

# Christmas Tree Lighting and Hog Roast

We haven't had a Christmas tree next to the Village Hall for several years so we are delighted to announce that this year it's back!

So in association with the Village Hall management committee, the Community Council would like to invite you to our tree lighting and hog roast event on 13th December 2013 at 6.30pm.

We have ordered a 15ft tree together with new sparkling tree lights, and the Village Hall will be providing one of Mike's famous hog roasts.

The children from the village school have been invited to perform Christmas songs around the tree and one of the villages' own local bands will be performing in the hall later in the evening. There may even be a celebrity to switch the lights on – watch this space!

We are hoping this will become an annual event on the first Friday of December each year and we are also looking to have some Christmas street lights next year.

## The Community Council needs You!

There is a vacancy on the Council for a representative from Lower Llanfrechfa.

If this interests you, please contact us.

Call: 07971 948351

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



## PONTHIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



## COMMUNITY MATTERS

### *inside this issue:*

#### **What does your community Council do?**

Page 2

#### **Improvements to the Ponthir Gateway**

Page 3

#### **Community Foodie**

Page 3

#### **Christmas Lights Switch on and Hog Roast**

Page 4

Welcome to 'Community Matters' from Ponthir Community Council. This will be a quarterly newsletter to keep you updated about local matters in your community.

...We hope you enjoy it!



# Meet your Community Council

## Robert Davies Chair

I became a Councillor in July 2012 and was elected as the Chair in May this year. Married with 3 children, I have lived in Ponthir for over 40 years and am the ex-Chair of Ponthir Cricket Club and Ponthir District Sports Club. I am passionate about the Council engaging more with our community to make it a better place for us to live in.



## Improvements to the Ponthir Gateway

The Community Council intends landscaping the wide strip of land at the entrance to Barnfield to form an eye catching gateway to the village.

A wide swathe of daffodils has already been planted there by a team of volunteers. Currently negotiations are taking place with Torfaen County Borough's Neighbourhood Services department and local private sector interests to help create an attractive display with a mixture of hard landscaping, a flower bed and signage. This will be completed before the spring.

We are committed to making sustainable improvements to the public open spaces in the village so if you have any suggestions on what other areas should be considered we would be happy to consider them. Plus, any volunteers to help with future work would be welcomed. Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved.

*Cllr Tony Roberts*

## Ponthir Community Council - Grants 2013/2014

Here is a breakdown of what the Council has given grants for so far in this financial year.

Organisations	Amount of Grant
Age Concern Torfaen – Ponthir Hub	£150
All Saints Church	£300
I-AM Youth Group – Ponthir Baptist Church	£100
Longbridge Thursday Coffee Club	£100
Ponthir Baptist Church	£300
Ponthir Brownies	£400
Ponthir Church in Wales School	£1,000
Ponthir Cricket Club	£500
Ponthir District Sports Club	£300
Ponthir Football Club	£500
Ponthir Playclub	£250
Ponthir Playgroup	£250
Ponthir Retired Peoples Club	£100
Ponthir WI	£200
The Friends of Ponthir School	£400
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,850</b>

## What does your Community Council do?

There are 735 community and town councils in Wales and they are there to have a powerful voice to represent local people. The community council is the part of local government which is closest to the people and is responsible for most local matters.

Community councils have a number of basic responsibilities in making the lives of local communities more comfortable: it represents the whole electorate within the community, delivers services to meet local needs and strives to improve the quality of life in the community.

Ponthir Community Council is here to represent the people of Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa and when decisions are made we want to be able to put across your views. We want to engage and work with you to make Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa a better place to live.

To this end we are holding a separate meeting from our monthly meeting to develop a plan on how we can achieve this.

This newsletter will form part of the Council's plan to communicate and engage with the local community and it will be published on a quarterly basis.

## Stuart Bailey Vice Chair

Originally from Coventry I moved to South Wales in 1989 and relocated to Ponthir in 2006. In August 2011 I was co-opted onto the council, stood for re-election in 2012 and currently hold the office of Vice Chairman. My aim is to ensure that the council spends money wisely to support local community activities across all age ranges, to improve the quality of community life throughout Ponthir and Lower Llanfrechfa.



## Karen Price Clerk

I have lived in Ponthir for over 15 years. All of my children have attended Ponthir School and as a family we were heavily involved with the successful campaign to save the school. I have helped run Ponthir Toddlers, have been the Treasurer of The Friends of Ponthir and have also worked for Ponthir Playgroup. I am pleased to be able to work for the Community Council to serve my local community.



## Tony Roberts

I moved from Rhondda to Ponthir in 1998 and I'm married with 4 children and 8 grandchildren. I have been a lawyer in Local Government for 35 years. Hobbies have involved me in different educational, charitable and sporting bodies. I am an advocate of grass root democracy, believing that the best decisions for communities are made locally and I joined the Community Council specifically for that reason.



## Joanne Bold

I am the newest member of Ponthir Community Council, having been co-opted to the council in June of this year. I have lived in Ponthir for 17 years and have 3 children aged between 17 and 20. I am a teacher and am very keen to encourage the young people in the area to become more involved in our community issues.



## Peter Matthews

I have lived in Ponthir for over 15 years with my wife and two sons. During that time I have coached the local football team from under 7's to adults. Lately I've organised the Ponthir music festivals and the spring indoor music fund raisers and have raised over £8,000 for local clubs. Elected this year, I'm now focusing my energy into the Community Council.



## Judie Morgan

I am married with 2 children and 3 grandchildren and have lived in Llanfrechfa and Ponthir for over 30 years. My children have had their schooling in the village and been involved in many village activities so I am passionate that village life remains as vibrant as possible for future generations. Consequently, I am proud to have served on the Community Council for 19 years.



## Community Foodie

Ponthir Community Council is interested in taking part in a project called 'Community Foodie' which is part of the Torfaen County Borough Council's Rural Regeneration Initiative.

The scheme encourages communities to develop a carefully selected site in their local area to grow fruit and vegetables for use within the community. Support, both practical and financial, is offered under this scheme to community groups wishing to take part.

Kate Blair, the Community Foodie Officer responsible for this scheme has agreed to host a public meeting to gauge the level of public support for this scheme in Ponthir and is currently looking at possible growing sites. In the meantime, if anyone has any questions or comments about this scheme, please feel free to contact me.

*Cllr Joanne Bold*

