**Llangan Community Council**

**Annual Report April 2020 to March 2021**

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The Covid-19 pandemic affected the Community Council last year and it did not meet until July 2020 via Zoom, and currently this regrettably remains the case. Despite this the Community Council continued to work on behalf of the local community throughout the year on a variety of issues. The volunteer community councillors were assisted by several other groups and individuals, notably Cllr Christine Cave and the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

This report highlights the main achievements and activities of the Council throughout the year.

**Llangan Community Council’s Aims and Objectives**

The Council’s key aims are:

* To act as a link between public sector organisations and the community on a range of subjects including the environment, planning, community facilities, community safety and other issues affecting the area
* To develop a picture of community needs in order to influence services and policies
* To represent the views of the community
* Provide a wide range of advice, information and support for the community and local voluntary groups
* Identify concerns and issues and seek to develop solutions with other partner organisations
* Support community projects and groups

**The Council’s Activities in 2020 - 2021**

**Secured major improvements to community facilities and services**

* The community was successful in securing new funding of £85,000 to redevelop the Treoes play area. The money was made available by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and this excellent new facility is now open.
* Made good progress in establishing the Yr Efail pathway as a public right of way to benefit the local community
* Launched a new website, grant-funded by the Creative Rural Communities initiative, focussing on both the Community Council and the communities it serves. <https://www.llangancouncil.co.uk/>
* Commenced work to secure the King George V playing field as a community asset to be enjoyed by current and future generations
* Put in place a new contract to provide grass-cutting services at Treoes Moor for the next five years

**Provided assistance to local community groups**

* Directly provided grants to support:
* The Friends of Llangan School in replacing the safety floor of the outdoor play equipment
* Treoes Heritage Hub to redesign its History Club website and provide stationary supplies/equipment for users of the Hub
* Treoes Allotments Association to improve facilities and disabled persons’ planting beds
* Saron Chapel, Treoes to improve its maintenance of the grounds
* St. Mary Hill Church to improve the maintenance of the church yard
* Old School Room, Llangan to improve its maintenance of the grounds
* Supported the community halls in Llangan/St Mary Hill and Treoes, where community councillors act as trustees. We assisted Llangan Hall to secure a grant for £1,000 from the Vale of Glamorgan Council’s ‘Lockdown: Non-Domestic Rate Grant Scheme
* Supported Llangan Primary School, where a community councillor is a member of the Board of Governors

**Pushed for improvements on issues impacting the local community**

* Tackled numerous local issues, which were a concern to residents notably in respect of highway issues such as road conditions, speeding traffic, large HGVs using the villages as ‘rat-runs’. The Community Council made a series of proposals that would improve road safety in the area and was disappointed that none were implemented by the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The Community Council continues to press for these changes.
* Responded to all planning issues requiring their consideration, on time. They devoted time, in particular, to the proposed extension of the extraction time limit at Ruthin and Garwa quarries. The Community Council objected to the application due to concerns regarding their impact on the local communities, the environment, and the additional traffic
* Met and corresponded regularly with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on local issues such as the new housing development at Cwrt Canna and successfully worked to improve the proposed local lettings policy
* Maintained close contact with the local Police so that issues of concern were addressed quickly. Fortunately, crime in the area remains extremely low

**Maintained standards of governance and accountability**

* Administered its own affairs effectively, as evidenced by both internal and external audits, ensured good governance and held regular monthly meetings, which are open to the public. The Community Council filled one vacancy during the year
* The Community Council’s main funding in 2020/21 was the Precept of £10,773. The Council made a small surplus in its accounts of £3,289 for the year and recorded an accumulated surplus of £18,361. The Community Council decided to make no interest to its Precept for 2021/22
* No member of the Community Council received more than £150 to enable them to pay for basic sundries