Llanelly Community Council

 Annual Report 2021-2022

Although the Council held its first meeting of the year in April 2021 via Zoom subsequent meetings have been held in person as the country has gradually returned to some form of normality following the Covid pandemic. Consequently, the Council has managed to complete several important projects over the year, which have significantly enhanced the facilities in the area over the year. A full list is at the end of this Report.

Councillors and Staff

During the year one new councillor was coopted – Mrs Fay Rossini as a member for the Clydach Ward. Mr N James continued in the role of Clerk and the arrangements for key duties, security and cleaning also remained as last year.

Gilwern Community Centre

The Centre has significantly increased its popularity amongst local groups with hirings now on all weekdays and a number of one-off events at weekends. The Centre continues to host Slimming World, U3A, pilates, tai chi, dance, baby classes, yoga, bridge and arts/craft classes; Gilwern Roots open their very popular café within the Centre each week; Gilwern Primary School has used the Centre for two days a week due to the restrictions of the pandemic and finally, the Centre has been used by Monmouthshire County Council for consultation events and as a polling station.

Unfortunately, the gas boiler needed replacement during the winter months which required some inefficient electric heaters to maintain a sense of warmth in the building for a while. The new boiler has now been installed and operating.

Gilwern Playing Fields

Last year the Council made the decision to utilise some of its Reserve funds to significantly upgrade the off-route cycle track. This was completed in the year, with the help of a grant from Monmouthshire County Council, and was formally opened by Cllr Nelmes, in the company of Peter Fox, the local AM and Cllr Richard John, Leader of Monmouthshire CC together with a large number of local residents. In addition, equipment in the skate park was refurbished. It is hoped to be able to consider improvements to the other play facilities in 2022/23.

A bench was purchased and installed on the Fields in memory of Mr Mal Plumley in recognition of all that he had done for the community and the activities on the playing fields in particular.

Sadly, a number of trees encircling the playing fields were affected by ash dieback disease, and had to be felled. Further similar work unfortunately is likely to be required during this year. On a happier note, children of Gilwern Primary School planted a number of trees alongside the path in the Fields to replace those that had been felled in the woods last year.

LCC continues to contribute to maintain the Bowls Club grounds and hired a local contractor to carry out a cutting back and general tidying up of the hedges and surrounds on the playing fields.

Clydach Village Hall & Playing Fields

LCC continues to pay Clydach AFC to maintain the grounds.

Llanelly Hill Village Hall

The Council awarded Llanelly Hill Village Hall a grant to help support their operating costs. The Council has also contributed to the Monmouthshire County Council project to improve the play equipment and landscape around the Village Hall which should be actioned in 22/23.

Environment

Two maps/information boards have been erected in Gilwern; one on the wall of the public toilets in the middle of the village and one just off the towpath at the top of Main Road.

The Council has increased its installation of dog waste bins in the area now to 31 following a review with the contractor who empties the bins. In addition, a second litter bin was installed at the entrance of the new cycle track.

Accounts

Bank account as at 31 March 2021:

 £

Balance at 1 Apr 21 86716

Receipts 143337

TOTAL 230053

Less Payments 173894

**BALANCE AT 31 Mar 22 56159**

ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR 2021/22

1. Major work on trees in Gilwern playing fields area
2. Planting of new trees in the playing fields at gilwern
3. Repair and refurbishment of skate park equipment
4. Major upgrade of the Gilwern off-route cycle track
5. Heating upgrade in the Community Centre
6. Contribution to MCC project at Llanelly Hill
7. Grant awarded to support Llanelly Hill Village Hall
8. Additional dog waste bins/litter bins
9. Two Maps/Information Boards in Gilwern
10. Memorial bench in Gilwern Playing Fields boards