

FREE



**PONTHIR COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**

EDITION 7 - SPRING 2017

COMMUNITY MATTERS

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KEEP UP TO DATE...

Like & Share our Facebook page, just search for Ponthir Community Council, and visit our website to keep up to date with all in your community! News or story? Get in touch so we can include it in the next edition.



“The new hospital will have approximately 470 beds including 30 critical care beds, 8 more than are currently available in Gwent.”

THE SPECIALIST CRITICAL CARE CENTRE AT LLANFRECHFA

At the Community Council meeting held on 11th January 2017, Mr Julian Hayman, Aneurin Bevan Health Board Engagement Team, provided an update on the Specialist Critical Care Centre (SCCC) at Llanfrechfa Grange.

The Welsh Government has given approval for work to begin and groundworks are due to start in July 2017. Building work is scheduled for February 2018 with the hospital scheduled to open in 2020/21.

The SCCC will be for emergency care and the most serious illness such as:

- Suspected stroke
- Loss of consciousness
- Persistent and severe chest pain
- Sudden shortness of breath
- Severe abdominal pain
- Severe blood loss
- Serious road traffic accidents

There will be no walk in A & E Department at the SCCC and the Royal Gwent Hospital and Nevill Hall Hospital will continue to have in-patient beds, carry out surgery for routine (non-life threatening) conditions and outpatient services.

Admissions to the SCCC Emergency Department will be primarily by Ambulance and there will be a helipad at the hospital.

The Torfaen Local Development Plan continues to reserve the land for housing to the right of the Llanfrechfa Grange hospital drive. However the Health Board is not aware of any actual plans to build houses at present.

Further information can be found here about Clinical Futures (The Health Board's plan for services) and the Specialist Critical Care Centre: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/866/page/61203/>

The following departments will be located in the new hospital:

- Orthopaedic Trauma Services
- Inpatient Urology
- Emergency General Surgery
- Major Planned Surgery
- Inpatient Ear Nose and Throat
- Inpatient Maxillo Facial
- Emergency Gynaecology
- Major Gynaecology Surgery
- Acute Cardiac Care
- Cardiology Inpatients
- Hyper Acute Stroke
- Gastro Intestinal Bleeds
- Medical beds including respiratory, endocrinology, gastro intestinal
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Consultant led Obstetrics
- Critical Care
- Emergency Department
- Emergency Assessment Unit
- Obstetric and General Theatres
- Intervention Radiology Theatres
- Cath Labs
- Education Centre
- Pathology
- Pharmacy
- Radiology – USS, X-Ray, CT and MRI
- Children's Assessment Unit
- Inpatient Paediatrics



GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2016 – RESULT

We are pleased to inform residents that Ponthir was judged to be the most improved village in this year's competition with a score of 83% and awarded Highly Commended.

Congratulations to the Ponthir Baptist Church which won the Best Church Yard Category with the judges highlighting their immaculately maintained garden where people were made welcome to enjoy the peace and quiet.

We would like to thank all our residents and visitors who have helped keep Ponthir clean and tidy during the year and in particular the volunteers who took part in the Ponthir Village Clean Up Event held in May and organised by the Community Council.

We are looking forward to organising another Clean Up Event in May with hopefully even more volunteers making an even bigger difference!



Before

After



The judges commented favourably on:

- Well maintained open spaces
- Recreational Area was used to capacity
- Areas that had been less tidy last year are now spotless
- Well maintained public houses
- The pavements alongside the main road were now planted and well maintained
- Footpaths free of litter



**MEET OUR
NEW YOUTH
REPRESENTATIVE –
TOM EVANS**

MOBILE PHONE RECEPTION IN PONTHIR

As most residents will know the mobile phone reception in Ponthir is not the best.

On a number of occasions we have contacted various mobile networks to complain about poor coverage but all too often have

been told that they have received no or very few complaints from residents. Any resident who experiences poor mobile phone reception should contact their provider in order to highlight the poor reception experienced in Ponthir.

On a positive note following correspondence with Vodaphone and EE we have been informed that Vodaphone are looking to bring better outdoor coverage

in the next few weeks once improvement works have been undertaken on a nearby mast and they are planning further improvements within the next 6 to 12 months. EE have also noted our concerns and their technical department are currently investigating these issues and will contact the Council once their investigations are complete.



PONTHIR CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA PROJECT

In September we were finally able to fully open the upgraded Ponthir Play Area after the council's most ambitious project to date.

The £32,500 investment upgraded the paths and seating as well as the installation of junior swings and climbing frame. We hope this facility will be enjoyed by the youngsters of the village for many more years to come.

Would you like a role in supporting your local community?

Have you thought of becoming a community or town councillor?



Community and town councillors are elected by the people in the local community and are responsible to them. As a councillor you will represent the views of local people and make decisions on a variety of issues concerning the community. You will also have the opportunity to contribute occupational or personal skills and expertise.

This is grass roots democracy at its best!



Interested?

Local Government elections take place on 4 May 2017.

Want to know more?

Speak directly to your community or town council and the Electoral Commission for electoral regulations and procedures guidance www.electoralcommission.org.uk

You may also like to refer to the FAQ sheet and candidate guidance document which accompany this leaflet. Please refer to One Voice Wales' website for candidate guidance www.onevoicewales.org.uk

PRECEPT 2017-18

The only funding available to Ponthir Community Council is the Precept which forms part of the Community Charge collected by Torfaen County Borough Council from your council tax.

This year we have requested that the Precept for the Ponthir Community Area be increased by 2.5% for the next financial year.

In real terms this will mean an increase of 38p per year for a Band A property gradually rising to a £1.34 rise for a property in Band I.

The cost per household varies but for 2017/18 it will be based on £23.53 per annum for a Band D property.

We remain committed to keeping the Precept low, minimising administrative waste and continuing to maximise our investment in community projects.

If you are interested in standing for election as a Community Councillor or would just like to see the type of work that Ponthir Community Council undertakes please come along to one of our monthly meetings starting at 7pm at Ponthir District Sports Club.

The dates of our next meetings are:

Tuesday 7th March 2017

Wednesday 12th April 2017