

**New Website**

We are pleased to tell you about the launch of Ponthir Community Council's new website: [www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

This website will give you easy access to the official documents of the Council:

- Introduction to the Council
- Agenda of forthcoming meetings
- Minutes of Council Meetings
- Contact details for the Clerk
- Photos and contact details for all Councillors
- Diary of upcoming events
- Copies of current and previous 'Community Matters Newsletters'

The website will continue to be developed and useful links to other websites will be added. Please visit the site and give us your feedback, particularly if there is any additional information you would like to see included.

[www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

**New Logo Competition**

Pupils from years 3,4,5,6 of Ponthir Church in Wales school have been asked to design a logo for the Community Council. The competition was launched on April 1st and closed on the 11th and we are pleased to announce that over 50 entries have been received – so plenty to choose from when the Councillors make their decision in the next Council meeting! A prize will be awarded to the winner and the new logo will be launched in the next Newsletter.

**Ponthir Community Council in Action**

You may have noticed quite a few changes in Ponthir over the last few months, here's a summary of what we've achieved to-date:

- ✓ Introduction of a quarterly newsletter
- ✓ Community Christmas Tree Lighting Event
- ✓ Financial donations/grants to 20 community groups that provide services to residents of this area
- ✓ Following contact with Head of Neighbourhood Services, Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC), all the bus shelters in our area have been cleaned
- ✓ We have secured, together with the Village Hall Management Committee, the removal of the recycling site - no more fly tipping or unsightly rubbish!
- ✓ We are in contact with TCBC to arrange for the removal of advertising signs that have been displayed without the relevant advertising consent
- ✓ New bin provided at The Star bus stop

We are also arranging for the following to be completed within the next month:

- ✓ Painting of the telephone kiosk in Tram Lane, Llanfrechfa
- ✓ Sanding and re-staining of all the village benches
- ✓ Improving and increasing the number of village planters

in action



**PONTHIR  
COMMUNITY  
COUNCIL**

**Community  
Matters**

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

**Call: 07971 948351**

Email: [ponthircc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ponthircc@hotmail.co.uk)

Visit: [www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

A copy of this document could be made available in Welsh. Please contact us on the telephone number or e-mail below.

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

Ffôn: 07971 948351 E-bost: [ponthircc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ponthircc@hotmail.co.uk)

**Best Kept Village Competition**

Judging takes place between 1- 30 June  
...Please keep your village tidy!

Welcome to the third edition of 'Community Matters' from Ponthir Community Council.

...We hope you enjoy it!

# The Community Plan

## Three Great Projects

We introduced three projects to you in the last Newsletter and asked if you had any ideas for a fourth project. We are grateful for the ideas put forward but there was not a consensus on one specific project so the original three projects below remain.

## How to Vote

A Voting Card is included in this Newsletter. Please put a cross next to your preferred project and place the card in one of the ballot boxes in the following locations:

- Park Stores (John's Shop)
- The Gate Inn
- The Star
- The Village Hall
- The Ponthir House

## Closing Date

The closing date for your nomination is Friday 30 May. The most popular project will be taken forward so please remember to vote as every vote will count. The winning project will be announced in the next Newsletter.

## Showcasing Llanfrechfa Village Association

The Llanfrechfa Village Association (LVA) was formed in April 2013 with the aim of encouraging and developing community relations in and around Llanfrechfa. A committee was formed in May and an introductory newsletter was circulated to encourage participation. The new committee quickly set to work organising events and activities to raise awareness and funds - including a very successful Harvest Auction last October. This event alone raised over £300 for a local charity leaving a decent residue to fund a Christmas Lights Switch-on party attended by Santa Claus and gifts for all attending children. Every house and business in Llanfrechfa also received a Christmas card from the LVA.

A range of events are planned for 2014 including the first Llanfrechfa Village Scarecrow Festival - which will take place from Sunday 24th to 31st August. Participation in the festival is open to all. You can build a scarecrow and display it within the village boundary or you can simply come along to admire and help judge the best entrant. Details and entry forms can be found on the "Llanfrechfa Village Association" facebook page and the LVA website at [www.llanfrechfavillageassociation.org](http://www.llanfrechfavillageassociation.org)

Association membership is open to anyone living or working within the boundaries of the village which stretches from the roundabout near the police headquarters on the Cwmbran Turnpike, eastward through to 'Upper Llanfrechfa', past 'The Grange' and out over the fields to 'Lower Llanfrechfa' (centred around The Gate Inn and All Saints Church in Church Lane). The eastern boundary of Llanfrechfa is on the B4236, beside Brechfa farm.

**You can get in touch with the LVA via the website or through staff at The Gate Inn on 01633 861822.**



## The Gwent Best Kept Village Competition 2014

The judging for this competition takes place during the period 1st June to 30th June.

The judges will take into consideration the extent to which the entry has been supported by the community and will inspect the following:

- Condition of churchyards and/or cemeteries
- Condition and surrounds of halls and schools
- Condition of bus stops/shelters and telephone kiosks
- Condition of village greens, playing fields and open spaces
- Conditions of hedges, fences and walls
- External appearance of shops and public houses
- External appearance of out-houses, shed and garages
- Cleanliness of verges, ponds and any conservation areas
- Tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens as seen from the highway
- Absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps
- Orderliness of any adverts and notice boards
- General appearance of village
- Overall community effort
- Conservation areas are likely to gain marks for environmental awareness. These should be clearly marked on the village map.



A Working Party has been set up to look at how we can improve on last year's performance. We held a meeting at the beginning of April to set targets to improve the appearance of the village before the competition. Our targets are:

- Arrange a community litter pick and village clean-up event
- Replace some of the old planters with new, ethically sourced wooden planters
- Re-plant and re-group existing planters where necessary
- Plant an area of wild-flowers and/or poppies

**The community clean-up event has been arranged for: Wednesday 28th May between 5.30pm & 7.30pm.**

We will meet at Ponthir & District Sports Club where litter picking equipment, gloves, high visibility vests etc. will be provided.

**If you are interested in helping with this event, or if you have any suggestions how we can further improve our village, please contact us.**

the Community Council is to try to represent the views of my friends and to work on community projects which would benefit teenagers in the village.

I would really like to see some all-weather sports equipment installed in the village and I know my friends would help to fundraise for this type of project. I am also helping to develop the Community Council's new website and promote it through social media.



## Community War Memorial and Garden

I was surprised that our community is currently included in Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial in Cwmbran. After some discussion with the Council I feel it would be good to have a permanent War Memorial in the centre of the village. This could be used to hold a Remembrance Service for the community to remember all who lost their lives fighting for our country.

I would like the memorial to be housed in a small garden which people from the village can use throughout the year as a place for peace and reflection. The project is likely to cost in the region of £10,000. The Community Council will pay half of this cost and grant assisted funding will cover the remainder. I have started looking at memorial designs but need help on deciding the best place for the memorial, so your suggestions would be appreciated.

*Cllr Robert Davies*



## Playground Equipment

Located in the centre of the village, the play area has been a much loved facility for many years. Unfortunately, the equipment is becoming depleted and is now only suitable for the very youngest children. Play equipment is very expensive and an investment of £5000 would only provide one additional item suitable for a 4 to 10 year old.

I am hoping though that by championing the play area residents will identify their support for this initiative. This will lead to a longer term objective of investigating external funding and undertaking local fund raising in order to restore the playground to its former glory.

*Cllr Stuart Bailey*



## Christmas Lights

We can safely say that the reintroduction of the village Christmas tree with those fabulous white lights were a huge success in 2013! We had many positive and warm comments from villagers and commuters who passed through. This Christmas we could step up and embrace the festive spirit further and become the envy of surrounding villages with illuminated street lighting decorations similar to those in Usk.

A dozen white LED festive images placed tastefully on street lights from Lamb Lane to Barnfield for example, would look stunning. Driving or walking through the village you will instantly get that Christmas feeling and I'm sure they would be greeted with much excitement by the children. The estimated cost to supply and fit them for the first year is circa £5000, followed in subsequent years by c. £2000. If the community votes for this project, we will carry out a presentation of options prior to final approval.

*Cllr Peter Matthews*