



**ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26**

Sealand Community Council

Councillor David Wisinger

Chairman of the Council

Ashley Griffiths

Clerk and Financial Officer

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WELCOME AND OVERVIEW

I am pleased to present the fifth Annual Report of Sealand Community Council, summarising our activities during the 2025/26 period. In partnership with our community and stakeholders, we have delivered initiatives designed to enhance Sealand's economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being, supporting our ambition to ensure Sealand remains a prosperous and welcoming place to live and visit.

Our vision remains unwavering: "To ensure that Sealand continues to be a pleasant and welcoming place for individuals of all ages to reside, offering safety, opportunities for physical and mental well-being, and a high-quality environment to socialise and work."

We are fortunate to have the support of a committed and knowledgeable network of people within our local community, whose involvement is key to achieving our shared aims. The achievements set out in this report reflect the combined efforts of many individuals working together for the benefit of Sealand. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to strengthening our community, no matter how large or small their contribution.

This report provides an overview of the Community Council's work over the past year. Although our community and partners have faced a number of challenges, we remain committed to working together to achieve our shared aims. We will continue to move forward with determination as we work towards delivering our vision for Sealand.

The Community Council operates as a corporate entity, and the duties associated with my role as Chairman are both varied and demanding. However, these responsibilities are greatly eased by the continued support of my fellow elected members and our dedicated Clerk. I regard it as a great honour to represent the Council at civic functions and community events, particularly when wearing the chain of office.

I am pleased to report that our elected members and the Clerk have worked closely together during the year to ensure that services continue to be delivered for the benefit of both residents and visitors. Their hard work and commitment to our shared aims are greatly valued, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for all they have done.

I extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Council's work over the past year. We look ahead to the coming year with optimism and remain committed to working together to achieve further progress for our community.

D Wisinger

Councillor David Wisinger
Chairman of Sealand Community Council
March 2026

INFORMATION ABOUT SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

1. Sealand Community Council

The Council is a corporate body with a legal existence of its own, which is entirely separate from that of its members. Its lawful acts, assets and liabilities are its own and not those of its individual members. Any decisions made by the Community Council are the responsibility of the entire body, and it is irrelevant whether any particular Member agreed or disagreed with a specific proposal. A Community Council can legally raise money through the Precept – a levy which its residents pay through the Council Tax. It also has a range of powers that enable it to allocate this public money to the services it provides. These may include the provision of Playing Fields, Playgrounds, Public Parks, and Community Centres.

Parish/Town Councils were established in 1894 by an Act of Parliament and were subsequently reformed into Community Councils by the Local Government Act 1972, which divided Wales into communities. The Community Council has a duty to ensure that the rules for the administration of the Council are followed - the Council must appoint a Chair, appoint a Clerk, appoint a Responsible Financial Officer, appoint an independent and competent internal auditor, hold an Annual Meeting of the Council and keep records of all decisions related to Council business.

Council meetings are held monthly on the third Monday, except for August, when the Council is in recess. In December, the meeting is held on the second Monday. Emergencies will be accepted when a meeting date needs to be changed, and the change will be circulated and discussed at the nearest meeting. All members of the Council will be notified of any date changes and informed of public updates.

Sealand Community Council

The Council has a number of broad-ranging responsibilities and powers, which, depending on available finance and other resources, enable the development and improvement of facilities and services for residents and visitors to the community. These include:

- Working in partnership with a number of other organisations, community groups and the community to try to ensure the best for Sealand residents and the maintenance of services;
- Working on behalf of local people to request that Flintshire County Council and other statutory bodies meet their duties and responsibilities in a way which satisfies the needs of Sealand residents;
- Considering and responding to planning applications;
- considering and responding to a number of consultations by statutory bodies on a national and local level, and always considering how decisions affect people in the area;

THE COUNCIL

2. Membership

Sealand Community Council comprises thirteen elected councillors. At the Annual Meeting held in May, the Council elects a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Councillor David Wisinger currently serves as Chairperson, with Councillor Alex Lewis serving as Vice Chairperson.

3. Staff

The Council has one staff member, Ashley Griffiths, who serves as both the Clerk and Finance Officer. He works part-time. The Clerk can be contacted by email at sealandcommunitycouncil@gmail.com or by letter to 3 Bridge View, Garden City, Deeside. CH5 2HY or phone/text to 07410 408410.

4. Meetings

Sealand Community Council holds its meetings monthly, ordinarily on the third Monday of each month, commencing at 6.00 pm at Sealand Primary School.

Meeting dates, together with agendas and minutes for all Council meetings, are published and can be accessed via the Council's website at: <https://sealandcommunitycouncil.co.uk/your-council/minutes/>

To enhance accessibility, hybrid meetings are available, allowing non-attending members to participate via (non-face-to-face) conference phone or video link. Requests for hybrid attendance must be submitted to the Clerk by the Thursday preceding the Monday meeting.

In addition, the Council promotes public engagement by providing meeting information on its website and six local notice boards, encouraging residents to attend and participate in Council proceedings.

5. Website - Transparency and Access to Information

Sealand Community Council is committed to openness and accountability, ensuring that residents and stakeholders have ready access to information about its activities and decisions. The Council's website provides comprehensive details, including meeting agendas, minutes, policies, and other key documents that guide its work. By maintaining this online resource, the Council promotes transparency, encourages public engagement, and enables residents to participate in the democratic process.

The website also serves as a platform to highlight Council initiatives, community projects, and partnership work, reflecting the Council's commitment to delivering services and projects that enhance the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of the Sealand community. Access the Council's resources at: <https://sealandcommunitycouncil.co.uk>.

EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIP

The Community Council benefits significantly from its membership of One Voice Wales, the leading representative body for community and town councils in Wales.

One Voice Wales ensures a strong voice to represent the interests of councils and offers a range of quality services to support their work. By being a member, the Community Council can benefit from legal advice, guidance on service improvements, training, policy matters, and access to a monthly newsletter, as well as attend conferences that provide networking opportunities and share best practices within the sector. The Council can elect a member to attend One Voice Wales's online Regional Committees. The Clerk of the Council often attends these meetings.

Additionally, the Clerk is a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), a source of information and best practice in the sector, which also offers training courses and conferences. There is a Clwyd Regional Committee for Clerks who are members of the SLCC, which meets occasionally during the year. The Clerk of the Council often attends these meetings.

GOVERNANCE, STANDARDS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Sealand Community Council has formally adopted a Code of Conduct for its members, and a register of interests is maintained for each councillor. At the commencement of each meeting, councillors are required to declare any relevant interests in agenda items, and these declarations are duly recorded in the minutes to ensure transparency and integrity in decision-making.

The Council's financial and operational processes are subject to rigorous oversight through annual audits. Internal audits are conducted by JDH Business Services Ltd, while Audit Wales undertakes the external audit, providing independent assurance that the Council operates in accordance with best practice and statutory requirements.

FINANCE AND EXPENDITURE

The Community Council's expenditure budget is £71,657.29 for the financial year 2025/26, as agreed by the Council at its Annual Finance Meeting on 16 December 2024.

A summary of the main areas of the budget expenditure is provided below:

Annual Subscriptions	£850.00
Audit Fees	£775.00
Bank Charges	£150.00
Chair's Fund	£800.00
Chain of Office - Engraving	£20.00
Clerk's salary and allowance.	£14,592.65
Conferences - attendance	£200.00
Council's Web Site inc VAT	£2,400
Clerks Pension	£241.20
Data Protection Registration	£40.00
Defibrillator – Energy – Garden City	£75.00
Free Resource Fund – Grants	£3035.00
Insurances	£650.00
Joint-funded project play areas	£8,000
NI Employers contribution	£715.44
Playleader Scheme	£8,813.00
Postage / Mileage	£500.00
Printer, Computers repairs, etc., and printer cartridges	£200.00
Stationery	£150.00
Street Furniture Repairs – Seats / Notice Boards	£200.00
Street Lighting – Energy - £5,000, Repairs & Maintenance £3500 and Replacement / Adoption of 9 lights and - £20,250. VAT charged for maintenance	£28,750
Councillors and Clerks Training Costs	£500.00
Full Total	£71,657.29

The Community Council's primary source of income is the precept, which is set annually and presented to Flintshire County Council in December for the following financial year.

The precept is collected on behalf of the Community Council by Flintshire County Council and is the only source of tax revenue available to Town and Community Councils.

The process of determining the level of precept by the Sealand Community Council involves preparing a draft budget based on the Community Council's financial situation, considering likely costs and project plans, setting a contribution amount within the guidelines published annually, and addressing any other relevant financial matters.

Consideration is also given to the reserves held by the Community Council to ensure an appropriate precept is set. The precept level for 2025/26 was £64,000.

The Community Council reclaims the VAT paid for goods and services annually

ACHIEVEMENTS 2025/26

1. Street Lighting

The Community Council has invested in more efficient and environmentally friendly energy sources in recent years, reducing carbon footprint and energy costs. The Council has been systematically upgrading its streetlighting with new LED Heads, which consume less energy and are more environmentally friendly. Flintshire County Council then adopts these lights. In 2010, the Council had 169 old and almost obsolete lights. As of 1 April 2025, the lighting stock was 33, with 3 lights upgraded and adopted at Villa Road in the 2025/26 financial year, bringing the number of council-owned lights down to 30.

2. Play leadership Scheme

The Community Council continues to provide annual support for the Summer Play Scheme held at the recreation fields in Garden City and Sealand Manor. The scheme is professionally delivered by Flintshire County Council, with funding provided each year by the Community Council to enable the programme to operate for up to six weeks at each location.

3. Match Funding Scheme Improvements to Children's Play Areas 2025/26

Gwella Wales has continued the match-funding initiative with Town and Community Councils. This scheme works on the basis of (£ for £). The Council sought an Expression of Interest (EOI) for the 2025/26 scheme. The Council allocated £8,000 of its funds to improve play equipment in Sealand's parks, with a particular emphasis on ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all users.

This investment has facilitated the replacement of the easy-access gate at the Sealand Manor play area, the installation of a communication board at the Welsh Road play area, and the provision of an accessible roundabout at the Welsh Road play area.

4. Grants

Each year, the Council considers applications for financial assistance. Understandably, the Council can be inundated with applications, most of which are for worthy causes. In these circumstances, the Council formulated a policy whereby, in the main, grants are restricted to organisations within the community or those that may have a link with the community and/or its residents. Several organisations within the community provide valuable services, and the Council is keen to support those organisations that help themselves. Applications are considered as soon as they are submitted to the Council.

Any organisation making an application must have its own bank account, and the Council cannot make grants to an individual member of the public.

The Council reviewed applications for financial support and granted funding to the following groups:

- Sealand Happy group
- 50 Plus Action Group (Flintshire)

- Eye 2 Eye
- Sealand County Primary School
- St Bartholow's Church
- Sealand Spartans football club

Each year, the Council agrees to set a specific amount for the Chair's fund for the current financial year. The Chair's Fund for the 2025/26 financial year is £800.00, and payments are made under expenditure powers—Ancillary Power Local Government Act 1972 (S1).

To date, the Chairman, with the Council's approval, has disbursed a total of £800.00 to groups within Sealand.

5. Police

The Council maintains regular contact with North Wales Police to address issues affecting the local area, including monthly communications with the local Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

6. Community Speed Watch

A designated group within the Council conducts regular speed-watch activities in the community in response to residents' concerns about traffic speeds.

7. Flintshire County Council

During the year, Sealand Community Council has actively engaged with Flintshire County Council on a wide range of local issues, working collaboratively to identify priorities, develop solutions, and implement improvements across the community. This ongoing partnership has enabled the Council to address key concerns raised by residents, support local initiatives, and promote enhancements to public amenities, infrastructure, and services. By maintaining open lines of communication and fostering strong working relationships with county officials, the Council has ensured that the needs and interests of the Sealand community are effectively represented, while contributing to the broader objective of improving the quality of life for all residents.

8. Sustainability and Paperless Office Initiatives

Sealand Community Council has successfully implemented its transition towards a paperless office environment, with tangible benefits observed in both operational efficiency and environmental sustainability. Physical records are being systematically converted to electronic formats wherever feasible, in collaboration with the Record Office, ensuring that historical documents are preserved while improving accessibility and reducing the need for paper storage.

The use of email as the primary means of communication has increased significantly, particularly for circulating key documents, thereby reducing postage volume and lowering the Council's carbon footprint. In addition, the Clerk has introduced an eco-tank printer, which is substantially more energy-efficient than traditional laser printers. The Council also ensures that all printed materials are produced using recycled paper wherever possible, further supporting its commitment to reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable working practices.

These initiatives reflect the Council's ongoing commitment to minimising its environmental impact, demonstrating how sustainability can be embedded into daily operations while delivering practical efficiencies. The successful implementation of these measures has generated measurable benefits for the Council, supporting both operational effectiveness and responsible environmental stewardship.

9. Monthly coordination meetings

The Pre-Council meeting initiative, introduced last year and now in its second year, continues to meet monthly among the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Clerk. These meetings allow urgent issues to be addressed in advance and support the efficient conduct of Council business

10. On-site training

As part of the ongoing efforts to enhance the skills and knowledge of all involved with the Council, quarterly on-site training sessions have been successfully implemented. These sessions have been designed to focus on critical areas of development, ensuring that all Councillors are equipped with the necessary tools, information and resources to perform at their best. To reinforce key concepts and encourage consistent learning, the Council has utilised the OVW training PowerPoint presentations during the sessions for guidance.

11. Biodiversity in the community

Sealand Community Council is committed to enhancing local biodiversity and promoting a sustainable environment within the community. As part of this commitment, the Council successfully secured a grant to support the planting of pollinator-friendly plants at the Welsh Road Play Area. This initiative not only improves the local ecosystem and supports wildlife but also provides an attractive, educational space for residents and children, reflecting the Council's dedication to environmental stewardship and community well-being.

12. Climate Action Wales

As part of the Welsh Government's Climate Action Wales initiative, organisations are encouraged to make practical commitments to reduce their environmental impact and support biodiversity.

During the reporting year, Sealand Community Council pledged to contribute to these goals through several actions. These include undertaking biodiversity planting within the community, replacing lighting with energy-efficient LED units when renewal is required, and ensuring that all printed materials are produced using recycled paper wherever possible.

These measures demonstrate the Council's ongoing commitment to sustainability, responsible resource use, and supporting the wider environmental objectives set out by Climate Action Wales.

13. Community Recognition

As part of our commitment to community engagement and service excellence, this was achieved and recognised with the introduction of the Chairperson's Certificate of Appreciation for dedicated service and outstanding contribution to the community.

14. Financial Commitment to Sealand

Sealand Community Council kept its precept unchanged from the prior year, thanks to a growth in the local tax base, which led to a reduced percentage change in the precept element of residents' council tax bills. Furthermore, all Councillors chose not to claim their members' allowance during the 2025/26 year.

Supporting Community Well-being: Aligning with the 7 Well-being Goals for Wales

Sealand Community Council is committed to promoting the long-term well-being of its community by integrating the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 into its work. Through initiatives such as the annual Summer Play Scheme, investment in children's play areas, community grants, environmental improvements, and the implementation of a biodiversity policy, the Council seeks to enhance the economic, social, environmental, and cultural well-being of Sealand.

All new play equipment is carefully considered to ensure it is inclusive and accessible, enabling children of all abilities to enjoy the facilities. Environmental measures include protecting and enhancing local habitats, planting native species, and creating wildlife-friendly areas to support biodiversity and sustainability. In collaboration with partners including Flintshire County Council and North Wales Police, the Council works to foster a safer, healthier, and more connected community.

Together, these activities demonstrate the Council's dedication to creating a prosperous, resilient, healthy, equal, cohesive, culturally vibrant, and globally responsible community, in alignment with the seven Well-being Goals for Wales.

Details of Members of Sealand Community Council – 2025/26

Political affiliations are available via this link:

<https://sealandcommunitycouncil.co.uk/your-council/members/>

<p>Cllr David Edward Wisinger, Chairperson, Sealand Community Council 7 Church Cottages Sealand Road Sealand CH1 6BR</p>	<p>davidwisinger@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Cllr Alex Lewis, Vice Chairperson, Sealand Community Council 56B Green Lane Estate Green Lane Sealand CH5 2NA</p>	<p>anlewis@hotmail.co.uk</p>
<p>Cllr Barbara Hinds, 5 St. Bartholomew's Court Sealand Deeside Flintshire CH5 2QT</p>	<p>B7beh@icloud.com</p>
<p>Cllr Gwyneth Bullock, 28 Orchard Way Garden City Deeside CH5 2JP</p>	<p>gwynethbullock@hotmail.com</p>
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Sealand Deeside CH5 2FJ	
Cllr Brian Ward, 38 Sealand Road Sealand Deeside CH5 2RJ	brianefc@btinternet.com
Cllr Shelley Webber, Ivy Cottage Gladstone Street Queensferry Deeside CH5 1ST	shelley.webber@hotmail.co.uk
Cllr Jean Fairbrother, 56a Green Lane Estate Green Lane East Sealand CH5 2NA	jean.fairbrother.2010@btinternet.com
Cllr Bob James 21 Sandy Lane Garden City Deeside CH5 2JE	bob.james@flintshire.wales

Clerk of the Council

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