

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

St Donats Community Council serves the three villages of St Donats, Marcross and Monknash in the rural Vale of Glamorgan. Community Council information including Minutes, Agendas of Meetings, Community Council's finances and some history of the villages can be found on the Community Council's website at: <u>www.stdonats.cymru</u>



St Donats Community Council Area

Council Information.

Town and Community Councils Elections are held every five years. The next Election will be held in May 2027. The Community Council is made up of 3 wards: St Donats, Marcross and Monknash. St Donats Ward has four councillors to represent its area. Marcross Ward has three councillors to represent its community, *(there is currently a vacancy on this ward which can be filled by co-option*). Monknash Ward has one councillor to represent the residents.

The Community Council meets once a month (with the exception of August), usually on the first Wednesday, at Atlantic College, with the kind permission of the Principal of the College. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Members	Community Council Ward
Cllr Byron Cole	St Donats
Cllr Tony Evans	Marcross
Cllr Gareth Halliwell	Marcross
Vacancy	Marcross
Cllr Mary Jeffreys	Monknash
Cllr Dave Johnstone	St Donats
Cllr Tom Partridge	St Donats
Cllr Jayne Thomas	St Donats



St Donats Community Councillors.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 legally requires Community Councils to make and publish arrangements for its meetings and to ensure that meetings can take place in a manner which enables people who are not in the same place to attend. Under the arrangements, councils need to take reasonable steps to allow meetings to be held from multiple locations. If the arrangements are revised or replaced the new arrangements must also be published. The minimum requirement is that members are able to hear and be heard by others. Examples of this could include:

- All participants are in the same physical location;
- All participants are in the same physical location except one individual who joins from another location e.g. by video or telephone conference;
- Roughly equal number of councillors are present in a physical space and joining through remote means;

• Wholly through remote means where no physical arrangements have been made. Whilst physical meetings in the same location are allowable under the 2021 Act, councils must note that the 2021 Act requires that participants (i.e. council members, members of the public and press) are able to join meetings remotely – even if physical meetings are the preferred mode. Access to join a meeting remotely, through 'Zoom' can be arranged through contacting the Clerk who can provide the information required.

The administration of the Community Council is carried out by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, the only paid officer of the Council.

The Annual Meeting of the Community Council is held in May when the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson are elected by the members of the council. For 2023/2024 the Chairperson was Councillor Jayne Thomas and the Vice Chairperson was Councillor Tom Partridge. The Clerk is Jackie Griffin.

The Members of the Community Council are summoned to attend meetings via the agenda which is issued by the Clerk at least three clear days before the day of the meeting. The agenda can be viewed on the Council's notice boards and the Council's website.

Report of the Chairman Councillor Jayne Thomas, May 2024.

After serving as Vice Chair during the year 2022/2023, I was very happy to be proposed as Chairperson for the current year and it has been a very fulfilling and interesting year.

Firstly I would like to thank those that have helped us with our work. Vale Councillors Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard, your support has been outstanding and helped us to achieve results with issues in our locality. I must mention your continued assistance with the long-standing problem of the 'Channel View Marcross replacement Effluent Plant'. Your continual chasing of the Officers at the Vale Council on this subject is really appreciated. I mustn't forget your initiative 'Food Hub Wick' which is very welcome by those in our community who need it and thank you for continuing your Surgeries, giving residents the opportunity to meet you and share any issues they may need help with and thank you for your attendance at our meetings and the advice and information you share with us.

I would also like to thank PC Jamie Williamson and PCSO Rhiannon Cummings who attend our meetings to report on crime in the local area. We appreciate the time and support that you give to us with giving reports on incidents and the opportunity for us to raise any issues that out residents have brought to our attention. Thank you so much.

I would like to thank UWC Atlantic for allowing us to hold our meetings on their premises, free of charge and special thanks to Tom for arranging a room and facilities to allow us to hold 'hybrid' meetings as required by law in Wales.

We have been delighted to have the attendance of one of the students at our meetings. The Community Council values its close relationship with the College and will continue to strive to build on it.

I have attended a number of events in the Vale of Glamorgan usually with my husband:

- On 14th May, I attended the Chairman of St Athan Community Council's Civic Service. At the service a number of awards were made to a few villagers who had carried out volunteering services and good works in St Athan.
- On 16th July, I attended the Mayor of Cowbridge Civic Service. This was unusual as there was no church service. There was a Parade around the town and then entertainment provided by local talent at the Town Hall.
- On 15th October, I attended the Mayor of Llantwit Major Civic Service.
- On 27th October, I attended an 'Open Day' at St Donats Nursery with Jackie. It was a lovely and interesting afternoon seeing all the facilities that the children can play and learn from. The staff and children were very happy and it was a joy to visit.



Jackie Griffin, Clerk; Councillor Jayne Thomas, Chairperson and Donna Pearce, Nursery School.

• On 14th December, we attended Llantwit Major Town Mayor's 'Carols in the Barn with the Animals' at Purlon Farm.

The Community Council has carried out their normal business of making observations on planning applications in our community and attending meetings of outside bodies including One Voice Wales, Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the Community Liaison Committee. This important work will continue as it gives our community a voice in what's happening in our rural area.

With the current ongoing Vale of Glamorgan Town and Community Councils Boundary Review being undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission, we await the final decision to discover if the proposal for St Donats Community Council to be merged with Wick Community Council and form a new Council 'St Donats and Wick Community Council' following the next Election in May 2027, will come to fruition.

I would like to thank you, the Councillors for your support to me over the last 12 months and I hope you will continue this for the ensuing year.

Lastly, and not least, I would like to thank our Clerk, Jackie. She beavers away quietly in the background keeping everything and us, up to date and in order. I am truly grateful for her support to me over the last year, as Chairperson and I am sure all the other Councillors would agree with me in thanking her for being our excellent Clerk. Thank you one and all.

Review of Town and Community Councils in The Vale of Glamorgan.

The Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales is currently carrying out a review on the town and community council boundaries in the Vale of Glamorgan. The review is being carried out on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Community boundaries are being considered to ensure that they reflect local identity and if the capacity of the area is still relevant.

There are 4 steps to the review:

- (i) Initial publicity;
- (ii) Initial investigation and consultation which can take 6-12 weeks;
- (iii) Consultation on draft proposals;
- (iv) Final recommendation and a review of the representations.

In April, the Commission published its final recommendations:

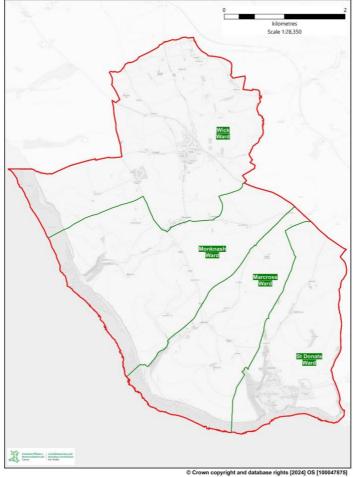
The Commission recommends applying 1 change to the existing community boundaries, which includes the creation of a new community:

• Creation of a new community known as St Donats and Wick

The Commission recommends the abolition of the communities of St Donats and Wick and utilise the 2 areas to form the new Community of St Donats and Wick. This involves the creation of a new community which incorporates 2 neighbouring, rural communities. The recommendation was submitted by the VOGCPWG at the initial consultation stage. The Commission agrees that this recommendation provides for more effective and convenient local government. The Commission recommends utilising the existing community ward boundaries of Marcross, Monknash and St Donats and the community boundaries of Wick to create community wards in the new community.

As a result of these recommendations, the electorate within the new Community of St Donats and Wick would be 1,138.

The new community ward of Marcross would have 107 electors. The new community ward of Monknash would have 39 electors. The new community ward of St Donats would have 192 electors. The new community ward of Wick would have 800 electors.



The Community of St Donats and Wick

The Final Recommendations will now be forwarded to the Welsh Government for their final decision. Confirmed changes will come into force at the Local Elections in May 2027. The full documents of the final recommendations can be found at:

https://d34hss7hg6i3n.cloudfront.net/reviews/2.-Vale-of-Glamorgan-ComRev-2023-Final-Recommendations-Report_e-V5.pdf

Attendees at Council Meetings.

- A Representative of South Wales Police attends most meetings and gives an update on incidents of crime in the area since the previous meeting. This can be a very useful source of information which can be shared with residents to raise awareness of possible concerns and warnings of current crime being carried out in the local area.
- Vale of Glamorgan Councillors attend most meetings of the Community Council to advise on the work relating to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This can be very helpful to the Community Council as a way of sharing information relating to Vale matters and it is an opportunity for the Community Council to raise local issues which are the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Community Council Members are extremely grateful to Councillors Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard who have attended the Community Council's meetings during the year.

Council Representatives.

Representatives of the Community Council sit on a number of 'outside bodies'.

- Councillor Jayne Thomas is the Council's Representative at meetings of the Local Committee of One Voice Wales.
- Councillor Tom Partridge is the Council's Representative on the Community Liaison Committee and the Council's Health and Safety Advisor.
- Councillor Tony Evans is the Council's Representative at meetings of the Local Footpaths Committee.
- Councillor Jayne Thomas is the Council's Representative at meetings of Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and Councillor Dave Johnston is the Reserve.
- Councillor Tom Partridge is the Minor Authority Representative (MAR)
 Governor for Wick and Marcross Church in Wales Primary School.
- Councillor Gareth Halliwell is the Defibrillator Co-ordinator and Reserve for meetings of the Community Liaison Committee.
- Councillor Byron Cole is the Councillor's reserve Representative at meetings of the Local Committee of One Voice Wales.

United World College Atlantic, St Donats.

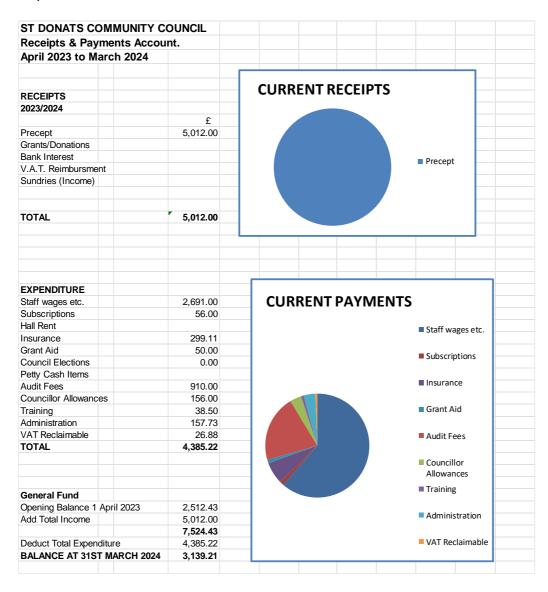
UWC Atlantic continues to play a part in the life of St Donats Community Council. The College has continued to support the Community Council again in providing a meeting space and the Members are extremely grateful to the College for their assistance. Councillors and Community Members have played a key part in helping the students in understanding how local life can be affected by student life. This has included talks and 'meet and greet' sessions.

Councillor Partridge, who is also a staff member at UWC Atlantic, is able to keep the Community Council updated in real time of any pressing issues that can impact the community as well as inform them of how the college can support the local residents as well. This has included events such as litter picks, services and through the external events hosted by the college including open days, outdoor cinema and 'kids camps'.

Councillor Gareth Halliwell and Mrs Sharon Evans attend the College to present a 'welcome and introduction to our community and its expectations of the students' at the start of the year to the whole assembled college. Councillor Partridge had made the request for two community members to address the students a number of years ago.

Council Finance.

The Community Council's income is provided by a precept which is a part of the Council Tax, paid by each household and collected by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The precept is paid to the Community Council in three parts during the months of April, August and December. The expenses of the Community Council include the Clerk's salary; insurance, subscription to One Voice Wales and other items. The breakdown of the expenditure is represented by the pie chart below:



Annual Audits.

Town and Community Councils are audited twice a year. The first audit is an Internal Audit carried out by an independent person appointed by the Council. The Internal Auditor does a thorough check of the Council's books and accounting procedures and produces a report. Following the Internal Audit, an external audit is carried out by Audit Wales who select a particular item to specifically inspect as well as other checks on the Council's procedures. The 'Annual Return', the document which is forwarded to Audit Wales, containing the Council's accounting figures and 'Annual Governance' statement with the reports from the auditors is below and is also available to view on the Council's website.

Community and Town Councils in Wales Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Accounting statements 2023-24 for:

Name of body: St Donats Community Council

		Year en	ding	Notes and guidance				
		31 March 2023 (£)	31 March 2024 (É)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.				
Sta	tement of income and	expenditure/receip	ts and payments					
1.	Balances brought forward	3688	2512	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.				
2.	(+) Income from local taxation/levy	4085	5012	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from local taxation (precept) or levy/contribution from principal bodies.				
3.	(+) Total other receipts	0	0	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.				
4.	(-) Staff costs	2544	2691	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.				
5.	(-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).				
6.	(-) Total other payments	2717	1694	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).				
7.	(=) Balances carried forward	2512	3139	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal $(1+2+3) - (4+5+6)$.				
Sta	tement of balances	alle in the second						
8.	(+) Debtors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the body at the year-end.				
9.	(+) Total cash and investments	2512	3139	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.				
10.	(-) Creditors	0	0	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the body (except borrowing) at the year-end.				
11.	(=) Balances carried forward	2512	3139	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).				
12.	Total fixed assets and long-term assets	2155	2155	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and an other long-term assets held as at 31 March.				
13.	Total borrowing	. 0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).				

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Council, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, that:

		1	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Council:	PG Ref	
		Yes		No*	Constant Constant of		
1.	 We have put in place arrangements for: effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	Yes	5		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12	
2.	We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes	Yes		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7	
3.	We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non- compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Council to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes			Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6	
4.	We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	Yes			Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the body's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23	
5.	We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes			Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the body and has dealt with them property.	6, 9	
6.	We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	Yes			Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the body.	6, 8	
7.	We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Council and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	Yes			Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6	
8.	We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	Yes			Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23	
9.	Trust funds – The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing trust fund(s)/assets. We exclude transactions related to these trusts from the Accounting Statement. In our capacity as trustee, we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s) incliding financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.		No	N/A	Has met all of its responsibilities	3, 6	
			N/A	V	where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.		

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Additional disclosure notes*

2.

3.

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement

1. Expenditure under S137 Local Government Act 1972 and S2 Local Government Act 2000

Section 137(1) of the 1972 Act permits the Council to spend on activities for which it has no other specific powers if the Council considers that the expenditure is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, the area or any part of it, or all or some of its inhabitants, providing that the benefit is commensurate with the expenditure. Section 137(3) also permits the Council to incur expenditure for certain charitable and other purposes. The maximum expenditure that can be incurred under both section 137(1) and (3) for the financial year 2023-24 was £9.93 per elector.

In 2023-24, the Council made payments totalling £50.00 under section 137. These payments are included within 'Other payments' in the Accounting Statement.

* Include here any additional disclosures the Council considers necessary to aid the reader's understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Council approval and certification

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Council, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and	Approval by the Council I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Council under minute reference:				
payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2024.	Minute ref: 11en 9 22.5.24				
RFO signature:	Chair signature: J. Thomas.				
Name: JACQUELINE CARIFFIN	Name: JAYNE THOMAS				
Name: JACQUELINE CARIFFIN Date: 22.5.2024	Date: 22.5.2024				

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of body: St Donats Community Council

The Council's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk,

has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Council's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised

in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

		19162 110		greed?	1	Outline of work undertaken as part of	
3		Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presente to body)	
1.	Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	•					
2.	Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	0					
3.	The body assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	ð					
4.	The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	ø					
5.	Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	Ø					
6.	Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and <u>VAT</u> appropriately accounted for.						
7.	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.						
8.	Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.	•					

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presente to body)
 Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out. 	ø				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	,				
 Trust funds (including charitable trusts). The Council has met its responsibilities as a trustee. 					

For any risk areas identified by the Council (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Part of the second	A	greed?		Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to body)	
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**		
12.		•				
13.						
14.		•				

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

[My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Council are included in my detailed report to the Geuncil dated ______.]* Delete if no report prepared.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Council's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the body (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the body during the financial years 2022-23 and 2023-24. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

	rried out the internal audit: Hele		
Signature of person wh	carried out the internal audit:	- (DD)	
Date: 8 " Mary	2024	Ŧ	
1		4	

Council Business 2023/2024.

- The Community Council continues to be concerned at the condition of 'Splott Road'. Another meeting was arranged with a number of Officers of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and some remedial work carried out to the road again. The Community Council will continue to monitor the condition of the road and refer concerns to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- The defibrillator situated on the road between St Donats and Marcross is owned and maintained by the Community Council. The Community Council monitors the equipment regularly and recently the original battery was replaced.
- The Community Council continues to question Officers at the Vale of Glamorgan Council with regard to the retaining wall damage at Marcross Brook plus the progress, on the Channel View Effluent system. With regard to the Channel View Effluent System, unfortunately delays have occurred over the recent period due to a revised design specification and scope clarification. Tenders were sought earlier this year against the new specification and the successful contractor should have been nominated by now and is actually overdue, according to the Vale Council's latest project schedule. There is currently no sign of work starting and the Community Council has not been made aware of when that is likely. It is critical that it starts soon to take advantage of the summer period for excavation and installation work.

The Community Council will continue to raise their concerns and the concerns of residents with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Councillor Training.

Section 67 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires Town and Community Councils to make and publish a plan detailing their training provision for its members and staff. The first training plan was published on 5th November 2022. The training courses undertaken by Councillors during the past twelve months are:

Councillor	Course Attended
Councillor Jayne Thomas	Code of Conduct Course – 18.1.2024
Councillor Byron Cole	Introduction to Planning Enforcement – 27.11.23

Biodiversity Report.

The Community Council is very conscientious of the importance of biodiversity within its community.

All documentation including correspondence; agendas; minutes and reports, are e-mailed to Councillors which saves on the expense of postage and assists the carbon footprint. Environment issues are of particular concern and are carefully considered when the Community Council makes observations on planning applications

Planning Applications.

One of the objectives of the Community Council is to make observations on planning applications, details of which are provided by the Planning Department at the Vale of

Glamorgan Council. Planning applications which the Community Council has considered in the past twelve months are listed in the following table.

Application No.	Location	Community Council Observation	Vale Council Decision
2023/00221/FUL	Land adjacent to Parc Farm, St Donats	Objection	Withdrawn by Applicant
2023/00388/FUL	Peartree Cottage, Marcross	No objection	Refused
2023/00550/LBC	United World College, St Donats	No objection	Approved
2023/01074/FUL	Ty Capel, St Donats	No objection	Withdrawn by Applicant
2023/01295/FUL.	Heritage Coast Campsite, Marcross	Objection	Refused
2023/00744/FUL	Ashwood, Beach Road, Marcross	No objection	Approved
2024/00123/FUL	Ty Capel, Marcross	No objection	Approved
2023/01270/FUL	Land at Ffynnon y Capel, St Donats	No objection	

Full comments made by the Community Council can be viewed in the Meeting Minutes:

Annual Report of St Donats Community Council completed 28th June 2024.

Website address: www.stdonats.cymru Clerk to the Council: Jackie Griffin. To contact the Clerk email <u>stdonatscommunitycouncil@qmail.com</u>

