

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

St Arvans has had a year of steady improvements, small wins, and strong collaboration. From new safety measures on our roads to refreshed benches and signage, the Council has focused on practical changes that make everyday life a little easier. This report shares some of the work carried out over the past year and the ways we've supported village life.

Highlights of the year

- **Road safety improvements** — new road layouts, refreshed markings, and Speedwatch groups.
- **Village maintenance** — benches repaired, fences fixed, place name signage updated, and play equipment maintained.
- **Community engagement** — Facebook page launched, more residents attending meetings.
- **Environmental care** — regular litter picks, biodiversity projects, defibrillator upkeep.
- **Support for local groups** — grants to churches, collaboration with Memorial Hall and Village Trust.

Your councillors

Your councillors volunteer their time to support village life, respond to resident concerns, and work with Monmouthshire County Council on local issues.

Councillor	Role	Email
Peter Farley	Chair - Personnel, Finance, Highways, Communications and Biodiversity	peter.farley@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Helen Hathaway	Vice Chair - Personnel, Environment, Communications and Biodiversity	helen.hathaway@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Tim Houghton	Personnel, Finance, Highways, Communications and Biodiversity	tim.houghton@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Anthony Clay	Finance, Environment and Biodiversity	antony.clay@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Ian Costello	Highways, Communications and Biodiversity	ian.costello@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Barrie Howells	Finance and Highways	barrie.howells@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Peter Taylor	Communications	peter.taylor@starvanscouncil.co.uk
Ann Webb	County Councillor	annwebb@monmouthshire.gov.uk

As well as our regular meetings, individual Councillors attended over 20 other meetings this year, including, road safety discussions and community partnership sessions.

What we do

Community Councils are made up of local people who give their time to work for, and on behalf of, their community.

St Arvans Community Council (SACC) meets on the third Wednesday of every month (except August and December) at 7pm in the Meeting Rooms. The meetings last approximately 2 hours and are open to the public. Our chief responsibility is to make known the concerns of local people to Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) and other public bodies, for example the Police and Natural Resources Wales.

MCC has a duty to consult with us over local services such as planning and licencing applications.

In addition, SACC:

- Provides small grants for local organisations and projects.
- Pays for the emptying of dog waste bins - ensuring bins are emptied monthly so paths stay clean.
- Owns and maintains benches and notice boards - repairing, repainting, and replacing fixings.
- Consults with local residents on planning applications.
- Maintains defibrillators.
- Reports highway problems to MCC - logging potholes, blocked drains, and damaged signs.
- Consults with MCC and the Police on issues of speed and road safety.
- Investigates resident enquiries and questions.
- Updates residents via our Round Robin and our Facebook page.
- Appoints representatives on bodies such as the Memorial Hall, St Arvans Village Trust, Wye Valley Villages Group and One Voice Wales.

Chair's report

2025-26 was another busy year for the Council.

In collaboration with our County Councillor (Ann Webb), a petition (signed by nearly 300 residents, a walk to the school, and some residents attending a County Council Scrutiny meeting, we successfully lobbied to keep the bus service running to the Dell Primary School – the only school bus service to be reinstated in the area.

The Highways group continued to work on road safety measures. To this end they met with MP Catherine Fookes and agreed with MCC to implement some changed markings at the top of Devauden

Road, removal of the central white lines and tightening of the junction into Grange Road, to aid road safety.

Our Vice Chair Helen Hathaway continued to work alongside our handyperson Mark to carry out repairs and renovations around the village.

We formed a new biodiversity group who organised some bee friendly planters around the village and a bug house in the Playing Fields.

The Communications Group worked on our IT protocols and security.

Grants were awarded to Citizens Advice Monmouthshire and, for churchyard maintenance, to St Arvans Church and Penterry Church.

A welcome card for new residents was developed.

We look forward to continuing this work in 2026–27.

On behalf of the entire Council, I extend my sincere thanks to all residents, volunteers, and local groups who have given their time, shared their ideas, and helped keep St Arvans a welcoming and well-cared-for village.

Peter Farley (Chair)

Contacting Us

Residents are warmly encouraged to attend meetings, raise concerns, or volunteer for village projects.

To get in touch with us via the Clerk, please use clerk@starvanscouncil.co.uk

What we cost 2025-26

The Council continues to manage its finances carefully. We received a precept of £23,896. Some costs rose due to external factors (e.g., audit requirements, grass-cutting), while others remained under budget.

Expense	Budget	Spend
Admin	£10,615	£8,867
Grants	£3,000	£2,848
King George Playing Field	£4,311	£2,217
Annual allowances	£1,375	£1,998
Dog bin emptying	£1,572	£1,893
Communications / IT	£1,462	£1,285
Highways / maintenance	£2,904	£1,228
The Fountain (incl Christmas lights)	£525	£1,030
Audits	£404	£765
Sports Field	£1,763	£758
Environment and biodiversity	£300	£617
Training	£280	£126
Defibs	£200	£54