

Annual Report to the Pontyclun Community Council

from Councillor Margaret Griffiths, the Chair 2013 -2014

The Community Council, supported by the Clerk and its officers, have had a successful year, working to improve and develop the service we provide. Through our own discussions and our engagement with residents we have acted to represent the community of Pontyclun and develop the provision of services.

My report will focus on our:

- consultation with the public
- Council administration
- support for the community
- responses to public consultation
- projects we are involved in
- proposed projects for the next year

Consultation with the public

When the new Council was elected in 2012, it agreed that it should more formally and regularly consult with the public. This it has done by establishing an annual consultation meeting. This year the meeting was held in September 2013 at which a number of organisations that have received small grants from the community council displayed information about their organisation. Councillors displayed information about proposed projects. It was a successful evening and has led us to develop this year's meeting. During the year the Council agreed its strategy for public engagement.

Administration of the Council

During the year our colleague Len Arthur resigned his Cefnyrhendy seat on the Council following eighteen months of valued contribution. However, we are pleased to welcome to the Council, Bethan Theaker, who was elected to fill the vacancy.

We are also sad to have to say goodbye to Derek Oram who has steadfastly served the Community Council as its community caretaker for

the last 13 years. Mr Oram has decided to retire. In addition the casual assistant caretaker, Mike Button, has finished working with council. The Council and the Community is grateful to Derek and Mike for all the hard work and dedication over so many years.

The council agreed to restructure the staffing for caretaking the assets of the council and we have now appointed and welcome a caretaker Darren Norfolk and assistant caretaker Raymond Blank who started work with the Council at the end of April.

This year Clerk and Admin assistant have continued the work of recording our assets, setting up clear financial and human resource practices and establishing an office that is open to the public five days a week.

Our responses to public consultation

The Community Council has responded to various consultation documents during the year representing views of local residents. These have included the consultation on the health service changes to emergency, neo natal and maternity services across South Wales, the catchment area for Y Pant school, cuts to services by RCT County Borough Council, planning applications, and Welsh Government consultations on mineral deposit and open spaces.

Projects we are involved in.

Due to the decision by RCT to close the day centre service, community councillors have worked together to prepare a business plan for taking over the lease of the Day Centre and running both a meals service and social club for people over 50 in the community. The Community council will take on this responsibility from 1st June 2014.

We are going to provide a fun and sports day for the whole of the community based at the Rugby club at which all of us in the community, male and female, young and less young, will be invited to join in a wide variety of fun and sports..

We continue to develop ideas for a film club in the village. Gaining access to expensive equipment and comfortable seating are a few of the obstacles to be overcome.

We are working with Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail to keep our railway station clean tidy and attractive.

Providing toilets for the use of the public has been difficult during the year because of the injury to the assistant caretaker. We look forward to a resumed service now that our new staff are in place. Discussions on

developing this and all our services continue to take place through our working group structure.

Support for the community

The Community Council has always had an awareness of the importance of supporting voluntary groups within the community. This year we gave a grant to the cricket club in Miskin in order that they could buy a new side screen, we worked with the community of Groes Faen to retain Groes Faen within the catchment area of Y Pant school and helped advertise a public meeting about the future of the Babell chapel in Groes Faen. We improved the Christmas lights for Pontyclun village and hope that this encouraged more people to visit our businesses and help sustain our village centre.

Proposed projects for the next year

As part of the budget setting process last autumn we considered how the Council's money should be spent. In line with previous years we have set budgets for maintenance of footpaths, bus shelters, community notice boards, the website, seats, provision of Christmas lights, toilets, flowering baskets. We have also set out an ambitious programme of projects that require time and commitment from our councillors to progress the work required.