

## **Henllanfallteg Community Council**

### **Chairmans Reports 2007/08**

This has been busy year for the Community Council with a number of achievements. Many of these were kick-started when Carmarthenshire County Council held a Community Network Meeting in the Millennium Hall. Councillors raised a number of local issues with the panel which began a flurry of activity.

#### **Traffic calming scheme**

The first of these was traffic calming – where speeding is an ongoing problem in Llanfallteg village. Councillors had site meetings with representatives of the County Council's Traffic Management Department who advised on possible options. A scheme was agreed to define the village boundaries with yellow backed 30 signs, repositioning of village name boards and green painted strips on the road. New horse and rider signs were included in the package. Community Councillors were successful in securing match funding of £925 from the County Council to help support the scheme. We are currently awaiting its completion.

#### **Highways drainage improvements**

Some Llanfallteg residents had raised concerns over regular highways flooding which the County Council initially viewed as the responsibility of householders. The Community Council supported local concerns and proposed a solution to the County Council engineer at another site meeting. The County Council agreed to carry out improvements and promptly completed the scheme of laying new drainage pipes well ahead of schedule.

#### **Rights of Way**

The Community Network meeting even managed to galvanise action on the long standing challenge of improvements to our local footpaths, a project that had seen no progress for a number of years. After more constructive meetings with County Council staff we secured an impressive £15,000 for

rights of way works. The County Council have completed over £5000 worth of works including new gates, stiles and clearance, assisted at times by our community volunteers. We have been assured that the remainder of funding allocated to the community will still be available in the 08/09 financial year.

### **Mains sewerage scheme**

The Community Council received the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water assessment report on our application for a mains sewerage system. The decision was based on the value of environmental benefits of a mains scheme versus the cost of building it. Unfortunately at a cost of £1,000,000 and benefit of just £67,000 the scheme would not be financially viable. Although a disappointing result the Community Council is looking at alternative routes for a solution.

### **Planning & consultations**

It has been a very busy year with planning applications and public consultations on all manner of public service matters from health and public transport to fire service performance and policing. The Community Council rightly sees these as important opportunities to put local views forward. If we have views on public service issues then we should put these forward, and we would hope, have a little influence on the policy makers. We can and should at least try.

### **Carmarthenshire County Council**

Building relationships with Carmarthenshire County Council has proved to be an important element in our work over the past year. We have had positive responses from the County Council when approaching them in a constructive way with pragmatic solutions. I hope we can continue to build on this.

### **Councillors and Clerk to the Council**

John Spencer, Marilyn Scholfield, Emma Allum and Josie Thomas stepped down from the Council prior to the May election after four years of membership. I would like to give genuine thanks to all the councillors for their contributions during their time on the Community Council and specifically during the past year in a position which, it is important to remember, is entirely

voluntary. Equally important is the role of Clerk to the Council which is efficiently carried out by Ella Beattie, who has had to put in many hours to the job during over the past 12 months to help make our achievements happen.

Our long standing County Councillor Jimmy Morgan also retired in May. Jimmy has always been supportive of our Community Council and, on behalf of the Council, I wish him well in his retirement.

### **Forward look**

We move into the next term with just four councillors instead of the required seven. It remains a challenge to engage residents in community issues. We also need to encourage interest from other parts of community such as Henllan Amgoed and Cwm Felin Boeth as many of the issues we are dealing with are focused on Llanfallteg.

On a positive note we have the opportunity to work with our new County Councillor, Sue Allen and to seek her support in addressing local issues.

There is unfinished business that the Community Council can take forward into this next year. This includes ongoing rights of way improvements, completion of traffic calming works and addressing speeding.

In addition to general consultations Carmarthenshire County Council will shortly be asking us to plan for the future of the community with the Local Development Plan, the replacement for the Unitary Development Plans.

The need for mains drainage in Llanfallteg hasn't gone away. We face the task of seeking £30,000 funding for a detailed feasibility study and then the possibility of the £1,000,000 capital cost of a scheme.

G Carpenter

14 May 2008

