

OUR VILLAGE



Higher Kinnerton
Community Council

Your Monthly Higher Kinnerton Community Newsletter



The 2026 Welsh Senedd Elections

Most of you will be aware of the forthcoming Senedd elections here in Wales which will take place on May 7th this year. This year the way that Senedd members are chosen has changed.

What's changing?

Prior to 2026 Welsh Parliament, or Senedd Cymru, has comprised 60 politicians. Forty of those represent an individual constituency. They're elected via the first-past-the-post system, where the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. The remaining 20 Members of the Senedd (MSs) are regional politicians, with five regions represented by four regional MSs each. These members are elected via a proportional system with the number of politicians elected from each party based on the proportion of votes each party gets.

In the 2026 election these 40 constituencies and five regions will disappear and Wales will be divided into 16 super constituencies. We in Higher Kinnerton are part of the **Fflint Wrecsam** constituency. Each one will be represented by six MSs as the total number of politicians in Cardiff Bay increases from 60 to 96. The first-past-the-post voting system will also be scrapped with all MSs being elected via a closed proportional list system where voters choose either a political party or an independent candidate. The method uses a mathematical formula called the **D'Hondt** Formula to distribute seats based on the proportion of votes won by each party. The ballot paper will show the full list of candidates in your constituency, so you can still see who you're voting for.

How will your vote work?

In previous elections voters have had two votes. The first vote was given to a person hoping to be elected as the local MS and the second was used to back a political party. These second votes would then be totted up and put through the D'Hondt formula to share out the four regional seats in that part of the country.

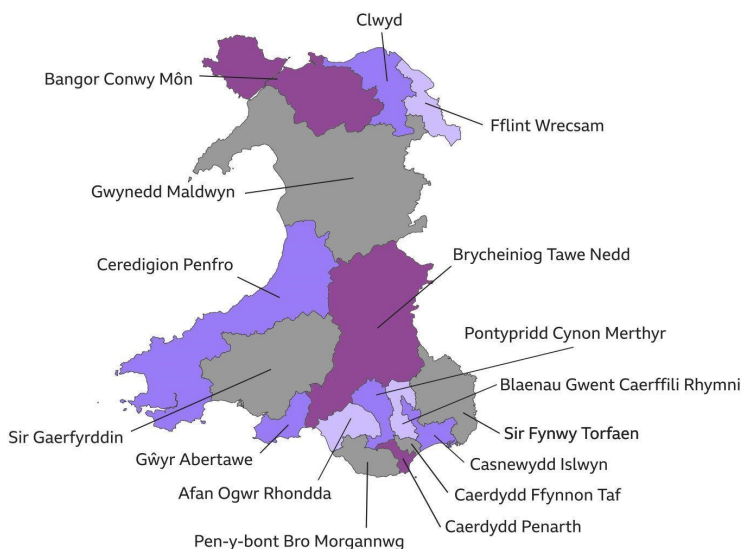
But in 2026 **voters will only have one vote**, and they will not have the opportunity to support a specific party candidate.

Instead, they will only be able to pick a political party or an independent candidate. In each of the 16 super constituencies, each party will have a list of ranked candidates.

The number of people elected from each party's list will depend on the proportion of votes won by the party. How the parties compile their lists and rank their candidates is a matter for them. Come election day, voters won't be able to pick and choose the individuals they would like to elect, other than independent candidates.

Who can vote and do I have to register?

People aged 16 and over in Wales will be eligible to vote. Generally councils contact households every year to check whether the existing electoral register is accurate, identify new voters, and invite residents to apply to be on the register. If you think you need to register you can do this online via <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>. In order to vote in May you must be registered by April 20th.



Planning Enforcement Policy Consultation – Flintshire County Council

Flintshire County Council is undertaking a public consultation on its Draft Planning Enforcement Policy (January 2026). Planning enforcement plays an important role in maintaining confidence in the planning system, protecting the built and natural environment, and ensuring development takes place in accordance with planning legislation and policy. The Draft Policy sets out how the Council will investigate alleged breaches of planning control, how cases will be prioritised, and the range of actions that may be taken where it is considered expedient to do so.

The Council is seeking views from residents, Town and Community Councils, businesses, developers, and other interested stakeholders on the Draft Policy before it is finalised.

Please note that this consultation is about the Draft Planning Enforcement Policy, not about individual enforcement cases.

How to Respond

Comments are invited primarily via the Council's online consultation questionnaire, which can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Consultation-and-Engagement/Open/Draft-Planning-Enforcement-Policy-2026.aspx>

The consultation should take approximately **10–15 minutes** to complete. You do not have to answer every question.

If you are unable to respond via the online survey, comments may alternatively be submitted in writing by email to planningdc@flintshire.gov.uk or to Development Management, Ty Dewi Sant, St David's Park, Ewloe, Flintshire, CH5 3FF. Please clearly reference "Draft Planning Enforcement Policy Consultation" in any correspondence.

The Draft Planning Enforcement Policy is available to view at:

[https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Enforcement-\(unauthorised-development\).aspx](https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Planning/Enforcement-(unauthorised-development).aspx)

All comments received will be considered and used to inform the final version of the Planning Enforcement Policy, which will be reported to the Council for approval.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

Flintshire County Council is collecting this information as part of a public consultation on the Draft Planning Enforcement Policy.

- Responses will be used to help inform the final version of the Policy and may be summarised in reports to Council or Committees.
- Responses may be published in an anonymised form.
- We will not publish your name or contact details.

Data will be processed in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Providing personal data is optional. Any personal data you choose to provide will be held securely and will not be used for any purpose other than this consultation

The consultation closes on **9 MARCH 2026**

News from Ysgol Derwen

We are delighted to inform you that Ysgol Derwen's Eco Committee has continued to be busy with initiatives to help improve the school environment and in doing so have now successfully gained the Eco-Schools Silver Award.

Fantastic news – the school Eco Committee led by Mr Coppack will now be working toward the Eco Green Flag Award.



Higher Kinnerton Community Council

Your Community Councillors are:

- Martin King - Chair
- Chris Upton - Vice Chair
- Liz Corner - Clerk
- Mike Allport
- Josh Swash
- Carroll Nugent
- Joe Cooper
- Fallon Turrisi
- Peter Cottam
- Klaus Armstrong-Braun

If you would like to contact the Community Council, please email contact@higherkinnerton.org.uk

ALL SAINTS CHURCH NEWS

- **Sunday, 1st March at 9.30am – All Age Plough Sunday Service**
Bring the family and come and join us to celebrate the work of all farmers who help to provide the foods on our tables as well as Lego fun for children, young and not so young!!! It's followed by refreshments.
- **Tuesday, 3rd March at 7.00pm – Bible Course**
Join us every Tuesday in Lent to learn more about the Bible with video presentations, discussions and refreshments. Contact Rev. Robin for more details on 07818 568017.
- **Sunday, 8th March at 9.30am – Holy Communion**
- **Sunday 15th March at 9.30am – Mothering Sunday Holy Communion**
A service to express our thanks for our mothers who care and help us.
- **Wednesday, 18th March at 10.30am – Coffee Morning.**
Everyone is very welcome. The 100 Club draw will take place as usual.
- **Thursday, 19th March – Seniors Lunch. Invitations will be sent out.**
- **Sunday, 22nd March at 9.30am – Holy Communion**
- **Friday, 27th March at 6.15pm – Easter Bingo at the Scouts headquarters**
More information to follow.
- **Sunday, 29th March at 9.30am – Palm Sunday Holy Communion**

**ALL SAINTS
ALL AGE
SERVICE
WITH LEGO**

Join us for All Age Worship, where we delve into the Bible through the fun of Lego play!

**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9.30AM**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH HIGHER KINNERTON

Refreshments and homemade cakes after the service

St Mary's
Dodleston
All Saints
Higher Kinnerton

Reminder 5th April – Easter Sunday.

Anyone wishing to remember a loved one at Easter time can make a donation towards the Easter Lilies being used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday. Please put your donation in an envelope together with their name. Mike and Mel Allport, 63 Main Road or Margaret Smith, 29 Llys Derwen will be pleased to accept your donations. The names of your loved ones will be read out during the morning service on Easter Sunday.

Higher Kinnerton Indoor Bowls Club at Llandrindod Wells

Three members of the Higher Kinnerton Indoor Bowls Club have recently been selected as members of the teams representing Wrexham and District playing in a number of national (Welsh) short mat fours competitions.

The trio took part in the Border Challenge competition on Sunday 1st February, and then a week later in the Welsh Short Mat Bowls Association County Championships (7th and 8th February), with both competitions being held in the Radnor Indoor Bowling Arena at Llandrindod Wells.

The full Wrexham and District team are pictured below, our team members circled, before the start of the County Championships.

Our local players, who only play socially on a Monday night in the Village Hall and on a Tuesday afternoon in the Wrexham league during the winter months, were up against much stronger (and younger, and more vocal!!) opponents from south and mid-Wales leagues, including many Welsh international team members, who play all year round.



Kinnerton Scout Group – Fundraising Round-Up

Over the past few months, our Kinnerton Scouts, Cubs and Beavers have been busy bringing the community together through a series of fantastic fundraising events. Thanks to the generosity, enthusiasm and teamwork of our young people, volunteers and local supporters, we're delighted to share the impact you've helped create.

Autumn & Winter Fundraising Highlights

- **November Jumble Sale** – £1,300 raised
A brilliant turnout and a huge team effort made this one of our most successful jumble sales yet.
- **Scouts' Village Poppy Appeal** – £300 raised
Our Scouts proudly supported the annual Poppy Appeal, helping to honour our Armed Forces community.
- **December Santa Float** – £600 raised
A festive favourite that once again brought smiles to the village and vital funds to our group.

These achievements reflect the spirit of Scouting at its best – community, kindness and a willingness to pitch in. Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, organised, lifted, sorted, waved, or simply cheered us on. Your support directly enriches the experiences of our young people.



What's Coming Up

Keep an eye out for our new event calendar, arriving soon. It will include full details of upcoming activities including:

Children's Easter Bingo – Friday 27th March.

Doors open at 6-30pm. First game at 6-45pm.

Adults £1.00 each and accompanied children free.

Refreshments available at interval. Please bring a pen.

Spring Jumble Sale – 25th April.

If you would like to donate any saleable items, we will be available to accept them from 23rd April.

More details to be announced in April newsletter.

Plant Sale – Delivery Day Sunday May 17th.

We will soon be taking orders again for Bedding Plants delivered to your door.

Scout Group AGM – Saturday 6th June.

The return of the giant climbing wall and a family BBQ, this year our AGM event will be on a Saturday afternoon.

We can't wait to welcome you along.

Kinnerton Scout Group – Get Involved

Scouting thrives when the community gets involved. If you're interested in supporting the group, volunteering, or exploring one of our open positions, please see the information below. Every helping hand – big or small – makes a real difference.

For more information on volunteering, email KinnertonScouts@gmail.com



All Saints Church and
the Scout Group
are having a
**CHILDREN'S
EASTER EGG BINGO**
Friday 27th March
at 6.30 pm in the Scout HQ.
First game starts at 6-45pm



Accompanied children free.
Adults £1 entrance
BINGO CARD £2-50 for 5 games.
Refreshments available in the interval.
Please bring a pen.
Charity no 518605

Kinnerton Cricket Club News

Summer is just around the corner and so cricket practice starts. After reaching the dizzy heights of League 2 of the Chester & District Midweek League last season we were unfortunately relegated despite having the League player of the season in our side.

Our aim this season is to achieve promotion back to League 2. This is no simple matter as there are some very good players in the league and Father Time is catching up.

We are trying to keep it a village team and we would like to increase the player squad locally.

We play our home matches at the picturesque ground of Northop CC on Thursday evenings. If anyone would like to be involved please get in touch - Mike 07977 119179

Higher Kinnerton Walking Group News

Last month our planned visit to West Kirby was cancelled due to the poor weather. Instead we headed to Liverpool for a short walk in the pouring rain and then headed to the Walker Art Gallery. After a hour of Culture it was time to head to Spoons for lunch. The photo opportunity with Sir Ken Dodd couldn't tempt many out of the pub though.

In March we are walking from Greenfield Heritage Park to St Winifred's Well and then back to Basingwerk Abbey – anyone who wants to join us, then get in touch. Ring Brian 07983 494235.



The Environmental Harm from Dog Poo

The subject of dog poo is a frequent flyer on Facebook and other social media forums and with good reason. Aside from the sheer antisocial aspects there are other, perhaps more serious things that dog owners and walkers should all consider.

Environmental pollutant

A recent village FB post touched on the subject of environmental harm that is caused by dog poo, whether it be bagged or not, something which I think is often overlooked. The fact is that dog poo and our ecosystems are not a good mix. It is neither a fertiliser nor does it provide any benefit to the soil. The surrounding vegetation will invariably die due to the high acidic content. In addition the poo has an unnaturally high nitrogen and phosphorous content which is at odds with our environment and causes major imbalances in our ecosystems. The Environment Agency classifies it as an environmental pollutant.

This is also the case if dog poo gets into bodies of water, either being washed there by rain or thrown in (often in a poo bag). This introduces harmful bacteria, viruses and parasites which will harm aquatic life, wildlife AND humans. The high nutrient content will often cause algal blooms killing fish and other aquatic organisms. Examples of some of these nasties are

- Harmful bacteria, including E. coli, Leptospira
- Disease inducing parasites, including Toxocara, roundworm, hookworm and Giardia
- High nutrient levels, including nitrogen and phosphorus.

For children it is especially dangerous as they will often play on the ground, on lawns, in fields and play areas, and will often put their hands in their mouths. If they come into contact with dog poo they are at risk of contracting serious illnesses and even blindness.

Bagging and Binning

Whilst it is true that many dog walkers will bag the dog poo this is also not without its issues. Simply throwing the bag to the side of the path or road or carefully hanging it from a nearby tree is clearly both antisocial and unsightly but also has knock-on environmental effects. Biodegradable bags will ultimately result in the above mentioned environmental impact, assuming they do in fact decompose (which is not always the case). Non-biodegradable bags mean that the waste will stay there almost indefinitely although it will ultimately decompose. In the meantime they pose a hazard for wildlife which attempt to ingest the bags. Plastic pollution is a separate issue but has equally negative consequences for the environment and wildlife as well as ourselves.



The safe disposal of bagged dog poo is an important matter for all communities. It cannot, for example, be put in with garden waste or other biodegradable waste, nor can it be recycled in any way. Nor should you add it to your compost heap for all of the above reasons. It **MUST** be put in general waste which goes to be incinerated. Provision of dog poo bins around the community make this easier for all concerned but, if there isn't one nearby, a general waste bin will be fine as contents of both bins are destined for the incinerator.

A better environment for everyone

It is a common misconception that dog poo is a natural by-product and will cause little impact if left to decompose naturally. The reality is that contamination of our soil and water systems has a potentially profound impact on ALL of us in terms of health. If you throw a bag in a nearby watercourse or into a field then this may well contaminate. If a field, river or reservoir becomes contaminated for example then it is easy to envisage the number of homes likely to be affected. Many of these diseases are unpleasant, some are life-threatening.

By bagging your dog's poo, putting it in a suitable waste bin or in your own black waste bin at home that will ensure that we all will benefit, both in terms of our health and the health of the environment, and also in terms of having a nicer neighbourhood which we all share. Thank you

Thank You!!!

This is a huge shout out to the members of the Volunteer Group who spent a very unpleasant morning fishing dog poo bags out of the ditch on the corner of Green Lane and Sandy Lane. It must have been a gruesome job and it is very much appreciated.

Higher Kinnerton Cinema March Screening



To celebrate Awards Season, our March film screening will be 'Green Book' [12A] and will be shown on **Wednesday 25th March 2026** in the village hall.

Green Book has won a raft of awards including multiple Academy Awards and Golden Globe Awards. It is the true story of an unlikely friendship between Tony Lip (*Viggo Mortensen*), a tough Italian-American bouncer, and Dr. Don Shirley (*Mahershala Ali*), a sophisticated African-American classical pianist, as they tour the segregated Deep South in 1962, relying on "The Green Book" guide to find safe lodging and navigate pervasive racism.

Doors open at 6.30 p.m. with the film starting at 7.00 p.m.

Tickets are available for £3 (cash or card) on the door or can be booked in advance on our secure online ticket platform at:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/higher-kinnerton-cinema>



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