



Llangammarch Community Council

Annual Report 2020-21

The year started with Covid 19 restrictions in place, which meant that the Annual Meeting and Council meeting on the 14th May was via Zoom. This was an achievement in itself, managing to get everyone present, online. Consequently, changes needed to be made to the Standing Orders to allow for virtual meetings to be held.

In order to address the issues that ensued the first lock down, a volunteering group for shopping and prescription-collection was set up by the Council and has proved to work very well in the early days and has continued to be effective throughout. The Council had to provide identity cards for volunteer shoppers. When shopping and prescription collection was not needed so much, many people continued to help, as those they were helping had become friends.

Because of Covid restrictions many celebrations did not occur – VE day, summer celebrations and the Carols event at Christmas. The completion of the installation of the new roundabout in the playground was delayed as nothing could be done during lockdown. The roundabout was eventually installed in July.



The Council successfully applied for a free butterfly garden under the auspices of Keep Wales Tidy and the garden was also installed at the beginning of July.



Several new, recycled plastic benches bought through donations from the local Coffee Club, Short mat bowls Group and Alexandra Hall, arrived and were installed by September. The Neuaddau wooden bench was repaired as were other benches in Riverside Gardens. The railings and paths in the gardens are also in the process of being repaired and made safe. Much of this work has again been undertaken by local volunteers and we are very grateful for their input.

The three-year tree survey was completed for the Village Garden and subsequently some trees (mostly ash) have been removed to address issues of health and safety in relation to disease and overcrowding of trees. Subsequently, trees and shrubs have been donated and planted in more suitable locations.

Throughout the year, echoing every council in Wales, there have been issues with dog excrement. The option to buy extra bins was suggested, but Powys CC need to the empty them, and at this time, they are unable to. Residents have done and continue to do a brilliant job of clearing what they can, depositing into the waste bin at the Post Office. We now have several volunteer litter-pickers covering the whole of the council area, they have been kitted out with high-vis jackets, litter pickers and a supply of bin bags, they too are doing a great job of keeping the verges relatively litter free.

New noticeboards were ordered for Cefn Gorwydd and Tirabad. These arrived in late November, but lockdowns and the weather have delayed their installation. Likewise, the new surface for the large board in Llangammarch has been delayed. An extra, new, lockable Council noticeboard for Llangammarch is hoped to be acquired and installed during the summer. This will give extra space to enable Minutes of meetings to be displayed.

The Asset Register was revised to include the playground, Riverside Gardens and new equipment and now stands at over £30,000. During a check with the Land Registry, it emerged that Riverside Gardens was not registered to the Council, despite all the paperwork being available. Steps were taken in March to correct this.

The Public Conveniences re-opened in September, fully Covid compliant and having a paid cleaner. One of the Ladies' was turned into a store cupboard which has been a boon for the cleaner, now having everything on site. The redecoration and repairs continue. Two water-barrels have been installed to collect rainwater for the floral displays around the toilets and in the gardens, and a tap changed to allow a hose fitment. The flag pole will be re-erected and a push-button tap installed outside to allow people to fill up water bottles. This will allow our toilets to be listed on a national site. In 2019 the Council agreed to 'twin' the toilets with those in a '3rd-world' country and we are working towards achieving this.

The three defibrillators have been maintained with renewed pads. The defibrillators at Alexandra Hall, Llangammarch, Telephone kiosk in Cefn Gorwydd and in Dan yr Epynt in Tirabad are checked regularly.

The threat of removal of the three remaining BT telephone kiosks continues, these kiosks are still seen as vital in our rural location and the Council continues to lobby for them to

remain. At the moment all three remain in situ, the kiosk at Glan yr Afon is in need of repainting. This should have happened in October 2020, but has been delayed.

Several planning applications have been received and reviewed including a leisure development at Maesyron, and pre-planning information for a poultry unit at Bryn Cadwgan, neither of which have yet reached consideration by the Powys County Council planning department.

Following an awareness event held early in 2020, a Speed-Gun team was put together for Llangammarch, to try and monitor the speed of vehicles entering and passing through the village, Covid restrictions have delayed further training, which we hope will continue once restrictions are lifted.

The Clerk to the Council has continued to meet regularly with our local PCSO to put forwards and address issues that arise from time to time within the area.

Overall, this has been a very successful year with much achieved despite the restrictions in place, and the Council look forwards to building on these achievements in the forthcoming year to enable the local population to get as much as possible out of their local facilities.

Cllr Kay Coldrick and The Clerk
April 2021