

## **Llangybi Fawr Community Council (LFCC) Annual Report April 2024**

This is our second year as a combined council following amalgamation of the former Llanhennock and Llangybi Community Councils, and represents a period of consolidation building on the solid foundations laid by our previous chairperson. The ward councillors (three for Llangybi, and one for each of Llandegfedd, Llanhennock, Coed y Paen, and Llangattock nigh Caerleon) remain unchanged over the last 12 months and the Tredunnoch post remains vacant for a second year. We bid farewell to our clerk, Debra Davies, who ably supported the Community Council and has shown real commitment to all our community ventures for the last 5 years at the end of January. She is replaced by Kate Burdge who is already settling well into the role.

As a Community Council we have routine tasks we undertake on a month-by-month basis. These include regular review of a whole raft of policies including GDPR, financial regulation, community engagement, Welsh Language and many more. We also examine planning applications in our area of which there have been 23 this year, and submit responses which draw on views from and knowledge of local residents and applicants where appropriate. There have been a couple of instances where we believe there have been activities in breach of planning rules which we have additionally advised MCC Enforcement of over the last year.

A standing monthly agenda item covers issues with our local roads and footpaths, of which there are many- potholes, blocked drains, signage issues, damaged footbridges and footpaths are a regular feature. Whilst local residents are at liberty to report these on an individual basis to MCC, we collate and submit any information we have escalating to the relevant department in MCC and involve our Councillor, Faye Bromfield on occasion to follow-up through internal mechanisms. We also keep a log so we can keep tabs on progress and chase up outstanding issues. Of particular note this year was agreement from MCC Highways department to install signage along a section of the Tre Herbert Road warning of horse riders (although the actual signs won't be erected until the 2024 financial year owing to budget constraints), repair of a small sink hole in Llandegfedd village, and replacement of a broken footbridge across the pond at Castle Mill, Llanhennock. As a Community Council we arranged for contractors to cut back vegetation at various junctions along the Usk and Tre Herbert roads as a safety precaution to improve visibility. We also organised repair of the rotten fingerpost sign at the crossroads in Tredunnoch.

With new legislation on speed limits, 20mph zones were implemented in September in all our villages apart from Llanhennock. This was particularly welcomed in Llangybi where speeding is an ongoing concern. Plans to resurrect a Speed Watch group there have not advanced, largely owing to the need for volunteer involvement, however remain an ambition.

Dog fouling continues to be an issue reported by our residents and we work with MCC through a dedicated group to tackle this and help shape their initiatives including the forthcoming Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) Dog Controls. We continue to pay for a private contractor to empty dedicated dog waste bins in Llangybi and going forwards are considering whether there may be opportunity to replace any of these with less costly dual purpose waste bins.

With our focus on sustainability, we arranged for a Charity Clothes Bank to be installed at Llangybi Village Hall to help us recycle unwanted clothes and fabrics. We have put litter picking kits (including high vis jackets, picker sticks, bag loops) in the telephone boxes in Llandegfedd, Llanhennock and Llangybi, and sent out an appeal for regular volunteer litter pickers. More recently we have turned our attention to a funding application to the National Forest for Wales Tiny Forests scheme for a grant to create a new small woodland about the size of a tennis court managed in collaboration with the local community on the same site as the Llangybi playground which is under the ownership of the LFCC.– it will a natural woodland using 25 different native trees.

Following on from successful village events to mark the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2023, three of our villages also celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III in 2024 with support from LFCC.

We receive monthly crime reports from the police and as a rural community are mindful of the need to protect against rural theft and burglary. This year we purchased a consignment of 'SmartWater' pens, which are proven to be a powerful deterrent to criminals, at greatly reduced price to offer residents so they could mark and identify their property.

We recently co-ordinated an initiative called 'Fibre Community Partnership' to bring next generation Ultrafast Full Fibre broadband services to the area which was successful. It required the agreement and commitment from approximately 100 households in the area in order to gain enough support. Through proactive engagement with our community we managed to achieve the required number of 'sign ups' and anticipate installation of the infrastructure over the coming months that will benefit all..

We have five defibrillators we purchased for our area several years ago that we are responsible for maintaining. This year two of the machines required replacement parts (pads/batteries) which we sourced for free through a charitable group. Two refresher training sessions to use the equipment were also organised through St. Johns Ambulance with a third still planned.

Funds raised through a local action group aiming to provide new playground equipment in Llangybi are being added to that held in reserve from LFCC for this purpose, and we have agreement from MCC to provide extra reconditioned items, and undertake refurbishment of the existing items and surrounding area. As a Community Council we have also committed to clearance of some overgrown vegetation and purchase of an additional item of accessible playground equipment along with a bespoke football goalpost.

As we head into the new year we face the challenge of a full triennial audit, and indeed preparation for this has been going on for some months.

Lorna Savidge  
Chairperson  
May 2024