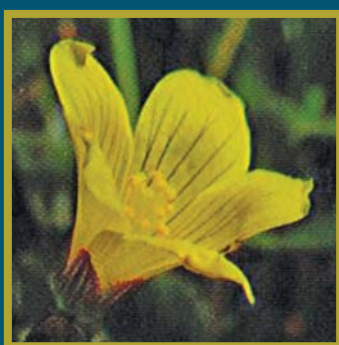




LLANTRISANT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Annual Report 2020/21

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Message from the Chairperson of Llantrisant Community Council



There is no doubt that the past year has challenged us in ways we never considered possible. It has made us re-evaluate our lives, how we do business, how we socialise and has made us realise what is important to us. In many ways, we have had to hit the reset button in our lives. There are also significant challenges ahead but I am confident that we are stronger together to meet those challenges.

As we make our way through the current restrictions, we will continue to work with our partners to do our best for the area and support our communities and local businesses so we may all look forward to a brighter future.

The development of vaccines against COVID-19 and the successful rollout of the vaccination programme has been a welcome step forward and has provided a ray of light at the end of a very dark tunnel. But we are not there yet.

Councillor David Nicholas

How to contact us

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Newbridge Road
Llantrisant
Rhondda Cynon Taff
CF72 8EX

☎: 01443 223796

✉ office@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



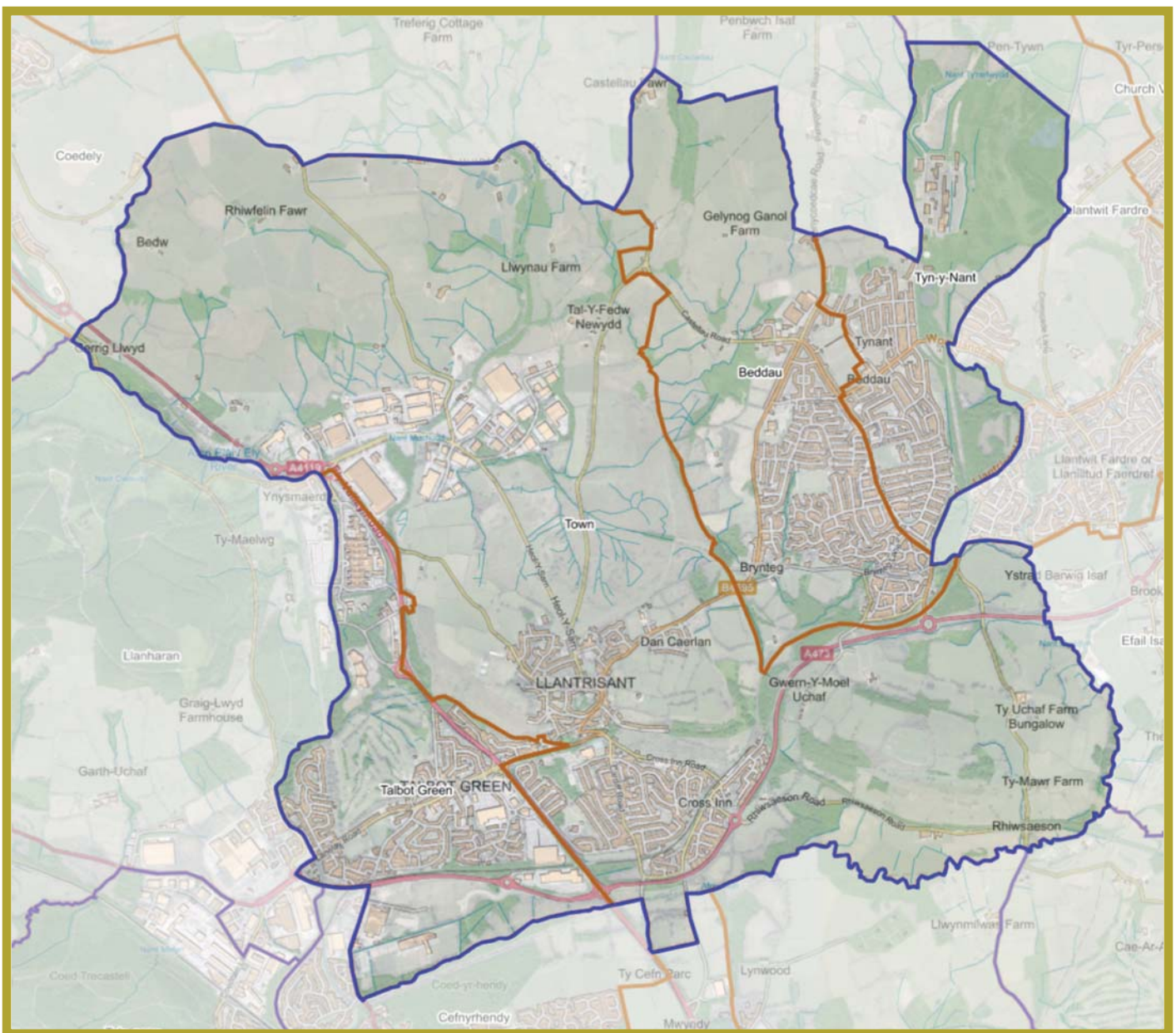
@Llantrisantcc

About Llantrisant Community Council

Llantrisant Community Council first came into existence along side Llantrisant & Llantwit Fardre Rural District Council in 1894 as Llantrisant Parish Council before becoming Llantrisant Community Council in 1974 following the creation of Communities in Wales by the Local Government Act 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 10,912.

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.



Members of Llantrisant Community Council

Community councils are the part of local government closest to the people. Your elected Members is here to;

- Represent the whole electorate within the community;
- Deliver services to meet local needs; and
- Act to improve quality of life in the community.

Talbot Green Ward



Councillor

STEPHEN POWELL

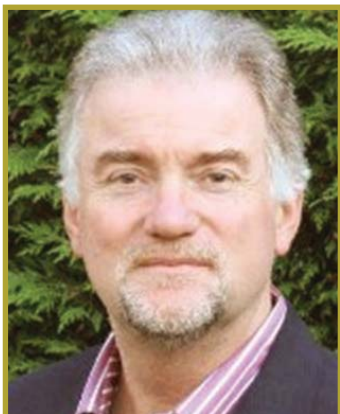
s.powell@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

PAULA WILLIAMS

p.williams@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

JEFF WODDINGTON

j.woodington@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales

Beddau Ward



Councillor

JULIE BARTON

j.barton@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

VERONICA NICHOLAS

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Councillor

SAMUEL TRASK

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Councillor

KERRIE WILLIAMS

k.williams@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales

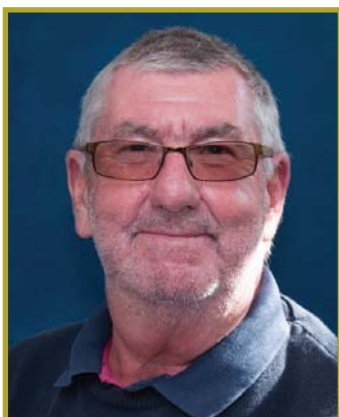
Llantrisant Ward



Councillor

TONY CRUTCHER

a.crutcher@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

BRIAN FARR

b.farr@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

ALLAN MATHESON

a.matheson@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

ADAM ROBINSON

a.robinson@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales

Tynant Ward



Councillor

RON HUNT

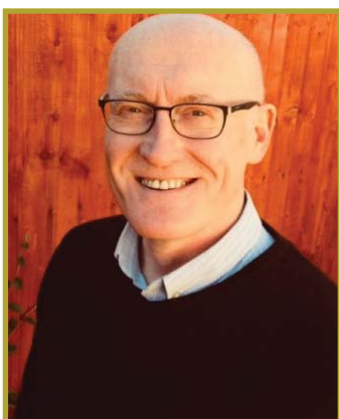
r.hunt@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

DAVID NICHOLAS

d.nicholas@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales



Councillor

MAL DAVIES

m.davies@llantrisant-cc.gov.wales

2020/21 Committee Structure

ALLOTMENTS:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr B Farr, Cllr M Davies, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr V Nicholas, Cllr S Powell (Chair).

CAERLAN HALL:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr A Robinson, Cllr A Crutcher, Cllr B Farr, Cllr A Matheson (Chair), Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr S Powell.

COMMUNICATIONS AND WELL-BEING:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr A Crutcher (Chair), Cllr M Davies, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr S Powell, Cllr S Trask.

COMMUNITY PLANNING:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr M Davies (Chair), Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr S Powell, Cllr P Williams.

EVENTS:

Cllr J Barton (Chair), Cllr A Crutcher, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr S Powell, Cllr A Robinson, Cllr S Trask.

GRIEVENCE:

Cllr M Davies, Cllr B Farr (Chair), Cllr P Williams.

APPEALS:

Cllr R Hunt (Chair), Cllr S Trask, Cllr J Woodington.

HEALTH & SAFETY:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr A Crutcher, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr S Powell, Cllr S Trask (Chair), Cllr P Williams.

LLYS Y CWM HALL:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr M Davies (Chair), Cllr R Hunt, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr V Nicholas, Cllr K Williams

SCRUTINY:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr A Crutcher, Cllr R Hunt (Chair), Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr V Nicholas, Cllr S Powell.

STAFFING:

Cllr J Barton, Cllr A Crutcher, Cllr A Matheson, Cllr D Nicholas, Cllr V Nicholas (Chair), Cllr S Powell, Cllr A Robinson.

Appointed Representatives

Llantrisant Primary School

Councillor A Robinson

Llwyncrwn Primary School

Councillor M Davies

YGG Castellau

Councillor D Nicholas

Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School

Councillor S Trask

Penygawsi Primary School

Councillor A Crutcher

Tonysguboriau Primary School

Councillor A Matheson

Beddau and Tynant Community Library

Councillors M Davies and V Nicholas

RCTCBC Community Liaison Committee

Chair of the Council

RCTCBC Destination Management Committee

Councillors A Matheson and S Powell

One Voice Wales

Councillors A Matheson and D Nicholas

Llantrisant Town Trust

Councillors R Hunt, A Matheson and D Nicholas

Meetings

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, Link to website is here www.llantrisant-cc.gov.wales.

A Guide to Council Meetings and public representation

The Council hopes that this short guide will encourage members of the public to attend its meetings and will be particularly helpful for those unfamiliar with meetings procedure.

Why are meetings held?

Aside from the fact that there is a statutory obligation for the Council to meet, meetings are the Council's principal means by which to discuss issues, formulate policies and make decisions on matters affecting the Llantrisant Community Council wards of Llantrisant, Talbot Green, Beddau and Tynant.

Who can attend?

Anyone. However, if the Council needs to consider certain matters in confidence – such as employee issues, negotiating contracts or pursuing/defending a legal action – Councillors may vote to exclude the public and press.

When are meetings held?

Meetings of the Community Council and its committees are held at Caerlan Hall, Newbridge Road, Llantrisant, normally on the second Tuesday of the month, with the meeting commencing at 6.30pm. The agendas for meetings (usually published 5 days earlier) appear on the Council's web site and the community noticeboards.

Why should I attend?

- To raise an issue or concern
- To become better informed about topical issues and matters impacting on the wellbeing of the wards and their inhabitants
- To observe Councillors' participation in decision-making

What happens at meetings?

The area set aside for the public and press (the 'Public Gallery') lies slightly away from the meeting. If you have a hearing or visual impairment, arrangements will be made for you to sit closer to the Councillors.

The order of business at every meeting will be as set out on that meeting's agenda and we ask that everyone attending respects the office of the Chair who is responsible for the conduct of the meeting and for ensuring that the business specified on the agenda is carried out.

The Clerk will normally be present and is responsible for preparing agendas, taking Minutes and helping Councillors make decisions that are informed, procedurally correct and lawful.

The meeting will normally follow this order

- Apologies
- Declaration of interests
- Confirmation of minutes of prior meeting
- Specific agenda items including
 - o Clerks report
 - o Confirmation of Council payments
 - o Requests from residents

When can I speak?

In each meeting there will either be a specific session set aside for the public to speak/ask questions or the public may be able to contribute at the relevant time in the meeting.

The time allowed for public to speak is up to 30 minutes long. Individuals can speak on one agenda item for up to 5 minutes. If you wish to speak on more issues please contact the Clerk ahead of the meeting so that special arrangements can be made if appropriate.

The Councillors and staff present will endeavour to address the issue you have raised but please be aware that the Council may make decisions only if the matter has been included on the agenda. You may be advised that the Council may reply to you in writing.

It is the Chair who determines who shall speak, in which order and for how long. If the Chair of a meeting considers that a member of the public present may have information which would help Councillors or committee members make an informed decision, s/he may – with the permission of the meeting – invite that member of the public to speak during the actual meeting.

Note: Other opportunities exist to raise concerns with the Council – including: contacting Councillors directly or contacting the Community Council Office.

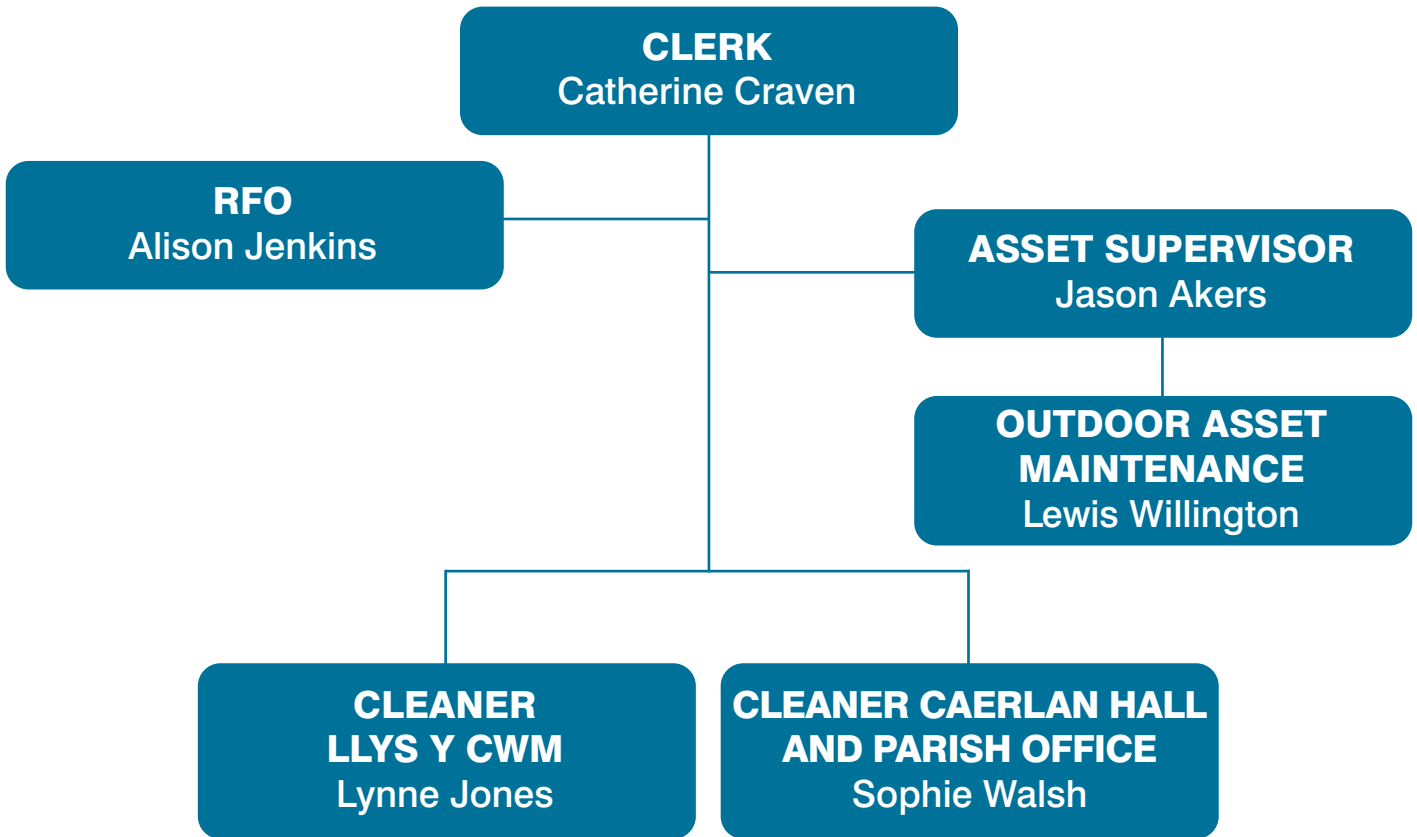
Still unsure about attending?

The Council appreciates that some people may find the prospect of attending a meeting for the first time a little intimidating. If you have any concerns at all about attending a meeting please do contact the Community Council Office for help and guidance. If we know you are coming to a meeting we can make sure there is someone there to greet and advise you.



Staff

The Council has six members of staff.



40 years' service

Llantrisant Community Council wish Philip Williams all the best for his retirement from the Community Council after over 40 years' service.



The Financial Year

Income

Generally, income from the hire of Caerlan and Llys y Cwm Community Hall accounts for around 7% of Council income. Covid-19 restrictions limited the opening of Community Halls meaning that for the 2020/21 financial year hall hire was less than 1.5% of income. We also saw a fall in interest rates. The Band D figure for the year was £43.00 generating an income via the precept (a charge to council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.) for the Community Council of £230,410.

INCOME	2020/2021	2019/2020	% of total income 2020/2021	% of total income 2019/2020
Photocopying	£166	£237	0.07	0.10
Interest	£140	£537	0.06	0.23
Grants Received	£3,700	-	1.52	0.00
Caerlan Hall Hire	£1,004	£7,272	0.41	3.07
Llys Y Cwm Hall Hire	£2,439	£8,522	1.00	3.60
Allotment Rent	£169	£164	0.07	0.07
Footpath Agency Agreement	£835	£835	0.34	0.35
Precept	£230,410	£218,997	94.93	92.57
CIL income	£3,841	-	1.58	0
TOTAL INCOME	£242,704	£236,564	100.00	100

Expenditure

With some major projects planned for the financial year impractical to proceed with, expenditure is naturally down overall for the year. Members however took advantage of empty halls to bring forward some planned upgrades and have made sure to carry forward funds to enable projects put on hold to proceed when regulations allow.

Expenditure	2020/2021	2019/2020
Administration	£9,744	£12,400
Staffing	£105,725	£118,237
Grants	£18,895	£21,570
Projects	£25,783	£42,232
Councillors	£4,615	£6,009
Caerlan	£21,607	£12,210
Llys Y Cwm	£7,327	£7,440
Transport	£6,041	£3,433
Allotments	£1,550	£1,473
Outside Work	£9,955	£9,172
Total Expenditure	£211,242	£234,176

Conclusion

The Community Council is fortunate that the majority of its income comes from the Precept, a reduction in hall hire has been matched with a reduction in expenditure. The opportunity to turn an empty hall into a positive has been taken with major renovations being completed.

Covid-19 impact on the Council's day to day business

Llantrisant Community Council recognises the pandemic has impacted all segments of the population. Individuals, families and communities across the world face a health, economic and social crisis.

It is particularly detrimental to members of those social groups in the most vulnerable situations, continues to affect populations, including people living in poverty situations, older persons, persons with disabilities, youth, and indigenous peoples.

Llantrisant Community Council accepts it is not alone in the struggle to manage its day to day business operations and best serve our local community.

Covid-19 is a test like no other. Never before have the lives of so many people around the world been affected at this scale or speed.

The message from our Government was to 'reduce our day-to-day contact with other people, we will reduce the spread of the infection'. A huge national effort to halt the growth of the virus asked us to travel to and from work only where this was absolutely necessary and cannot be done from home.

Our staff kept safe by working from home as far as possible, continuing to support the Council and its work in the community. They also kept up with training and fast-paced legislative changes.

Through the Council's grant scheme a significant financial contribution helped mitigate the impact of Covid 19 on the voluntary sector.

Working in partnership with key partners and agencies messages were shared through our wards.

The Council's festive trees and decorations lit up our communities and welcomed visitors to our local areas. Llantrisant Community Council rose to the challenges of Covid, embracing new ways of working to support and energise our community. 'Normal Life' carried on as far as possible; accounts were approved, bills were paid, and meetings took place. Digital solutions underpinned the Council's communication strategy. New vocabulary emerged 'you need to unmute yourself' and 'zoombomming' kept us all on our toes.

Whilst the halls were closed under restrictions the Council maximised the opportunity to refurbish. A new staircase was installed to allow safe access for storage in the roof space at Caerlan. New flooring was laid and cupboards built. The hall was painted throughout.

As the Welsh Government eased restrictions during the summer months the halls were reopened, albeit under strict measures. Staff worked tirelessly faced the urgency and complexity of reopening. To ensure our buildings and facilities were kept safe and secure rigorous safety measures were quickly put in place. Staff were in constant communication with all the organisations and groups, but changes to the day to day business kept them on their toes!

Llantrisant Community Council appreciates it has not been alone in this struggle. It has not been a localised crisis, the worldwide pandemic has touched us all. However, the short term impacts such as loss of life, a profound hit to the economy and social activity is where this Council can make a difference. At the grass root level of local authority it knows its local community; the existing trends, challenges and opportunities being exposed, influenced and accelerated by the pandemic and this will be critical to the development of recovery strategies.

Its scale and impact has been a steep learning curve for all in the Council. An end to this crisis remains a great unknown as Governments announce forever changing roadmaps for lifting one lockdown after another.

A new era is likely to emerge post pandemic and may be defined by fast changing shifts in cultural norms, societal values and behaviours. How we respond to Covid will undoubtedly shape the decade to come. If we are to truly recover from the pandemic and its impacts, then it will not be about putting things back together to how they were – we need to address these deep systemic vulnerabilities that have been allowed to develop over the last decades.

Well-being Report

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 ranged from £217,660 in 2015 to £229,648 in 2018 which means we have a statutory obligation to publish an annual report and demonstrate 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 well-being 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.

LCC Specific Objectives for 2020/21

- ✓ Protect community facilities
- ✓ Community Plan



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

Cross Cutting Objective: TACKLING LONELINESS & ISOLATION

Financial Support for local groups and organisations

The Covid pandemic 2020/21 brought many hardships to our local groups and organisations. Our halls fell silent, gone was the laughter, songs and music. Friends could not meet and natter. Sports, dance, drama and relaxation classes downed their equipment. Lessons to expand our knowledge and experiences were not delivered. Llantrisant Community Council sorely missed its wide variety of hall users and longed for the days when all could be welcomed back.

In the wider community our local residents tell us they yearned to return to their classes missing the interests but more so the all-important social aspects of group activities.

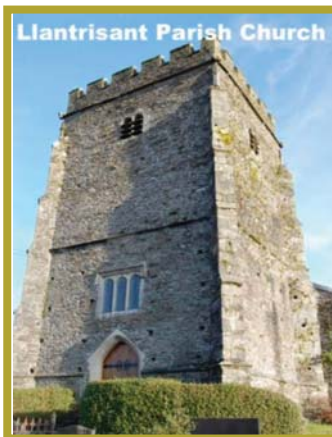
Llantrisant Community Council recognises the crucial role local groups and organisations play in our community. Participation is core for many of the activities and this nature of involving people facilitates social connections and cooperation driving forward our social capital and community cohesion. Our local groups and organisations bring people together, promoting a sense of ownership and belonging. This cumulative impact has wider positive outcomes empowering and a range of economic benefits.

This year Llantrisant Community Council awarded financial support in the form of grants to 52 groups and organisations totalling £18,895.

Organisation	Awarded
1st Llantrisant Brownies	£200
1st Ynysmaerdy Rangers	£250
2nd Pontyclun Guides	£500
2077 SQN Air Training Corps	£300
Afon Community Dance - Youth	£250
After 50 Afternoon Club	£200
Bronhaul & Heol-y-Gyfraith Social Fund	£400
Brynteg Allotments	£500
Cor y Bryn	£200
Crafty Cards	£100
Friends of Tonysguboriau	£500
Gwaunruperra residents and community group	£400
Gwynfa Camera Club	£400
Llantrisant Ladies Bowls Club	£300
Llantrisant Ladies Choir	£200
Llantrisant LC Netball Club	£900
Llantrisant Male Choir	£200
Llantrisant Primary School PTA	£500
Llantrisant RFC Mini Section	£1,000
Llantrisant Slot Cars	£150
Llantrisant sub-Aqua Club	£100
Miskin & Mwyndy Womens Institute	£100
Penygawsi Allotment Society	£500
Friends of Penygawsi Primary School	£500
Pontyclun Panthers Netball Club	£125
Southgate Ladies Bowling Club	£200
Talbot Quilters	£250
Ynysmaerdy Creative Crafts	£150
Young at Heart (Tuesday Club)	£120
Llantrisant and District Art Society	£100
Llantrisant Guildhall	£400

Organisation	Awarded
Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales	£400
Marie Curie	£400
RCT Community Wind Band	£400
RCT Performance Swim Squad	£300
Taff Ely [Llantrisant] Ramblers	£300
Urdd	£200
Monday Club	£500
Afon Dance 50+	£250
Mount Pleasant Ladies Bowls	£250
Penycoedcae Allotments	£500
Beddau Bowling Club	£250
Cylch Meithrin	£300
Cylch Ti a Fi	£250
Beddau Scout Group	£300
Cwm Welfare AFC	£500
Beddau RFC Minis & Juniors	£1,500
Tynant Allotments	£500
Litter Free Beddau and Tynant	£500
Beddau & Tynant Senior Citizen	£500
2nd Beddau Brownies	£300
Total (52)	£18,895

Objective 1: Thriving Communities



Llantrisant Community Council warmly welcomes REVEREND VINCENT GARDINER to the Parish.

Working in partnership to share information



Llantrisant Community Council supported Welsh Government through its Keep Wales Safe campaign by creating awareness and helping our communities respond to the ever-changing pandemic. Important information was shared utilising our local contacts, networks and communications platforms.

Polling station Llys y Cwm

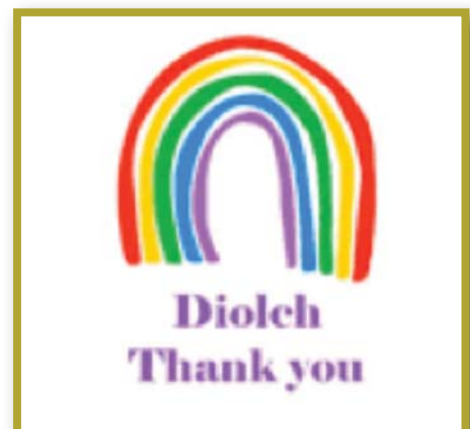


On Thursday 6th May, Senedd and Police and Crime Commissioner elections were held in Wales. Once again Llys y Cwm was able to provide a safe environment for the local electors to cast their votes. From this year, in Wales anyone over the age of 16 was eligible to vote, as well as an estimated 33,000 foreign nationals who did not previously have the vote.

Thank you Key Workers

The pandemic has been an incredibly challenging and stressful time for all of us. But at a time when most of us were staying home to stay safe, thousands of staff and volunteers were out in our local community, doing absolutely essential work to keep services running, educating our children, feeding us, keeping us safe and look after us.

Llantrisant Community Council want to make sure that every single person who is going above and beyond during these extraordinary times knows how much we all appreciate and value their work.



Census Champions

The Office for National Statistics on the 2021 Census thanked Llantrisant Community Council

"I would like to thank you for your support over the last few months; it has been invaluable to us and contributed to the high response rates we have achieved. Your support in the lead-up to Census 2021 and in the period around Census Day has helped boost return rates. We're committed to making sure that the census includes everybody, and your work with us has been a crucial part of the picture".

cyfrifiad
census
2021

census
2021

Census Champion

In recognition of your hard work
and support in helping promote
Census 2021 in your community.



Professor Sir Ian Diamond
National Statistician

The census is a survey that takes place every 10 years. It gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales.

The information given in the census helps provide the best picture of the needs of everyone in England and Wales.

Organisations such as local authorities and charities use this picture to plan and fund the services we all need, including transport, education and healthcare.

The Census has been happening for almost 200 years, with the first official one taking place in 1801.

To those we have loved and lost



Over 125,000 lives lost as a result of Covid-9 is a number of awful magnitude. This staggering and sobering figure has left an incalculable loss to the families and loved ones left behind. The stark death toll is not just a statistic. Every single one of those included in the count had names, lives, memories and stories to tell.

During the coronavirus pandemic many people have not been able to say goodbye in the way they expected. Grieving has been made more difficult as we have had to spend time apart from friends and family.

Llantrisant Community Council is looking at ways it can remember those who have lost their lives in the pandemic. Why not share your ideas of how this can be done with your local Member?

Beddau and Tynant Community Library - Annual Report 2019/20



When we held our last AGM in the Autumn of 2019, none of us could have had any idea how this year would pan out. The coming of the Coronavirus and subsequent lock-down in March completely stopped all physical activity in the Library, from the borrowing of books; use of the computers; and the many groups and organisations which had been using us as a meeting venue.

Before the start of lockdown, we tried to ensure that those who wanted and needed books were able to have them, and since things began to open up in June, we have had many discussions during our online meetings about whether and how we might be able to resume a service to our many users.

Thanks to our loyal volunteers, we have now been able to provide a service which keeps them and our borrowers safe. This involves fulfilling orders and leaving them for people to pick up at a designated time; and the quarantining of returned books before they are either put back on the shelves or lent out again. We have continued to purchase books, so that our offering is up to date.

Before lockdown, in addition, in a role as a Community Hub, we continued to run many activities ourselves; to act as a venue for regular users, including the Monday Club; and to host one off or less frequent events, which are important for our community. A list of the regular and frequently held events, pre pandemic, is attached at the end of this report. The Wellbeing of the local community is a central driver for many, if not all, of these events; from improving fitness and mobility to tackling loneliness and stimulating new interests.



We hosted Llantrisant Community Council's 'Carols round the Christmas Tree' event in early December. We improved the numbers attending by moving the event to a Friday night, and roping in some four-legged volunteers, donkeys brought to us by Woodland Walk Garden Centre! It was the first event since our regular host, Vicar Viv, retired, and we were grateful to Mr Daniel Jones, Headteacher at YGG Castellau, for acting as the Master of Ceremonies, even suffering, as he was, with a bad bout of flu. We hope that in future years other Headteachers from the village will play a similar role. We were also grateful to the RCT Community Windband for accompanying the singing, and to Gwaunmiskin Primary who sang some carols of their own. Afterwards many of the local people who came enjoyed refreshments served by library volunteers. It continues to be a popular annual event, and we are delighted to work in partnership with Llantrisant Community Council to help stage it.

The Library has continued to host bi-monthly PACT meetings, as well as continuing to hold its place as the polling station for Tynant during December's General Election

Behind the Scenes

Our volunteers continue to offer support to all our activities, from the Trustees who decide the strategic direction, to the small army of people who staff the premises whenever the Library is open.

Before the pandemic we continued to meet regularly with RCT so that we're aware of what's happening across their Library Service, and Asset Transfer Programme. Since everything has moved online, we are still in touch, and our Trustees meet monthly via 'Zoom' to review the service we are able to offer. The Monday Club are also currently meeting online.

New computers have been purchased and Microsoft Office installed for our customers to use. We successfully applied for a £10,000 Coronavirus Business Assistance grant ensuring that we are not financially impacted by the pandemic.

Our AGM was held in November 2019 and the following officers were elected

Chair Julie Barton

Treasurer Catherine Preston

Secretary Helen Boldero

List of activities at the Library (pre pandemic)

Monthly Evening and Daytime Reading Groups

Weekly Yoga

Weekly Tai Chi (2 sessions)

Weekly History Club

Nordic Walking

Carpet Bowls

Additional Monday Club Activities (pre pandemic)

Creative Writing

Podcasts and during the pandemic - Conversations in Isolation

Indoor Curling

Weekly Armchair exercises

Weekly Arts and Crafts

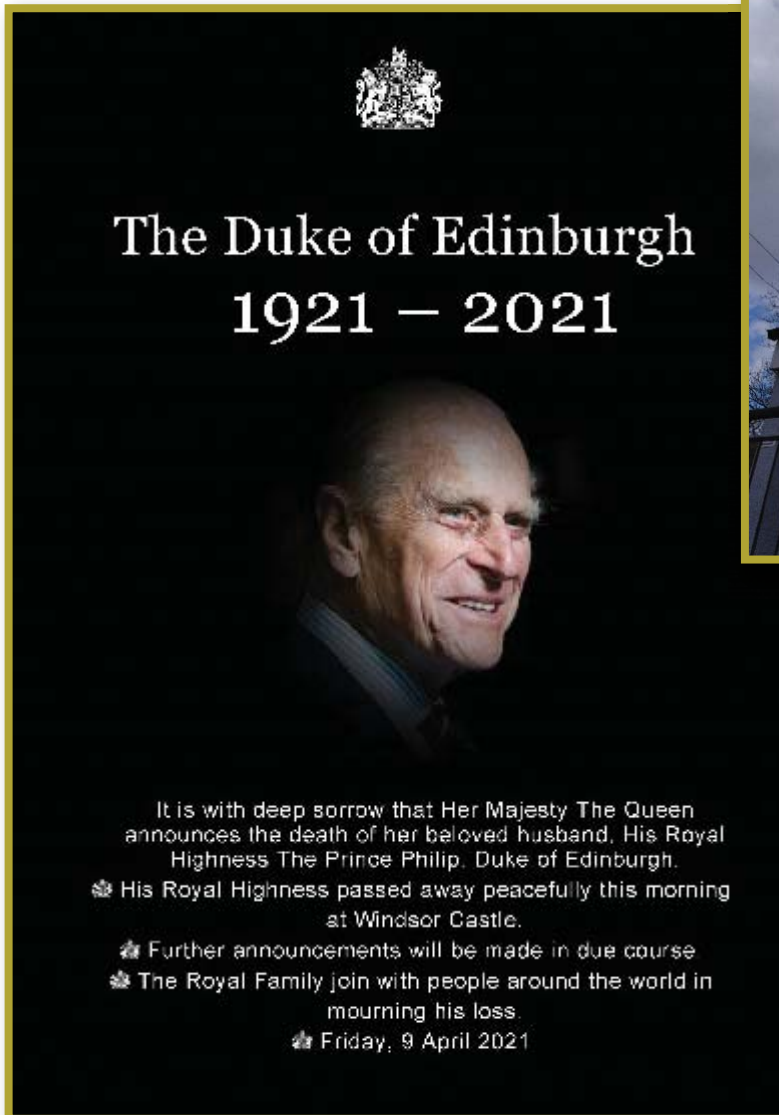
Talks on a variety of topics - silk painting, India (its people, environment & wildlife), scenic artist, etc.

Chat & Char sessions

VE celebration project with the local primary schools

We continue to thank Llantrisant Community Council for their generous annual grant, and to the Co-op Community Fund for its continued support.

The death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh



The flag at the Parish Office was flown at half-mast during the official mourning period.

'On behalf of Llantrisant Community Council, and the people of Llantrisant Community Council, I would like to express our great sadness on hearing the news of the death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and offer condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal family at this time.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh has lived a long life, dedicated to public service, devoted to the crown and the Commonwealth.

As the founder of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, he made a huge impact on the lives of young people throughout the country, and there will inevitably be a profound sadness felt across our communities, our nation, and throughout the Commonwealth at his passing'.

Councillor David Nicholas
Chair of the Council

Christmas was NOT cancelled



It's been a year like no other and it looked set to be a festive season like no other, but one thing was for sure: Christmas was NOT cancelled.

In true festive style, this year the Christmas festive decorations lit the way. Quite literally. Llantrisant Community Council worked in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council and additional new column lights were added to the annual festive display. Beautifully decorated large Christmas trees shone brightly at Mount Pleasant Gardens, Talbot Green Youth Shelter, Beddau Square and Penygawsi.

The annual school competition went ahead with the Council's Chair and Vice Chair judging the pupils wonderful displays virtually.

The Council wished to thank all of our community for the special effort made in 2020 to make Christmas full of magic and sparkle.

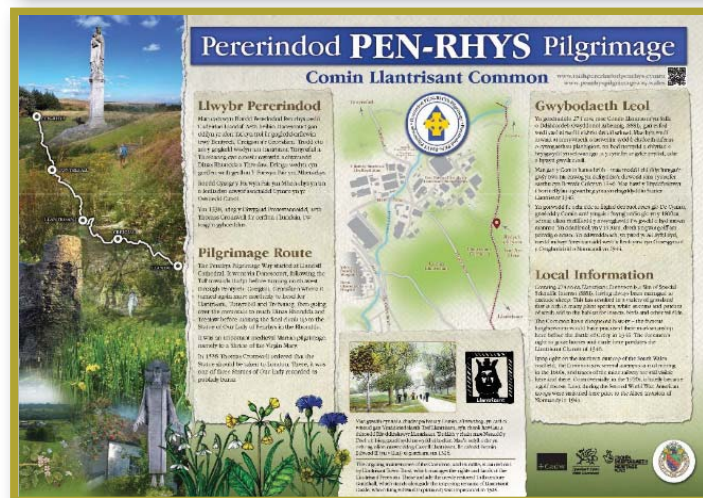
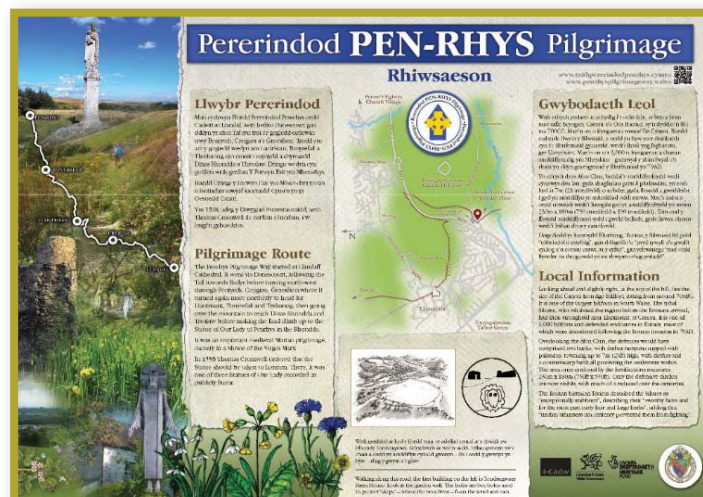
Objective 2: Healthy People

Heritage Lottery Grant

Llantrisant Community Council has been successful in receiving funding for a #15 minutes Heritage Lottery Grant. The aim of the grant funding was to make people aware of heritage within 15 minutes of where they live.

The Community Council had already worked with the Penrhys Pilgrimage Group planting bulbs at Llantrisant Castle and advising on the route as it passed through the Community Council area. The Heritage Lottery Grant seemed the ideal opportunity to provide information boards to let local residents know a little bit of local history and also make them aware of the new Penrhys Pilgrimage Way which was completed in 2020. The boards would also provide information for those walking the 21 mile walking route from Cardiff to Penrhys about the area they were currently walking through.

Partnership working between the Community Council, Rhondda Cynon Taff Borough Council and representatives from the Penrhys Pilgrimage and Llantrisant Town Trust have resulted in two boards being designed. One is sited on the Rhiwsaeson Road and one on the Llantrisant Common.



For more information on the Penrhys Pilgrimage Way please see their website:
<http://www.penrhyspilgrimageway.wales/>

Allotment Report Ty-Nant allotment.



Life on the Ty-Nant allotment last year was far from normal. On the one hand we were grateful that Allotments were allowed to stay open and members were allowed to cultivate their plots, on the other hand it wasn't the normal busy time, particularly at the beginning of the season, as some members were shielding and there was the understandable reluctance by some to engage with the outside world as much as they normally would.

This led to a very quiet, odd feeling at the allotment, with members staying within their plots, following Covid restrictions, tending to their vegetables and flowers but the usual support and banter was for the most part in short

supply. The allotment did provide a vital lifeline for many out of the isolation created by the Covid pandemic. There wasn't a day would go by without one member or the other saying to me how much the whole business of being at the site was helping them get their exercise and getting them through that difficult time.



A lot of what we had planned on the site was put on hold. Our newly built, Lottery Funded meeting Club house remained unfinished with the decoration inside and out and the fitting of seating was halted. Pathway maintenance and other smaller projects remained unfinished, much to the frustration of all.

On the positive side, we welcomed 3 new members to our Association, all keen to get involved in growing their own produce and learning from our longer established members. We also had an increase in the numbers on our waiting list which bodes well for the future. Its reassuring to see that people are taking a much greater interest in gardening per se and in vegetable gardening and the benefits it brings in terms of increased wellbeing and exercise.



Looking to the future and the forthcoming season, we're already organising ourselves again and planning on getting those projects completed, which were unable to do last season. New members are settling in and with a recent loosening of the present restrictions we can look forward to getting back to some sort of normality. We all hope so!

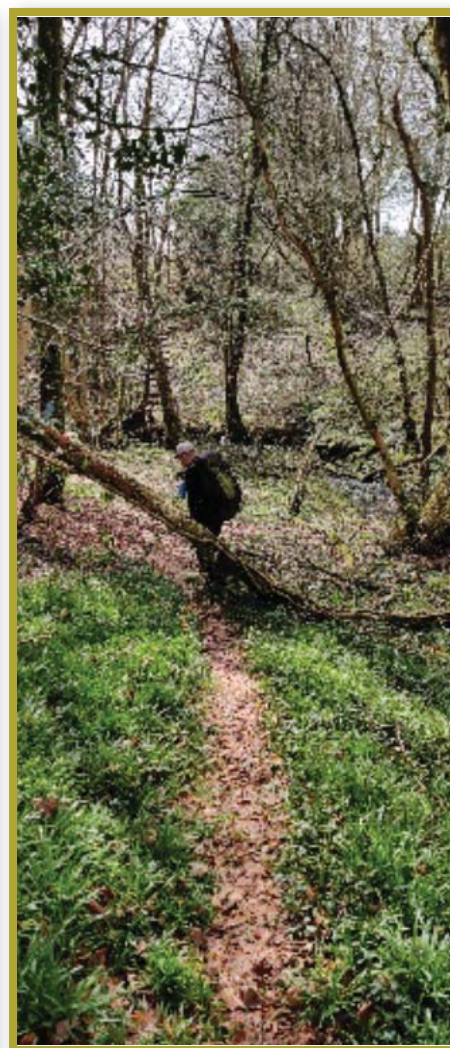
Mal Davies

Secretary

Ty-Nant Allotment Association.

Ramblers

Each year Llantrisant Community Council works in partnership with the Taff Ely (Llantrisant) Ramblers to ensure the public rights of way in our wards are fit for purpose. This years report will be keeping our teams busy and our footpaths clear for all to enjoy. Work includes repairs to stiles, removing fallen branches and installing signage to help mark the routes.



Objective 3: Strong Economy

Caerlan Car Park, Llantrisant

Following complaints from local residents Llantrisant Community Council worked in partnership with Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council to spruce up this busy little car park.

Overgrowth was cut back and debris cleared away. New lines were painted to mark the parking bays and a designated disabled bay was created.

The Council has received positive feedback from the local community to these improvements.



Qualified Staff

Both the Clerk and RFO now hold a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification. The RFO was awarded her qualification in 2018 and the Clerk received her award in August 2020. All the aspects of a Clerk and RFO's work ; roles and responsibilities, the law, procedures, finance planning and community involvement are covered in the course and a portfolio consisting of 30 activities and submitted for verification.

The Chair says ' We are very pleased to have both our Clerk and RFO CiLCA qualified. Moving forward Llantrisant Community Council can be confident that its day to day business and activities are compliant with proper practices. As the Welsh Government consults under the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 on which proposed sector specific qualification Clerks must hold to be eligible to meet the General Power of Competence, this Council feels it is in a strong position to meet any criteria agreed.

Since gaining her CiLCA qualification the Clerk has joined the Professional Development Scheme with the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC). The Clerk is now a Principal Member with SLCC and as part of her Continuous Professional Development is updating her professional knowledge and skills through a range of methods including self-directed and formal learning.



Revamping Halls

When the UK Government announced that community halls had to close as part of the restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 Llantrisant Community Council was devastated.

Both Llys y Cwm and Caerlan Hall are busy hubs with a wide variety of activities to suit all ages happening each and every day and evening.

The Halls fell eerily silent in March 2020 as friends no longer gathered to laugh, sing, dance and learn.

Llantrisant Community Council took the decision to use this enforced downtime to spruce up the halls. Turning a negative into positive was the mission. To create more storage new streamline cupboards were built. Shelving inside provided much needed storage. Furniture can now be stacked away neatly. Modern new flooring at Caerlan Hall has been laid throughout and exposed pipes have been safely boxed away. To finish off the makeovers a fresh coat of paint has truly transformed these community spaces.

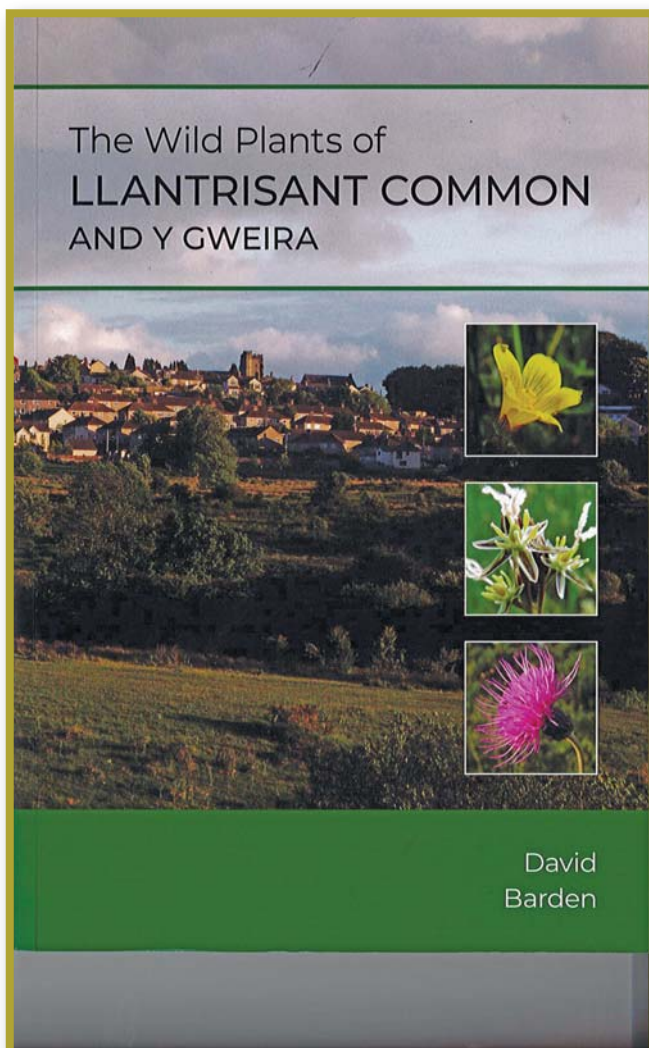


As restrictions were eased it has been amazing to warmly welcome back our service users. Their reaction...well, a big thumbs up making it all worth the effort!



A Boost to the local environment

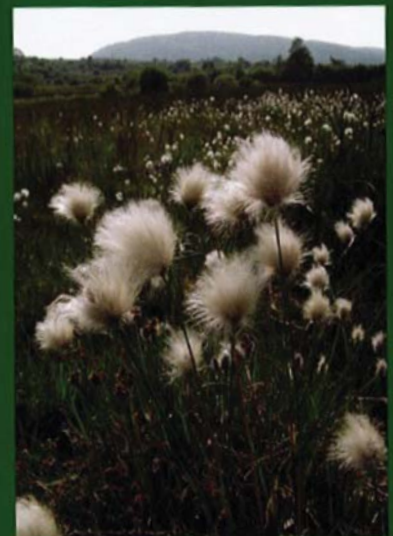
Llantrisant Community Council is thrilled to support our local author. This new book is a 'must have' for local people and tourists. It provides a comprehensive list of species to be found in our Site of Scientific Interest through the last decade. It goes on to provide details of the distribution and habitat of the plants, size of their populations, the presence of unusual colour forms, detailed studies of individual habitats and much, much more.



For well over 600 years, cattle and horses have roamed over the common land immediately north of the ancient hilltop settlement of Llantrisant in South Wales. This long history of grazing, together with continued stewardship by generations of the town's Freemen, has resulted in the survival of a rich array of flowering plants and ferns, as well as other wildlife.

In this book, David Barden celebrates this diversity by describing the result of a nine-year study of the wild plants of Llantrisant Common and the adjoining Wildlife Trust nature reserve of Y Gweira. Detailed information about the preferred habitats and distributions of the plants are combined with identification tips, over 350 photographs, and historical notes drawn from local sources and residents' memories.

The result is an in-depth portrait of a beautiful and fascinating place that is both a valuable wildlife site (recognised as a SSSI) and a cherished open space for many Llantrisant residents.



David Barden is a keen naturalist who for 20 years has had a particular interest in plants. As well as being a volunteer plant recorder for the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, he helps to run the Glamorgan Botany Group, an informal society for learning about plant identification and recording. David lives in Llantrisant, and (when not busy with family life or plants!) works as a freelance technical writer and content designer.



