

Llanfechain Community Council Newsletter

Bus Stop. After much delay, Powys County Council has recognised the need for a 'step down' point opposite the bus stop near Maes Mechain with more suitable curbing at that point. Although advised we might have to contribute, our current understanding is that this will be paid for from the County Council's budget. It is hoped that the 'step down' might be put in place early next year. We have also registered a desire for bus shelters at our two bus stops which we will pursue once the 'step down' is in place and have noted the poor state of the road markings within the village.

Waste. We have decided not to pursue a green skip at this time, though we did register the need within our Local Development Plan submission. The Council will provide an initial number of orange recycling bags that will be held at the Community Shop, making it more convenient for residents to purchase them. This will not be implemented until next spring. Over Christmas we are told refuse collection will not change for Llanfechain but are asked to try to minimise rubbish, somehow!

Changes to Householder Permitted Development Rights in Wales came into force on 30/9/13. This will give greater flexibility to those homeowners who are thinking of extending their home. However, applicants are advised to contact Powys County Council for advice, before going ahead as there are still a number of conditions and restrictions that will need to be considered.

The Recreation Area. There has been some confusion over the grass cutting this year, which will have to be resolved before the summer season next year. Having been told we were responsible for the grass cutting and having engaged a contractor we then discovered that Powys County Council was, on occasions, still cutting the grass. We have suggested establishing a small 'Recreation Field Management Team' to advise on the care and management of the field; would anyone care to volunteer?

Walks. You will recall that the Bodynfoel Estate has graciously agreed to continue to provide a permissive right of way on its land along the bank of the river Cain. They have asked that you comply with their conditions and we would wish to point out, on their behalf, that the path is closed on Boxing Day. Maps and conditions (example below) can be obtained from the Community Shop and will shortly be available on our website. In addition you should be aware that the circular trail that follows rights of way to the south of the village is now open. When using all walks please be respectful.

Map of Bodynfoel 'River Walk'
A 'Permissive Path' from Llanfechain Village

For the continued use of this 'Permissive Path' please observe the 'Conditions of Use' in the file and note the path will be closed annually on Boxing day.

Approx scale: 1:5,000
Permissive Footpath: —
Stiles: ●
Beginning and End points: ▲
Foot Bridge: ▭

Printed June 2013. Copies of this map may be purchased in the village shop

'PERMISSIVE RIGHT OF WAY'

Permission is given to Llanfechain Village Community to walk along the bank of the River Cain through Domen Gastell Farmland on any day, (unless otherwise stated), with the exception of Boxing Day when the farmland and pathway known as the 'River Walk' will be closed to the public.

Users of the 'River Walk' do so entirely at their own risk. May we politely ask that you observe the following conditions of use:

Please

- Keep your dog on a lead & clear up any dog mess in consideration to other walkers. Dog mess is also known to infect livestock.*
- Keep to the way marked, and use stiles rather than the gates wherever possible.*
- Leave gates as you find them, (do not climb over them), and keep to the field edges.*
- Do not walk too close to the river bank as it may give way due to undercutting.*
- Respect wildlife, especially during the breeding season.*
- If you choose to cross the bridge, you do so entirely at your own risk.*

A route-map & other info can be found in the Community Hall

Mid Wales Connection. All will be aware that the National Grid has decided on the route for its power lines including a commitment to put eight miles (13km) underground in the Meifod area. A number of consultations are now taking place along the route. Further information is available at: www.nationalgrid.com/midwalesconnection. We continue to object where and when appropriate.

Website. We have secured a £500 grant to update our website. It is hoped that all council web sites in Wales will in future end in '.gov.uk' and thereby become part of a national government network. We would be grateful to all those who use the website to help maintain its currency; too often parts of the site become out of date.

Budget. At our meeting on 10 December the Council had to decide on the precept for 2014/15. For this last year the precept was £5500 a reduction of £500 on the previous year. In principle the Council is committed to the lowest precept possible, unless there is an agreed specific project which has wide support in the community. In a previous budget decision the Council agreed to limit the reserve to 3/5ths of the precept. Broadly speaking, the Council's running costs amount to £4500 (clerk's wages, office expenses, insurance, hire of the Hall and our long standing commitment to the Hall, and Church Yard maintenance); the remaining precept money being used for donations to the Friendly Club, the Show and to contribute to the repainting of the school, only possible because of an excess of reserves from previous years. Although we receive requests from many worthy causes it has been recent policy to only donate to within our own community. This year we are faced with the probable additional costs of maintaining the Recreation Area and have been asked for a donation towards the National Eisteddfod that is coming to Meifod in 2015. We are also mindful that PCC has to make significant cuts and this may impact on our needs as a community. However, notwithstanding these issues, the Council decided to retain the precept at £5500.

Message in a Bottle/Patients Participation Group. Bottles are still available free from the Community Shop. As a reminder, the scheme, championed by the Llanfyllin Practice, is specifically aimed at helping elderly people. The idea is that you can place all the details of your medication, allergies and other conditions in the specifically-marked bottle and put it in your fridge. The emergency services would all know of this arrangement, so in an emergency they can easily find this important information.

The Newsletter. You may have noted this is the first since June/July. Our apologies but after the LDP debate and recommendation there was little substantive business to report. In future we will only produce the newsletter when we believe it necessary i.e. when there is something on which we would value input or when we believe you need to be aware of a development. We are also looking for help delivering this letter.

Correspondence. As a reminder, any letter to the Council should be delivered to the clerk at least 4 days before a Council Meeting. Correspondence concerning propositions already made should be with the clerk for distribution to councillors 7 days before a meeting; they need time to consider any opinions voiced.

Christmas. The Council wishes to thank all who have helped the Council and the Community this year. This includes all who have helped with and delivered this newsletter, inspected the playing field, maintained our website, acted as representatives or given advice. And on behalf of the Community heartfelt thanks go to the Church and Parochial Church Council, the School, School Governors and its friends, the Memorial Hall Management Committee, all involved with the Shop, the Show Committee, and all the voluntary associations and clubs that help make this community. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a spirited New Year.

Your Community Councillors are: Phil Williams 828931, Brian Ellis 648202, Leigh Kellaway 828210, Sue Chaloner 648121 & Jane Humphreys 07988666105. The Clerk to the Council is Dianne Crecraft 828542. Your County Councillor is Gwynfor Thomas: 828103 M:07952775402. **The next meeting is: either the 6th or 8th January @ 7.30pm – to be confirmed.** The Community website is at: <http://www.llanfechain.org.uk/>

