

## **Annual General Meeting of Pontyclun Community Council 12<sup>th</sup> May 2015-05-10 Report from the Chairwoman, Margaret Griffiths**

We have had another very busy and productive year. The running of the council and its assets is now smooth and efficient. We have consulted with the residents of the community and as a result taken on new projects. Pontyclun Community Council is seen to be active within the community.

Our Clerk, Cath Craven and Administrative assistant, Karen James have now been with us for 2 ½ years. They are ensuring that we work within the legislative and financial framework for community councils and that as councillors we can evidence good governance of the Councils assets and finances. We are able to provide a public presence to the community through the community council office which is open to the public for 46 weeks of the year each weekday morning from 10 until 12.

During the year Cath, along with a group of councillors, employed a full time community caretaker and part time assistant to work mainly during the summer months, to fill the vacancy left by Derrick Oram when he retired.

Darren and Raymond have fitted very well into the work of the community council, have become part of our team with Cath and Karen and with the community councillors. They are out and about in the community and are responsive to comments and problems raised by members of the public. As a result of their efficient ways of working we are becoming more aware of our local environment and the assets owned by the council. Our team are proudly looking after our local green spaces, woods, benches and bus stops, maintaining, safety, cleanliness and preventing vandalism.

During the last three years as a council we have developed ways of consulting with the public through working groups, consultation meetings and surveys. Pontyclun Community Council is respected as an open and transparent local authority.

We have leased Café 50 from RCT County borough council and are running it successfully as a lunchtime café and centre for social activities.

We provided a very successful and very well attended Christmas lights festival that demonstrated the importance and benefit of local businesses and the Community Council working together

We have worked with Arriva Trains Wales to adopt our station and to provide flowers in tubs and to improve the appearance of the green bank alongside the steps and car park. More work could be done to improve the appearance of the station but working with Network Rail is not easy.

We have been involved in an application to the Heritage Lottery fund which was not successful but has developed into a local history project working with the People's Collection Wales at the University of Aberystwyth.

We have submitted an application to the Aggregate Levy fund , administered by Welsh Government for increased play facilities at the Maesyfelin school field.

During the year we provided grants to local organisations, small grants for some but larger grants to organisations that needed support for specific projects. We sponsored the successful Arts Festival, which is being organised again this year.

The provision of toilet facilities continues to be the bane of our lives. Pontyclun Community Council is committed to providing toilet facilities within the village centre and I hope that we will resolve the issues by the AGM next year.