

## LLANFIHANGEL-AR-ARTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2022.

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council is a non-political Council and comprises of 12 Community Councillors:

- Cllr Martin Griffiths (Chair)
- Cllr Dylan Davies (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Barbara Cobain
- Cllr Annette Davies
- Cllr Arwel Davies
- Cllr Val Davies
- Cllr Melvyn Evans
- Cllr Yvonne Griffiths
- Cllr Eirian Jones
- Cllr Glyn Jones
- Cllr Haulwen Lewis
- Cllr Shirley Mason

We are also grateful to County Councillor Linda Davies-Evans who regularly attends our meetings in her role as County Councillor for the area of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council.

The Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer is Mrs. S. Anita Evans, Frongelli, New Inn, Pencader, Carmarthenshire. SA39 9AZ. Tel: 01559 384266.

e-mail: [cyngorcymunedllanfihangelarth@outlook.com](mailto:cyngorcymunedllanfihangelarth@outlook.com)

All Councillors reside within the area served by the Council, namely the villages/communities of Llanfihangel-ar-Arth, Pencader, Pontwelly, New Inn, Gwyddgrug, Dolgran and Alltwalis. There are currently no vacancies.

#### **Meetings**

The Council meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at Tabernacle Chapel Vestry, Pencader, except for the months of August and December when no meeting is held.

In addition, the Finance Sub-Committee meets quarterly to monitor/review the Council's finances, while other sub-committees, namely Planning, Website and Premises, meet on the basis of need.

During the period of Covid restrictions, meetings were held via Zoom.

## **Budget**

Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council receives its income primarily via the Precept. For the year 2021-2022, this amounted to £49000, which was the same as the previous year, 2020-2021.

The Council's expenditure during 2021-2022 was mainly in respect of the following:

- Staff salaries
- Upgrading of street lighting to LED
- Maintenance of sites for which the Council is responsible, e.g. play area, two cemeteries, public conveniences, war memorial
- Flower planters in all villages within the Community Council area
- Purchase and maintenance of defibrillators.

Eleven Councillors accepted the annual allowance payment of £150 each, set by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales. The total remuneration paid to Councillors during 2021-2022 was £1650.

A full breakdown of the Council's expenditure is available in the Annual Accounts for 2021-2022. Please refer to the Council's website.

## **Relationship with Carmarthenshire County Council**

The Council works closely with County Councillor Linda Davies-Evans who attends most meetings and is supportive in dealing with any queries from the Council and its residents in relation to services and any issues affecting residents within the Community.

## **Training Plan**

The Council is a member of One Voice Wales which provides most of the training undertaken by Councillors and Clerk. A Training Plan for 2021-2022 is currently being prepared and Councillors are regularly advised of the training opportunities available.

## **Audit**

Annual accounts are subject to an Internal Audit by a professional person appointed by the Council prior to submission of accounts for External Audit by the Auditor General for Wales. Following conclusion of the External Audit, accounts as well as the Auditor's opinion are published on the Council's website.

## **Complaints**

No complaints were received during the year 2021-2022.

## **Key Objectives for 2021-2022**

The Council's Key Objectives for the last year were:

- Upgrade street lighting to LED.
- Continue its rolling programme of providing defibrillators in all villages within the Community Council area.
- Refurbishment of public conveniences at Alltwalis and Pencader.
- Continue its liaison and discussions with Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to its concerns regarding the deteriorating state of roads within many areas of the parish.
- To commence addressing the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

## **Assets**

Pencader Play Area

Pencader Cemetery

Cemetery at Troedrhiw Chapel, Alltwalis

War Memorial at Pencader

Hen Wŷr Memorial at Pencader

Land for proposed Picnic Area at Llanfihangel-ar-Arth

## **Asset Transfers**

Arrangements are currently ongoing regarding the transfer from Carmarthenshire County Council to Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council of the Leasehold for the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.

## **Activities**

Maintenance work, including provision of new perimeter fencing of Pencader Play Area, which is very well used, to ensure a good and safe condition for the benefit of all its visitors.

Maintenance of all benches and flower planters in all villages served by the Community Council.

Maintenance of Pencader and Alltwalis Cemeteries, War Memorial and Hen Wŷr Memorial at Pencader.

## **Achievements**

Provision of defibrillators as planned in specified areas of the Community Council.

Work commenced on refurbishment of Public Conveniences at Pencader and Alltwalis.

Provision of LED lighting throughout the area as well as additional lighting at Marshlands, Pencader.

## **Priorities**

The Council's Priorities for 2022-2023 are:

- To continue its rolling programme of providing defibrillators in all villages within the area of the Community Council.
  - To speed up the process of ensuring the completion of leasehold transfer in respect of the Public Conveniences at both Alltwalis and Pencader.
  - To further continue its liaison and discussions with Carmarthenshire County Council in relation to its concerns regarding the deteriorating state of roads within many areas of the parish.
  - Renovations to the building at Pencader Cemetery and upgrading the hedge around the Garden of Remembrance.
  - To continue its programme in addressing the requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.
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All meetings throughout the year 2021-22, due to Covid-19 restrictions, took place on-line via Zoom. I am most grateful to all Councillors and Staff for their committed efforts during this very difficult time to ensure the Community Council continued to operate effectively under such challenging and difficult circumstances. As you will note from the above report, a number of pressing matters and issues were addressed and any matter not fully addressed will be further prioritised again in 2022-23.

The end of this year marks the end of the current election term. I should wish to take the opportunity of thanking all Councillors most sincerely for their support, commitment and contribution to the role of serving the community during the current term, and to wish all retiring Councillors every success and happiness for the future.

Martin Griffiths  
Chairman – Llanfihangel-ar-Arth Community Council

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