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PONTHIR COMMUNITY
COUNCIL

Community Matters

inside this issue:

**The Gwent Best Kept
Village Competition 2014**

Page 2

**A Good Year for the
Sanctuary**

Page 2

Gateway Site

Page 3

The Community Plan

Page 3

**The Ponthir District
Sports Club**

Page 4

Dates for the Diary...

Guy Fawkes Night and the Christmas Event.
Check the back page for details

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

...We hope you enjoy it!

Best Kept Village Competition

The Best Kept Village Competition results were revealed on Friday 19th September at Chepstow Garden Centre. We were up against some very stiff opposition and the overall, very worthy winner for the village in our category (population size between 1001 and 4999) was Raglan. Raglan also won the Village in Bloom Competition this year and their floral displays were outstanding. The other awards in our category were:

- Best Kept Pub – Golden Lion at Magor
- Best Kept War Memorial – Magor
- Best Kept Churchyard – Magor
- Highly Commended award was for Rogiet

I feel that Ponthir residents and the Community Council made a good effort in making our village look great throughout the summer and although we didn't win the competition, it was lovely to see people in the community working hard to make our village a lovely place to live. The judges' comments were a little disappointing and didn't reflect the hard work that had gone into village improvements this year. We scored 71 out of a possible 100 marks which was down 8 marks on last year. The judges were impressed by the standard of the maintenance of the recreational areas but were less impressed with other areas of the village and commented that the standard of maintenance across the village was very variable.

If we are to make significant improvements to the appearance of our village we need to have a more focused approach and I would once again ask that if there are any residents who may be interested in being part of a working party to help us improve our village to please contact us.

Cllr Jo Bold

A good year for the Sanctuary!

Earlier this year All Creatures Great & Small animal sanctuary received some very welcoming news, it had been nominated by both Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's in Newport as their charity of choice for the year. We are very grateful to the management and staff of both stores and everyone who voted for us enabling us to continue our programme of rehabilitation and rehoming of injured, abused, unwanted and orphaned animals.

For anyone who is not aware of the work of the charity, we look after approximately 150 animals, including chickens, horses and goats and also run a rehoming scheme for dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs. We are very excited by the new addition of our education room this year which was officially opened in April by the mayor of Torfaen. It will be used for training visitors to the sanctuary on animal welfare, as well as being available to hire out to members of the local community.

We have a charity shop in Fairwater, Cwmbran and were able to open our second charity shop earlier this year in Risca, which is proving to be a great success after only a few months of trading. They are well laid out shops with plenty of room to browse and friendly staff on hand. Both shops are run by a loyal team of volunteers whose assistance is invaluable to us. If you would like to volunteer with us we would love to hear from you. Go



to our website www.enquires@allcreaturesgreatandsmall.org.uk to download an application form or call into the sanctuary and collect one from a member of staff at reception.

Looking for ideas of what to get a loved one for a birthday or Christmas present?

What about a gift certificate to Sponsor an Animal? 12 months sponsorship starts from £5. Alternatively, become a Friend of the Sanctuary? 12 month membership starts at £15 or is a reduced rate of £10 for an OAP. Full details can be found on our website or call into the sanctuary to see us, you would be most welcome. Our opening hours for visitors are Monday - Saturday 2pm - 5pm and you can contact us on 01633 866144.

New Logo Competition

We hope you like the new Community Council logo which was chosen from over 50 entries from pupils at Ponthir Church in Wales school. The winning entry was from Olivia Basham, aged 7. Olivia received a voucher for £25. Second place went to Nellie Brennan and Rory Jenkins came third place. All the children who entered were given a certificate in thanks for their hard work.





The Community Plan

We would like to thank everybody who voted for their favourite project. We received 146 voting cards which represents 22.8% of the households in our community. The winning project was for improvements to be made to the playground equipment. Christmas lights came second and the war memorial was third.

Play Area

Work on the children's play area has started but is still at planning stage. We have received confirmation from Torfaen County Borough Council that they are happy for us to enhance the site. The project has also been registered and accepted as a Space Saviours initiative which means organisations who have projects to enhance their community are paired with organisations who can offer help.

Work has now started with both Groundwork Caerphilly and Play Wales to develop a multi-phase plan to deliver immediate improvements and longer term initiatives.

We are keen to hear your views on the improvements you would like to see and welcome any suggestions. We are also keen to hear from residents who feel that they have something to offer, to come along and join our team.



We plan to hold an online questionnaire during November please log on to www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk or if you would like to contribute and do not have internet access please contact us, leaving your details and a councillor will visit you to collect your views.

Cllr Stuart Bailey

Gateway Site

The progress on providing a planter at the entrance of Barnfield has gathered pace. Torfaen CBC will construct, plant and site it by the middle of October and maintenance after the first year will be our responsibility. The planter will feature the Community Council's new logo designed by 7 year old Olivia Basham.

The joint scheme is the first of its kind in Torfaen. We feel that such trail blazing partnerships will prove beneficial in setting a template for future co-operation with Torfaen. At a time when the public sector in general is struggling with financial cuts, such co-operation is a cost effective way of ensuring that we can continue to make environmental improvements to our village. Here is a quote from Christina Harrhy on the subject:

"Local Authorities are currently facing unprecedented financial constraints but having a collaborative working approach with our Community Councils is the way forward; together we can work to protect services. Hopefully the Gateway Planter Project will be the first of many collaborative projects."

Christina Harrhy, Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services, Torfaen CBC.

Cllr Tony Roberts





Park Stores-John's Shop Closure

We are all saddened by the news that 'John's shop' closed on Tuesday 30th September 2014. On behalf of the community we would like to thank the Carpenter family for serving the local community for over 40 years. We would also like to wish John a very happy retirement and hope he enjoys many more days on the golf course!

The Ponthir District Sports Club

The Ponthir District Sports Club (PDSC) was formed in the early 1980's to deliver and manage the clubhouse. Over the years the facilities have been looked after by a number of local people who formed the PDSC Committee. Their key objective was to provide sports facilities for the community. Today we have thriving junior cricket and football sections and both the adult's cricket and football clubs are performing at the highest level of local sport.

Recent times have seen a shift in both the make-up and the outlook of the PDSC to the extent that we now offer a Sports Club and a social venue for the local community, with the aim of making the club available for a wider range of functions.

Our task has been made much harder by Torfaen County Borough Council's decision to cease the upkeep of sports grounds and the PDSC are in negotiations with Torfaen to try to establish a new long term lease for the grounds. Once agreed, we have ambitious plans for improving and

extending the clubhouse together with fully draining and partially levelling the sports field. This will mean that fewer games are lost from the field being waterlogged. This has already meant a huge investment for the club and its members and two movers have been purchased to enable us to maintain the fields. This has been achieved through local sponsorship and support, and has improved both the condition of the clubhouse and the playing fields alike.

We are always looking for new people and would welcome new members with new ideas and thoughts. If you're interested in joining us then please email us through our website – www.pdsc.co.uk and we can also add you to our Newsletter distribution list.

We all look forward to seeing you at the 5th November Fireworks display – it will be even bigger and better than last year!

Norrie Macdonald
Chairman
PDSC

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

Call: 07971 948351

Email: ponthircc@hotmail.co.uk

Visit: www.ponthircommunitycouncil.gov.uk

diary dates...

Guy Fawkes Night

Wrap up warm and enjoy the firework display taking place at Ponthir Sports Field on 5th November, starting at 6.30pm.

Christmas Event

Come and see the Christmas Tree Lights switch on and enjoy a Hog Roast at the Village Hall to get you in the festive spirit. Don't forget to put the date in your diary - 5th December at 6.30pm!

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.

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