**COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPORT 2024/2025. www.llangynhafal.org.uk**

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

In accordance with legislation introduced 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 third 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.

As mentioned last year, the following were identified by residents as areas for the Community Council to look into: \*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 at Gellifor and Hendrerwydd \*Problems relating to dog fouling and keeping the villages tidy \*Better footpath access and signage \*The poor condition of the roads \*Affordable housing.

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

**FUNDING TO IMPROVE OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS** – Denbighshire CC is currently inviting bids from organisations within the community of Llangynhafal in respect of commuted sum funding of £11,370.00 to improve open spaces and play facilities in the area.

The Community Council would like to see the funds put to the best use and, following local consultation, **the provision of new outside play equipment** for children was identified as a possible project. The equipment would be located on the school playing field for use by the school and the local community.

The Community Council is currently in discussion with contractors and it is hoped that a bid can be put together for consideration by Denbighshire later this year.

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

This year, the Community Council has been looking into the provision of water for the garden and, in consultation with the volunteers, it was decided to purchase one IBC water tank and frame which is now in place.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – at last years open meeting a discussion was held regarding the development of land adjacent to Gellifor Farm where the applicant had submitted revised plans to erect 14 dwellings together with a community parking area.

The inclusion of a community parking area was welcomed but, further to the comments made at the open meeting, the Community Council pressed the Planning Authority to classify a greater proportion of the new development as affordable housing (not just one house as shown on the submitted plans). The Community Council also pressed for the development to be redesigned and pushed back further into the field in-order to incorporate 2 vehicular accesses, one at either end of the site, and have access roads behind the existing hedge.

The planning application was considered by the Planning Committee when consideration was given to the comments submitted by the Community Council but in the end the submitted planning application was approved unaltered.

The lack of affordable housing continues to be a cause for concern and Denbighshire’s new Local Development Plan is awaited.

**DEFIBRILLATORS** – residents are reminded that there are four defibrillators within the community, situated at Gellifor School, Hendrerwydd Kiosk, the entrance to Llangynhafal Church and the Golden Lion Inn.

With regard to the defibrillator situated on the school site, arrangements were 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.

Once again, the Community Council is grateful to Tony Killow for looking after and maintaining the equipment.

**BUDGET 2024/2025** – The Community Council tax precept amounted to £5250.00 or a community council tax band charge of £14.50. 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. A new replacement seat has been provided at Plas yn Rhos after the original seat was damaged beyond repair. We are also reviewing the seats at Commins and Rhewl turning where the locations are 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** – as reported previously, the Community Council is in regular communication with Denbighshire Highways regarding a range of issues including complaints about the **condition of roads and potholes**. In this respect, the roads and other matters causing the most concern continue to be as follows: \* 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. \* Blocked roadside drains and gulleys.

A review of the **20mph speed limit** is currently being carried out by Welsh Government. The only road with a speed limit within the community of Llangynhafal is the road from Plas yn Rhos to Gellifor, the general view being that, in the interest of improved road safety, the speed limit should remain at 20mph with Highways having been informed accordingly.

The Highways Department had been asked to look at the possibility of introducing speed limits at Llangynhafal and Hendrerwydd village centres but we have recently been informed that the two villages are not considered to be priority locations but they would be kept under review.

**MOEL FAMAU COUNTRY PARK/FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS** – residents will be aware that a large part of Llangynhafal is within the previously designated “Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)”, now referred to as “National Landscape”.

Once again, the priority has been 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. During the year, more kissing gates have been installed and the general condition of paths has been improved. In particular action has been taken to clear the gorse infestation at the top of Hwylfa Llwyn Uchaf.

However, following the winter storms, quite a bit of damage was caused to the path at Hwylfa Llwyn Isaf. This was reported to Highways who recently confirmed that they intended carrying out a number of tasks at Hwylfa Llwyn during the financial year 2025/2026.

**GRASS CUTTING DURING THE SUMMER SEASON** – the Community Council continues to make arrangements with David Weyman for the large roadside grassed areas to be cut and kept in a tidy condition. This work greatly enhances the appearance of the community during the summer months.

**CHRISTMAS TREE AND LIGHTS** – residents will be aware that the Christmas tree at Gellifor has become an annual event and the Community Council is grateful to Paul Evans, Andy Mitchelmore, Kevin Shenton and Mike Quinn for their work in making the arrangements. This year, thanks to the work of Paul Evans and Ian Jones, a Christmas tree was provided and erected at Hendrerwydd with a special evening of food and carols having been arranged by the White Horse.

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

**COMMUNITY CENTRE** – as reported previously, ownership of the community centre rests with the Community Council with management issues being the responsibility of the Community Centre Committee. The Centre is available for hire and the Centre Committee is currently looking at possible improvements to the building.

**SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD –** 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. As mentioned earlier in this report, the Community Council, in liaison with the school, is looking at the possibility of providing new outdoor play equipment on the playing field for school and community use.

**HENDRERWYDD UCHAF** – work on providing a special plaque at Hendrerwydd to mark the location and transfer in 1957 of Hendrerwydd Uchaf, a 16th century farmhouse, to St Fagans Folk Museum, Cardiff continues to progress. As things stand, there is nothing at Hendrerwydd to mark its existence but hopefully the plaque will be in place later this 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, financial matters including **requests for** **financial assistance**, the proposed new **North East Wales National Park** which will take in the Moel Famau Country Park and the provision of **new Notice** **Boards** within the community.

The Chair and Members of the Community Council. 18.04.2025