

IN TOUCH

BETTER TIMES AHEAD

It has been an extremely difficult time for all of us with a number of lockdowns and restrictions on our normal activities which we are not accustomed to.

We now have a vaccine and a mass vaccination programme that is being rolled out at a pace which will over time 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.

Life will probably never be quite the same as before the pandemic as we have come to rely on remote engagement and for many working from home may become the new normal. Nevertheless, the freedoms we have temporarily lost may return in the not-too-distant future enabling us to meet with family and friends without restriction and getting back to enjoying going out for a meal, visiting a café, going to the cinema or theatre and attending sporting events. Much to look forward to but for the coming months we need to follow public health guidance designed to keep us safe and healthy. With the reduction in pressures on our wonderful NHS there will undoubtedly be much needed progress in dealing with the long waiting list of people who need to have surgical procedures that have been outstanding for some time.

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 last 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 and last, 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 will also be part funding a fence with the Vale of Glamorgan Council around the MUGA and playground and this work is scheduled to be completed in March 2021.



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>

The Community Council has asked the Vale of Glamorgan Council to arrange for the Dog Warden to make regular visits to the community.

GREAT NEWS FOR CHILDREN - The Council has been successful in obtaining a grant from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (funding from Welsh Government) for an additional item of play equipment which will be very soon installed at the playground in the playing fields. It is called a spiro whirl roundabout and children will have great fun in using this new play facility. Here is what they can look forward to using:



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 working with a number of local volunteers continues its focus on enhancing the biodiversity of our community area. During the Autumn of last year, councillors and volunteers planted wildflower seeds in the village garden, village green and in two areas in Cogan Pill Road.

They also planted a variety of bulbs and plants in selected areas and evidence of growth is already revealing itself in the shape of daffodils and also cowslips and primroses.

This is never going to be a one-off investment but an ongoing process over many years. The Allotments Association at our Corbett Road site have been highly active in this field and have submitted an application for green flag status for the site. The Council has been pleased to contribute to their efforts through accessing funding for a wildlife garden from a Welsh Government fund administered by Keep Wales Tidy and purchasing bird boxes for location at the allotments. The Council will continue to invest in biodiversity in our community to make Llandough an even better place to live.

HIGHWAY VERGE AT BOTTOM OF PENLAN RISE

The Community Council has extended its grounds maintenance contract to include weekly cutting of this verge to ensure that it is maintained in good condition during the grass growing season. We have purchased a street planter that will be located on this land providing an attractive feature visible to all those living in and passing through Penlan Road.

WATER ESCAPE ONTO BROOK GREEN FOOTPATH

For the many residents who use the footpath through Brook Green you will have noticed that there was an escape of water on to the footpath. It is pleasing to report that repair works funded by the Community Council have remedied this issue. There may be occasions when water escapes appear close to Brook Green but at least we now know that they do not originate from Brook Green itself.

RETENTION OF OUR LLANDOUGH COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

As many of you will know, the Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission recently undertook a wide consultation on proposals to change some ward boundaries in the Vale of Glamorgan and that it was proposed that the Llandough Ward be merged with the Cornerswell Road in Penarth.

The Community Council submitted a very strong and detailed case to the Commission providing reasons as to why the proposal was not appropriate given the diverse nature of both wards and the strong sense of community existing in Llandough. The unique nature of our community was highlighted and many examples were given of why Llandough needed to have a separate status to reflect the unique features of our community. The Allotments Association also submitted a detailed response to the consultation emphasising the need to retain Llandough as a separate ward. In addition, some 117 residents submitted their own objections to the proposal. As it has turned out, the Commission dropped the proposal on the basis of not wishing to undermine the focus on retaining strong communities such as ours. Without the support of so many residents this may have resulted in the undesirable change proposed. It just goes to show how resident engagement in consultation exercises can be extremely powerful.

CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

It is with considerable regret that the Council has had to cancel a number of planned events this year due to the continuing pandemic crisis. The events that have been cancelled are the village fete, civic service, rogation walk with the school, litter picks and council surgeries.

JOIN THE LLANDOUGH FACEBOOK PAGE AND LOCAL NEXT-DOOR APP

Due to the ongoing pandemic crisis, this newsletter will only be made available on these social media sites and on the Community Council website. One of the sites is the 'Llandough Old and New Residents' which is a private group established by Kay Brinkworth a former resident of Llandough. We would like to thank Kay for creating the group providing a communication platform for people with like interests. There are currently 935 members of the group and membership is obtained by an invite from an existing member or individual application with new members being required to explain why they want to join the group and agree to the rules before they are accepted. The Next-Door social media site has 601 Llandough members but in total, the membership totals 7175 members with people signed up from Penarth, southern Cardiff, Michaelston and Dinas Powys. Members of either of these sites are requested to encourage members of their family and friends to join up to these social media platforms to enhance local communication arrangements.

LLANDOUGH WAR MEMORIAL HALL

The Hall is currently closed due to COVID restrictions but we are hopeful that a gradual phasing of its return to normal operations may follow in the coming months. This may well be a slow process given the importance of keeping safe and well. The Council is very grateful for the financial support provided by the Welsh Government to assist the Management Committee in meeting general running costs during the period.

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 wellbeing of the community. Any ideas that residents may have would be warmly welcomed and you should contact the Clerk to the Council.

LOOKING TO 2021

Let's hope that things will improve later in the year 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.