

# Penyffordd, Penymynydd & Dobshell

## Village Newsletter (Nov 21)



Hello and welcome to all of our existing and new residents.

There are currently 12 members on Penyffordd Community Council, plus 1 vacancy, all of which are volunteers and cover the age groups from 20's to 80's and most decades in between. The council is supported by our Clerk, Sarah and our Street Operative, Glyn.

The Councillors individually are representatives in different village organisations such as school governors, committee members of Scouts, British Legion, bowling, Hanson Cement liaison, churches, PACA, War Memorial Institute and more.

We meet formally on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 6.30pm, currently being held remotely with a view once restrictions ease, to return back to the War Memorial Institute. These are very structured meetings with very full agendas. Anyone is welcome to observe and there is an opportunity at the start for public questions, but it is a working meeting rather than a public presentation.

The council has a number of current projects so in order to be more proactive, we meet in between in 'working groups' to deal with specific areas/projects,

In this newsletter are the big challenges and ambitions for the community council at this time.

### **Your Community Council**

The Community Council are responsible for the Millstone play area, but also work with FCC on other playgrounds, street lighting, CCTV / crime prevention, street furniture, community buildings, Christmas lights, open spaces and are a statutory consultee for many local authority and government issues including planning.

### **Your Community Councillors:**

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## Virtual Meetings

As a result of the pandemic, during the last 18months+ the council quickly adapted and transferred to virtual meetings in order for council business to continue. Under new Government legislation, the council will now be looking to work towards hybrid meetings which will make it easier for members and the public to attend.

## Circular Walks

Some years ago Penyffordd and the surrounding community took part in a survey with the then Countryside Commission for Wales which looked at all footpaths in our area. From this in conjunction with Flintshire and our local WI group the first Circular Walk was put in place. Two years ago Community Council via their Environment Group agreed to update the leaflet and since then have compiled four Circular Walks for all to enjoy.

Walk 1 – Border Views

Walk 2 – Penyffordd Streets

Walk 3 – Into The Woods

Walk 4 – Bilberry Woods



Exploring the area on foot highlights the amazing countryside we have on our doorstep and the leaflets provide information about points of interest on the walks which can be especially informative for our new residents. These have proved extremely popular in the community and have been to reprint several times. We are fortunate too to have several walking groups in the community and links have been made with these. Further walks are planned. Please contact us for further information.

## **Litter Picks**

This remains a key agenda item with plans to have our own litter hub based in the village. We are fortunate to have our street operative Glynn Davies, employed by Community Council, who keeps our village and area free of litter. We are most appreciative of all Glyn does but litter is an ongoing scourge and needs support from the community.

Community Council in conjunction with Flintshire Keep Wales Tidy have linked with our schools, the community and other stakeholders to tackle litter. We know too that many in the community already help out collecting litter on walks, whilst at the allotments or out and about and that support is most welcome.



We have held several Litter Days in the Community which have been successful with many, including youngsters, taking part. McDonalds, Broughton have readily joined in and supported the days and are especially welcome. They acknowledge the issues we see of litter from fast food outlets and are keen to encourage responsible disposal of packaging. Staff members have joined the litter days and actively supported the community.

At the last Litter Day we had support from Flintshire Walkabout walkers in the area, McDonalds, village youngsters and families, Team Red, local businesses and others and we collected x 15 large sacks of litter which is brilliant. Further ones are planned.

## **Wildlife Garden**

Penyffordd Community Council has secured a lease on an area of land to the rear of West View/Alyn Drive with the objective of making a Community Wildlife garden. The area is currently underutilised scrub land with a variety of self-seeded trees and plants.

The idea is to improve the diversity of trees and plants in the area, provide some fruit trees, and to improve the accessibility of the area.

## **Old School Site**

Flintshire County Council have promised a proportion of land from the old junior school site on Penymynydd Road to the community for open space, we are still awaiting confirmation and timescales.

## **War Memorial Refurbishment funding**

The council was in receipt of £200,000 of funding from Taylor Wimpey for the extension of the War Memorial Institute (WMI). The project was led by the WMI Committee in partnership with the Community Council.

The extension was completed late 2020, however, due to the pandemic, the internal completion and reopening only took place in September 2021. This is an excellent

community facility that will assist in meeting the demand and needs of our growing village.

## **Place Plan**

The community council are in the early stages of undertaking a review of the existing Place Plan which was compiled in 2017. This is your Place Plan for your community, so over the next few months you will see a number of questionnaires/surveys where you will have the opportunity to have your say. Please get involved!

## **Memorial Garden Project**

The area in front of the clock is known as the Memorial Garden. The area is currently one of the focal points of the village.

Penyffordd Community Council has secured planning permission from Flintshire County Council to improve this area, with the creation of a wall around the periphery encompassing seating and a flagged base.



The idea is to create a semi-enclosed area where people can go and sit.

## **Play Area Improvements**

Melwood – There have been significant delays with this project due to having to undertake improvements to the drainage. Completion of the play area improvements are hoped to be completed early 2022.

Westview – The council together with FCC have invested £20,000+ on the improvements to this junior play area. We are aware of some issues experienced by the neighbouring properties which we are endeavouring to address.

Dobshill – improvements were completed in 2020 with S106 funding from the new Dobshill development.

Millstone – the council has invested in the provision of a youth shelter and additional benches. We are also looking into possible options to relocate the existing skate ramps and the installation of a pump track. This is still in the early stages which we hope to pursue further in 2022.

## **Tree Planting**

A big thank you to the many residents who have supported the sponsor a tree initiative we have been running. This started two years ago and is hopefully going to be a rolling programme that will be a real feature of the village. The three roundabouts have been started, with a small weeping willow and low maintenance colourful shrubs planted in the centre. On Penymynydd roundabout there is an Oak in the middle with two evergreen spruce either side and more low maintenance shrubs. At Dobshill there is an Acer in the middle with small feature fir trees either side and low maintenance shrubs as well. Dobshill also had another cherry tree planted on the roundabout verge last year and the Christmas tree is now starting to establish. Orchards of two cooking and two

eating apple trees plus two pear trees and fruit bushes have been planted in Dobshill and Millstone playing fields and behind the youth club, and the intention now is to add more this year and consider other places for orchard planting.

We had excellent support last year from County in the sowing of wild flower 'doughnut' rings around the trees, and future planting will have a neatly mown surround on the outside. The wild flower seeds have been prepared recently and more planting will take place during the winter

Many other trees have been planted with a run of eight flowering cherries up the Vounog, Beech, flowering cherries and various other varieties at entrances to the village and verges of the roundabouts. Other areas will be considered over the next few months, so if you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact David Williams on [david.williams@penyfforddcouncil.org](mailto:david.williams@penyfforddcouncil.org) who is coordinating the planting, or phone him on 07928493862 for further information.

### **Village Planters**



Positive and welcome additions to the village environment have been the flower planters that can be found at the entrances to the village and at various locations. They brighten the village and are often commented on by residents.

Oak barrel planters have been sponsored and maintained by local businesses whilst residents within the community have donated plants for the wooden planters at Dobshill and the centre of the village.

Of particular note is the rainbow planter on the Memorial Garden in front of the clock which was donated to the village as part of the NHS, Frontline and Keyworkers Day of Thanks and Reflection held in July.



Together with the knitted items depicting the seasonal changes on our tree and post box these have added much needed colour and cheer to the community. Thank you to all from the community who have donated, contributed and looked after these throughout the year. Help from the community is always welcome particularly in dry spells when the plants dry out so any volunteer support would be really helpful.

### **Hanson**

Following concerns about dust fall out and health concerns raised by residents where Hanson Cement are alleged to be the offenders, the Council in partnership with Mark Tami Mp & Cty Cllr Ibbotson, have been successful in having the monitoring re-installed which will either be at the Youth Club or Bowling Club. Negotiations are ongoing about additional monitoring and a new health study plus other means of addressing the situation that Hanson are fully cooperating with, so hopefully we will start to see improvements over the next few weeks and months.

Should you experience any issues relating to Hanson Cement (Padeswood), please contact [joanne.hodson@hanson.biz](mailto:joanne.hodson@hanson.biz) or by calling 01244 552501. Should you need to report an incident to Natural Resources Wales you can either call on 0300 065 3000 (24 hrs a day) or complete on Online Report - [Natural Resources Wales - Report an Incident](#)

## **Planning**

### *Vounog Hill Planning appeal.*

The public inquiry for housing planning on the Vounog sledging field was originally scheduled for April 2020, postponed till 15th November 2021 and postponed again, now likely to take place early in the new Year. We have all strongly opposed this application that Flintshire turned down so leading to the appeal, and between now and the hearing we will be collating as much information as we can to resist this appeal. Residents have a key role to play in this, and if anybody wants further information on how to help stop this development, please feel free to put any queries through Sarah the Clerk.

### *Local Development Plan (LDP)*

The LDP is the long term plan for the County that considers housing, employment, infrastructure, amenities etc. for various settlements in the County. The greatest problem we have had in recent years in the village has been having to accept large housing developments for outside our agreed settlement boundary that have been approved on appeal. Whilst we accept that we are obliged to accept a certain level of growth, we firmly believe that we have had to accept far more than our share where four developments have been approved on appeal. We have a severe shortage of amenities including a 5ha shortfall of adult and you open space, and infrastructure is unable to cope with an increase in incidents of flooding and poor water pressure to name just two of the problems. The growth has been too much too quick and we are currently vulnerable to more applications whilst waiting for the LDP to be finalised.

Developers and land owners have put expression of interest to build on virtually every blade of grass that surrounds the village, and as part of the LDP inquiry during May and June, several members attended this inquiry and presented plausible arguments why more housing in this village is inappropriate until at least 2030. This included green barrier for East of Vounog hill and west of the bypass, and the lead Inspectors gave us an excellent hearing during this inquiry and really did appear sympathetic about the issues we raised. We are therefore hopeful that we will have been listened on this occasion and no further developments will happen until at least after 2030!

## **Community Changing Rooms**

As many residents will be aware, it has not been possible for the Community and local football club to use the only senior football field in the village on Abbots lane since the new school was built in 2019. This has been the result of the Local Authority failing to include the changing facility in the new school that were part of the old infants site for over forty years.

Since this problem came about, former County Councillor David Williams, the Community Council and local senior football club have been working hard to install new

porta-cabin changing rooms to get the facility functional again for the football club and general community use.

The units were installed nearly two years ago, but problems have been experienced getting services connected. However, we are now happy to report that the problems are near to being fully resolved. The final obstacle is the fitting out of the units that have now been started by the football club, but funding is still a problem due to difficulties in organising fund raising events due to Covid. Hopefully this can be resolved over the next few months for the facility to be fully usable again early in the new year. We are looking to form a Management Committee for this facility and would welcome involvement from our residents. If you are interest in being on this committee, please contact [clerk@penyfforddcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@penyfforddcouncil.org) or call on 01244 537032. This will be a community facility, so any assistance interested people can give either professionally or financially really will be appreciated.

### **Youth club & Scouts facility - an exciting Initiative!**

The Youth club building is one of the few remaining buildings in the village that represents our heritage, and has been poorly utilised by County who currently run the site. Over the past few years though, a hard-working group of residents have been actively engaged in moves to take the site over to be run by the village, and as with the Memorial Institute revamp, the Council is fully supporting this venture.

The initiative will involve the completely renovation of the whole site and include an extension and new scout

hut and is a really exciting opportunity for the village, where the ambition is to make this a thriving centre that compliments the aim is to provide a centre that can support indoor and outdoor activities of the WMI. It's accommodate and sport, and health and fitness activities in and around the centre, a drop in cafe and social area, library or book exchange, ICT support, meeting rooms, plus many other activities that the Community expressed a desire for in the survey carried out earlier in the year.



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exchange, ICT support, meeting rooms, plus many other activities that the Community expressed a desire for in the survey carried out earlier in the year.

This work is now coming together and the group have successfully applied for the transfer of the site to the village as a Community Interest Company (CIC), which is in the final stages of completing, hopefully happening around Christmas. More support for the group will be needed over the next few months, so if you would like to become involved or have any ideas for use of the building, please feel free to contact the group Chair, Sally Richards at [ppdcommunityhwb@gmail.com](mailto:ppdcommunityhwb@gmail.com) or David Williams on 07928493862.

### **NE Wales Digital Trial**

The council worked with Cadwyn Clwyd with match funding on this 'app. Communities across Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham have developed their own digital trails to encourage local people and visitors alike to explore the local area and find out more about their heritage. The app makes use of beacon technology to show relevant information that's nearby when you're exploring North East Wales.

## **Elections 2022**

The 2022 Welsh local elections are due to be held on 5 May 2022 to elect members of all twenty-two local authorities in Wales and Town and Community Councils. Following changes in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 all legal residents of Wales who are aged 16 or over on polling day are eligible to vote in the local elections (16 and 17 year-olds and EU Citizens and citizens of other countries).

## **Annual Grant Applications**

The council sets a budget annually to be able to offer financial assistance to local groups and organizations. Applications usually open in October and close in November, however, next year we will be launching it September allowing for a longer period for applications. This year we are pleased to report that we will helping 12 local groups/organisations to the sum of £7200.

## **Police**

Community Council have always maintained strong links with North Wales Police and our Police Community Support Officers and we regularly review the crime statistics for our area which are relatively low.

The current PCSOs for our area are:

- PCSO Adelina Olaru 07814075613 [Adlina.Olaru@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Adlina.Olaru@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)
- PCSO Ryan Thomas 07811713427 [Ryan.Thomas@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Ryan.Thomas@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)
- PCSO Maisie Prytherch 07974243307 [Maisie.Prytherch@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Maisie.Prytherch@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)
- PC Natalie Williams 07817148417 [Natalie.Williams@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Natalie.Williams@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)
- PC Chris Myles - [Chris.Myles@nthwales.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Chris.Myles@nthwales.pnn.police.uk)

We have met with our current CPSO team who have recently held information drop ins at the Co-op and are holding monthly Cuppa with a Copper sessions at Jemoleys on a Tuesday morning. The team are keen to engage and meet with the local community and shared their new app "Alert" which provides relevant information and updates.

Whilst rates are low, there are incidents reported which are logged. One area of concern has been the increased use of nitrous oxide in the community, evidenced by the number of discarded cylinders. Community Council have met with our PCSOs and Flintshire County Council Substance and Drug Awareness Team, Flintshire Sorted to look at effective ways to engage with our youngsters to help them make informed choices.

For more information about the council, council business and to see regular updates please view our website: [www.penyfforddcouncil.org](http://www.penyfforddcouncil.org) and follow us on facebook: Penyffordd Community Council.

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