

Henllanfallteg Community Council

Chairmans report 2008-09

The Council year began with the May 2008 County and Community Council elections. It was a tentative start as only four residents put their names forward for membership, below the total of seven seats that were available. This ruled out the need for any hard fought election campaigns and automatic Council membership was granted. Myrddin Pynn was welcomed as new member joining Clive Mortlock, Dave King and me.

Thankfully Eve Edwards and Penny Jones were co-opted onto the Council shortly after the 'elections' bringing us up to a more healthy six members and avoiding the need for the County Council to put us into receivership. Ella Beattie has continued in the essential role of Clerk to the Council.

The County Council elections also brought in change with a new County Councillor, Sue Allen.

Having pretty much a full compliment of members in place we were able to move on to business.

The most time consuming activity this year has been trying to make progress on a mains sewerage scheme for Llanfallteg village. Following our failure to meet the criteria for a first time sewerage scheme, we decided to take an alternative approach. The Drainage Committee had several meetings with the County Council, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's consulting engineers and our Assembly Member, Angela Burns to pursue the matter. They successfully culminated with a recent offer from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water to carry out an engineering study to propose design options and costs for a scheme. This is an achievement and a positive step forward in finding a solution to the drainage problems here.

We have had mixed success with traffic calming measures in the community. Having secured match funding from the County Council for the work, green road marking was put down at Llanfallteg village boundaries. The colour was poor and the horse and rider signs agreed for other parts of the community failed to materialise. We have been in discussions with the County Council to rectify the signage problems and enhance the village boundaries with better road markings.

The County Council is currently preparing the new Local Development Plan (LDP) for Carmarthenshire. We recognise the important opportunities that we have to contribute to this process and to have our say on both community and county scale development issues. With this in mind Councillors have contributed to LDP sessions with the County Council and met to consider the options for local development in the community. The main strategy is published by CCC in the summer. We look forward to seeing it.

Other council business during the year has included Code of Conduct training, representation at Community Network Forums, responding to consultations on health, fire and rescue, policing, town and country planning, ongoing work with CCC to improve our footpaths and bridleways and of course the deliberations to set the annual precept.

County engineers have given us the option to turn off our street lights (all seven of them) between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. to save money. Lighting costs are one of the major components of the precept. A decision on this will be made shortly. In the meantime we have been able to reduce the precept anyway now that the majority of costs for traffic calming have been covered.

During the next year we need to carry on the momentum on working towards a drainage solution for Llanfallteg. We have the LDP to consider for the whole of Henllanfallteg and the traffic calming work to draw to a close.

I am particularly pleased with the open-minded, positive and constructive contributions that the members have made to Community Council business throughout the year, for which I thank them. This includes the time they give, on an entirely voluntary basis, for meetings and training. I am also grateful for the support we have received from Sue Allen who has certainly flown the flag for Henllanfallteg at County level.

Our biggest challenge remains to engage residents interest more, particularly those outside Llanfallteg village, and increase their awareness of the role of local government and how it can benefit the community. I would be keen for residents to know more of what we do and encourage them attend a meeting to see for themselves. In fact we still have one vacancy on the Council if anyone is interested.....

G Carpenter

11 May 2009