

IN TOUCH

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A DIFFICULT YEAR FOR ALL

It has been an extremely difficult year for all of us especially for the elderly, those with underlying health conditions and people who were required to shield for a duration of time. Regrettably, the dreadful COVID 19 virus is still in circulation and is a major threat to public health with the crisis likely to continue for some time yet. It is difficult to think of positives in this climate but when we look back, when our lives return to more like 'normal,' we will reflect on the greater community togetherness that it generated, the collective action of many to help the vulnerable and most in need of support and our wonderful NHS which, despite the major challenges faced, has shown itself to be a national treasure through the total dedication and commitment of staff.

We all hope that an effective vaccine will arrive in the not too distant future which will open up the way to helping us get back to the things we relish most such as unrestricted engagement with family and friends, and thinking about holiday plans without the fear of contracting the virus.

As we move into the Winter period, it may be that some of you may want some assistance or advice with issues you are facing. On the last page of this newsletter contact details of Councillors are given to enable you to seek advice you may require.

OVERGROWTH FROM HOUSES IN THE VILLAGE

Residents are asked to be mindful of the need to properly maintain hedges growing in their gardens to ensure that any overgrowth does not adversely affect pedestrians especially those with children in prams or pushchairs. Trees can also be problematic if they are not pruned at appropriate intervals.

OPENING OF THE NEW MULTI GAMES AREA (MUGA)

Although there were delays in the completion of the MUGA due to the poor weather conditions in the early part of the year and then the COVID crisis, the facility has now been completed and is being well used by young people. It is an excellent facility that will provide enjoyment for our young people and enable them to develop their sporting skills for years to come. We are extremely grateful for the support provided by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Sport Wales for the funding they provided as well as the project management provided by the Principal Landscape Architect in the Borough Council. We now have a state-of-the-art facility in our community which addresses what you as residents told us you wanted most in the community engagement survey back in 2017. We had hoped to arrange an official opening this year but the current crisis has prevented us from inviting residents from meeting up with the Council to celebrate this major achievement. Your community council has ownership of the MUGA and will ensure that it is well maintained for the years ahead. The Council is also looking to part fund a fence with the Vale of Glamorgan Council around the MUGA and playground and is in discussions about a refurbishment of the playground equipment.



LITTER PICKS

The Council has decided to suspend litter picks until 2021 when it is hoped that it will be safer to do so. These are seen as particularly important as a means of keeping the environment of our community in better shape. They will remain as a priority for the Council.

DOG FOULING

Responsible dog owners are in the majority and this message is not intended for you. However, there are a small minority of people who do not clear up dog mess and leave it there for others to tread on. Some even bag it and then leave the bags on the ground even when bins are close by such as in the playing field. How unhealthy is that? Everyone needs to pull together to protect the environment of our community and if anyone witnesses the actions of an irresponsible dog owner please report the matter to the Vale of Glamorgan Council - Web Link
<https://forms.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/DogFouling>

REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Committee meetings are currently being held on a remote basis using video conferencing software. Residents are able to join the meetings on request to observe the meetings in progress. You will need to contact the Clerk to the Council for joining instructions.

COUNCIL WEBSITE

The address for the Council's website is www.llandough-cc.co.uk. Here you will find details of your Councillors, agendas and minutes of Council and Committee meetings, latest news and contact details of local groups and organisations.

For residents who are interested in the history of Llandough the website now provides full details of all buildings of significance and a 1900 map of the Llandough. There are also a number of web-links to articles relating to the community including the findings of an archaeological excavation that found the existence of an Early-medieval Monastic Cemetery at Llandough, in 1994.

THE PROBLEM OF FLYTIPPING

Over 70% of fly-tipped waste in Wales contains unwanted household items and rubbish, most often, this is as a result of householders unknowingly putting their excess household waste into the hands of a fly-tipper. Fly-tipping is a serious crime, which poses threats to the environment, animals, local communities and our beautiful Welsh landscape. We urge all residents to help tackle fly-tipping and to ensure that any contractors they use to clear unwanted items and rubbish have a waste carrier license before engaging them. If residents do not carry out this important check and their waste is found fly-tipped they can now be fined £300 and risk prosecution for not following their household waste duty of care.

CONTINUING THE FOCUS ON BIO-DIVERSITY

Your Community Council continues to focus on improving the bio-diversity of the community and we are really pleased that the Allotments Association at our Corbett Road site are equally keen to assist in this important duty that we have.

Volunteers were recently engaged in planting Wildflower seeds on the village green and village garden as well as two locations on Cogan Pill Road. This should produce an array of beautiful flowers next year which will be ideal for the local bee population as well as all residents who will see an enhancement of the village environment. The volunteers also planted cowslips, primroses and daffodil bulbs in the community and we will see them in flower next Spring.

The Council recently received a report from the Allotments Association providing evidence that birds had been nesting in the bird boxes located on the site. The Council will be providing funding to replace some of the boxes.

HIGHWAY VERGE AT BOTTOM OF PENLAN RISE

The Community Council is keen to take over the grass cutting of this highway verge which is not in the ownership of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. A recent search for details of ownership with the Land Registry indicated that there was no registered owner but it does not necessarily follow that there is no owner as it may be for some reason that the ownership has not been registered. The Council would also like to locate a community planter on this land. The Council would like to hear from anyone who has a legal interest in the land.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREES

The Council will be providing a Christmas tree with decorations outside the hall and also funding for Christmas trees for both churches. It is hoped that they will help to generate the warmth of the Christmas period for all of us.

WATER ESCAPE ONTO BROOK GREEN FOOTPATH

For the many residents who use the footpath through Brook Green you will have noticed that there is an escape of water on to the footpath. The Council has commissioned chartered surveyors to develop a solution to the problem and is awaiting receipt of tenders for the work required to address the problem. The path may be a little slippery and could ice up in the Winter period and we would warn all users to take care when negotiating the bottom end of the path.

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONES

The Community Council has for a number of years been pressing for a review of parking arrangements in the community especially having regard to the numerous complaints we have received from residents relating to hospital staff and visitor parking. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has rightly decided to consider the creation of residential parking zones subject to consultation with residents. If you live in one of the streets that are included in the proposal you will have received a consultation letter and it is important that you respond to indicate your support or opposition or make general comments. Whether such zones are introduced will depend on your responses.

LLANDOUGH WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Although Welsh Government guidance enables the opening of the hall for physical exercise classes as well as essential public or voluntary services it is not possible at the current time to take bookings for any type of parties. We hope that the situation will change in the New Year.

ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS

From time to time, the Council needs to engage the following professional trades companies to undertake work based on acceptance of competitive quotations. We would find it helpful if any local companies could contact the Clerk if they would be interested in quoting for work. The trades we are most likely to be in need of are:

Local Builders
Electricians
Tree Surgeons
Grounds Contractors

No guarantee that any work will be commissioned can be made but the Council may decide to invite you to tender or quote for any work it requires.

YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Community Council is always keen to develop projects and schemes which will serve to enhance the social, economic and environmental well being of the community. Any ideas that residents may have would be warmly welcomed and you should contact the Clerk to the Council.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

As there were a number of events normally funded by the Council which could not take place this year, it was decided to grant fund a number of local organisations to assist them with their activities. We know that the grants made were gratefully received by the organisations concerned.

LOOKING TO 2021

Let's hope that things will improve at least sometime in 2021 so that we can get back to what some have called a 'new normal' and enjoy those precious things that mean so much to all of us. The contact details of our Community Councils are as follows:

Councillor Pat Carreyett – 02920712400

Councillor Michael Edwards – 02920658869

Councillor Pam Gay – 02920712458

Councillor Peter King – 02920701094

Councillor Dr Mo Misra – 07710916997

Councillor Elliot Penn – 02920709846

Councillor Ian Williams – 02920704227

Councillor Wyn Williams – 02920707469

Councillor Dean Mears – 02920406683

Councillor Lucy Barrowclough – 07812743201

If you have any ideas or suggestions you would like the Community Council to consider please feel free to write to the Clerk to the Council, 63 Woodham Park, Barry CF62 8FJ or e-mail him on clerk@llandough-cc.co.uk. Please note that planned events may be affected by Government guidelines relating to the Coronavirus outbreak and arrangements may change at short notice.