



Representing.
Pen-y-ffordd, Penymynydd, Dobshill & District

Dear Residents,

Welcome to the Chairman's Annual Report and Councils Summer Newsletter for the Community Council. This is the first report produced by the Council that was formed in May 2017, and it is hoped that we will be in a position to produce such reports more often in the future.

Chairman's address – Cllr David Williams

As Chair for 2017-18, I would like to say what a privilege it has been to be part of this Council, who for me, are one of the most active and committed membership that I have been involved with in my near ten years on the Council. This has been an extremely difficult year in many different ways, and every member has played their part to try and get the best outcomes we possibly could. We have not always been successful, but this has certainly not been for lack of effort and commitment. Residents have also played their part, and the public question session at meetings adds another important dimension and opportunity for residents to play an active part in the community.

The Community have faced and are still confronted with a wide range of issues that are affecting the ward and quality of life of our residents, and the purpose of this communication is to try to keep you abreast of what is going on and inform you of the efforts of the Council to support our residents. The ward that the Council serves comes under the description of Pen-y-ffordd, but the boundaries also include all of Penymynydd, Dobshill, East side of Little Mountain Road and Lower Mountain Road to just past the Platt Lane junction.

Community Council members are all volunteers and the current Council was formed in May 2017, full membership entitlement is 13. In the May election though, there were only eight candidates who were all appointed unopposed and no election was necessary. The remainder of places have been taken up by means of co-option, and following the resignation of one member, at the time of publication the Council is functioning with twelve members. Details of all membership is at the back of this letter.

With regard to the representation of membership, there is a healthy mix of political persuasion and views, but the underlying opinion of all members is that the ward comes before any political matter. Healthy debates take place and there is a mutual respect between members who are all seeking the best they can get for the ward.

As well as our membership, we also have two part time employees who also play a very important part in the Community. We are extremely privileged to have Sarah Hughes as our Clerk, and very grateful for her commitment and efficiency, where the work she puts in is often over and above the expected for this role. Sue Davies has recently taken over as our village Streetscene Operative and again, her commitment is unquestionable. Sue replaced Alan Davies last year, and the Council would like to publicly express their gratitude for his efforts over the past few years.

We also have a very active action group working very hard for the Community, whose support of the Council is proving to be a very valuable asset that very few other communities have. As most will know, several public meetings have been held over the past few years, and these have been extremely well attended, where sharing of information and views have aided some important decisions and actions.

I trust that the information provided in this report will be helpful and informative for you, and your support and involvement will always be appreciated.

David Williams.

General Matters.

Council Tax. Concerns were expressed earlier in the year over the increase of the contribution of the Community Council to the Council tax. The increase was 24.8% that amounted to an increase of £0.72 pence per month for a band D property. The % increase did cause a big debate at the budget meeting, but it was felt that in order to make the improvements in the ward that we are seeking, the monetary increase was fair and will hopefully prove to be providing value for money.

The budget items which will have impacted this increase was: Christmas lighting, street lighting repairs & maintenance, member's allowances and the main one being Community Transport (contingency liability) which totalled £11,840. At the time of setting the precept there was a strong possibility that we would have to take over the running costs of community transport for the village (shared costs with Buckley), however, to date it now seem unlikely that we will be responsible for these costs.

Village Growth, Proposed developments and the LDP. These are causing serious problems and concerns within the community where the general opinion of members and residents is that we are growing too big too quickly. The village experienced over 30% growth in the last development plan cycle, where we should only have taken between 8% and 15%. We have now been allocated a further three developments approved on appeal, which for this new LDP cycle, already takes us to over another 30% growth! It is the general opinion of members and residents that we have been badly let down by Welsh Government, but we also feel that we could have had far better support from Flintshire CC to resist these developments. Unfortunately, the developments have now been imposed on us, and as a community we need to get the most we possibly can for the ward from these.

New School. Everybody in the village is extremely happy that we are finally getting our new single site school that Pen-y-ffordd Community Council has been actively fighting for over quite a number of years. Although we are all very happy that this is finally coming to fruition, most members are very disappointed that a better site was not found for the school. There are also concerns about various aspects of the design and traffic flow around the site,

and these are ongoing issues that are being discussed and addressed as able by members.

Public transport. The reduced and re-routed bus service has caused a great deal of concern, and for some, a degree of hardship. Members are currently canvassing the bus companies and LA to reconsider the level of service, and support of residents will do no harm. We also have the Community Transport Scheme, where details of this service and the public transport services can be found at the end of this report.

Police. Our PCSO is Andrea Ellis who is proving to be very supportive of the village. Her number is 07854352994. If Andrea is not available, for non-emergencies dial 101 and obviously in an emergency dial 999.

Vandalism & Crime. Incidents of vandalism and crime tend to go through phases in the village, so please be vigilant and security conscious and report any incidents as necessary. On vandalism, hopefully any readers of this letter will be made aware that damage they may cause has to be paid for by the community including the vandals themselves!

Speeding/Road Safety. Speeding is a national problem, and as a Council we appeal to all who drive through the village to do so with extreme caution. Speed bumps are an issue for many, but unfortunately this seems to be the only measure available and affordable to combat what are a minority of offenders. Parking is an issue around the Spar, and a consultation is due to consider possible improvements.

Dog fouling. This is a serious problem throughout the county, and one way of trying to combat it is the spraying over the excrement in yellow to highlight it. This seems to have been successful in some area, so if it is a problem, please report it to your Councillor to get areas sprayed. Another way is prosecuting offending owners, and if you are aware of a regular offender who appears at a regular time, report this to Streetscene who will send somebody out to observe and try to catch.

Hanson Cement. Hanson Cement still tends to cause concern for some, and the fact that the monitoring station is to be taken out of the bowling club is not a good move. It appears that there is no longer any monitoring in the village and the Council are in the process of pushing for more independent monitoring. Please ensure any concerns are reported direct to Hanson and keep a record of any communication, and National Resources Wales have advised that they will address any complaints, concerns or observations that are reported to them.

On a positive note, Hanson did make a financial contribution to the new fence on the Millstone playing fields.

Ward Infrastructure and Amenities. These have been seriously impacted on with the new developments where there has been a significant increase in flooding incidents and overflowing sewers. The shortage of Adult & Youth freespace has been an issue for many years, and despite the all the new developments, there is still a big shortage of this form of recreational provision in the ward. The Council are canvassing to get improvements, but it is always helpful for residents to apply pressure as individuals and groups.

For reference, the last Open Space survey identified that for Outdoor Youth and Adult space, minimum required is 5.9ha, actually provided is 0.85ha.!?

Ward Play Areas. There is an ongoing process being operated by the Council to modernise and upgrade all the play areas, and a big investment was made at the Millstone playing fields in 2016. All other play areas will be worked on in the coming years funded by the Community Council that is match funded by the County.

War Memorial Institute. The War Memorial Institute is a focal point of the village and a much valued building that is run by a dedicated and hard working committee. The committee are currently working on raising funds and drawing up plans for upgrades to the building that will hopefully secure its future and be a real asset to the village for many years to come.

Unfortunately the Committee has been hit recently with the loss of key members through changes in personal circumstances. They are therefore looking for local residents to join the committee, or simply help out with the

events and initiatives underway. Particular expertise that would be welcome is that of Architecture/building/professional/fund raising or similar who may be able to help out with the current planning for work to be done on the building. If you are interested, please email Lindsay Winkworth at thewinkworths@hotmail.co.uk

Remembrance Sunday. This is a very important annual gathering in the village, and with this year being the 100 years that the First World War ended, it has greater significance than normal. There is the annual parade again this year and the service is held in the institute. Please look out for details of this event and do your best to support the parade and service.

As part of WW1 centenary commemorations, there is a plan to create a wall of Poppies around the village clock and Silent Soldier, that residents are invited to get involved in by making their own poppies to be used. Further information on how to get involved can be acquired from members, the Council website and Pen-y-ffordd Streetlife.

The institute are also holding a 100 year concert with a band and St Johns choir on 9 November starting at 7-00. Entry is free but donations on the night would be appreciated.

Carnival. Pen-y-ffordd is fortunate to still have one of the few remaining annual carnivals in the area. Again, this is organised by hard working members of the Institute Committee and supported by many volunteers, and if you would like to get involved next year, please contact the institute.

Bonfire. This is yet another event that is run by the members of the Institute Committee, and for several years has been one of the best around. Again, the committee are always looking for helpers, so please feel free to volunteer your services.

Youth Club Building. The Youth club building is one of the few remaining buildings in the village that represents our heritage. It is currently underused and various options are being considered and investigated for the building to be taken over under the Community Asset Transfer scheme with the support of the Community Council.

Scout Hut. The scouting group is one of the longest running organisations in the village and all groups, from Beavers to Ventures, are exceptionally well supported. The scout building is not in the best state of repair, and negotiations are currently taking place at both local and County level to see what can be done to help with their accommodation.

Royal British Legion. The Legion is an exceptionally well run club kept going by a small hard working and dedicated committee. There is the large function room that is currently under used, so if you have an occasion to put on for up to 150 people, why not try the legion! There is also the public bar and cosy lounge, and you will always be made welcome if you just want a quiet drink, a game of darts or a game of pool.

Red Lion, Millstone, Jemoleys and WOK 1. We are also well blessed with two very good public houses a nice café and good quality take away in the village, so please give them as much support as possible in order to keep what are very important assets for the village.

Shops & Businesses. There are several shops and small businesses in the ward and support of these is vital in order to retain their viability.

Youth Club. This is one of the best attended youth clubs in the County and the Leaders do an excellent job providing for the young people who attend. Some try to paint a bad picture of some of our young people, but in the main we are fortunate to have a big majority of polite and respectable youngsters.

Best Kept Village. Pen-y-ffordd and Penymynydd have won best kept village awards on numerous occasions, but unfortunately we were not successful this year. Various ideas are being currently being considered to try to improve certain areas and hopefully we will be successful again in 2019.

Street Lights & Potholes. Re-surfacing of the Vounog Hill to the Millstone has now been completed, and any other problems with potholes and street lights should be reported to Streetscene. If this is not responded to as you feel it should be, please take it up with your local Councillor.

Community Council Membership 2018/19.

<p>Jeff Priddin (Chairman) 01244 548199 / 07793 362235 jepriiddin@btinternet.com 4 Priory Close, Penyffordd, CH4 OJB</p>	<p>Alan Wight (Co-opted) (Vice Chair) 07976 667807 alanwight176@gmail.com 5 Kent Close, Penymynydd, Flintshire, CH4 0LP</p>
<p>David Williams 01978 762486 dwillderw@yahoo.co.uk Cae Derw, Wrexham Road, Penyffordd, CH4 0LG</p>	<p>Cindy Hinds 01978 761354 cindy.r.dennis@gmail.com 47 Berwyn Avenue, Penyffordd, CH4 0HS</p>
<p>David Walker 01244 548478 / 07741 404270 dmcwalker22@gmail.com 22 Vounog Hill, Penyffordd, CH4 0EZ</p>	<p>Margaret Jones 01244 543704 margtec@yahoo.co.uk 18 Plas yn Rhos, Penyffordd</p>
<p>Roy Wakelam (Co-opted) 01244 549781 / 07930 555139 roy_wakelam@hotmail.com 39 Wellhouse Drive, Penymynydd, Flintshire, CH4 0LB</p>	<p>Mark Rothero 07543860086 mrothero@icloud.com 47 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, CH4 0JG</p>
<p>Edwina Davies (Co-opted) 01978 760597 edwinadavies@googlemail.com Hope Green, Wrexham Road, Penyffordd, CH4 0HT</p>	<p>Janet Smith-Bellis (Co-opted) 01244 297266 / 07922 211968 jayessa@hotmail.com 5 Cae Fawnog, Penyffordd, Flintshire, CH4 0HH</p>
<p>Richard Bestwick 01978 760596 / 07816 171453 richard.bestwick@tesco.net 15 Alyn Drive, Penyffordd, CH4 0HP</p>	<p>Pat Ransom (Co-opted) 10 Priory Close Penyffordd Nr Chester CH4 0JB Tel: 07946472975</p>

At time of going to print, one vacancy exists.

End of Year 2017/18 Report

April 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A commemorative bench was purchased for the late Cllr Tom Jones OBE and an official opening by the Chairman of FCC. • Bus Shelter – Watts Road. Essential repairs due to asbestos (work funded by FCC/WG) • Work approved for the replacement and installation of a new gate at the Millstone Playing Area. • 3 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
May 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs C Hinds, D Williams, M Jones, D Walker, J Priddin, S Kenworthy, M Rothero, R Bestwick and P Povey were elected unopposed • Four unfilled vacancies were advertised for co-option • Mr Povey was unable to accept office therefore a Casual Vacancy was advertised (whereby an election could be called) • Cllr Williams – elected Chairman, Cllr Priddin – elected Vice Chairman • Consultation commenced for the Community Development Plan • Purchase and installation of a Noticeboard for Penymynydd • The Internal Audit was returned approved and provided four recommendations • 5 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors: Mike Eastwood (FCC Streetscene) & PCSO Andrea Ellis • Cllrs Davies, Vidamour, Wight and Hallas were co-opted onto the Council • No Election was called in relation to the Casual Vacancy and therefore a further Co-option notice was advertised • Approval for the purchase of a new play are sign for the Millstone Play Area • Members reviewed, approved and fully supported the draft Community Development Plan • A community council street light was knocked down by a vehicle on Park Lane, which has now been replaced. • 2 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded

July 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors: PCSO Andrea Ellis & Members of Penyffordd War Memorial Institute • Cllr Wakelam was co-opted onto the council (this filled the final vacancy and completing the 13 seats) • Approved to purchase a CCTV camera for the allotments/Millstone Play Area • The Council resolved that the council with the S106 money will support phase 1 of the Penyffordd War Memorial Institute refurbishment and will contact FCC to request for the agreement to be amended. • 2 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
August 2017	Recess
September 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors: PCSO Andrea Ellis & Mike Eastwood (FCC Streetscene) • The External Audit was returned approved and included two comments. • A complaint/concern was raised with FCC regarding the unacceptable issues with school transportation to Castell Alun High School • The Council approved the purchase of a further 15 Christmas lights • Cllr A Wight was nominated to represent the council on the Flintshire Public Service Board • 4 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
October 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transport Drop In Event • Community Transport Penyffordd – Buckley scheme launched • A new logo was approved for the Community Council • The Council approved for a new website • The Council applied to FCC for £10,000 Match Funding towards improvements for Melwood Close Play Area • The purchase of an additional noticeboard for Penyffordd (top of the village) was approved. Location to be determined. • Consultation – Guidance for Principal Council’s on the Review of Communities • An extraordinary meeting was held to review ongoing planning issues. • 2 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded

November 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms L Hallas resigned from her position as Councillor, therefore a casual vacancy was advertised. • £10,000 of the S.106 monies will be retained with a view to this being used for architects/surveys on future builds for other clubs in the village • The Council contributed to 45 Ceremonial poppies for the village • Members attended the Flintshire County Council Engagement Event • 3 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation – Pre Deposit Proposals Public Consultation (Preferred Strategy) Flintshire Local Development Plan 2015 – 2030 • Consultation – Guidance for Principal Councils on the Review of Communities • The draft budget for 2018/19 was reviewed • 6 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
January 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council made financial support by way of grants to local charities, group and clubs totalling £8,450 • The Council agreed to support the 2018 Summer Playscheme and will provide a 4 week scheme. • The budget for 2018/19 was again reviewed and set. • The Council approved the proposal for a ‘Village Investment Strategy with a view to submitting for adoption in May 2018 • 2 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded
February 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council approved for JDH Business Services to undertake the 2017/18 Internal Audit • The Council approved for Microshade to undertake the necessary works relating to the General Data Protection Regulation (including; Data Protection Officer, Audit, IT Security & Services) • One quote received for the replacement fencing at the Millstone Play Area – further quotes are awaited • The Council in principle approved Project Daffodil - to celebrate our golden community with a Festival of Daffodils in 2019. • The Council approved to commit their voice to the North East Wales Community Voice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penyffordd Bowling Club had requested the council to consider a 50% contribution towards a defibrillator which was approved in principle • An extraordinary meeting was held to review and consider the applicants for the co-option vacancy • Dr Smith- Bellis was co-opted for the vacancy • 3 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded • Service of the Millennium Clock • Streetscene Operative resigned
March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors: Mr Caruana (Hanson Liaison Committee) and Katie Wilby & Kerry Hanson (FCC Transportation) • Members attended the Welsh Government – Review of the Community and Town Councils Engagement Event • 1 x planning applications reviewed, considered & responded • Advertised the vacancy of Streetscene Operative and filled the vacancy.

Aspirations for 2018-19.

Project Daffodil – This is an initiative to paint the village yellow by planting 10,000 daffodils around the village. The planting is to take place October/November, so please feel free to volunteer your assistance.

Re-vamp of playing fields – It is hoped that more or replacement equipment can be installed on Melwood Close. Some people are quite vocal in opposition to these sorts of investments, but the playgrounds are there, and the general consensus is that they need to be kept to a good standard. Other play areas in the village will be monitored and improvements made as appropriate and affordable.

Youth Cub building – Progress with the asset transfer is hoped for and the Community Council will provide as much support as possible.

Institute improvements. – The Community Council will continue to support this venture in whatever way they can.

Council Working Groups – Working Groups made up of Council Members have now been formed to focus on various aspects of village life. The groups comprise of Transport, Social, Community and History, Housing and Planning, Environment, Economy and Business.

Community Development plan – The Council will continue to support this plan in the hope that the LA will eventually adopt it.

Christmas Lights – This has been an ongoing initiative for several years now and has been a costly exercise. They will be erected again this year and hopefully distributed more effectively, but for this year the decision has been made for no further investment but this will again be reviewed for 2019/20.

Street Light upgrades – This is a continuous process where obsolete light posts are being replaced as necessary and appropriate.

Single Site School – The Council will continue to support the creation of the new school, but will also monitor its progress and keep a watchful eye on the any issues that may arise from the site, such as traffic concerns or others that may be brought to member's attention.

Future redundant school site – The Council are seeking to have control over the future use of the school site on Penymynydd Road that will be redundant when the new school opens next September. There is a severe shortfall in open space in the village, and acquiring this land can help ease the problem.

Summer Play Scheme. – The Council supported this scheme again this year and would expect to continue supporting this valuable scheme for the foreseeable future.

Council Grants - The Council will continue to support local organisations and groups by means of the grant aid scheme where grant applications are considered at the November meeting.

Attendance Record 2017/18

	April 17	May 17	June 17	July 17	Aug 17	Sept 17	Oct 17	Oct 17 Extra Meet	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Feb 18 Extra Meet	Mar 18	
David Williams	✓	✓	x	✓	Summer Recess	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	
Cindy Hinds	✓	✓	✓	✓		x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Jeff Priddin	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
David Walker	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Margaret Jones	x	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sarah Kenworthy	✓	✓	✓	x		✓	x	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mark Rothero	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	x	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
Richard Bestwick	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	x	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edwina Davies	✓	n/a	n/a	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Linda Vidamour	✓	✓	n/a	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Louisa Hallas	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓		x	A	Resigned							
Alan Wight	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Roy Wakelam	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Janet Smith-Bellis	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓

Notes:

May Elections – members changed Co-opted members joined in July, September and March

Key:

✓ - Attended x – Apologies

A – Absent without apologies

n/a – Was not a member of the Council

Public Transport for the ward.

A service that we are trying to publicise more is the Community Transport that runs from Pen-y-ffordd to Buckley Health Centre. This has been in operation for over a year now and details of this service are below.

Penyffordd/Penyffordd Watts Rd	9.45	10.40	13.40
Penymynydd/Penymynydd Road	9.51	10.46	13.46
New Road, Dobshell	9.57	10.52	13.52
Little Mountain	10.07	11.02	14.02
Brunswick Road, Short Stay Car Park	10.13	11.08	14.08
Mill Lane	10.17	11.12	14.12
Buckley Health Centre	10.20	11.15	14.15

Buckley Health Centre	11.45	12.45	16.30
Mill Lane	11.48	12.48	16.33
Brunswick Road, Short Stay Car Park	11.52	12.52	16.37
Little Mountain	11.58	12.58	R
New Road, Dobshell	12.08	13.08	R
Penymynydd Road	12.14	13.14	R
Penyffordd Watts Rd	12.20	13.20	R

SATURDAY

Penyffordd Watts Rd	8.45	14.15	16.30
Penymynydd Road	8.51	14.21	16.33
New Road, Dobshell	8.57	14.27	16.37
Drury	9.02	14.32	R
Little Mountain	9.07	14.37	R
Brunswick Road, Short Stay Car Park	9.13	14.43	R

Brunswick Road, Short Stay Car Park	11.00	16.10	16.30
Little Mountain	11.06	16.16	16.33
Drury	11.11	16.21	16.37
New Road, Dobshell	11.16	16.26	R
Penymynydd Road	11.22	16.32	R
Penyffordd Watts Rd	11.28	16.38	R

Fares from Watts road to Buckley Health Care Centre are £2-00 single and £3-80 return with a sliding price scale for shorter journeys.

R= Request Stop

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 01352 701234

Other bus services are

Mold – Chester – Mold is run by Arriva.

Mold - Chester is the number 12

Chester -Mold is the number 13.

Wrexham – Mold – Wrexham service is run by Townlynx and is the 28 and 28x/28S service.

Trains are also run by Arriva from Wrexham to Bidston with connections at Shotton for the North Wales coast and Bidston for Liverpool.

FCC are also planning to have an open afternoon/evening to discuss public transport issues with residents, so please keep a look out for notices and the website to see when this is arranged.

We hope that you have found the information in this report to be of use, and more regular updates of events and news can be found on the website of www.PenyfforddCouncil.org A simple way of finding this site if you do not remember the address is to enter Penyffordd into Google and you will find the site very near the top.