**COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT 2023/2024. www.llangynhafal.org.uk**

Hello and welcome to all residents of Gellifor, Hendrerwydd, Llangynhafal and Llanychan who together form the Community/Parish of Llangynhafal.

Following the introduction of new legislation by the Welsh Government, the Community Council must prepare and publish an annual report about the Council’s priorities, activities, and achievements during the past year. This is our second report which we hope you will find of interest.

**GENERAL ISSUES** – the Council meets formally on the last Wednesday evening of the month (except August and December) at the Community Centre, Gellifor. These are structured meetings with a full agenda. Anyone can attend to observe and there is an opportunity for public questions.

**Your Community Councillors are as follows:** Cllrs Iona Pierce, Bryan Jones (Chair), Huw Jones, Kevin Shenton, Ian Jones, David Taylor, Paul Evans and Andy Mitchelmore.

**Topics covered** by the Community Council are varied and, in the main, are governed by legislation but priority is given to matters raised by residents.

Arising from a consultation exercise, the following were identified by residents as areas for the Community Council to look into further: \*The need for improved street furniture \*The need for a community playing field \*Improvements to the community centre \*Establishing community events \*Establishing a community garden \*The need for a Community Christmas tree \*Problems relating to dog fouling and keeping the villages tidy \*Better footpath signage \*Establishing a calendar of activities \*The poor condition of the roads \*Affordable Housing.

The following paragraphs provide information on the main issues discussed over the last 12 months:

**COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT** – the Community Garden continues to flourish thanks to the hard work of Iola Quinn and numerous volunteers.

This year, the Garden was awarded Bee Friendly Status and several local communities have contacted Iola regarding the project.

The Community Council is currently investigating the provision of water to the garden during the summer months and is working with the school regarding the provision of direction signs.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – this continuous to be a matter of concern. As reported previously, a number of meetings were held with representatives from Grwp Cynefin Housing Association and Denbighshire, the main points being- \*The need for persons to register their interest with Grwp Cynefin \*The availability of land which remains a problem \*The development of large affordable housing provision at Llanbedr, Llanfair and Llandyrnog where land had been specifically designated for this purpose has been a help \*Whether provision for affordable housing in Llangynhafal would be included in Denbighshire’s new Local Development Plan (LDP) to be published during 2024/2025. Information on the new LDP is awaited.

**DEFIBRILLATORS** – there are four defibrillators within the community situated at Gellifor School, Hendrerwydd Kiosk, the entrance to Llangynhafal Church and the Golden Lion Inn. Training was provided recently and we are grateful to Tony Killow for his work in connection with maintaining the equipment and to Kevin Shenton for arranging the training.

With regard to the defibrillator situated on the school site, arrangements are being made to move the equipment from inside the school grounds, which are locked during the school day, to alongside the Community Council notice board on the perimeter fence which can be accessed from the road.

**BUDGET 2023/2024** – The Council tax precept amounted to £5000.00 or an annual payment of £20.75 per Band D property. This continues to be one of the lowest Community Council Tax demands within Denbighshire. The Council’s accounts are audited annually by an internal and external auditor and there were no adverse comments or recommendations made by them.

**COMMUNITY SEATS** – as reported last year, the Community Council is carrying out a programme of maintenance/replacement work on the various seats around the community with the provision of a replacement seat at Plas yn Rhos being the current priority after the seat was damaged beyond repair. We are also reviewing the seat at Commins where its location is muddy during wet weather. The possibility of digging out the grassed area and replacing it with stones/hard core continues to be looked at.

**HIGHWAY MATTERS** – the Community Council continues to be in regular communication with Denbighshire on a range of issues including complaints about the **condition of roads and potholes**. Some resurfacing and drainage work was carried out during the past 12 months but more work is needed. The Council will continue to press Highways regarding these matters, the current priorities being: \* Hwylfa Fain from Llanychan to the top road, Llangynhafal \* Gables to Hendrerwydd and onwards to Cyffion Junction \* Bryn Onnen corner above Gellifor Farm. \* The mountain road beyond Llangynhafal Church towards Cilcain.

The Highways Department have also been asked to look at the possibility of introducing **speed limits** at Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd village centres and painting SLOW road markings at Plas yn Rhos bends.

They have also been asked to carry out maintenance work on **roadside visibility** **railings** within the community which are in very poor condition.

**MOEL FAMAU COUNTRY PARK/FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS** – a large part of Llangynhafal is within the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Council continues to work with Denbighshire Countryside Services to ensure that access via footpaths, lanes, gates, styles etc are not restricted to ensure that residents are able to obtain maximum enjoyment and benefit from the outstanding countryside on our doorstep. More kissing gates have been installed to replace styles and the condition of Hwylfa Llwyn bridleway leading to Moel Fammau Country Park remains a priority.

**GRASS CUTTING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON** – once again, we are grateful to David Weyman for cutting and maintaining the larger grassed areas within the community together with the area around the community seats. This work greatly enhances the appearance of the community during the summer months.

**CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS** – The Christmas tree has now become an annual event and the Community Council is grateful to Paul Evans, Kevin Shenton and Mike Quinn for their work in arranging for the tree and lights to be erected in the centre of Gellifor. The Council is currently exploring the possibility of similar arrangements being made at Hendrerwydd.

**DOG FOULING** – the situation regarding dog fouling is being monitored and the Community Council is grateful to Kevin Shenton for his work in ensuring that waste bag dispensers are kept fully stocked.

**COMMUNITY CENTRE** – ownership of the community centre rests with the Community Council with management issues being the responsibility of the Community Centre Committee. We are currently looking to renew the lease for siting the centre on the school grounds, the current lease having expired some time ago. Until a new lease has been agreed it could prove difficult obtaining grant funding to carry out improvements to the centre.

**IMPROVED INTERNET PROVISION** – Work on the new Openreach “Fibre Community Partnership Programme” has now been completed with most properties now being able to access fast and reliable internet connections.

**COMMUNITY PLAYING FIELD** – Unfortunately, we have not been able to proceed with this project due to the lack of available land within the area. The school playing field remains available to children to use and we continue to be grateful to the school Governors for their cooperation in this matter.

**NEW VILLAGE NAME SIGN AT HENDRERWYDD** – following consultation with the Highways Department arrangements were made to purchase a new sign to replace the old name sign which had become badly faded.

**HENDRERWYDD UCHAF** – The Community Council is currently looking to erect a special plaque at Hendrerwydd to mark the location and transfer of Hendrerwydd Uchaf, a 16th century farmhouse, to St Fagans Folk Museum, Cardiff. This transfer took place in 1957 but, as things stand, there is nothing at Hendrerwydd to mark its existence.

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL** – an advert and role description had been circulated but, on this occasion, there had been no interest shown in the role. The Council intended to pursue this matter further later in the year.

**OTHER ISSUES** – In addition to the items already mentioned, other issues covered by the Council over the last 12 months include **consideration of** **planning applications** as they arise and financial matters including **requests for** **financial assistance**. Arrangements have also been made to **plant flower bulbs** within the community and we are grateful to Ian Jones for carrying out this work.

The Chair and Members of the Community Council. 19.04.2024