



PONTHIR COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

EDITION 6 - SPRING 2016

Community Matters

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VOTE NOW!

**Support our cause by
voting at our local Tesco
stores between Saturday
27th February and
Sunday 6th March 2016**

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.

Ponthir Children's Play Area Project

We are pleased to advise that in the past few months significant progress has been made on the Play Area project.

Initial discussions with subcontractors were undertaken during the Autumn and in November a competitive tendering exercise was concluded. Three bids were received and analysed at the December council meeting with Colin Richardson Contractors being selected to complete the refurbishment.

Meetings are now being held to agree access to the site and finalise the schedule which is expected to be undertaken during Spring of this year. The work will include the installation of junior swings, a climbing frame with integrated slide, additional seating and two picnic benches. There will also be a general tidying of the area removing patches of old safety surfacing and attempts to renovate the existing equipment.

In January we received notification that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme had been considered by the shortlisting panel and been chosen to receive a grant. The Play Area Project along with two other successful projects in the region will go forward to a public vote in Tesco stores with their customers deciding the outcome. The project with the highest public vote will receive £12,000, the second placed project £10,000 and the third placed project £8,000.



VOTE NOW!

Support our cause by voting at any of these local Tesco stores between Saturday 27th February and Sunday 6th March 2016:

- Malpas Rd Newport
- Chepstow Rd Newport
- Cambrian Road Newport
- Rogerstone Newport
- Caerleon Rd Newport
- Clytha Park Newport
- Cardiff Road Newport
- Spytty Newport

We now need the residents of Ponthir and Llanfrechfa to lobby friends and family to visit Tesco during the period of Saturday 27th February 2016 until Sunday 6th March 2016 to bolster our vote.

Many thanks to the Ponthir resident who highlighted this potential source of funding.



Community Council Precept 2016/2017

Ponthir Community Council is funded by the Precept which forms part of the Community Charge collected monthly by Torfaen County Borough Council.

The level of Precept is reviewed each year and in January we 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 between 38p and £1.30 per year per household.

The cost per household varies but as an example the annual Precept for 2016/17 for a Band D property will be £22.96.

We apologise for this small increase but assure you that we are committed to keeping the Precept low, minimising administrative waste and continuing to maximise our investment in grants and projects in the community.

Afon Lwyd Greenway

The Afon Lwyd Greenway Working Group is a small voluntary organisation working with the Community Council to promote a safe route for walkers and cyclists connecting Ponthir with Cwmbran and Caerleon. This traffic-free corridor would join up with existing cycle routes linking Ponthir to the National Cycle Network. One of the highest priorities is being given to the creation of a safe route to schools in Caerleon avoiding the main road.

Whilst much of the project may be long term the group have been in detailed discussions with the local authorities, Torfaen and Newport, to ensure the project is incorporated in all relevant plans and financial programmes. The group are also commencing discussions with the relevant landowners and are reviewing funding opportunities.

The main issues to be overcome include route selection across a flood plain and agreeing road, river and railway crossings. Whilst the whole project will inevitably be costly, it has considerable benefits to the residents of Ponthir opening up access to the very attractive countryside in the river corridor.

If you would like to help promote this initiative or have any concerns the Afon Lwyd Working Group would welcome your input. The group can be contacted via the Clerk to Ponthir Community Council at clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk. Meetings are also scheduled for every other month in the Ponthir District Sports and Social club. The meeting dates are advertised on the Community Council website www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk. The next meeting is on 7th March 2016 commencing at 7pm.

Community Council Update

This year has been a year of change for the Community Council with four Councillors deciding to stand down to pursue other ventures.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Judie Morgan, Tony Roberts, Rob Davies and Dave Green for all their hard work in serving this community and wish them well for the future.

In Spring 2015, following the first vacancy being advertised, ten local electors requested an election. Nominations were duly called for and Cwmbran resident Leighton Adams, representing the Plaid Cymru party, joined the Council as a result of an uncontested election.

The same process was undertaken in the Autumn when a further three vacancies became available. On this occasion an election was not called for and so the Community Council was able to Co-opt Ponthir residents Morgan Barrell, Nick Dominy and Iain Glover to the Council. All three newly appointed Councillors are independent of any political party.

Meet Your New Community Councillors



Nick Dominy

I am 29 years of age and, apart from 6 months in Caerleon, have lived in Ponthir all my life.

My job as an Electrical Maintenance Officer involves dealing with local authorities and the regulations and health and safety issues surrounding this type of work. In my spare time I play in a local band called 'The Gatecrashers' which has performed at many local events including the Ponthir Christmas Tree Lighting Event.

Having taken part in previous Village Clean Up Events I was keen to contribute more to the community and was delighted to join the Community Council in December 2015.



Iain Glover

I have lived in the village for 7 years and work in the banking industry. Since moving to Ponthir I have previously undertaken the role of Treasurer for Ponthir District Sports Club and am therefore keen to promote sporting activity within the village.



Morgan Barrell

I have lived in Ponthir with my family since 1995. Whilst living in Ponthir I've been a player, committee member and supporter of Ponthir Cricket Club, Ponthir AFC and Ponthir District Sports Club. I'm passionate about our community and focused on engaging with Ponthir and Llanfrechfa residents on all matters.



Leighton Adams



Community Council Annual Grants to Local Organisations 2016/2017

Each year we consider Grant Applications from constituted community and voluntary groups for a variety of projects which benefit the residents within the Ponthir Community Area.

For 2016/2017 the following changes in the application procedures will apply:

- Application forms will no longer be automatically sent to local organisations but will be available to download, together with the Grant Criteria, from our website www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk as from April 2016. Should organisations not have these facilities then hard copies will be available on request.
- The closing date for applications submitted will be 31st October 2016.
- All applications received will be considered during November/December 2016.
- We recognise that organisations may have a need for emergency funding and so an Emergency Grant Scheme has been set up. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or a hard copy available on request.
- Submitted Emergency Grant Application Forms will be considered at the next available Council meeting.

If any organisation has a query regarding these changes please contact our Clerk, Karen Price, who will be happy to assist.

Diary Dates

28th February

All Saints Church, Llanfrechfa "Gymanfa Ganu" a celebration of St David's Day 6pm. Please join us for the singing of Welsh hymns. All welcome.

11th & 18th March

Ponthir Baptist Church – Children's Youth Club 6.15pm

12th March

Ponthir District Sports Club – RBS 6 Nations England v Wales 4pm Happy Hour before the Game, Hot Food at ½ Time

19th March

Ponthir District Sports Club – RBS 6 Nations Wales v Italy 2.30pm Happy Hour before the Game, Hot Food at ½ Time

28th, 29th and 30th May

Cider weekend at Ponthir District Sports Club

18th June – 20th June

All Saints, Llanfrechfa, Flower Festival 2016 "90 Glorious Years" The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

28th August 2016

Annual Music Festival at Ponthir District Sports Club

5th November 2016

Annual Bonfire Night at Ponthir District Sports Club

Ponthir Baptist, St Cadoc's Caerleon and All Saints Llanfrechfa Church's Together Events

Weekly Talks for Lent

29th February, 7th/14th/21st March
10:30 am – 12:00pm
Rev Phillip Cochrane and Rev
Richard Reardon
Venue: Ponthir Baptist Church (incl.
Coffee/Tea)

Lenten Lunches

March 3rd - Second Lenten Lunch
12:30pm Cost £5
March 17th Third Lenten Lunch
Thursday 12:30pm Cost £5
Venue: Ponthir Baptist Church

**Everyone welcome to join us
on all these events**

Gwent Best Kept Village Competition

It is at this time of the year that the Community Council starts planning for the Gwent Best Kept Village Competition. Whilst Ponthir Baptist Church has been successful, Ponthir as a village hasn't done too well in this competition over the last few years and as the old adage goes: 'If you do what you've always done, you get what you've always got.' With this in mind, we feel that it's time to try a new strategy.


Instead of spending a week in May when we hold a village clean-up event and plant flowers in the village planters, we would like to organise more regular events throughout the whole of the Spring and Summer but to achieve this we would need some help from volunteers who could offer as much or as little of their time as they feel able.

Some examples of the help we need are:

- To help plant and maintain the village planters
- On a regular basis to water the plants in the planters
- To keep designated areas clean and weed-free
- To help pick up litter

Judging can take place anytime throughout the whole of June and the village is judged on the appearance and general cleanliness of the whole village including the church, village hall, school and village pubs as well as play areas and sports grounds.

If you would like to get involved or if you have any suggestions about how we can make improvements to our village, please get in touch.



**We would love to hear your views
on the issues we have discussed.**

**Mae copi or ddogfen hon ar gael yn
Gymraeg. Cysylltwch a ni ar y rhif
ffôn neu drwy e-bost isod.**

Call: 07971 948351

Email: clerk@ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Visit: www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk

 Ponthir Community Council