

# Llanfechain Community Council Newsletter

## Local Development Plan

PCC officers are currently working on finalising the Deposit Local Development Plan for consultation. We understand that they have selected the candidate site 711, which is the site behind Central House to Vine Cottage/Dolgain with access via Maes Dinas, for development with provision for up to 25 houses. The public consultation will run from Monday 28th July to Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Representations (comments) on the content of the Plan must be made within this period. PCC will be holding a series of exhibitions; all events will run between **1pm and 7pm** at the following local locations: 28/07/14 - **Welshpool**, Town Hall. 06/08/14 - **Llanfyllin**, Llanfyllin Institute as well as other more distant venues; see: <http://www.powys.gov.uk/index.php?id=1820&L=0>. The Community Council will consider whether to make a representation at our next meeting.

## Accidents/Speeding on the B4393

At the invitation of the Council, PS Andy Allan attended a recent meeting and was advised of our concerns about the number of accidents on the B4393 between the village and Llansantffraid. PS Allan noted that accidents at the bends have always been a problem and that despite all the signage most of the accidents that have occurred involved local people driving badly. However PS Allan agreed to have patrols monitor the road more frequently and a bid for funding to re-profile the road has been agreed by PCC. This work should happen next year.

## Mud on the Road.

In May the recurring problem of mud on the roads was again brought to the attention of the Council. It was noted that the Council had little immediate authority over this matter and therefore urged the public to report excessive mud etc. on the roads and pavements as soon as it occurred to either Dyfed/Powys Police on telephone number 101 or Powys CC on 0845 6076060. The Council has however raised the issue with the Head of Road Policing Dyfed Powys asking that he be more active in the enforcement of the requirement to clean the roads after any agricultural work and we will be reminding the contractor of this requirement.

## Waste.

The Community Council had hoped that they would be able to get PCC to provide Orange Garden Waste Bags that could be sold from our Community Shop. Unfortunately this is not possible. PCC advised that residents need to call the contact centre at County Hall, and once payment is taken, [the cost of the bags covers the cost of delivery of the bags to the household and the cost of collection of the garden waste from the household], then a roll of bags would be delivered to the resident.' They noted that green waste collected in the orange bags is sent to landfill, whereas that deposited in the green waste banks at the 'bring sites' is used for land renovation, so the preferred option is for people to get their garden waste to the local recycling centre or 'bring site'. This position ignores the needs of older residents and our County Councillor has represented against the policy.

## Patients Participation Group (PPG).

Francis Hunt, chair of the PPG, attended the July Council meeting. She provided her insight into a number of current studies and requirements for the provision of better health care in this area. In brief: 1. General practice is facing a growing crisis as it struggles to provide the care needed by an increasing patient population; the Put Patients First petition ( [www.putpatientsfirst.rcgp.org.uk](http://www.putpatientsfirst.rcgp.org.uk) ) argues for an increase in funding from 8.39% to 11% of the UK NHS budget by 2017. 2. The Ambulance Station in Llanfyllin is currently under review with the possibility of closure with ambulances starting and finishing in Welshpool; representations are being made to keep the station in Llanfyllin but co-located with the Fire Station. 3. Representations to the Welsh Government Health study have been made by the PPG (posted on the notice board) and you have been given the

opportunity to have your say via the Welshpool Town Council's 'Mid Wales Health Survey' or directly via the website [www.midwaleshealthstudy.org.uk](http://www.midwaleshealthstudy.org.uk) . 4. Finally the Council has been asked to make a donation to equip the area First Responders, two of whom live in this Community.

## **The Recreation Area.**

1. We have recently paid £460 to replace the flat swings one of which had been broken. It was noted at the July meeting that one of the young child swing seats was broken and consequently has been removed. To replace it will cost another significant sum. None of these robustly made swings can have been broken if used properly.
2. Dog fouling has been noted on the field. Please clear up dog mess!
3. The cost of grass cutting was substantially less than had been anticipated. Last year the bill from Bembows was £300. They have subsequently ceased trading and have passed the contract to P&W who are charging £60 for each cut. We therefore estimate the bill to be about the same as last year. The Llanfechain Football Club paid £100 (25% of the overall costs) last year and we gratefully note that they did some pitch maintenance themselves.
4. Recently a branch fell on a resident; as a result we are asking P&W to do a tree safety assessment.
5. The ash tree at the Memorial Hall end of the Recreation Area has done some damage to the adjacent property and we are seeking planning authority to have it removed.

## **Eisteddfod.**

The Council has donated £300 to the Llanfechain Appeal Committee on behalf of the National Eisteddfod, to be paid over 2 years. We would encourage all to support this appeal; it is a most important cultural event.

## **Changes to Local Government.**

The Welsh Government is currently engaged in a debate about the structure of local government. There is also the probability that certain services are delegated from County to Town and Community Councils; grass cutting is an example. The Community Council is engaged through the North Montgomeryshire Forum on this issue; it may require that we 'cluster' (meaning to group) with other local councils for the provision and funding of certain services. Of note, a proposal for the future of libraries has been issued. The options offered are (Which do you prefer ?):

- a. Reduce opening hours by 20%; keep the current branch libraries; reduce the mobile library service to once every 4 (rather than the now 2) weeks.
- b. Close up to 11 branches; increase the mobile library to one or two half days per week at places where branch libraries have been closed; and introduce a dedicated 'housebound' service for those unable to travel.
- c. Close up to 5 branch libraries; discontinue the mobile service; introduce a dedicated 'housebound' service for those unable to travel; provide library link services (computerised ordering facilities) where libraries etc. have been removed.

## **The Council**

The recent departure of Leigh Kellaway, who has moved out of the area, means the Council is now just 4! For the Council to be properly representative of this Community provision is made for 8 Councillors; the Council is quorate with 3 Councillors but with so few making decisions the Council inevitably lacks the credibility that a full Council would justify; decisions are better made with a spread of views. It is your Community so please help ensure we make the best possible decisions – please consider becoming a Councillor.

**Distribution:** Because of various difficulties this newsletter will be posted on the notice board, distributed as best we can within the community; copies will be available in the shop. Please help by taking copies for those you know in more distant areas.

Your Community Councillors are: Phil Williams 828931, Brian Ellis 648202, Sue Chaloner 648121 & Jane Humphreys 07988666105. The Clerk to the Council is Dianne Crecraft 828542. The Community website is: <http://www.llanfechain.org.uk/> Your County Councillor is Gwynfor Thomas: 828103 M:07952775402. Meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of the month less August starting at 7.30pm.