMM. As an established trade association since 1907 NAMM is the recognised memorial masonry consultative body and trusted training provider to both the trade and burial authorities. NAMM is a City & Guilds Assured training provider and actively supports burial authorities in their legal obligation to ensure burial grounds are safe environments.

## S.I.A.M. ( Safety Inspection and Assessment of Memorials )

**Ensures compliance with Ministry of Justice guidance and BS8415-2018**

NAMM Safety Inspection and Assessment of Memorials training is assured by City&Guilds for individuals responsible for all aspects of safety inspection relating to burial grounds and their infrastructure from the initial planning right through to practical application. For detailed information on NAMM training please phone 01788 542264 or email [enquiries@namm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@namm.org.uk).



The NAMM Code of Working Practice established in 1996 is the original recognised industry standard and the founding document for BS8415 and is free to download at [www.namm.org.uk](http://www.namm.org.uk)

**The NATIONAL Association of Memorial Masons are proud supporters of ONE VOICE WALES and all its initiatives.**



The RQMF is a database administered by NAMM of registered businesses and memorial fixers who have demonstrated practical competency and essential knowledge to install a memorial to the required standard as detailed in the NAMM Code of Working.

**Burial Authority access to the RQMF register is free** via an individual login, technical help and support and real time monitoring of RQMF registered memorial fixers insurance details are also provided. More details can be found on the RQMF website at [www.rqmf.org.uk](http://www.rqmf.org.uk)

The National Association of Memorial Masons is the trusted memorial Industry consultative body providing training and trade expertise for the common good.

Award Category	Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project
Winner	St Clears Town Council
Highly Commended	N/A
Commended	<p>Llanfair, Clydogau &amp; Cellan Community Council</p> <p>Kerry Community Council</p> <p>Blackwood Town Council</p> <p>Ponthir Community Council</p>
Winning Submission	<p>Five years ago, discussions began between Carmarthenshire County Council and St. Clears Town Council to see if an asset transfer project was viable. We consulted and collaborated widely with internal and external partners eager to learn from others whether taking over 'Y Gât' building was a viable and sustainable proposal. Several community consultations were held to gather data, residents' views and provide a detailed analysis of how the building could be utilised by the community.</p>
Sponsors	Ystadau Cymru



**"St. Clears Town Council is proud to receive this award, as recognition of all the hard work that has taken place in order to take over the running of Y Gât and to develop it as a successful community hub for the future."**

**Catherine Lloyd-Jenkins,  
Clerk St. Clears Town Council.**



Award Category	Best Community Initiative including Cost of Living actions
Winner	Cwmbran Community Council
Highly Commended	Blaenavon Town Council Llanelli Town Council Welshpool Town Council
Commended	Barry Town Council Blaenavon Town Council Blaenavon Town Council Cwmbran Community Council Mumbles Community Council Pennard Community Council Prestatyn Town Council
Winning Submission	<p>Following a review of our Cost of Living support to the community, Cwmbran Community Council decided to move to a more reactive approach to Cost of Living support. E-mails were sent to community groups that were providing direct support for residents, including those who provided food banks, fuel voucher schemes and warm hubs. Six organisations responded initially and were provided with financial grants to support activity such as food parcels, fuel vouchers, warm food and drinks at warm hub sessions, and in providing warm packs including fleece throws, flasks and hot water bottles. In addition, extra warm packs were made available on request.</p>
Sponsors	Welsh Government

**“As a new Clerk, I was pleased to see Cwmbran’s work being rewarded at the One Voice Wales National Awards, the opportunity to celebrate success, and to see the great work across the Town and Community Sector in Wales. One Voice Wales is helping to showcase the excellent and creative work of Councils and in evidencing the value of the first tier of Welsh civic governance”, said Gareth Davies, Cwmbran Community Council**





Award Category	Best Democratic Health Initiative
Winner	Llanelli Town Council
Highly Commended	Blaenavon Town Council
Commended	N/A
Winning Submission	<p>Annually, Llanelli Town Council carries out a Citizenship and Democracy project called 'Meet the Mayor'. The project involves inviting all Town Council area primary schools (8) to visit the Council Chamber to 'Meet the Mayor' and have a session based on the school curriculum, democracy, voting history, citizenship, the importance of partnership working within the community along with the young person's place in the democratic process. The project is carried out in partnership with Llanelli Community Partnership Volunteers who support the School sessions.</p>
Sponsors	Welsh Government

**“Llanelli Town Council was delighted to accept the award for Best Democratic Health Initiative at the One Voice Wales National Awards Conference.**

**The ‘Meet the Mayor’ project is in its 5th year and has welcomed over 1300 young people from 10 year olds to 21 year olds into the Town Council Chamber” said Llanelli Town Mayor, Councillor Nicholas Pearce.**





## Annibynnol Cymru ar Gydnabyddiaeth Ariannol

Cefnogi democratiaeth  
leol a rhoi llais i  
gymunedau, drwy  
sefydlu fframwaith  
priodol a theg ar gyfer  
cydnabyddiaeth ariannol,  
sy'n annog cynhwysiant a  
chyfranogiad.

## Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales

Supporting local  
democracy and giving  
communities their voice,  
through setting up an  
appropriate and fair  
remuneration framework,  
which encourages inclusion  
and participation.

I gael rhagor o  
wybodaeth am waith  
y Panel, sganwch  
y Cod QR



For further information on  
the work of the Independent  
Remuneration Panel for Wales,  
please scan the QR Code





Award Category	The Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council Service of the Year
Winner	Criccieth Town Council
Highly Commended	N/A
Commended	N/A
Winning Submission	Criccieth Town Council
Sponsors	Utility Aid

**“Criccieth Town Council is delighted to have been awarded the Best Local Council Service in Wales at the recent One Voice Wales National Awards Conference at the Royal Welsh Showground. We also won Best Environmental Project and Best Tourism Initiative, and were Highly Commended in other categories, so we are extremely pleased that we have been acknowledged for our hard work with the community” said Dr.Catrin Jones, Clerk of Criccieth Town Council**





Utility Aid offers a range of services to all sizes of buildings within the third sector, such as Invoice Validation, Net Zero, and Carbon Reporting, which can save you valuable time.

## Support:

Our experts check you're not being overcharged by your current supplier, offer honest advice on the current energy markets, and can help you plan for changes in energy charges and how they may affect your budget, in the short and longer term.

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## Net Zero & Carbon Reporting:

Our in-house assessors can support your organisation with making strategic decisions on investment to reduce energy use.

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- Energy Use Investigation.
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M: 07913519358 T: 0808 178 2021 E: [eberry@utility-aid.com](mailto:eberry@utility-aid.com)





## Local Councils set new standards across Wales!

Community and Town Councils across Wales, met up recently for their 2024 awards ceremony at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells, sponsored by Utility Aid.

The annual awards ceremony, hosted by One Voice Wales – the principal representative body for Community and Town Councils – celebrated and showcased the work of local councils across various strategic and operational categories.

In opening the event, Councillor Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales, paid tribute to the achievement of so many Councils who deliver grassroots services at the heart of their communities. He also spoke about the cultural change affecting the Community and Town Council sector arising from such challenges as climate change, the cost-of-living crisis, and post-covid pressures.

The Chair also referenced devolution of powers and responsibilities to and within Wales. Big challenges lay ahead, and the awards would help to spread the learning.

The Chief Executive of One Voice Wales, elaborated on these challenges and achievements in his keynote address. He thanked Councils for engaging with the event and praised their commitment to the sharing of good practice.



These were also times of achievement and change for One Voice Wales itself, Lyn advised the crowded arena. Record membership levels, growing partnership arrangements and a tangible commitment to deliver sustainable and digital solutions.

A comprehensive programme of training opportunities would help local councils navigate a rapidly changing world, as Lyn urged Councillors to take advantage of the training and development opportunities provided by One Voice Wales.

Dedicated staff were in place to help One Voice Wales advise the sector and assist with policy development and governance. The organisation was building the capacity to support the ambitions of its 670 member councils. Biodiversity and sustainability were at the top of the agenda. A new website would be developed. The democratic health of the nation would be championed. New ways of digital communication would take the organisation – and the Community and Town Council sector – forward. Exciting times lay ahead, declared Lyn.

Lyn took questions across a range of areas – the importance of training, concerns about bullying & harassment, disability, equality and even a discussion around the One Voice Wales logo! But the day was not just about backslapping and self-assessment. There was work to be done. Delegates participated in a series of Innovative Practice Sessions, facilitated by One Voice Wales staff, which identified and disseminated Best Practice in areas such as environmental projects, community engagement, youth engagement and cost-of-living actions.

A workshop about tourism and heritage was typical of the information sharing that took place on this busy day. Delegates listened with interest as colleagues from Blaenavon, Criccieth and Tregaron described an exciting and colourful set of tourism and heritage initiatives. The session was a microcosm of Community and Town Council life, highlighting the terrific work of local councils across urban, coastal, and rural communities, from heartlands of the Welsh language to the industrial valleys of South Wales. Each Council would leave a legacy for future generations. The workshop demonstrated and epitomised how the whole of Wales benefits from the work of Community and Town Councils.

All eyes were on the awards though, and the afternoon session lifted the lid on the winners. Record entry levels made it a tough job for the judges, but the trophies were eventually decided. Here is the full roll of honour. Details have already been shared across social media.

1. Best Annual Report  
Pontypool Community Council

2. Best Environmental Project  
Criccieth Town Council

3. Best Use of Digital Resources  
Abergavenny Town Council

4. Best Community Engagement Initiative  
Blaenavon Town Council and Newtown and Llanllwchaiarn Town  
Council (Joint Winners)

5. Best Tourism Initiative  
Criccieth Town Council

6. Best Sustainability Initiative  
Presteigne and Norton Town Council

7. Best Youth Engagement  
Llanelly Community Council

8. Best Heritage Initiative  
Blaenavon Town Council

9. Best Devolution of Service or Asset Project  
St Clears Town Council

10. Best Community Initiative including Cost-of-Living  
Actions  
Cwmbran Community Council

11. Best Democratic Health Initiative  
Llanelli Town Council

12. The Caerwyn Roberts Best Local Council Service of the  
Year  
Criccieth Town Council





This had been a celebration of local council life. A celebration of the people and communities of Wales.

Councillor Theodoulou drew proceedings to a close, describing a wonderful day. But he issued a challenge. Society expectations were ever-growing, public scrutiny was at an all-time high. He encouraged delegates to go back to their communities and share their experiences. “Talk to the people” he urged. The voice of Community and Town Councils must be strong, for there is much work to be done.

What a day.

**David Collins**

**Governance and Policy Practice Development Officer/  
Swyddog Datblygu Arfer Llywodraethu a Pholisi**

**One Voice Wales / Un Llais Cymru**

**A special thank you to Utility Aid for being the Main Sponsor of this year's National Awards Conference.**



**A huge thank you also goes to the following for sponsoring the individual awards this year:**

**Utility Aid**

**Clear Insurance**

**WooWoo Waterless Toilets**

**Vision ICT**

**Parish Online**

**Welsh Local Government Association  
(WLGA)**

**Blachere Illuminations**

**Cloudy IT**

**National Association of Memorial Masons**

**Ystadau Cymru**

**Welsh Government**

**Independent Remuneration Panel for  
Wales (IRPW)**

**Many thanks to Clover Rodrigues of the WLGA for once again organising the independent judging panel for this year's Awards.**

**The Judging Panel included:  
Clover Rodrigues - WLGA**

**Clare Parsons - NRW**

**Chris Beck - Data Cymru**

**Rachel Wolfendale - Co-production  
Network for Wales**

**Hedd Thomas - WCVA**

**Helen Nelson - Office of the Future  
Generations Commissioner**

**Lewis Lloyd - Office of the Children's  
Commissioner**

**Polly Groom - CADW**

**Alun Jones - WCVA**

**Rob Roffe - National Lottery Community  
Fund**

**Kate Watkins/Frances Duffy - IRPW**



**"I would like to express my thanks to Rebecca Evans MS, the former Minister for Finance and Local Government, for her support during her period of office. One Voice Wales received significant grant funding during this time which has enabled us to grow our offering and support to our membership and non-members alike. I wish her well for the future!**

**We welcome back Julie James MS as the new Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning, and look forward to an equally fruitful relationship with Julie and wish her well in her new role."**

**Lyn Cadwallader, Chief Executive**

**I am delighted at the success of the 2024 One Voice Wales Awards.**

**The Awards demonstrate the very high standards in place in Community and Town Councils across the whole of Wales. Award winners came from the industrial heartlands of South Wales, the rolling landscape of Mid Wales and the rugged North Wales coast. The whole of Wales can be proud of the many dedicated Councillors and staff in so many local councils who deliver such innovative and important services.**

**I was especially pleased to see so many entries this year and to meet many of the winners in person at the Awards Ceremony itself. I urge more Councils to submit entries next year to help show their communities the vital work carried out on their behalf.**

**These are changing times within the Welsh public sector. Devolution to Wales and within Wales will set new challenges for us all.**

**The Awards show our partners across Wales that Community and Town Councils play an important role in service delivery and the democratic health of the nation. I commend the work of Community and Town Councils in delivering these important goals.**

**Here's to a bigger and better event in 2025!**

**Councillor Mike Theodoulou, Chair of One Voice Wales.**

“One Voice Wales and WLGA have a rich history of working together within and across our diverse communities, working together on community development, regeneration, management of assets and delivery of services.

Neither sector is standing still and we are constantly reviewing our ways of working, developing our skills and looking to innovation to maintain sustainable services.

So, we are delighted to be part of the Independent Assessment Panel for the One Voice Wales National Awards 2024 and to be a sponsor.”

**Clover Rodrigues, Corporate Policy Officer,  
Welsh Local Government Association**

**“The conference was well organised and attended by councillors and clerks from community and town councils across Wales. The knowledge gained and connections made were invaluable, as were the insights into One Voice Wales’ vision for the future of the sector. My takeaway message from the event was that it comes down to 'good people doing good things for their communities', and how varied and powerful that looks in reality.**

**Thanks for a great event.”**

**Cllr Jo Byworth-Morgan,  
Llandough Community Council**

One Voice Wales would like to express their appreciation to everyone who contributed to the hugely successful Annual National Awards Conference 2024.

Thank you once again this year to the Royal Welsh Show Society for their continued co-operation in organising the 'Hafod a Hendre' venue, particularly to Tony and his team for preparing all the rooms in readiness for the event.

Many thanks to Shirley and her team at 'Fingers and Forks' for the wonderful catering, and to Huw and Harry from 'Technegol' who set up the audio and technical services for the event.

Thank you to Derrick Pugh (pvptv.co.uk) for his photography work and to Hefin from 'Trywydd' for the simultaneous translation during the event.

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