Llanelly Community Council

Annual Report 2020-2021

The work and activities of the Council, as with others, has been severely disrupted over the past 12 months by the Covid 19 pandemic, and the restrictions that have affected all aspects of normal life. The Council provided funds to Gilwern helpers during the first lockdown and individual councillors provided support locally and to Nevill Hall Hospital over the past 12 months.

The Council only met on one occasion between April and November and, since November, its meetings have been held remotely via Zoom. Nevertheless, it has managed to complete various projects over the year, several of which had been included in the Community Led Plan 2019-2024. A full list is at the end of this Report.

Councillors and Staff

During the year two councillors have resigned – Mrs J Peacock and Mrs J Gregory-Davies and Cllr F Morgan has been appointed to the Gilwern Ward; there remains a vacancy on the Council for the Clydach Ward.

A new permanent clerk was appointed at the beginning of the year. Although employed on less hours than previously, the clerk also assumed the responsibilities of the Hall Coordinator. The cleaning responsibility for Llanelly Hill village hall was not required during the year due to Covid 19 and, following consideration of the requirement, the cleaner was made redundant. A new cleaning contract was signed for both Gilwern Communty Centre and Gilwern public toilets. One person is now contracted for security of the Centre, opening/closing of the toilets and car park gate.

Gilwern Community Centre

The Centre has continued to be a popular venue for local clubs/activities, albeit these have been drastically curtailed because of Covid 19 restrictions. The Centre has hosted, and will continue to host from its imminent reopening, Slimming World, U3A, pilates, jujitsu, tai chi and arts/craft classes. In addition, a new yoga class will start each Wednesday from the reopening. It will again be used for a polling station in May. There have inevitably been no major functions or parties.

An alcohol licence has been obtained for the Centre and increased opening hours at weekends agreed.

The Council was awarded a grant from Keep Wales Tidy to plant a small fruit garden near the Centre. Gilwern Roots also obtained an award and has planted similar shrubs next to the Centre.

Gilwern Playing Fields

The annual full ROSPA survey has been undertaken on the play equipment and facilities in the playing fields, and repair work has been completed on the play equipment as well as a major refurbishment of the skate park equipment. With this completed a contract has been let for the refurbishment of the off-route cycle track and work on this should start in May. LCC continues to contribute to maintain the Bowls Club grounds.

A full inspection was carried out of the trees surrounding the playing fields and in the adjacent woods. Work was completed on all the recommendations including a number of dangerous trees being felled. The Council has decided to plant 22 new trees this autumn; these will be planted within the playing fields area and not in the woods in light of the recommendations of the Woodland Trust.

Clydach Village Hall & Playing Fields

LCC continues to pay Clydach AFC to maintain the grounds.

Environment

The Council has increased its installation of dog waste bins in the area to 30, and has obtained 5 more bins which will be used to replace damaged bins and installed in new locations.

The Council has ordered two maps/information boards for the centre of Gilwern and just off the towpath in Gilwern. Planning permission is awaited for their installation.

The Council purchased another 10 Christmas lights this year and repaired others with the consequence that 57 lights were installed. New areas in Llanelly Hill and Clydach South received lights this year and, for the first time, lights were installed at Clydach North and Maesygwartha.

The Council funded the plaque that was erected in memory of the World War Two American Hospital in Gilwern.

Public Toilets

The public toilets have been completely redecorated. COVID19 has resulted in their temporary closure for large parts of the year.

Footpaths

LCC worked with the canal trust and Brecon Beacons National Park to complete the improvement of the Towpath from bridges 101-102 and 104-105. The Council constructed a new footpath from the Community Centre in Gilwern to link up with the School and to the playing fields.

Awards

The Council received a Commendation for its submission in the Best Heritage Initiative category in the national One Voice Wales awards for 2020. This was for its work in supporting U3A’s “WWI Llanelly Parish Remembers” project.

Accounts

Bank account as at 31 March 2021:

£

Balance at 1 Apr 20 79549

Receipts 113418

TOTAL 192967

Less Payments 106251

**BALANCE AT 31 Mar 21 86716**

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2020/21

1. Major work on all trees in Gilwern playing fields area
2. Repair and major refurbishment of skate park equipment
3. New footpath linking CC car park to playing fields
4. Contribution to refurbishment of towpath from Gilwern wharf to Bridge 105
5. Additional Christmas lights
6. Additional dog waste bins
7. Contract signed for refurbishment of off route cycle track
8. Contract signed for two maps/information boards
9. Provision of a plaque for the site of WW2 American Hospital
10. Redecoration of public toilets