

Llangurig Community Council Annual Report 2021-2022

The year started with Covid and the associated restrictions still affecting most people's lives. The Community Council were meeting "remotely" which, while not ideal, worked effectively. Early in the year we welcomed aboard two new Councillors, Richard Jones and Phil Abel and later in the year Alison Nolan in place of Marion Bound who had resigned.

The year was characterised by a mixture of successes and frustrating delays in achieving improvements within the Llangurig Community Council area.

The Village Green has seen a number of successful improvements during the year with the fence being erected making it much safer for users, particularly the youngsters, and the unfortunate but necessary removal of the diseased trees. The grass surface was repaired by a number of local residents just in time for the Jubilee celebrations and at this point we should recognise and thank the local residents who have kept the Village Green mown throughout the year at their own expense and in their own time. We had a new, bigger and more environmental refuse bin with recycling facilities erected. Prior to this users of the Green had to cross the trunk road to dispose of their rubbish.

The plans for a play area for the village have progressed steadily through the year and we are grateful to the Ty Mawr family for their generous help with this project. We believe that this should be brought to fruition in the coming year.

The roundabout at the junction of the A44 & A470 has been planted with wild flowers which appear to have successfully survived being mown by the authorities at least once.

Covid no doubt had a detrimental impact on the ability of a number of the authorities we had contacted to successfully remedy problems, principally Powys County Council and the Trunk Road Agency. While a number of these issues were finally resolved within this Report Year and subsequently, some still remain and a few unfortunately have now passed their first anniversary. We will continue to pursue these into the next year and with a change of control at Powys County Council and two County Councillors now in place we are optimistic that we will see success with these. Principal issues are the continuing closure of the footpath by the Black Lion Hotel due to the risk of falling slates, which requires pedestrians, including school children using the school bus service, to cross the main A44 twice a day to reach the bus stop and the persistent problem of speeding vehicles through the village.

In addition to the issues above there has been continuing delays in setting up the Community Fund from the Bryn Blaen Wind Farm to the north of the village. On several occasions we have been advised that the fund will be operational in a month or two but as this report is being written we still have no definite information as to the details of the fund, how it can be accessed and when it will be up and running. We continue to push for information on this.

On a more disappointing note the issue of dog fouling has made no appreciable progress and while we are working with Powys County Council to put up notices to discourage dog owners permitting this it is regretful that this is necessary.

The Welsh Assembly Government continues to increase the administrative work required and while we all want more open and transparent government these changes come at a cost to each local Council.

This neatly brings us onto the financial side of the Community Council. The precept for the year under review rose mainly to cover the increased work load on our excellent Clerk. On pretty much every other expense we were able to keep costs stable. In November 2021, (when we are required to set the precept for the following financial year) we increased the 2022-23 precept substantially to provide for the possibility of an election taking place for Community Councillors in May 2022. Something that had not happened in recent memory but, in the event, proved to be both prudent and necessary.

2022-23 Aims

As mentioned above we are carrying over from 2021-22 a number of long term and what have been to date intractable issues. To measure our progress with these we will publish with the Monthly Minutes a table listing these issues, how long they have been outstanding and the current status. We are optimistic that with the assistance of our two County Councillor we will see this list shrink steadily throughout the year. Additionally we hope to complete the Children's Playground and promote more of the Community involvement we saw during the Jubilee weekend. Our Council Meetings are open to all residents should they wish to attend.

The additional and new regulations imposed on us by the Welsh Assembly Government will be implemented steadily through the year and while not all of these will be immediately visible to residents we will be publishing Monthly Meeting Minutes earlier (in draft form) and upgrading and increasing the amount of information we put on our website and Facebook page.