

**CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANILLTUD FAERDREF  
LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



**ADRODDIAD BLYNDDOL/ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19**

**DEDDF LLESIANT CENEDLAETHAU' DYFODOL 2015**

**WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT 2015**

## CONTENTS

FOREWARD FROM THE CHAIR .....	3
MEMBERS OF LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL.....	4
INTRODUCTION.....	5
THE CWM TAF WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES.....	7
HISTORY .....	7
CHAPTER ONE .....	9
A PROSPEROUS LLANTWIT FARDRE .....	9
CHAPTER TWO .....	10
A RESILIENT LLANTWIT FARDRE.....	10
CHAPTER THREE .....	13
A HEALTHIER LLANTWIT FARDRE.....	13
CHAPTER FOUR .....	15
A MORE EQUAL LLANTWIT FARDRE.....	15
CHAPTER FIVE .....	16
A COHESIVE LLANTWIT FARDRE.....	16
CHAPTER SIX.....	17
A LLANTWIT FARDRE OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE .....	17
CHAPTER SEVEN .....	20
A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE LLANTWIT FARDRE.....	20
CONCLUSION.....	22



## FOREWARD FROM THE CHAIR



**Community Councillor Joel James**

I was delighted in being elected as Chair of Llantwit Fardre Community Council for the Municipal Year 2018/19 and on behalf of myself and Members of the Community Council, I am pleased to present the first Annual Report which is in accordance with the Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

Whilst the Report is designed for presentation to the Cwm Taf Public Services Board, I hope that you will find it an interesting read about some of the activities of this Community Council.

Llantwit Fardre Community Council comprises 12 elected Members that represent the four Wards of Church Village, Efail Isaf, Llantwit Fardre and Tonteg.

Since the County Borough/Community Council elections in May, 2017 there has been a turnover of office staff, resulting in the delay of publishing our first Annual Report. At the time of writing this Report the new Acting Clerk had only been in situ for eight weeks and she can therefore be excused for incorporating and giving an insight of some activities that has been undertaken following the 2018/19 municipal year and which will be provided in greater detail in our next Annual Report (2019/20).

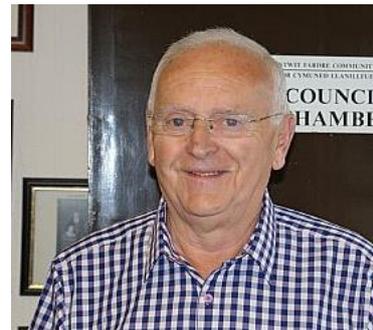
MEMBERS OF LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**Anthony Raines**



**Graham Stacey**



**Allan Watts**



**Joel James**

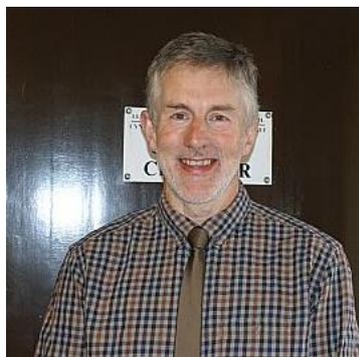


**Brian James**

**Anthony Handley**



**Mike Diamond**



**Nick Tizard-Lee**



**Ray Butler**



**Sep Bristo**



**Clive Johnson**

**Lyndon Walker**

## INTRODUCTION

This is the first Annual Report of Llantwit Fardre Community Council which is in accordance with the requirements of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015.

This Community Council is aware of the Welsh law that came into force a couple of years ago and affects everything any public body does. The Act ensures that all public organisations take into account the long-term effects of any decision they make and also the knock-on impact it may have, in terms of the prosperity of people in Wales, its environment, culture and communities.

Llantwit Fardre Community Council is made up of four Wards – Church Village, Efail Isaf, Llantwit Fardre and Tonteg and there are twelve elected Councillors (Members) that represent these four Wards.

The Community Council has a wide range of duties and powers vested by Acts of Parliament, which now also includes the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and thus its elected Members together with its staff will strive to assist in developing long-term solutions to issues like poverty, ill health, poor air quality, low-quality jobs – in a long-term non-party political way. Being at grass roots level, we are able to act as a springboard for public opinion to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and as the office of the Community Council is situated within the heart of the Community (on the main road with free parking facilities), we are easily accessible to our residents.

Illustrated throughout this Report is evidence to show how this Community Council has worked towards achieving its objectives within the following seven well-being goals as documented within the Act and which sit under the umbrella of Sustainable Development and at the same time we have taken the opportunity to tell you about our budget (spending priorities), activities, events etc.:-

**A Prosperous Wales**

A Resilient Wales

A Healthier Wales

**A More Equal Wales**

**A Wales of Cohesive Communities**

**A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

**A Globally Responsible Wales**

As mentioned above the seven Well-being goals sit under the principle of Sustainable Development which under the Act is defined as:

*“The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals”.*

In applying the Sustainable Development principle, we as a Community Council have made sure, when making decisions that the following five ways of working are at the heart of the choices we make for the people we have been elected to serve:-

**Long Term** – The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

**Prevention** – How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

**Integration** – Considering how the public body’s well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

**Collaboration** – Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

**Involvement** – The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

The following chapters sets out our well-being objectives, which we have based upon using the fundamentals of:-

**WHAT** – shape what we already do to maximise contribution to the goals

**HOW** – how we do it – by taking account of the Sustainable Development principle, which is made up of the five ways of working.

**COMMUNICATE** – how we communicate via our website, facebook and face-to-face.

## THE CWM TAF WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES

It is hoped that the Reader will acknowledge that we have also tried to demonstrate within this Report that we are also taking all reasonable steps in the work that has been undertaken to meet the following three objectives and the cross cutting objective in tackling loneliness and isolation of the local well-being plan published by Cwm Taf Public Services Board:-

### Objective 1 – Thriving Communities

*To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.*

### Objective 2 – Healthy People

*To help people live longer and healthy lives and overcome any challenges*

### Objective 3 – Strong Economy

*To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.*

## HISTORY

Llantwit Fardre Parish Council was formed under the 1894 Local Government Act and the first meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1895. It continued in this form until 1974, when on Local Government Re-Organisation, Welsh Parish Councils were re-titled Community Councils in deference to the disestablishment of the Church in Wales some 60 years earlier.

The Council have adopted the motto, carved over the entrance to the Carnegie Hall, “Goreu arf arf ddysg” being translated from the old Welsh to mean “The best tools are the tools for learning”

The villages of Tonteg and Church Village are next to each other and within the community of Llantwit Fardre which consists of the five villages of Newtown Llantwit, Efail Isaf, Tonteg, Church Village and Upper Church Village. At one time these were small villages quite separate from each other, but so many big housing developments have been built now that their boundaries are blurred.

The area is rapidly growing, as it is a much sought after area to live in due to its proximity to Cardiff and Pontyclun. The villages are approximately ten miles North of Cardiff and three miles from Pontypridd and Caerphilly, South Wales.

Tonteg is to the North West of the Garth Mountain, it lies on a ridge high above the River Taff which flows from Merthyr Tydfil to the sea at Cardiff and is at the top of a hill known locally as Power Station Hill. Church Village was historically known as Cross Inn and fell within the tradition County of Glamorgan.

## BUDGET

The Council's main source of income is from the Council taxpayer which is known as a precept (a charge) to Council tax under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992., the other sources of income are collected from charges such as allotment fees, room hire etc.

Llantwit Fardre Community Council must calculate its budget requirement for a financial year in accordance with Section 50 of that Act and issue a precept to the billing authority. In 2018/19 this Council's precept was £253,195.

**Below is a summary of our Budget and Actual Spend for 2018/19**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Precept	£253,195	£253,195
Other Income	£7,705	£21,246
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£260,900</b>	<b>£274,441</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
Administration	£167,850	£166,775
Projects	£27,995	£5,821
Motor Expenses	£5,200	£2,200
Outside	£2,300	£4,336
Office	£5,850	£7,973
Parish Hall	£15,600	£21,349
Ty Illtud	£14,850	£4,276
Street Lighting	£5,400	£5,489
Fees/Charges	£17,900	£12,712
Grants	£3,000	£3,700
Misc	£6,500	£25,609
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£272,445</b>	<b>£260,241</b>

## CHAPTER ONE

### A PROSPEROUS LLANTWIT FARDRE

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

### **DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Our outside Operatives have been trained in the following:

- First Aid
- Pasma – Scaffolding Tower
- Pesticides
- Lantra Card – use of ride on mower and bush cutter
- Play Inspection – Level 2

We are also looking at the possibility of our Operatives being trained in how to lay and repair `wetpore`, which will save the Council money in paying specialist contractors to undertake works in our play areas.

### **TRANSFERRABLE SKILLS**

**Problem** – This Community Council invested in a new financial/accounting package which is designed specifically for the Community Council sector, unfortunately the staff including the Clerk were not trained to use the new system which resulted in problems being experienced with the Annual Return.

**Solution** – The Responsible Finance Officer from a neighbouring Community Council was seconded to this Community Council on a temporary weekly contact (maximum of 6 hours per week for up to 6 months) as a Finance Mentor, the transferrable skills that she brought ensured that the admin staff including the Clerk were trained in using the new financial/accounting package and also addressed the issues that were raised by the External Auditor in respect of our Annual Return.

### **TENDERS**

Equal opportunities to bid and only use local suppliers/trades wherever possible

## CHAPTER TWO

### A RESILIENT LLANTWIT FARDRE

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

#### **PROVIDE SPACES FOR WILDLIFE SUCH AS BIRD BOXES**

Our Manual Outside Operatives use recyclable wood to make bird boxes which are placed in various locations throughout the community. By creating these homes for swallows, bats, barn owls etc we are helping to reduce the decline.



#### **NATURAL GREEN SPACE**

This Community Council supports the social resilience and community well-being. It was agreed at the Council's AGM in May not to sell any land or property that is in its ownership.



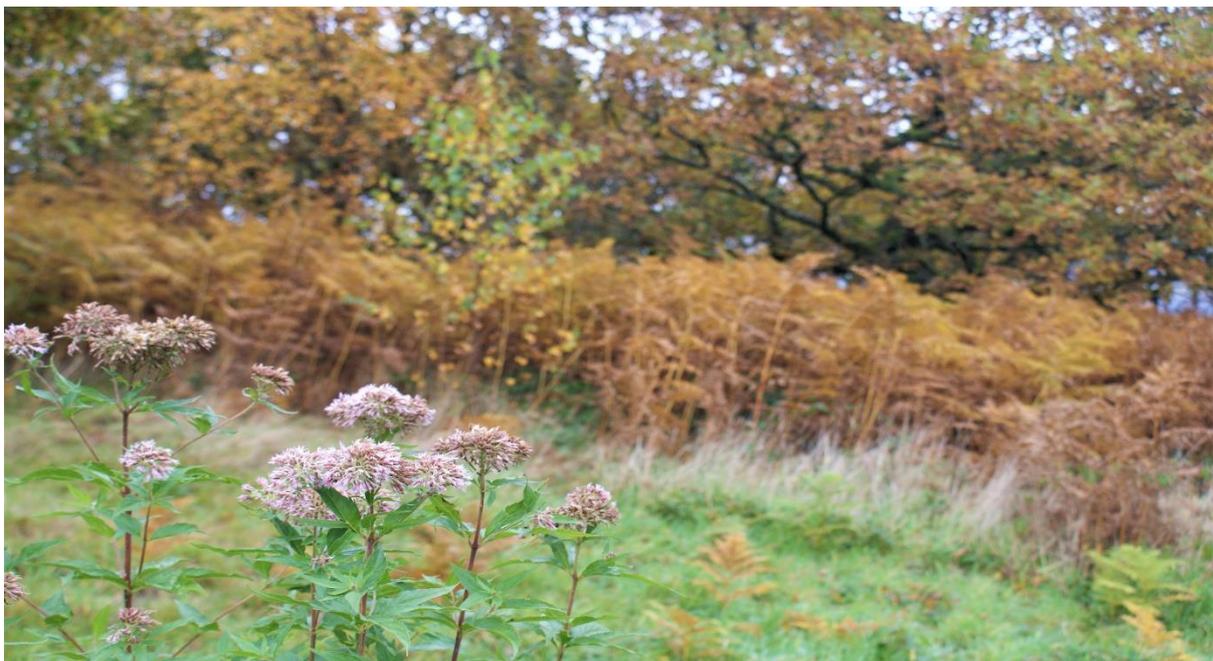
## **REDUCE THE USE OF PESTICIDES**

**Problem** – Use of pesticides have been linked to declines in bees and pollinators, birds, mammals, aquatic animals and non-target plants.

There are about 560 species of butterfly in the whole of Europe and only 59 live in Britain. These species belong to nine different families. Of these, you will only find species from five families in Rhondda Cynon Taf and therefore in the Community of Llantwit Fardre, these are:-

- Pieridae – whites, orange tips, clouded yellows and brimstone.
- Lycaenidae – hairstreaks, coppers and blues.
- Nymphalidae – emperors, admirals, gliders, vanessids and fritillaries.
- Satyridae – marbled whites, graylings, ringlets, browns and heaths.
- Hesperidae – skippers

Ben Williams is the author of `Butterflies of Rhondda Cynon Taff` and lives within the Community of Llantwit Fardre, Ben has combined his skills as a wildlife photographer and his local biodiversity knowledge to produce the guide. We as a Community Council with the assistance of our outside Operatives will work with Ben to ensure that our woodland areas are preserved, as the needs of a butterfly are small when compared to birds and mammals. However, whilst colonies can survive in small areas; there are large colonies of Marsh and Small Pearl Bordered Fritillaries in areas about the sizes of football pitches and as this can be seen as an advantage, it can also make them vulnerable, especially from fires on the hillsides and rough grassy places; it is therefore important that we work closely with the Unitary Authority and the Police to prevent such incidents occurring.



**Solution** – We have reduced the use of pesticides and fertilisers and are working with Tonteg WI Gardening Group who are users of our Parish Hall, to increase the provision and diversity of flower-rich resources and pollinators (this is also included in our Plan which we have produced and published in accordance with Section 6 of the Environmental (Wales) Act, 2017 and which is detailed later on in this Report under the heading [A Globally Responsible Llantwit Fardre](#).

### **MAP PUBLIC LAND**

We maintain all the public footpaths throughout our community which are signposted. We also own a lot of land which is accessible to the public, thus empowering the community to have greater influence on the planning provision of urban green spaces whilst supporting them to improve biodiversity in our areas and links in with the aforementioned topics in this Chapter.



### **PROCURE AND PLANT NATURE TREES AND SHRUBS AS A FIRST CHOICE**

We have worked closely with the staff and the pupils of the local Special Needs school (Ysgol Ty Coch) in planting trees and shrubs in our community and which the pupils took great delight in getting involved in this exercise.

## CHAPTER THREE

### A HEALTHIER LLANTWIT FARDRE

A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.

#### **PROVISION OF PLAY AREAS**

In 1925, David Lloyd George said that:-

*“the right to play is a child's first claim on the community. No community can infringe that right without doing deep and enduring harm to the minds and bodies of its citizens”.*





We in Llantwit Fardre Community Council recognise and acknowledge that play, particularly outdoor play is key to ensuring children benefit from a healthy and happy childhood and we are very proud of the fact that we provide and maintain 13 play areas in our community, therefore ensuring that children have access to daily outdoor play.

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE AWARENESS**

At all of our meetings of the Community Council we have an agenda item – Public Break, which gives members of the public the opportunity to speak on an item that they have an interest in or which they want answers. At one such meeting a member of the public spoke at the Leisure and Amenities Committee in October, 2017 following the death of a very close friend who suffered mental health problems which resulted in him taking his own life. More recently, this very same person was given a further opportunity to address Members at a meeting of full Council where he sought our assistance in placing a memorial bench in the area.

### **ENCOURAGE EMPLOYEES TO TAKE BREAKS**

Research has shown that creativity and innovation happen when people change their environment, especially when they expose themselves to the natural environment. Eating away from their desks help to create a sense of community, with people taking the time to get to know their colleagues informally. Studies also show an increase in productivity and the physical break from the desk helps the mind and body rest.

We therefore ensure that our outside Operatives return to the office and use the facilities within the kitchen for their breaks and the admin staff are also encouraged to take their breaks away from their desks thus showing that we value their personal well-being.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### A MORE EQUAL LLANTWIT FARDRE

A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).

#### **THE PUBLIC SECTOR BODIES (WEBSITES AND MOBILE APPLICATIONS) (NO.2) ACCESSIBILITY REGULATIONS 2018**

The above regulations came into force for public sector bodies on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2018 and we as a Community Council have until September, 2020 to comply.

We are therefore building on our existing obligations to people who have a disability under the Equality Act, 2010 and making our website more accessible means that we are making sure that it can be used by as many people as possible, this includes those with:

- Impaired vision
- Motor difficulties
- Cognitive impairments or learning disabilities
- Deafness or impaired hearing

We are working towards ensuring that our website meets the legal requirements and have acknowledged that there will be costs incurred in appointing a web designer who is au fait with the standards required and this is now factored into our budget.

We have also agreed to an Accessibility Statement which shows our users that we care about accessibility and about them:-

*“Llantwit Fardre Community Council is committed to ensuring digital accessibility for people with disabilities. We are continually improving the user experience for everyone and applying the accessibility standards”.*

#### **ADVERTISING**

Increase in publication and advertising – tickets for events are branded and links back to this Community Council – so we are a familiar face.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### A COHESIVE LLANTWIT FARDRE

Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.

#### **PARTICIPATORY BUDGET**

As mentioned in the introduction, this Community Council represents four Wards and at a meeting of our Finance and Policy it was recommended that £1,000 be allocated to each of the Wards so that they could use the money towards various events/items for that particular Ward, one of the Wards namely, Tonteg wished to use the money for the planting of a `growing` Christmas tree. This is enabling people to make decisions about how some funds could be allocated and giving them direct control over a portion of a public budget.

We recognise that when local residents and community groups have a stake in deciding what projects are funded locally, it empowers residents, strengthens engagement around finding solutions and knits communities together.

## CHAPTER SIX

### A LLANTWIT FARDRE OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and recreation.

### **LOCAL HISTORY**

The area can trace its history back to the Bronze Age. A large earth mound, previously known as `Coed-y-Twr` but today called `Tomen-y-Clawdd` is the remains of a typical Norman motte and bailey castle. This had been built in this area to provide defence for the Taff valley against any Welsh chieftans who wished to attack the Normans. The earth mound has a flat top about 20 metres in diameter and the sides are covered with grass and trees, which makes it very attractive when the trees are in leaf. During the early years of the 10<sup>th</sup> Century it still had a moat surrounding it, but today there is only a circular ditch covered with grass. The local inhabitants call it the `Monkey Tump` and it used to be a popular place for children to play. But this is now discouraged as it is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Today it is in the centre of the pleasant Oaklands Housing Estate and the residents there enjoy watching the changing colours of the trees.

### **THE PARISH HALL**

The Community Council owns the Parish Hall which was built as a Carnegie Library in 1906 (the architect is not known) with a grant of £1,500. This fine building was built and opened to the public on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1906 where beautiful oak shelves, tables and reading racks were installed and the library was in daily use as a reading room, and for the borrowing of a great variety of books.



In 1965 Mid Glamorgan County Council decided to build a new library in Church Village resulting in the oak tables, bookcases and reading racks being dismantled and the building was transformed into our present Parish Hall.

The Parish Hall is a listed building and is listed as a well designed Carnegie library, in classical rather than the more common Art Nouveau/Gothic style, and for its social historic interest. The war memorial inside is of additional interest.

The front external wall houses the memorial clock which is serviced on an annual basis.



LLANTWIT FARDRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANILLTUD FAERDREF

## Memorial Clock Recommissioned in 2014 *Cloc Coffa Ail-Gomisiynwyd yn 2014*

Chairman and Councillor / Cadeirydd a Cynghorydd: A. Raines

A massive thank you to I & M Carpentry Ltd (Ian Bird) and also G & C Electricals who have given their services free of charge to help complete this project.

Other companies and individuals that merit a mention are as follows: Carl Davies Builders, Nigel Phillips (Lloyds Bank), Jan Evans (Post Office), the Manager Griffin Mill Garages, Councillor John David.

Also, local residents Lester Lewis, Ivor Edwards, Brian Emery, M K Robinson, Tony Handley, James Harrison, Alan Watkins, Lester Lewis, Judith James (Ex Bute Farm Church Village). All the above have given financial contributions to help Llantwit Fardre Community Council fund this project.

During our Christmas Fete many individuals and companies donated prizes to help raise funds. Although this list is by no means exhaustive, we would like to mention Councillor Elsie Bell, The Picture Box, Flower Power, Cafe Rana, Ian Bird, Edwards Coaches and the Co-Op Pharmacy. Also, a big thank to Steph Cooper and Holly Cooper who made the amazing Clock Cake.

Finally, we would like to thank Councillor Anthony Raines for his vision and determination in restoring our parish clock. Councillor Raines has dedicated a vast amount of time and effort to this project.

Any excess monies raised will be used to service and maintain the clock for many years to come.

Diolch enfawr I & M Carpentry Ltd (Ian Bird) a hefyd G & C Electricals am rhoi eu gwasanaethau am rhad ac am ddim.

Cwmnïau ac unigolion arall sy'n haeddu cydnabyddiaeth yw Carl Davies Builders, Nigel Phillips (Lloyds Bank), Jan Evans (Swyddfa Bost), the Manager Griffin Mill Garages ar Cynghorydd John David.

Hefyd, trigolion lleol Lester Lewis, Ivor Edwards, Brian Emery, M K Robinson, Tony Handley, James Harrison, Alan Watkins, Lester Lewis, Judith James (Ex Bute Farm Church Village).

Mae pob un o'r uchod wedi rhoi arian i helpu Cyngor Cymuned Llanilltud Faerdfref ariannu'r prosiect.

Yn ystod ein ffair Nadolig rhoddodd nifer o unigolion a chwmnïau gwobrau i helpu codi arian. Mae gormod o enwau i gynnwys pob un ond hoffwn diolch Councillor Elsie Bell, The Picture Box, Flower Power, Cafe Rana, Ian Bird, Edwards Coaches a Co-Op Pharmacy. Hefyd, diolch mawr i Steph Cooper a Holly Cooper am wneud y cacen cloc arbennig.

Yn olaf, hoffwn diolch Cynghorydd Anthony Raines am eu gweledigaeth a phenderfyniad gan benderfynnu adnewyddu cloc y plwyf. Mae Cynghorydd Raines wedi rhoi eu amser a llawer o ymdrech i'r project.

Bydd unrhyw arian sydd ar ôl yn cael eu defnyddio i sicrhau dyfodol y cloc.

In Memory of all Servicemen and women of our armed forces who gave their lives  
in past and present conflicts  
*Er cof am holl filwyr o'r Lluoedd Arfog a roddodd eu bywydau menw  
rhyfeloedd y gorffennol a presennol*

## **GIVE FREE ACCESS TO PARK RUN ON ANY PUBLICLY OWNED LAND**

For many years now we have brought the community together in holding the Kidney Wales Foundation Walk for Life, this not only raises money through sponsorships but also encourages people to use our public spaces through exercise which improves their mental and physical health.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

### A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE LLANTWIT FARDRE

A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL (WALES) ACT, 2016 – SECTION 6**

We as a Community Council have acknowledged the purpose of the above Act, which came into force in March, 2016, which is to secure health, resilient and productive ecosystems in Wales, while at the same time we are meeting the challenges of creating jobs, housing and infrastructure. It provides a framework for a more integrated approach to managing natural resources, ensuring that long-term sustainability will be a core consideration in our decision making.

This Community Council will:-

“seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of functions in relation to Llantwit Fardre, and in so doing we will promote the resilience of ecosystems, so far as consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”.

In compliance with Section 6 of the Act, we have prepared and published a plan which includes:-

- To embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into the Community Council’s early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as the day-to-day activities.
- That this Community Council will raise awareness to “Think Green” which will enhance the way in which is the best use of its land so that it will benefit the community in the long term.
- To work with Tonteg WI Gardening Group to increase the provision and diversity of flower-ish resources for pollinators.
- That Ty Illtud be registered as a REFILL station and commit to making the provision of accessible drinking water an essential requirement for public space developments.
- To display posters in the Community Council Office, the Parish Hall and Ty Illtud encouraging users to use the recycling bins provided.

## **REPLACING OF LIGHTS TO LED**

During 2018/19 we replaced 22 lights on our footpaths/pathways to LED which were of a high quality 34w LED lantern c/w dusk-dawn automatic photocell control (industry standard).

Three external LED lanterns and new wall brackets were installed at the Parish Hall and the lighting replaced in the bar area – these were `like for like` due to the Parish Hall being a listed II building.

In Central Park there were six conventional metal halide floodlights mounted on 10/12m static columns serving the car park, walkway and play area, which were in a poor condition. These were replaced with new high power – low energy LED floodlights, which provide a compatible lighting level as the previous floodlights and provide around half of the energy usage/running costs.

These new lights are considered to be virtually maintenance free and are designed to last many years.

## **USE ONLY RECYCLED PAPER**

We have set a date that as from November, 2019 we will only use recycled paper and we are working towards being paper free. We are also looking into the possibility of only using soy-based inks.

## CONCLUSION

As mentioned in the foreward of the Chair, in recent years there has been a turnover of office staff, resulting in the delay of publishing, this, our first Annual Report. However, there has been much progress since the appointment of the new Acting Clerk and work is ongoing for the 2019/20 Annual Report which will outline in greater detail the steps that we are taking to meet the following three objectives and the cross cutting objective in tackling loneliness and isolation of the local well-being plan published by Cwm Taf Public Services Board:-

### Objective 1 – Thriving Communities

To promote safe, confident, strong and thriving communities improving the wellbeing of residents and visitors and building on our community assets.

### Objective 2 – Healthy People

To help people live longer and healthy lives and overcome any challenges

### Objective 3 – Strong Economy

To grow a strong local economy with sustainable transport that attracts people to live, work and play in Cwm Taf.

We as a Community Council will also endeavour to work towards achieving the well-being objectives and will continue to use the fundamentals in all future reports of **WHAT**, **HOW** and **COMMUNICATE** and will also keep asking the following questions when putting our ideas into practice....

- How will we integrate this into our forward planning?
- How will we engage with our community (wards) on the steps we propose to take?
- How will we agree these steps as a Council?
- How will we monitor progress?
- How will we report on the progress we have made?

These are changing times for Town and Community Councils and it is important that we are ready to face the many challenges that are ahead of us. The `competency` tests that are emerging will help us to determine how we are equipped to meet the challenges and will bring more consistency to the sector, with higher standards of governance and financial management.

These tests might include:

- A democracy test – Councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election.
  - All our Councillors have been declared elected – none have been co-opted.
- A capability test – the Community Council must employ a Clerk with relevant professional qualifications.
  - Our Clerk has a Masters in Public Service Management and has many years experience in working in Local Government
- A capacity test – the Community Council has a minimum budget of £200,000.
  - Our annual budget is over £200,000.
- A governance test – the Community Council has sound financial management and internal control systems. It should also meet other criteria such as having a website on which it publishes agendas, minutes and accounts and is contactable by email.
  - We have sound management and financial systems. Our accounts are scrutinised by others. Agendas and minutes are published on the Council's websites and we are working towards complying with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications)(No.2) Accessibility Regulations, 2018 and will be introducing Facebook. A Charter is also in place with Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.