

## **Llanfechain Community Council**

# **Newsletter**

Welcome to the second Community Council Newsletter; we hope you found the first one interesting. We hope that by improving communications we will be better able to represent the community and respond to your concerns. The more you let us know your concerns, the more we will be able to address them, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

As explained before, each month the Council is looking at a different area of concern to the community. In September, the Council looked at Planning and decided to establish a Subcommittee to look at planning applications. This means all applications can be looked at within the 21 day deadline. In October we looked at transport, and in November we had hoped to look at Safety and Security but, unfortunately, the Police representative had to cancel at the last moment. We intend to try again in the New Year. In December we will look at the Budget – in particular the principles that guide us in deciding how we spend the precept.

### **Transport**

Our discussion in October considered what public transport exists, how good it is and what more might be provided. We looked at how many people regularly use the bus service, why some people do not use it, and whether it provides what is needed.

We noted the lack of bus shelters and that on occasions the school bus is overcrowded and children have to stand – whilst all in cars are required to wear safety belts.

We were particularly concerned about the lack of a suitable disembarking place on returning from the Llansantffraid direction, which is especially dangerous and difficult for older people. On this concern we have written to The Tanat Valley Bus Company asking if they might trial stopping at the Memorial Hall entrance where it will be easier to get on/off and where shelter is provided by the covered entrance – we await their reaction. If they agree we will look at the traffic implications.

We are interested in your views on improving transport facilities for the community. We can only improve the situation if we can show that a good number of people would use better public transport. We would also welcome imaginative ideas about other ways of improving people's travel options.

### **Our School**

As you will no doubt have heard, great news was received in October when PCC's Cabinet decided that our school would not close under the "School's Modernisation Programme". The staff, pupils, parents and Council members went to Llandrindod Wells on 4th October to show our determination to keep our school open. It was a heart-warming sight to see the children standing outside the Council offices enthusiastically shouting support for their school and being so well behaved. The decision to keep the school open resulted in much jubilation.

The Community Council has resolved to form closer links between the school and the community and would welcome ideas to achieve this; as a start it has decided to fund a table for the school at the village Christmas Fair.

## The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations



*A Bonfire Beacon celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.*

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 will be The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating 60 years on the throne. A number of national events are being planned for the weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June including lighting 2012 beacons across the country. We have been asked if Llanfechain wishes to take part. It would require the community to build a beacon bonfire on a suitable piece of high ground and to have a community party once the beacon is lit. All beacon locations will be entered into a special presentation book that will be given to The Queen as a permanent reminder of this moment in history. This is an opportunity for a fun community event but it needs *you* to be involved. Our initial thoughts are that the beacon needs to be in somewhere that it is both safe and easy for older residents to attend, or we could have the beacon and party on separate sites. It would, we think, be a memorable event for our children and everyone else. We intend to use the next newsletter as a survey for this event – so please think about it.

### **Patient Participation Group - News from the Doctors' Practice**

It is intended that a new website will be launched early next year. At present the telephone system is overloaded making it very difficult to book appointments. The new website will free up phone lines by providing information about opening times, emergency telephone numbers (including Shropdoc) and NHS Wales, contain contact details of clinics, nurses and doctors, and will allow patients to order prescriptions, change their contact details or register as new patients, and cancel appointments on line. It will also, and enable patients to access health information on issues such as how to stop smoking and healthy eating. It will not initially allow patients to choose and book their own appointments but should make it easier to get through on the phone.

### **The New Local Development Plan - How it Affects Llanfechain**

Powys County Council is required to have a plan setting out the proposals and policies for future development and changes of land use. This is based on information gathered about economic, social and environmental circumstances.

At present the Powys Unitary Development Plan is in force. This categorises Llanfechain as a 'small village', which means it is to have a slow rate of grow, following the building of the three estates in the 1980's and 1990's. New housing would only be considered adjacent to the boundary, and only if it is 'Affordable Housing' and there is an identified need.

From 2016, however, there will be a new Plan in force - the Local Development Plan. The draft of this Plan is currently being prepared and should soon be available for public consultation, when everyone can have their say. Landowners have already been asked to offer 'candidate sites' for proposed new housing, and the list of these sites should be available shortly. This Council intends to survey all residents to seek views on any proposal and to keep you informed at all stages.

Your Councillors are: Phil Williams 828931, Jacky Bradbury 829063, Brian Ellis 648202, Annette Prince 829020, Leigh Kellaway 828210, Steve Roberts 828380, & Peter Cannon 648777. The Clerk to the Council is Dianne Crecraft 828542.