

# **Annual Review April 2022—March 2023**

Registered charity number: 1086434

Company number: 04033853





















TCC tackles social injustice by supporting diverse communities to gain the power needed to enact change. We do this through community organising: bringing together local groups, supporting them to set their own agenda, take action, and improve communities.

Our members are many different community groups, faith groups, and schools from across Wrexham, Flintshire, and Denbighshire. At our monthly meetings, any of our members can raise an issue for TCC to work on, meaning our members really set our agenda. Once agreed, we research the issue thoroughly, finding out who else might be involved, and who has the power to make a decision. We then support the people affected by the issue to lead a campaign, meeting directly with the decision maker to create a change.

We work in the public arena, often with those in power, but we don't have any political allegiances. Our main aim is to build relationships and power in the community, so that people are able to have a say on decisions that affect them. Since being founded in 1995 TCC has been incredibly successful in doing so, and in 2016 won the Guardian Charity Awards.

This Annual Review outlines a few of our successes from the last year. A full Annual Report which includes the independently examined accounts is available from the TCC office and from the Charity Commission.







## **Training**

TCC has successfully trained and developed a growing alliance of powerful community leaders in North Wales since 1995—Building relationships and building power is a long-term mission, and the training sessions we offer have been developed over the years by TCC's experienced founding members, organisers, and leaders.

We ran a half day 'Introduction to Community Organising' session in mid-2022, and residential training in October 2022. Additionally, we also ran Young Leader Organising training for

Senedd yr Ifanc (Wrexham Youth Parliament) in January 2023. All sessions received extremely positive comments—detailed stats and feedback can be requested from the TCC Office. Plans for additional training continue to grow as we look to increased delivery for: young leaders, Summer workshops, and digital activism.

# **Cost of Living Summit**

Community groups came together for a Cost of Living Summit on the morning of the 30th September 2022 at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre, Wrexham. We Are Plas Madoc, FDF Centre for Independent Living, Art and Soul Tribe, Flintshire City of Sanctuary supported by TCC (Trefnu Cymunedol Cymru/Together Creating Communities) and Building Communities Trust worked together to organise the event.

Charities, local groups, keyworkers and volunteers are at the front line of the current cost of living crisis and have supported people through difficult years with limited resource. The summit was hosted by We Are Plas Madoc, an organisation already supporting people through the crisis by organising social sessions, affordable activities, a transport scheme for people to attend GP appointments and get their weekly shopping.









## **Changemaker 100**

We were pleased to announce our inclusion as one of 100 Future Generations Changemakers—the award was received at a prestigious ceremony at the Millennium Centre in Cardiff.



The Changemaker list consists of 100 individuals and organisations large and small, that are seen to be making a positive difference to the world.

Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe said: "This event is about recognising just some of the people demonstrating what happens when we put well-being first, work together and consider the long-term implications of our actions, and highlights the need to support changemakers so that they can improve society for everyone.

**Our members** Currently we have 35 groups in membership, and are always looking for new groups to join us. All groups pay annual membership dues, based on their size and income. However, as you can see the majority of our funding comes from grants. Being a part of TCC means that groups can raise issues for TCC to work on, share in the support and strength of other members, and access TCC's training free of charge.

## **Changing Places Toilets**

Work continues on our Changing Places Toilets campaign which began due to TCC leaders from several community groups incl. Outside Lives, the FDF Centre for Independent Living, Flintshire Do-It, St Christopher's School, and others raising the issue of the shortage of such facilities. The issue group responded to a Welsh Government consultation on public toilets and changing facilities in May 2021.



Changing Places are specially adapted toilets, which have hoists and adult-sized changing beds as standard features. There are only around 50 of these in the whole of Wales and only 9 in North-East Wales. Since launch, we have worked with: the Marble Church in Bodelwyddan to improve the accessibility of their toilets; Broughton Retail Park to get their commitment to install a Changing Places Toilet. TCC leaders filmed a campaign video, launched to tie in with Changing Places Awareness Day on 19th July. Additionally, Wrexham and Flintshire councils have engaged with us to shape their strategy consultation process.

Our work with Members of the Senedd, local government officers, and civil servants has led to major progress— on the 16th November 2022, it was announced in the Senedd that there is unanimous, cross-party support for Changing Places For Wales. Mark Isherwood led the debate, with Carolyn Thomas, Gareth Davies, Jane Hutt, among others, supporting the motion. The Senedd is now calling on the Welsh Government to create a suitable funding mechanism and clear guidance on Changing Places so that there is equitable provision across the country.

## **Annual Planning Day**



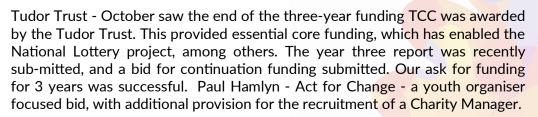
We held our Annual Planning Day in January 2023. The day was split into a morning and afternoon session with different group leaders attending throughout the day. Leaders, staff, and trustees reflected on the challenges and successes of 2022 and identified actions to progress TCC's work in 2023. The focus is on communication, engagement, and action—with an eye to ever expanding the member base.



We look forward to organising and building community power with our member groups over the coming year.

## **TCC Funding**

Following a huge amount of hard work by the entire team, we are delighted to announce bid success from two funding bodies:







# **Accountability Meetings**

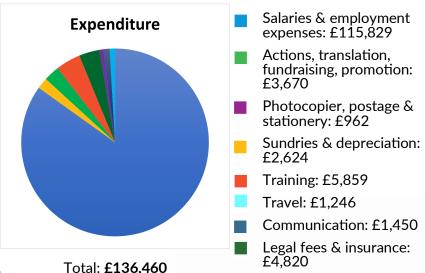
TCC leaders held Accountability Meetings with candidates for wards North East Wales. All TCC member groups were invited to shape questions and take part in the meetings with candidates standing in for wards within their county — during the meetings, candidates were given 90 seconds to respond to the same questions relating to the issues important to TCC. We ran one meeting per county, offering six spaces for candidates and 15 spaces for TCC representatives.

In Flintshire we met with Jack Morris (Plaid Cymru), Theresa Murray (Welsh Liberal Democrats) and Ian Roberts (Welsh Labour); in Wrexham We met with David A. Bithell (Wrexham Independent Group), Natasha Borton (Plaid Cymru), Dana Davies (Welsh Labour) and Tim Sly (Welsh Liberal Democrats) who were all standing for different wards in Wrexham County; Denbighshire sadly was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances and diary clashes.













#### **Our Staff**

The TCC staff team comprises two community organisers, a youth organiser, an operational success lead, a communications officer, and an income generation officer. The team has been working collaboratively with a distributed leadership structure. David Hughes and Bobbi Cockcroft are community organisers, Ruth Marshall is the youth and community organiser, Sue Williams is the operational success lead, Dr Stephen Kenyon-Owen is the communications officer, and Amy Jones is the income generation officer.

#### **Our Trustees**

Our board of trustees meets at least four times a year. The board in this year were: the Venerable Chris Potter (chair), Rev Anna Jane Evans, Mrs Katja Jewell, Ms Melissa Griffiths, Mr Peter Burke, Mr Christopher Graffius, Mrs Zoe Lavery, Mr Darren Hampton, and Mr Oliver Doak with Lord Bishop Gregory Cameron serving as TCC's patron. All groups are encouraged to nominate members to become trustees.

#### **Our Funders**

We are very grateful the funders listed above as well as the Presbyterian Church of Wales, who all provide grants to support TCC's day-to-day running. Full, independently examined accounts are included in TCC's annual report.