

BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Room 36 Oak Tree Surgery (SIDE ENTRANCE VIA THE STEPS)
Whitethorn Drive Brackla CF31 2PQ
Opening hours 10am – 4pm weekdays
Tel: 01656 767072
www.bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk
Email: clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk

Calling Brackla Business Owners

Would you like to be featured in our next newsletter? We will have limited space available for local businesses to advertise so please contact us if you would like to be shared.

A small fee will apply.



LEIGH'S
LOCKSMITHS



DanielMatthew
ESTATE AGENTS



BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL Cyngor Cymunedol Bracla Spring Newsletter 2023/ Cylchlythyr Gwanwyn 2023



On behalf of all your community councillors and staff, I would like to welcome to the first edition of the new Brackla Community Newsletter. In the coming months we will be introducing you to the Brackla Community Council Team and letting you know about what's going on in Brackla and the services your council offers.

We all believe that Brackla is already a great place to live, but we are always striving to make it even better where we can. Our aim is for the newsletter to provide a space where you can find out everything you need to know about Brackla - so we are opening up the newsletter to any group, charity or organisation in Brackla that would like to contribute news and events about their groups. If you have something that you would like to share, please get in touch.

Finally, I would like to give a huge thanks to all the staff working for the community council. The last three years have been difficult for us all, and the staff have kept the show on the road with hardly a hiccup through some of the most difficult times - the pandemic didn't stop your grass getting mown, flowers planted or Christmas lights appearing. This year we have restarted the annual fun day and the fireworks in November, and more recently a new youth club and a warm cafe have started up in the community centre - and we have plans for more.

We all hope that 2023 will see fewer challenges and that we can work together to build a stronger Brackla community.

Simon Griffiths
Vice Chair

Dog Bags

Our office has re-opened for dog bags following a delivery service throughout the pandemic due to our office remaining closed.

You will be able to collect bags from our office on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10am and 4pm only. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Please note, dogs will NOT be allowed into the office/surgery.

Brackla Community Council Events

Funday

Brackla funday will return for its 20th anniversary this year on Saturday 24th June on the school fields of Brackla Primary School. Time has not yet been confirmed but further details and a poster will be shared in the coming weeks. For further updates please visit our website and Facebook page.

Brackla in Bloom

The Brackla in Bloom competition will be going ahead again this year, which showcases and awards residents for the hard work and dedication put into their gardens. Details on categories and ways to enter will be published soon.

Brackla Fireworks and Christmas Party

The Council will be holding both events again this year, though dates and further information is not yet available. Details for both will be shared in the coming months so please keep an eye out for more information.



Brackla Community Centre

Our community Centre is busy with lots of groups covering a wide range of ages and activities. Please see below table for the current selection of what is being held during the week. For contact details of groups users, please visit our website.

We also hire out the Community Centre on Saturday and Sunday afternoons for parties and events.

Bookings can be made to – clerk@bracklacommunitycouncil.gov.uk We advise to book around 6-8 months ahead if possible.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Keep Fit (10:30-11:30am)	Crochet and Knitting Group (10am-12pm)	Line Dancing (10:45am-12pm)	Crochet and Knitting Group (10am-12pm)	Parent and Toddlers (10am-12pm)	Slimming World (7:30am-10:30am)	Tai Chi (10am-12pm)
Tae Kwon Do (6pm-9pm)	Welcome Café (10am-12:30pm)	Brackla Seniors (2pm-4pm)	FL Exercise (10:30pm-11:30pm)	PCSO Surgery (2pm-3pm)	War Games (2pm-10pm)	Kick boxing (6pm-7:30pm)
	Activity Hub (12:30pm - 3pm)	Brackla Chorus (7pm-9pm)	Golden Oldies (1:30pm-3:30pm) 2 nd and 4 th of the month	Youth Club (6:30pm-8:30pm)		
	Sewing Group (1pm-3pm)	Sewing Group (7pm-9pm) (not 3 rd of month)	Kick boxing (6.30pm-7:30pm)			
	Evening Sewing Group (6:30pm – 8:30pm)					

Our Services

Brackla Community Council offer a range of services to residents. Below are some of them;

- Flower baskets, planters and roundabout beds
- Grass cutting and grounds maintenance
- Community Events
- Running of Brackla Community Centre
- Offering free dog bags
- Christmas Lighting

For information on our current services as well as services by other organisations, you can visit our website to find out more. Here you can find details on BCBC services, Charity services and voluntary organisations in the area.



Community Centre Refurbishment Project

Brackla Community Centre will be undergoing some much needed updates at the Community Centre this May. The centre will see improved disabled access, fire safety and other essential maintenance.

Welcome Café and Afternoon Hub

We have a welcome café and afternoon hub running Brackla Community Centre every Tuesday (during term time). Our café is set up from 10am - 12pm, where you can have refreshments of hot drinks and biscuits.

In the coming weeks we will be holding activity afternoons from 1pm – 3pm. We will have a range of different events over different weeks such as a swap shop, games afternoon and drop in sessions where you will be able to meet with workers from a range of organisations such as BCBC, Welsh Water, Age Cymru etc to help with any queries you may have. Below are the times of the month each session will appear

1st and 3rd – Games afternoon
2nd – Drop in sessions
4th – Swap Shop

Both sessions are free and open to anyone and everyone to attend. This is run during term times only.

Welcome Cafe and Activity Hub

Tuesdays
(not during school holidays)

Welcome Cafe: 10am - 12:30pm
Activity Hub: 12:30pm - 3pm
Brackla Community Centre

Hot drinks and refreshments available all day



Free and open to all ages



Build a better Brackla- "Love it, Don't trash it"

We are continuing to develop the 'Brackla Love it, Don't trash it' project and are continually grateful to residents actively pursuing our reduce it, reuse it and recycle it theme.

During 2023 we aim to set up a Community Hub in the area where residents can borrow equipment they may need to carry out litter picks. Brackla Community Council are aiming to set up organized litter picks in support of the excellent valuable work the BCBC Cleaner Streets Team and our own Contractor provide throughout Brackla.

In November 2022 ten new large green Brackla Community Council litter bins were installed in key locations throughout Brackla to supplement our existing 15 large silver bins. In conjunction with BCBC locations of all litter bins and requirement for additional bins will be regularly reviewed and your input in this matter is most welcome.

Additional Red Dog Waste bins have also been installed in several locations and their use is most valued in helping to manage the recycling of general waste. Again, additional needs and locations for these bins will be monitored.

If you have any issues with any of our Green or Silver Bins it can be reported using the "What3Words" App which provides us with a unique 3 word address which can also be supported with photos of the problem. Reports to:
clerk@bracklacommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Calling Community Groups/Organisations

Do you have a group or organisation set up in Brackla. Do you have any events running you wish to get seen? If so, please get in touch to be featured in our next newsletter which will be shared to all households in the area as well as on our website.

Just let us know what the group/organisation does, any upcoming events or activities and a way for people to get in touch and we can help get you seen.

BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

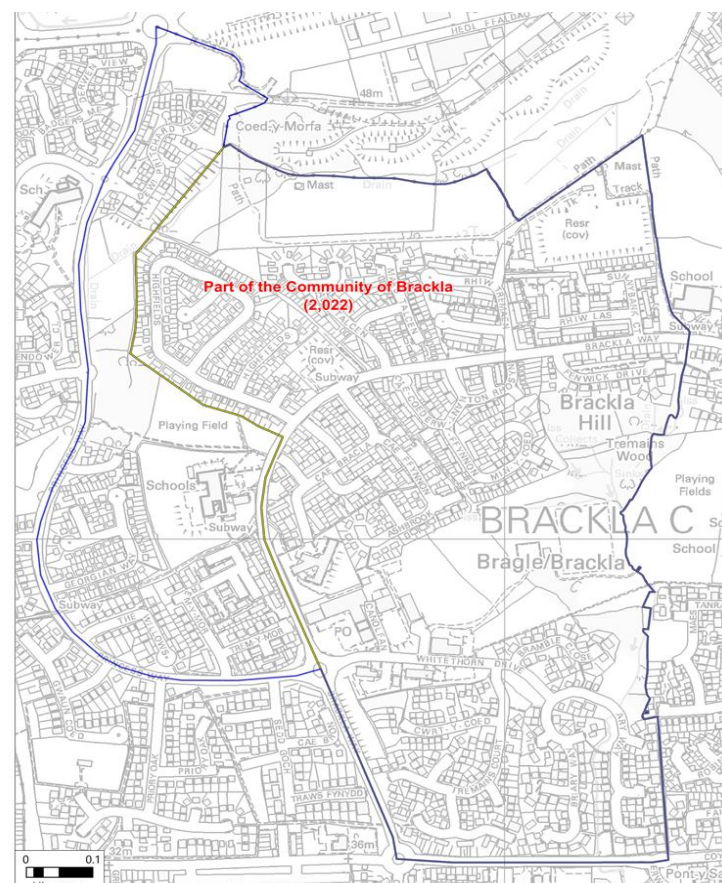
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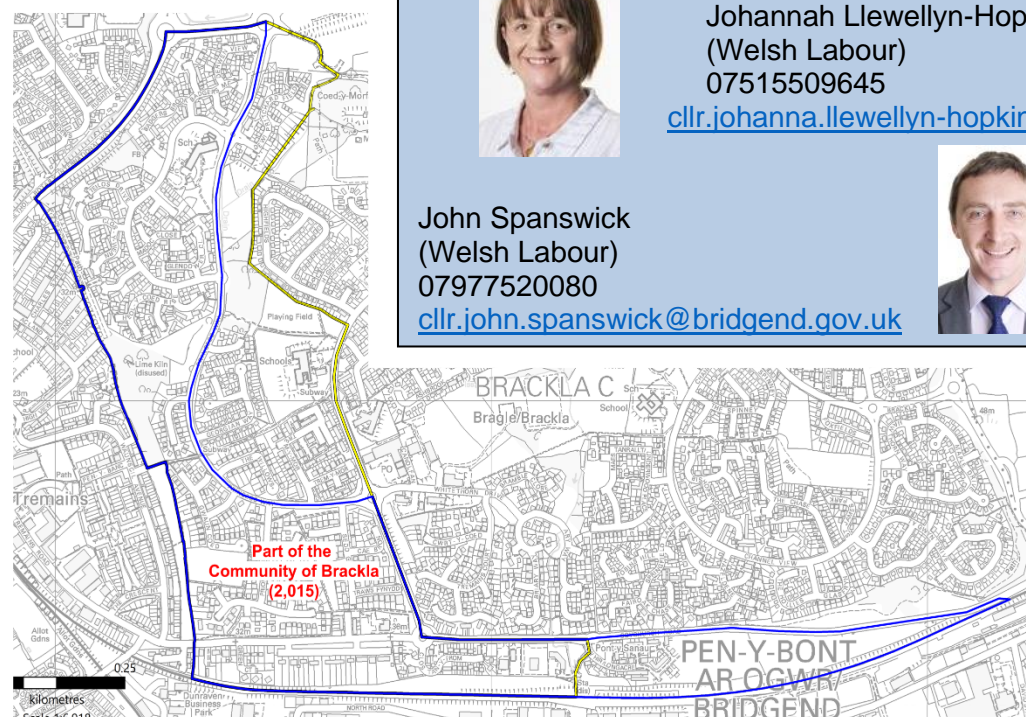
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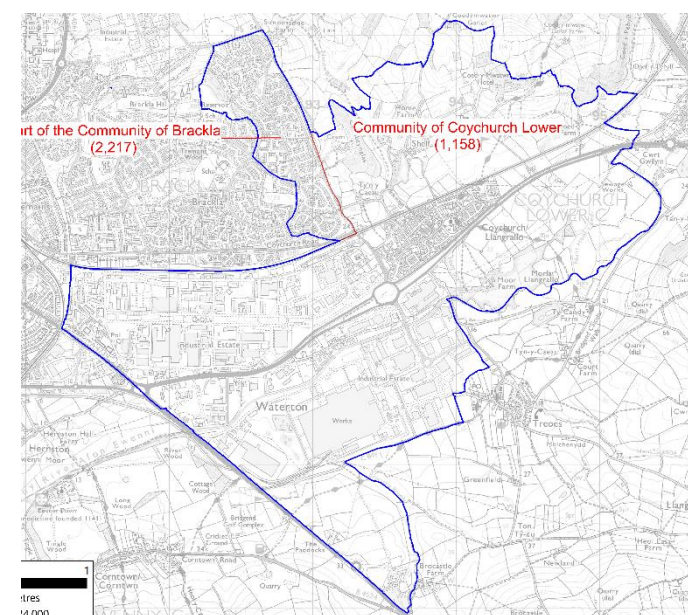
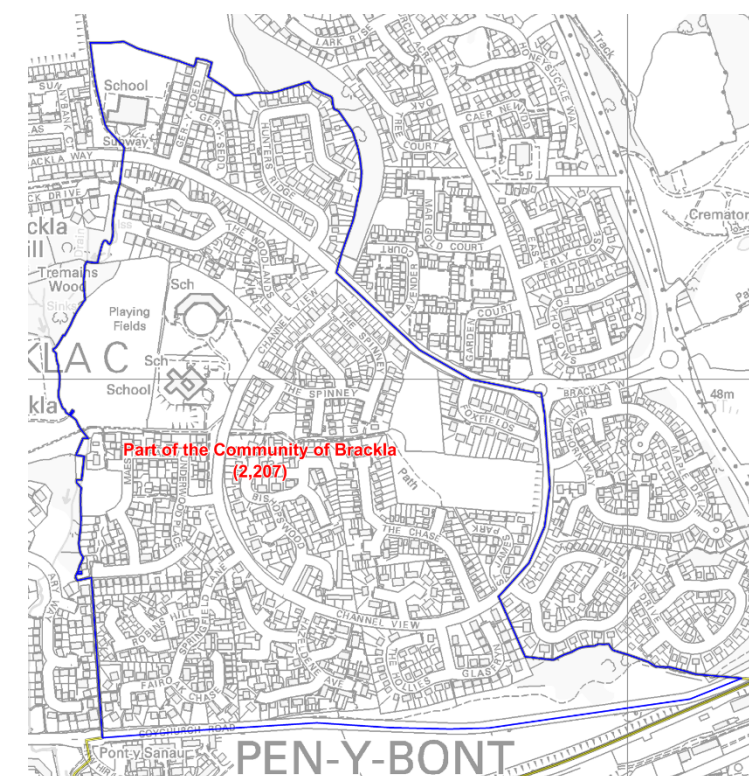
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Residents are able to contact any Member of the Council with queries regardless of the Ward they are living in.

The Community Council also has five Bridgend County Borough Members to which you can contact for issues outside of the Community Council remit. These Members are:

- Cllr Eugene Caparros
- Cllr Simon Griffiths
- Cllr William Kendall
- Cllr Johannah Llewellyn-Hopkins
- Cllr John Spanswick



Flower Displays and Grass Cutting

As we come into the Spring and Summer months, lots of new displays of flowers in the planters, roundabout beds and hanging baskets will be out in full bloom.

You will also notice that grass cutting will be commencing by our contractor and by other land owners such as BCBC and housing associations in the area.

A big thank you to our Flower and Grass Cutting contractors David Thomas and MS Property for their continued hard work, which resulted in winning the Wales in Bloom award again in 2022. We are hoping to enter the competition again this year and continue our success.

Brackla Skate Park & Play Area

The skate park was removed at the end of last year due to its age and condition making it no longer economical to repair. This had lasted around 23 years and was originally provided as part of a successful lottery grant bid together with funding from Bridgend County Borough Council. Alongside it there is also the basketball facility with floodlights and a small play area.

Work is now taking place to identify a suitable replacement type of skate/scooter facility in the same location, and it would be great to hear any views from residents and future users of such a facility. The basketball court and play area are also going to be refurbished to provide great new facilities for a range of ages.

This is being funded by BCBC along with £20,000 from Wales & West Housing Association as a contribution towards play facilities following the construction of 14 homes at Rhiw Cefn Gwlad.



Singletons Junction

For anyone living in Brackla, the dangers of Singletons junction will be well known. It seems that hardly a week goes by without another minor accident causing major delays on the heavily used Simonston Road.

The need for improvements at this junction were recognised before Bridgend became a borough back in 1996, but none of the various plans over the years have come to anything. Today, after major development at Parc Derwen and at Wyndham Close, Coity, the road is busier than ever with even more accidents - we know of four just in the month of February 2023.

Your whole community council is united in lobbying Bridgend County Borough Council to make this junction safe for drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and other road users.

The two BCBC councillors for the ward, Simon Griffiths and Eugene Caparros are pushing as hard as possible for changes to the junction and representing you the people of Brackla. Last September we gathered information from you about accidents and at the end of last year we ran a public meeting where some of you shared your views on possible solutions.

We have shared all the evidence that we have available, and as a result, BCBC have agreed to start the process of change. However, as this is now recognised as a major route through the borough, a traffic impact study is necessary, and so we are requesting that this happens as soon as possible.

We are all determined to make this a much safer junction and so your continued support and information is much appreciated.

Badgers Brook Allotments

The allotments are located near Ysgol Bro Owgr, Brackla, CF312QR and currently hold a disabled gardening day with carers, every Monday from 10 till 3. Open to everyone. Pop along and help with seeding, meet new people and get involved. We hold open days and plant sales each year, normally starting in early May. Keep an eye out on social media for more information, all proceeds go back in to the allotments.

We have 40 plots on site, 30 on the main site and 10 on the disabled site. We have just finished our car park and will be starting on our disabled accessible activity shed, we are also looking to put in disabled toilets and are always looking for volunteers to help out on different projects.

When we have surplus veg we put it out to share so people can take it for free (or give a donation if they are feeling generous). We donate plants to schools to help with their growing projects and are always on the look out for plant pots of all sizes.

If you would like more information on anything thing give me a ring on 07599915334 - Lisa Lewis, Badgers Brook Allotments secretary.



Are you up to speed with broadband?

Since the 80s when Brackla was one of four areas to receive the then revolutionary BT Cable TV system, Brackla has been at the forefront of communications technology. The next phase of infrastructure improvement is already well underway with both Virgin Media and BT Openreach installing Fibre to the premises across the estate – giving residents the option of ordering of ultra-fast, reliable broadband connections over brand new optical fibre cables.

In many streets this is available right now – residents can contact their communications provider for more information. With broadband becoming ever more important many providers are also offering affordable social tariffs for those on selected benefits for more information visit

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/costs-and-billing/social-tariffs>

Fly-Tipping

We have received a number of reports of flytipping in the area. It is an offence to fly-tip and you can face fines or imprisonment.

If you see rubbish being fly-tipped, you can report it to Bridgend County Borough Council by emailing – cleanupthecounty@bridgend.gov.uk



Tremains Woodland Rangers

Tremains Woodland Rangers have been working on improving the access to the reserve through the Cwm Taff funding from BCBC.

The Rangers have managed to construct a footbridge and Hazel hurdles, as part of their conservation plan for the reserve and have lots more ideas and projects in the works.

To find out more you can visit Tremains Woodland Rangers Facebook page.

Brackla Sports Teams

There are lots of sports teams currently in Brackla spanning all ages. From Brackla RFC, Mini Magpies and Brackla FC. If you are interest in more information about the groups or what they offer, please contact the groups individually.