

Cyngor Cymuned Llantrisant
Llantrisant Community Council
Adroddiad Blynyddol/Annual Report
2018/19



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Message from the Chairperson of Llantrisant Community Council



Cllr Allan Matheson

Welcome to the first annual report which we have been required to produce for the Public Services Board to evaluate our contribution to the Cwm Taf Wellbeing Plan because of the introduction of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Whilst the report is designed for presentation to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board, we hope that you will find the report an interesting read about some of the activities of Llantrisant Community Council and we have taken the opportunity to highlight some of the projects we have undertaken in the past year.

We are proud of our continued relationships with a wide range of partners both in the public and private sector to enable us to work towards creating thriving communities which people want to live, work and play within.

As a Community Council we are always happy to listen to the views of our community so please do get in touch if you would like to share your opinion on any aspect of our work.

About Llantrisant Community Council

Llantrisant Community Council first came into existence as Llantrisant & Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council in 1894. It then became Llantrisant Parish Council before becoming Llantrisant Community Council in 1972

Llantrisant Community Council is made up of the four wards of Beddau, Llantrisant, Talbot Green and Tynant. Overall there are fourteen elected Members (Councillors) that represent the four wards, serving an electorate of 10,859.

Members of Llantrisant Community Council

Beddau Ward



Cllr Julie Barton
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Cllr Veronica Nicholas
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Cllr Samuel Trask
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Cllr Kerrie Williams
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Llantrisant Ward



Cllr Tony Crutcher
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Cllr Brian Farr
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Cllr Allan Matheson
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Cllr Adam Robinson
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Talbot Green Ward



Cllr Stephen Powell
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Cllr Paula Williams
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Cllr Jeff Woddington
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Tynant Ward



Cllr Ron Hunt
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Cllr David Nicholas
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Cllr Mal Davies
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Community councils have a wide range of duties and powers vested by Acts of Parliament. They may determine the types of positive actions and activities that is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being, social well-being and/or environmental well-being in their communities. Community Councils cannot act beyond their duties and powers.

An elected Member acts on behalf of the whole community and takes an interest in all issues. They listen to you and represent the views of the community when discussing council business and working with outside bodies. Members play an important part by thinking creatively about what they can do together to improve the lives of local people. The Community Council employ a number of staff whom members give a lot of credit to for bringing these ideas to life.

The Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, except for August, Council meetings are open to the public. Agendas and minutes of all the Council's meetings can be found on our website: www.llantrisant-cc.gov.wales

Staff

Miss Catherine Craven: Clerk to the Council, 22 hours per week

Mrs Alison Jenkins: Responsible Financial Officer, 30 hours per week

Mr Philip Williams: Council Operative, Full time

Mr Jason Akers: Community Halls Caretaker, 25 hours per week

Mr Russell Thomas: Summer Labourer 32 hours per week (May to October)

Mrs Samantha Harrison: Children and Youth Co-ordinator 18 hours per week, 12-month contract



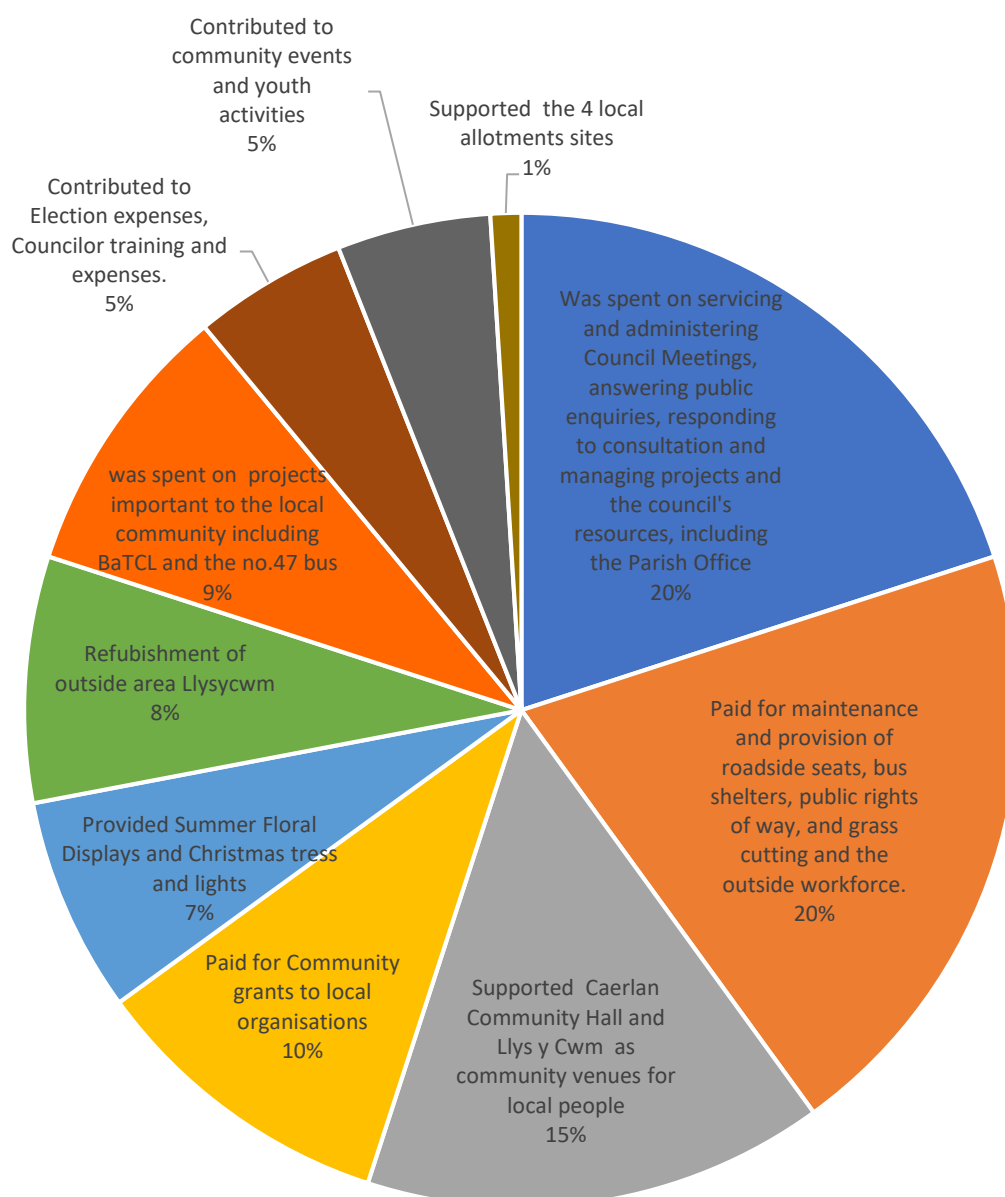
Council Staff at Armed Forces Day Event

Finances

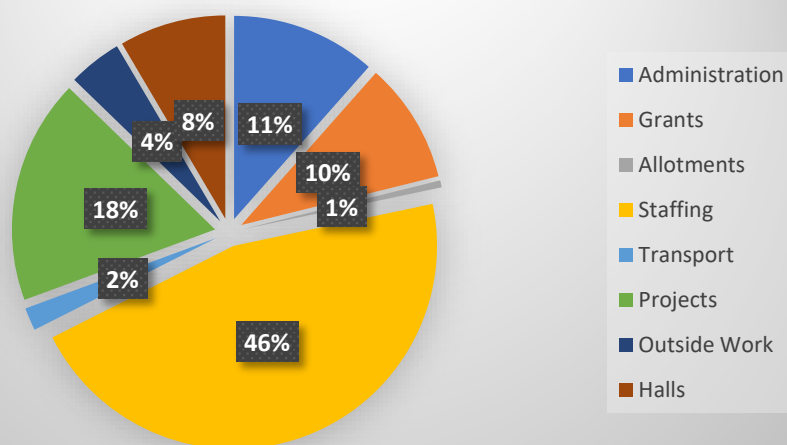
The main source of funding for community councils is the funds raised through what is referred to as a precept (a charge) to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Llantrisant Community Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2018/19 the Llantrisant Community Council precept was £213,359. In 2018/19 a band D property for Council Tax paid £40 for the year towards the Community Council. The remaining income generated by the Community Council comes from hire charges for Caerlan and Llys y Cwm hall, allotment rents, interest, RCT agency agreement and Community Infrastructure Levy payments.

Council Expenditure - March 2018 to 2019



Budgeted Expenditure



Well-being Report 2018/19

The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act was introduced in 2015 by the Welsh Government with the aim of improving the social, economic, environments and cultural wellbeing of Wales.

The Act is seeking a more joined-up approach between public bodies to think about the long-term to create the Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The organisations that make up Cwm Taf Public Services Board are:

- Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board
- Interlink
- National Probation Service
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Public Health Wales
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Voluntary Action Merthyr Tydfil (VAMT)
- Welsh Government

Llantrisant Community Council is not a member of the Public Service Board but has a duty to take reasonable steps towards meeting the local objectives as set out in the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023 and publish an annual report of the progress which we have made.

A community council is only subject to the duty if its income or gross expenditure exceeds £200,000 for each of the three financial years prior to local well-being plan being published. Our income ranges from £217,660 in 2015 to £229,648 in 2018 which means we have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report and demonstrate on the progress which we have made towards the Cwm-Taf Well-being Plan 2018-2023.

The Cwm-Taf Wellbeing Objectives:

Cross Cutting Objective: Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

We will work in new ways to channel the undoubted strengths of our communities, including volunteering to tackle more effectively the loneliness and isolation which often exists within many of them.

Objective 1: Thriving Communities

To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

Objective 2: Healthy People

To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.

Objective 3: Strong Economy

To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

Llantrisant Community Council Progress Towards the Cwm Taf Well-being Objectives

Objective 1: Thriving Communities

To promote safe, confident, strong, and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

Llantrisant Community Council is committed to improving the local environment and work with and support a wide range of partners in its attempt to improve our communities.

Llantrisant Community Council has ten Community Noticeboards across the four wards and installed a new one at the Brynteg Green Development in 2018. There is no charge to display posters that promote local (non-business) activities in the noticeboards and we also like to share events on our social media platforms and website to help assist groups in their development.

We are good at working with our communities to provide links and signposting to community and public sector support within our area. We have an excellent website which is frequently updated which contains useful information on community groups within the area.

Our grants aim to provide financial support to organisations and groups to enable them to flourish in our community. This year 68 different community groups were awarded grants ranging from £60 to £1,200 - totalling £23,703. Groups range from Brownies and Cadets to art and craft clubs, football and rugby teams to choirs and bands. Babies and toddlers to OAPS. Several of the groups the Council support confirm that without the grant they receive from the Council they would not be able to continue to meet.

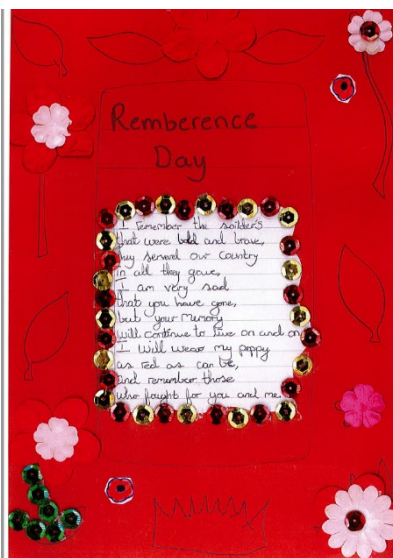
In November 2018 we held our first grants awards evening which provided excellent networking opportunities for the groups in attendance the aim of which was to enable an improved coordination between community groups as well as being a thank you to the many volunteers who give up their time and energy to ensure these groups continue to serve the community. We had positive feedback from the evening with many groups previously unaware of the variety of groups in the area and several making links for future engagement.



Grants Award Evening - November 2018

Community Events

Llantrisant Community Council also works in partnership with other groups to organise Community Events which contribute to thriving communities.



Poem written by Llantrisant Brownie

Best School Decorated Christmas Tree Competition - Each year Llantrisant Community Council provides Christmas Trees not only to local businesses but also to its 8 schools. There is an annual competition for the best decorations which is always hotly contested, and standards are very high. The Chair and Vice Chair visit each school and had a difficult time choosing a winner, so fantastic were the 2018 entries. In the end it was a 'Winter Wonderland' theme that caught the judges' eye with the detailed snowmen and wooden sleigh decorations all co-ordinated in silver, white and blue.

Outdoor Christmas events focusing on Carols around the Christmas Tree are organised in conjunction with local organisations outside the BaTCL, by the tree in Talbot Green and at the Bullring in Llantrisant.



Llantrisant Primary School
Tree took 1st place

Armed Forces Day – In June we bring together several different organisations, groups and schools to show gratitude and support for the UK's military communities, past, present and future. In 2018 the service was led by Mr C Lewis, OBE with Llantrisant Ladies Choir and local school children participating in the service. After the service everyone is invited to the Welfare Hall to share a cup of tea and their stories. Our younger participants took full advantage of the opportunity to ask questions of military personnel and veterans present which was a great help to their work they were doing as part of the national curriculum.



Armed Forces Day 2018



Carols outside Beddau & Tynant Library



Animation in Vegetables entry
Horticultural Show

Annual Horticultural & Craft Show - Representatives from the Community Council work with local allotment plot holders to organise the annual Community Horticultural and Craft Show. 2018 saw a particularly good display of vegetables. As well as attracting local allotment holders, gardeners, home bakers and craft enthusiasts some competitors travel from further afield to support the show. Many small community shows have disappeared over the years but the financial and administrative support the show receives from the Community Council along with the determination of the committee ensures that the show continues to be held each year. It is an excellent opportunity for the plot holders from the four allotment sites to meet up and compare notes for the season.



Local Members attending the Show

This year Llantrisant Community Council has also supported and attended the Talbot Green Family Picnic for the National Playday and contributed to the Friends of Talbot Green Centenary Remembrance Event.



*Talbot Green Family Picnic
May 2018*



*Centenary Remembrance Event
Tonysbuboriau Primary School*

Llantrisant Community Council are committed to improving the safety of our communities and in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taf Council, South Wales Police and CPL Industries Limited we are making a significant investment into a CCTV system at Codgers Corner in Tynant to tackle the on-going anti-social behaviour and improve the wellbeing of residents and visitors to the area.

Community Councillors, when possible, attend the Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings and liaise with the police outside of these meetings when necessary.



Tynant Members meet local police to discuss problems at Codgers Corner and Parish Road.

Community Halls

Llantrisant Community Council owns two Community Halls, Caerlan Hall in Llantrisant and Llys y Cwm Hall in Beddau.

Caerlan Hall

2018 saw the Community Council invest in new energy efficient lighting for Caerlan Hall and paint the exterior of both the hall and Parish Office. Although we were disappointed that the Church youth club did not have sufficient numbers to continue this year we have welcomed a new Yoga class to the hall. The number of local families booking the hall for birthday parties at the weekend has also seen an increase. Along with Afon Dance, Kim Bardsley School of Dance, University of South Wales – Welsh Classes, Tabor Baptist First Steps Toddler group, Gwynfa Camera Club and Clwb Alawon (Tune Club) the hall is a very well used Community Venue.



The Parish Office at Caerlan Hall

Llys y Cwm Hall

Llys y Cwm is the home of Cylch Meithrin Beddau. It is also hired out by Taff Ely Youth Brass Band, Afon Attendance (for age 50+) and 2nd Beddau Brownies. Again during 2018 bookings for private hire including parties, band practices and a weekend workshop for local midwives have improved the rental income from the hall.

Grant funding was achieved from Asda Bags for Life and the National Lottery, this added to some ward project money has been used this year to totally transform the outside area at the hall. Previously the back and sides of the hall were unusable by anyone. Now a new door has been installed to allow safe access to the rear of the building, the whole area has been resurfaced and new steps and railings installed. Planters, benches, bin stores, sand pits, mud kitchens and other outdoor activities have been provided. The finishing touch was the painting of the galvanised fencing in rainbow colours.



Back of Llys y Cwm Hall

Side of Hall – previously unusable

We have no community council owned building within Talbot Green or Tynant.

Objective 2: Healthy People

To help people live long and healthy lives and overcome any challenges.



New rondel on boardwalk

One of the aims is to work with our communities to make sure everyone has the best chance to live long and happy lives.

Llantrisant Community Council are committed to providing opportunities for a healthy lifestyle. We maintain 27 miles of Public Right of Way under an agreement with Rhondda Cynon Taff and work in partnership with Taff Ely Ramblers in particular with the maintenance of the 6 Bunny Walks in the area.

In 2018 the Community Council funded the production of new bi-lingual signs for each of the six Bunny walks and the Ramblers maintenance group have already started using them on several of the walks when they check the routes for us. In 2019 we will be working with Ramblers Cymru to reproduce the six bunny walk leaflets.

A very successful partnership with Cardiff Conservation Volunteers resulted in the building of a boardwalk on Llantrisant Common over a particularly muddy stretch on Bunny Walk number one.



Cardiff Conservation Volunteers on Llantrisant Common

Llantrisant Community Council hopes that the maintenance and improvement of the rights of way will increase the number of people of all ages who use and enjoy the local environment to improve their health and wellbeing.

Allotments

Llantrisant Community Council has four allotment sites run by management committees - Beddau & Penycoedcae, Brynteg, Penygawsi and Tynant Allotments. The allotment sites provide an important role in the local communities which they serve. Allotments are beneficial to the plot holder's wellbeing, helping them to spend more time outdoors, have a range of fresh fruit and vegetables whilst helping to improve biodiversity within our communities.

There is strong friendly rivalry for the annual competition held between the four sites to award the best plot in terms of crops, cultivation, workmanship, rotation and health. This year the judges were from Bridgend College Horticultural department and the winner was Gareth Hurley, Brynteg Allotment Association.



Allotment Competition winning plot

Beddau and Tynant Community Library

When RCTCBC announced that it was closing the Library in Beddau in 2014, Llantrisant Community Council stepped forward to offer a grant over the following five years to cover the basic running costs. This enabled the Library to reopen as Beddau and Tynant Community Library six months after closure. The Community Council works closely with the volunteer Trustees who run it now and in February 2019, it reaffirmed the commitment to financially support it for another 5 years due to its ongoing success and the positive contribution it makes to the community.



Members of BaTCL Monday Club

The library retains its primary purpose of being a lending and reference library with its 1000th member joining in 2018, but since reopening has turned into more of a community hub in its approach.

It makes a significant contribution in helping ensure members of the community have the best chance to live long and happy lives, and particularly contributes to reducing loneliness in the area.

One example of a group which meets there is the Monday Club, a separately constituted group which now meet twice a week and undertake activities such as include watercolour painting, mindfulness, gardening, crafts, flower-arranging, creative-writing, and needle-felting.

The library also hosts a monthly: Book Club, Goldies Sing-a-long group and a Reading Group. Weekly activities include: Armchair exercises, patchwork, two baby and toddler sessions, Yoga, Tai Chi, Drama and a History Club.

Involvement with the Library allows Councillors direct contact with the community, and both organisations can work in partnership over specific events such as the annual carol concert. Whilst being a Library has remained central to everything, the building has met the ambitions of the community and turned into a real hub.

Children and Youth Coordinator

Following feedback from the local community that there were no activities for the young people in the area the Council invested in a Children and Youth Coordinator in 2018, who has completed a thorough analysis of the activities available in the wards for both children and adults. The findings were made available to a wide audience through distributing a hard copy information booklet and posted on social media.

From this analysis a need for more activities during the school holidays has been identified and the Council is now developing a programme of Half Term, Easter and Summer holiday activities for its children, young people and the wider community



Half Term Activities - Beddau

This first wave of the new programme this February Half Term saw two fun filled days, both free of charge. Feedback from the children attending and their parent/guardian will inform the planning of future activities.

Objective 3: Strong Economy

To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

Each Ward of Llantrisant Community Council presents its own strengths and challenges to create and grow a strong local economy that attracts people to live, work and play in their communities.

Strong Economy

To add colour and vibrancy to our communities we provide hanging baskets and summer floral displays in planters across all four wards and these are regularly commended by residents and businesses. This investment improves the look and the feel of the area

In the same way we make a significant investment into the provision of Christmas trees and lighting to improve the overall perception, ambience and appearance of areas and support both businesses and the residents' wellbeing. This year we invested in a new tree pit on the Southgate estate, Llantrisant.



Summer Floral Display Talbot Road

Llantrisant Community Council works closely with its partners to also support events such as the ad-hoc Talbot Green Street Markets which began this year with the aim of attracting more visitors to the independent traders within the village.



Talbot Green Street Market

Sustainable Transport

Llantrisant Community Council is committed to assisting with the development of sustainable transport to attract people to live, work and play in the community council area.

In October 2018 work was completed on the surfacing of a public footpath at Lanelay Park with the aim of improving a popular walking route which was constantly flooding and providing an obstacle to walking in the area. The new improved footpath joint-funded with Rhondda Cynon Taf council has ensured a good quality walking route to connect Talbot Green with Pontyclun.



New footpath surface near Lanelay Park

Llantrisant Community Council works hard to improve and encourage the use of public transport and has over the years invested in 27 Bus Shelters throughout the community council area. The condition of these shelters is reviewed annually with the council replacing two bus shelters in Beddau and Tynant in 2018.



New Bus Shelter - Parish Road

The community council in conjunction with Rhondda Cynon Taf also carried out consultation on the installation of a new bus shelter outside of the Salem Flats in Talbot Green with the view to providing this in 2019.

The Community Council currently provide 105 wayside seats to help encourage walking. The condition of these seats is assessed annually.

Since 2015 this Council has operated the no. 47 Community Bus Service, providing a means for our residents to access the supermarkets and retails parks in Talbot Green. Numbers of service users were dropping year on year and operating costs increasing. Working in partnership with Trivalis Housing three open public consultations were arranged to gain the view of local people using the bus service. Responding to the needs of the service users some changes to the schedule were made.



Bus Service Consultation - Llantrisant

Tourism

The community council recognises and supports the area as a vibrant tourist industry attracting people from near and far, enjoying our natural environment, history and culture.

In 2015 Llantrisant Community Council signed a Charter of Friendship with Crecy en Ponthieu in France. Our shared history with our twinned town in Northern France dates way back to 1346 when the famous longbowmen of Llantrisant fought for the “Black Prince” of Wales at Crecy, defeating the King of Bohemia and claiming his emblem of three ostrich feathers which has been adopted by every Welsh prince since.

In June 2018 Llantrisant Community Council worked in partnership with Le Conseil municipal and Ecole de lay Maye to arrange an education visit for two teacher and spend the day as guests in the Crecy primary school. The Council funded the three day visit and now we have built great links between our schools to improve the lessons in foreign language, history and understanding each other’s culture of our young people



Visiting the Primary School in Crecy

In August 2018 the Council were pleased to welcome the Vice Chair of Crecy Museum, Eric Marmousez, in his first visit to Wales. The Museum has lots of information about the Battle of Crecy and the Longbowmen of Llantrisant.

There was lots to do and talk about our joint history in and around Llantrisant and further afield visiting the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay. In February 2018 we welcomed a French exchange group to Llantrisant and in partnership with Llantrisant Male Voice Choir we provided a tour of the town, refreshments and an evening of Welsh music and song



Llantrisant Male Voice Choir welcome French school visitors

Llantrisant Community Council has a representative on the Destination Management Committee spearheaded by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council. We also have strong links with Llantrisant Town Trust and are fully supportive of their endeavours to transform the Guildhall into a heritage centre within the town.

We are working in partnership with the Town Trust to reposition the Llantrisant visitor board on the Guildhall Site when building works are completed to continue to showcase Llantrisant as a tourist destination.

Specific Objectives for 2019/20

- To re-design and produce new Bunny Walk leaflets in collaboration with Ramblers Cymru and Taff Ely Ramblers.
- Explore the possibility of the community council running a hall for Talbot Green
- Promote healthy lifestyles by encouraging “One More Healthy Behaviour” for all Members, staff and residents
- To create a what’s on booklet for all four wards/ Actively promote local activities and events through sharing on our social media platforms, website and in our noticeboards
- To consider how we can contribute to helping boost a child’s first 1000 days
- To consider how we can stimulate and boost the aspirations and skills of our people to meet public and private sector career opportunities

