



Llangattock Community Council Newsletter December 2020

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Llangattock Community Council. The picture above of Plasderwen roundabout in the centre of the village should be enough to lighten the hearts of everyone after 2020; one of the most difficult years in recent memory. What a magnificent sight!

Meeting People's Aspirations and Desires

2020 has presented many challenges for Llangattock residents and for the Community Council, too. There were record floods, a pandemic and two lockdowns. We have seen our costs increase due to the pandemic, but we have also seized the opportunities presented by the lockdowns to carry out vital repair work and create the Memorial Garden. The new benches formed the centrepiece for Llangattock Church in Wales School's Remembrance Day Service this year.



One of the Memorial Benches bedecked in Wreaths

As the council considers its plan for 2021/2 it has to balance these extra pressures with the clearly expressed desires of our residents to see improvements; particularly to outdoor facilities, which are so important to mental health. Add to this the need to plan for emergencies such as flooding and there is a big impact on resources. Community Council services cost a Band D household around 9p per day; a figure which has barely risen over the past 5 years. At the same time, inflation has eroded our spending power by nearly 10%, making it more difficult to deliver what people want. There are tough choices to be made as we discuss next year's budget.

CRiC

The council is donating £750 from this year's budget to support the CRiC Centre, which provides tourist information and services to the local area. Its income has been badly affected by the Coronavirus shutdown and it needs the support of everyone if it is to survive.

Flood Resilience

The Council has given Western Power permission to move the electricity substation which powers much of the lower end of Llangattock from its current flood-prone position by Crickhowell Bridge to a new site next to Llangattock cemetery. The move is essential to secure electricity supplies in the event of another serious flood. This will involve felling a tree near the cemetery gate.

New Ways of Doing Business

The council is adopting a new structure, where more decisions will be taken by committees and working groups. Residents will be invited to join some of these working groups, so they can have a direct say in how their money is spent.

There will be a **Finance Committee**, with overall responsibility over budgets, grants to community groups and projects, and identifying sources of external grant funding. The **Central Services Committee** will look after existing facilities like the Recreation Ground and Cemetery. The **Planning and Environment Committee** will look at planning applications and how Llangattock develops. And the **Community Committee** will work with local volunteers to bring forward new community projects.

Over the coming months, the council also will develop a 5-10 year strategy or village vision.

Vacancy

We have a vacancy. If you want to be part of Llangattock's future and have the drive and ambition to help improve the village, please apply to join our team as a councillor. Details on our website www.llangattock-cc.gov.wales/



Refreshed Website While you are there, have a look at our revamped pages, full of beautiful images of the village taken by Cllr Tim Jones, and useful information for villagers. We want it to become a hub for Llangattock information, and further improvements will be made, so if you have a group or event which should be included, please email llangattockcc@gmail.com

Volunteers



Chairman Richard Jones receives the Cashell's Vouchers from Josh and Steve

A big 'Thank You' to our volunteers, who have helped for many years opening and closing the toilets at the recreation ground. The Chair, Richard Jones, has presented gift vouchers from Cashell's Butchers in Crickhowell to the longest serving. In a very generous move, Cashell's topped up the value of the vouchers. A donation of an £100 is being made in Memory of Richie Morgan. It will be split between his favourite children's charities [Sight](#) and [Smiletrain](#). Richie had volunteered for the council over two decades.

Kissing Gates

We are aware that the metal kissing gates in the Glebe Field and on the footpath by the Church are in need of attention and we are in the process of organising repair work.

If these gates are allowed to slam shut or are slammed deliberately, they can jam, making them difficult for some residents to pass.

Therefore, we are asking anyone who uses them to do so with care and not to let the gates swing shut, but instead to lower them gently.

We are organising repairs as quickly as possible, but this may be difficult during the Christmas period.

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Clerk, Kay on llangattockcc@gmail.com

