

Llanelly Community Council

Newsletter

Winter 2011



A465 Heads of the Valleys Road dualling

Residents will know that a £150m contract to dual the A465 Heads of the Valleys trunk road has been awarded to Costain Construction. The work is due to start in 2014 and be completed in 2017.

During October, nearly 1000 residents from the Llanelly Community attended public exhibitions in Gilwern, Clydach and Llanelly Hill. The exhibition showed the changes in the proposed road design from the first public inquiry held in the mid-1990s; and the extensive engineering works which will be taking place through the Clydach Gorge.

The Community Council will be seeking feedback from the Welsh Government and Costain to ensure that the many concerns, such as the lack of a Gilwern on-off slip road and dealing with rat-run traffic through Maesygartha, Clydach and Llanelly Hill, have been responded to. In the meantime, details of the scheme can be found at:

www.a465gilwern2brynmawr.co.uk

The Council

For a second year the Council has elected Cllr Simon Howarth as Chairman for 2011/12, with Cllr Brian Kemp as Vice-Chair. There have also been a number of changes in the make-up of the Council. Following a period of 24 years as a member, Adrian Edwards stepped down to become Clerk and his knowledge of the Parish and its history has proven very valuable.

Several councillors have moved on in recent times, most notably Graham Harrison, whose years of experience and advice are much missed. Also June Gwilym, who has moved to Eastern England to be with family, remains missed as a very enthusiastic and diligent member.

As a result of a number of co-options and an uncontested by-election, vacancies on the Council have been filled. Most recently Malcolm Cook and Robin Noble were co-opted to represent Clydach and Gilwern, joining Phillip Salter, Kay Blackwell and Anthony Carrington, who has returned to represent Gilwern.

The whole of the Council will be up for re-election in May of next year. If you would like to stand, please watch out for the notices in the press and the Council's website for further details in the spring. The Council meets monthly throughout the year, in addition to various committee and financial functions.

Gwent Police

The Council welcomed WPCSO Amanda Yung to the community as a local ward officer, who joins PC Mal John. Many will have seen and met both when on their duties in the community and whilst working with the local Neighbourhood watch areas.

Your Neighbourhood Officers PC Maldwyn John and WPCSO Amanda Yung can be contacted either via the general non-emergency number: 101 or directly on 01495 233 917. Alternatively you may wish to send them an email at the following address:

abergavennyneighbourhoodpolicingteam@gwent.pnn.police.uk

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In Brief

The Community Council has again arranged for **Father Christmas** to visit all the villages in the community during this coming festive season. He started his visit at Llanelly Hill on the 7th December at 6.30pm.

The following week he was due to visit Clydach, Maes-y-gwartha and Gilwern on the 16th December; starting in Clydach Village Hall at 6.30 pm. Posters were placed in the village notice boards in advance of the visits.

Drivers using the **Church Road car park** on the side of the canal at Gilwern are reminded that the barrier will be locked at 4.40pm during the winter. Cars still parked there after this time are likely to be locked in for the night, as the gatekeeper has instructions to close and lock the barrier. The barrier was introduced two years ago, with the purpose of preventing unauthorised camping, late-night revellers and others from abusing the car park and disturbing residents in near-by houses.

In September preparation work started for the **resurfacing** of a number of local roads in Gilwern. The County Council started on Common Road replacing the road kerbs and relaying the footpaths. It is hoped that the Abergavenny, Crickhowell and Main Roads will also be completed before the bad weather sets in and the start of the Christmas break. Renewing the track to the library and playing fields will be welcome.



Public Conveniences

On April 1st this year, Llanelly Community Council took over the ownership and maintenance of the Gilwern toilet block, as well as ensuring they are opened and closed daily. Members of the Council felt that they ought to be saved from closure, not just for the benefit of residents using the village or waiting for the bus, but also for visitors and tourists.

The facilities have been subject to on-going repair to bring them up to a better standard. The Council would therefore ask that should residents see anyone defacing or damaging these toilets in any way, please report it to the Clerk of the Council. Unlike the County Council which receives the majority of its funds from central government, the Community Council's budget is directly funded by each household in the Parish. This means that any repairs to the public conveniences will cost every one of us, and is a waste of money that could be saved or spent on something else!

Llanelly Hill Welfare Hall

Llanelly Community Council has appointed a new caretaker to work with the Llanelly Hill Welfare Hall Management Committee. This is the second year the Community Council has supported and helped to fund the Management Committee. The Welfare Hall Committee will welcome anyone wishing to take part or willing to get involved.

Despite the new exterior/interior roof and the insulation provided by Monmouthshire County Council last year, which has made the Hall much warmer, members of the Hall Committee are currently investigating ways of cutting the carbon foot print further. So as part of a joint project with the County Council, the Hall Committee is in the process of submitting a planning application for a small wind turbine.

It is estimated that this will produce approximately 25,000 kwh/year; and is much more than the Welfare Hall uses. As part of the UK Government's feed-in tariff scheme, the surplus will be sold back to the national grid. Fortunately the recently proposed reductions to the tariff do not affect wind powered projects of this size. The Management Committee are also considering the installation of solar panels, on the roof.

Dog Fouling



Llanelly Community Council has purchased further red dog waste bins and is paying for a specialist company to empty them. Following the initial trial in Clydach two years ago, there are now bins in Gilwern, Clydach and Llanelly Hill and residents have commented on the improvement.

Unfortunately there are still some thoughtless and inconsiderate dog owners who do not “bag it and bin it”; despite the fact there is a potential £1000 fine. Environmental Health Officers make irregular but frequent visits to the villages and have used their right to give fixed penalty fines. Free waste bags can be picked up from the One Stop Shop in Abergavenny

Dog owners are reminded; it is an offence to allow your dog to foul in public spaces which includes all roads and grass verges within a 30mph zone, the canal towpath, playing fields and green spaces. Please make use of the waste bins and keep our villages a pleasant place for all!

Septic Tank Regulations



If your home has a **septic tank or a small sewage treatment plant**, then you need to register the system or have an environmental permit. If properly managed, most of these systems do not cause problems, but if they are poorly designed, installed or managed, the discharge from them can damage the environment. Domestic wastewater can contain substances that are potentially harmful to human health and the environment.

If you have already been granted permission from Environment-Agency for the discharge, then you do not need to register. You also do not need to register a cesspool or cesspit, as these are sealed systems with no discharge to the environment. By law, people need to register by **31 December 2011**, but in practice, the Environment Agency will not consider taking enforcement action against people who have not registered until after 30 June 2012.

Remembrance events

As has been the practice in previous years, councillors and the Clerk attended a variety of events within the Parish including, on the morning of 11th November, a service at Gilwern School.

During the afternoon of the 11th at Llanelly Hill Welfare Hall, residents and councillors were joined at the service by Gilwern pupils, staff and the Chairman of the County Council, Cllr Brian Hood MBE. Despite the weather, wreathes were laid in the remembrance garden and two minutes silence was observed.

Members also attended the Sunday afternoon service at Llanelly Church and were joined by Monmouthshire Vice-Chairman Cllr Maureen Powell.

Grant Funding

The Community Council sets aside funds for a small grant scheme to assist groups operating within the three villages.

If you have a project that could benefit from assistance, please contact the Clerk to the Council for more information. Application is via a simple form which can be emailed or picked up from the Clerk's office.

How to contact your councillors -

Members of the Council can be contacted either individually or as a group, via the Council's contact details at the bottom of the first page. Alternatively you may wish to contact them directly using the details below.

Gilwern:

Cllr Kay Blackwell	11 Old Rectory Close, Maes-y-Gwartha, Gilwern.	01873 831566
Cllr Tony Carrington	4 Elm Grove, Lower Common, Gilwern.	01873 831687
Cllr Giles Howard	28 Malford Grove, Gilwern.	07930 544668
Cllr Brian Kemp	The Willows, Lower Common, Gilwern.	01873 830616
Cllr John Jones	Silver Springs, Llanelly Church Road, Gilwern.	01873 830348
Cllr Val Jones	Silver Springs, Llanelly Church Road, Gilwern.	01873 830348
Cllr Brian Mayers	2 Glanmoor, Upper Common, Gilwern.	01873 832152
Cllr Robin Noble	11 The Halfpennys, Gilwern.	01873 832081
Cllr Barrie O'Keefe	5 Malford Grove, Gilwern.	01873 830967
Cllr Phillip Salter	22 The Halfpennys, Gilwern.	01873 832070

Clydach:

Cllr Malcolm Cook	12 Beaconsfield, Maes-y-Gwartha, Gilwern .	01873 832400
Cllr Simon Howarth	Duffryn Clydach Farm, Gilwern.	01873 831003

Llanelly Hill:

Cllr Dave McCloy	Foxglove Cottage, Darenfelin, Llanelly Hill.	01873 831447
Cllr Trevor Williams	3/4 New Rank, Llanelly Hill.	01873 831038



Speaking at meetings

Regular meetings of the Community Council are usually held on the second Monday of every month in the Council's Chamber at the Old School Community Centre, Gilwern (left).

You are more than welcome to attend and listen to the debate. However if you would like to put a question to the Council or discuss something, there is an opportunity to speak towards the beginning of every agenda.