

Llanfechain Community Council Newsletter

This newsletter covers the forthcoming election, the Llanfechain circular trail, 'affordable housing' and advice on calling an ambulance.

The Election. On Thursday May 3rd there will be an election held in the Memorial Hall for you to choose who represents you on Powys County Council. Tegwyn Jones, our County Councillor for the past 25 years is standing down so you will need to choose a new representative. We would like to thank Tegwyn for all he has done for this community and wish him well in the future.

You will also get a chance to vote for Llanfechain Community Councillors – if enough people put their names forward to prompt a ballot. The full Community Council is composed of eight voluntary members (Councillors). Ideally Councillors are drawn from all sections of the community, with a range of ages, sexes, long-term and newer residents etc. Of course, the election process cannot guarantee such diversity but you can influence it by the choices you make. However, if only eight people put their names forward there will be no election, which would save money but deny you a choice of who represents you. So, if you think you could promote the wishes of the community and can spare a bit of time, why not volunteer to become a Councillor? If so, you need to submit your nomination by noon Wednesday the 4th April. The Community Council Clerk can provide advice. The formal notice for the election is on the community notice board and is reproduced here:

NOTICE OF ELECTION CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

An election is to be held of Community Councillors for the whole of the County of Powys.

Nomination papers may be delivered at County Hall, Llandrindod Wells any week day after the date of this notice, but not later than noon on WEDNESDAY the FOURTH day of APRIL 2012.

Forms of nomination may be obtained at the address given below from the undersigned, who will, at the request of any elector for the said Community Ward, prepare a nomination paper for signature.

If the election is contested, the poll will take place on THURSDAY the THIRD day of MAY 2012.

Electors should take note that applications to vote by **POST** or requests to change or cancel an existing application must reach the Electoral Registration Officer at the address given below by 5.00pm on the EIGHTEENTH day of APRIL 2012.

Applications to vote by **PROXY** must be made by 5.00pm on the TWENTY-FIFTH day of APRIL 2012. Applications to vote by Proxy because of physical incapacity suffered after the above deadlines must be made by 5.00pm on POLLING DAY.

The address for obtaining and delivering nomination papers and for delivering applications for an absent vote is as follows:

County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
LD1 5LG
Tel: 01597 - 826202 / 826717



J R Patterson
Returning Officer

Dated this Nineteenth day of MARCH 2012

What Does Your Council Do? What Might Your Role Be?

The Council should identify community concerns and needs e.g. bus stops, and pursue them with the relevant authorities, e.g. PCC, or see if anything can be done from within the community. Community resources are limited but include some money (the precept), and the skills and resources that local people and businesses can offer. Annually the Council has to decide how much the precept should be and then must manage the budget. The Council also monitors the maintenance of services, such as the roads, and any property given to or leased on behalf of the community, e.g. the play equipment and football field. It is routinely consulted by PCC and others for its views on a range of matters that might affect the community, from the way county council services are run to developments that affect the area, e.g. pylons; planning applications etc. This Council has recognised that to make decisions on your behalf it needs you to be kept informed and has started this newsletter to help ensure this and to get your opinion on the various issues. The Council should, above all, promote community wellbeing by being concerned that we have a thriving, cared for and caring community. It is therefore important that you vote in May to ensure the Community Council has a legitimate mandate.

Llanfechain Circular Trail.

This walk is one of twelve special walks created in Powys as part of the PCC Leaping Stiles project. It consists of several restored public footpaths comprising a short circular route to the south of the Soar Chapel returning to the village centre through fields and lanes. A new bridge has been built across the Brogan stream by Powys Rights of Way and there are linking footpaths which can be used to extend the walk to enjoy our beautiful valley and wooded hills. While there is still some 'way marking' to be completed around Bryn cynfelin Farm it is hoped a map will be available from the Community Shop in the not too distant future. As time goes on local volunteers will be needed to help clear overgrowth to maintain this walk. A map and route description of the walk can now be seen and downloaded from <http://www.leapingstiles.co.uk/find-a-walk/1417> Enjoy walking !

Is There a Need for Low-Cost Housing in Llanfechain?

The Community Council has asked the Rural Housing Enabler [RHE] for N. Powys to run a survey to identify if there are residents in unsuitable housing who wish to stay locally for family or work reasons but cannot afford open market housing prices here. All details will be in strict confidence. When the survey results are known, the RHE will come to talk to the Community Council and residents to discuss the outcome. If there is found to be a need, an "Affordable Housing" scheme may be appropriate to provide low cost housing for sale, rent or shared ownership, usually through a housing association. Planning conditions or legal agreements would ensure that such housing is retained in perpetuity as affordable for those who qualify under "local need ". Please respond to the survey which has been delivered to your household with this newsletter. Any questions can be addressed to the RHE at rhenthpowys@gmx.co.uk or Tel:01938 551308 .

Medical Emergencies – 999 Calls

The Patient Participation Group would like you to know that if you phone the doctors' surgery in an emergency you may be asked to dial 999 yourself, rather than the surgery doing this. Please do not get annoyed – the staff are not being unhelpful. Ambulances are now fitted with satellite navigation which will guide the driver directly to the telephone from which the call was made. If the call is made from the surgery that is where the ambulance will go, and there will be a delay in reaching you. If you make the call, the ambulance will go straight to you - an advantage of modern technology!

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.
