



Llangammarch Community Council

Annual Report 2023

The Council started a successful year by being able to unanimously resolve that it was eligible for General Power of Competence, having met all criteria according to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. This means that it is not restricted by certain laws covering expenditure and working with others in a business setting. Eligibility was created by having 6 elected councillors and a fully qualified Clerk.

Cllrs Coldrick and Hather were proposed, seconded and subsequently elected to continue to act as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Peter James replaced Councillor Van Rees as our Powys CC link, his attendance at meetings is appreciated and has been valuable.

After numerous attempts to acquire a fourth defibrillator via Welsh Government, the Friends of Builth Hospital donated one on the condition that the council provided the cabinet, this has been installed in Upper Llangammarch, close to the home of the guardian.

Progress has been made on clarifying ownership of Riverside Gardens. At present the council runs the gardens under licence from Powys County Council. We have been advised that, because of the length of time the Community has looked after the area, we are actually the rightful owners - we now await the completion of necessary legal proceedings.

Attempts to return the use of St David's, Tirabad to the Community is moving forward. Repairs to the roof and guttering have been started, done using Church in Wales (C in W) contractors and paid for by them. Once these repairs are completed C in W have agreed to hand the church back to the community but the wheels move very slowly. The Benefice should continue to look after the graveyard, this too is proving difficult to achieve.

On the financial front Llangammarch was one of the first councils to undergo a complete, all papers physically checked audit, by Welsh Audit. This created no problems as the council had also taken part in a Governance pilot scheme with Welsh Government. However, the council had to wait from September until April to get news that we had a clear, unqualified audit and get all the papers returned from Cardiff.

The Civility and Respect pledge was signed by the council in November as part of and England and Wales push to reduce bullying and harassment, which is, unfortunately, quite widespread within local councils and beyond.

One of our two Casual vacancies was filled in November 2022. We continue to make every effort to recruit, ideally another councillor from the Tirabad area would be helpful to ensure balance.

The situation regarding the maintenance of the trees in Riverside Garden came up for review. After a very long discussion at an Extraordinary General Meeting, it was agreed to deal with some immediately and to deal with others (including the cherry trees) in the late summer of 2023. Residents were asked for their view regarding keeping the toilet open during the winter, as a result

the toilets were closed from 1st December 2022 to 1st March 2023, this was good timing as we had a very cold spell that would have frozen the pipes had the toilets remained open.

After seven years of lobbying Powys County Council and with a final push from County Councillor James, a new, larger bin arrived outside the Post Office, the one from the Post Office was then moved to the edge of the bridge as an additional 'doggy' bin.

To meet the requirements for both Llangammarch CC and Llanwrtyd WTC under The Wales Environment Act 2016, Section 6, a local biodiversity and sustainability group has been formed. It is now called the Dyffryn Irfon Growers and Sustainability Group (DIGS). It serves the whole of the Irfon Valley, supporting growing on small and large scale, sharing resources and knowledge.

March brought the first full encounter with GreenGenTowyUsk/Bute with a consultation at the showground in Llanelwedd about turbines and pylons. This is an ongoing situation, but it has been confirmed that Llangammarch CC will be consulted when the project goes before the Welsh Government. Llangammarch CC's Ward is particularly affected with the pylon line running closely behind the houses in Cefn Gorwydd and across a lot of top-class farmland in our council area.

May 2023