

## **The Chairman's Report**

The Community Council was pleased to be able to move towards in-person meetings once again in the Llancarfan Village Hall, after a long period of Zoom meetings through the Covid pandemic. Alex Rees took over in May as LCC chairman and Tim Bluff Higgins as Vice chairman. The committee began the new term with only 6 members, Katherine Kemp, Joann Scott Quelch, Martyn Hughes and Hannah Farnell (newly elected). The following month (June 2022) 4 new members were co-opted onto the committee, Gordon Kemp, Jane John, and Hannah Osbourne representing Llancarfan and Andrew Tummon representing Llantrithyd.

We were pleased to welcome PC Stuart Elson as a regular attendee at the meetings. His monthly crime reports have enabled the community to keep in touch with any trouble in the neighbourhood, and to feel that local action is being taken when crimes are reported. The Speed Watch team in Llantrithyd paused activities due to new rules regarding health and safety but should resume with a PCSO in attendance this summer. Llancadle has started their own Speed Watch group as of Spring 2023.

The committee has endeavoured to ensure the Finances of the LCC are kept in good order. There is a regular external audit. Expenditure has unfortunately been heavy this year due to the escalating costs of the riverbank repairs. This unfortunately needed to be done as about 6 metres of the riverbank had collapsed over the years and was in a dangerous state. As it was within the churchyard this fell to the LCC to repair the area, and this was completed in Spring 2023. There was also a significant cost in making the community car park safe with the installation of fencing to prevent anyone inadvertently driving into the river.

Due to the costs incurred in 2022/3 it was decided to ask for an increase in the Precept. After several years of no increase, it was felt to be essential to do this.

The Burial ground continues to be cared for by Edenvale and members of the village and the burial ground sub-committee. There has been a new plan drawn up with all grave and cremation plots marked. The burial committee have done regular health and safety checks on the state of the graveyard and plans to ask the VOG council for assistance with this in a more formal way next year. There is a new area designated for cremated remains.

An oak tree was planted in the churchyard last autumn as a memorial to all those affected by the Covid Pandemic and to commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

All the villages hosted their own events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee in the summer. Sadly, this was followed all too quickly by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on the 8th September at the age of 96. There followed a period of mourning and services to celebrate her long life. A book of condolence was opened in each of the parish churches.

In Llancarfan the annual show took place in September, and the Remembrance Service in November.

The LCC supported all the villages again with a Christmas tree grant, and many events took place around the villages over the Christmas period.

The Fox and Hounds pub changed ownership last summer. Andrew Archibald took on a 3-year lease and has endeavoured to revitalise the pub with community events and an updated menu.

The planning sub-committee has kept a watchful eye over planning applications during the year. The Old Llancarfan School site is of particular concern and yet no definite purchaser has been found. We will continue to lobby the VOG council to keep the site safe and tidy.

The roads sub-committee has actively tried improving the response of the VOG to concerns about potholes and general repairs. The subsidence on the road from Llancarfan to Walterston remains a concern and a site meeting has been requested.

The Community engagement and Future generations sub-committee has been very active this year and a newsletter is being produced 4 times a year to assist with community engagement. It is hoped that this and the updated LCC website will help to bring the communities together and encourage everyone to contribute to the well-being of the area.

Over the next 12 months we hope to continue to engage all the members of the communities in the LCC in keeping this beautiful area of the rural vale, an accessible, peaceful and a desirable place in which to live.

The chairman is very grateful to the clerk Jo Western for her invaluable support and guidance.

Dr Alex Rees May 2023