

Henllanfallteg Community Council

Chairman's Reports 2010/11

The past year has been a busy one yet again, so it is appropriate for me to give thanks to our Clerk for all the hard work she has put in to keep us in order and on the rails, and also to fellow members for their sustained support and interest in Council affairs. I must not forget our CCC member, Sue Allen either for her humour, wit and grafting behind the scenes. For the first time in many years we have a full compliment of councillors following the cooption of Bryan Haddon, and he has already made some telling contributions - welcome aboard.

The sewerage scheme has taken a lot of formal time and also "homework time" over the year. I believe the technical issues are well understood, the feasibility that a successful scheme can be installed has been confirmed, but so far we have hit a stone wall on raising the finance to pay for it. I must make mention here of the contribution that Dave Balliss from Welsh Water has made to our enquiries and supporting our ambitions. Our recent meeting with CCC Euro Officers was not fruitful, and it is clear that we will need to mount a political campaign once the forthcoming elections are over with our new AMs, MPs and EMPs.

Footpaths are always a fraught subject and this past year is no exception. Volunteers did not get a chance to make a contribution, but least there maybe a speck of light appearing in the tunnel, as at least the local "Ranger" has met us and is aware with have "Volunteers" ready poised and willing.

St Malltegs churchyard is often subject on our agendas, and this year the volunteers mounted a purge and cleared the whole area, much to the delight of a few families with relatives the graveyard. Thanks to all those who have been and done a bit, also to Eve for working behind the scenes, as did members of the History Society. There is more to be done to provide a long term solution.

Planning always features highly on our business, although this past year has seen fewer applications than past years. The LDP flogs it way through the process, and the council has been approached by one developer looking at possibilities for development within Llanfallteg village. There has been an exchange of views on this but there's a long way to go before an application is likely particularly in the current economic situation. Out laying areas produced the majority of applications, and unusually many in retrospect.

The break in at Bella Cwrt caused considerable consternation and a lot of visual police presence. So far no charges have been made. However the event did give a wake up call around the community about security.

Inconsiderate parking on the railway bridge has been a cause of concern many times. A spate of incidents in mid summer last year resulted in the police warning one driver about the folly of parking there, but also recognition at last from Network Rail that there was an issue for them to manage. There appears to have been an improvement.

The setting the precept this year was done against a background of economic gloom. The council agreed not to undertake any project works in the forthcoming year, and also by using the reserves reduced the levy by approximately 50%. The members agreed to continue support for its chosen charities at similar levels.

As usual there has been a myriad of correspondence to deal with, and many thanks to all those who have given time to read and report back. With a new Assembly just about to meet, I guess the new broom will be out and we will be getting even more in the next few weeks.

D King
2nd May 2011.