

## **BTM Community Council**

### **Chair's Report: 6 October 2016**

- On Saturday the 3 September myself with Cllrs Jill Winslade and Lisa Jones attended the Ruperra Castle Open Day. Extreme wet weather but very enjoyable walk around the Castle Grounds. Had the pleasure of presenting the Council's donation of £225 however due to the extreme weather and not looking our best it was suggested we postpone the photo shoot until the 1 October event.
  
- On Tuesday the 6 September, myself and Cllrs Lisa Jones & Jill Winslade attended Ty Penallta, where PCC Jeff Cuthbert undertook a Presentation for Local Community and Town Councils. Please see below a few points from the event:
  - I. The biggest Crime Type is Cybercrime.
  - II. Catching criminals remains a Police priority, both nationally and in Gwent.
  - III. Looking to improve further partnership working: Safer Gwent; Community & Town Councils; Local Authorities; Local Criminal Justice Board; Regional Police Forces; Local Health Board; Welsh Government; Public Service Boards and Third Sector.
  - IV. Getting the balance right between provision and reassurance, which includes having well located Police Stations.
  - V. Main priorities are: crime prevention; support victims; Community cohesion; dealing with ASB and effective service delivery.
  - VI. Since 2010/11 up to 2016, the Police have delivered over £42m of efficiency savings.
  
- Monday the 12 September I undertook a Speed Watch Session with Cllrs Lisa Jones and Jill Winslade (Jill's first session). 8 vehicles exceeded the speed limit.
  
- Tuesday the 13 September, I attended Bedwas Workmen's Hall Committee Meeting and confirmed that the Community Council did agree to next review the "utility bills" in particular the Cleaning Contract in December 2016.
  
- Thursday the 15 September, I volunteered at Bedwas Workmen's Hall, as Bedwas High held their Awards Evening.

- Saturday the 17 September, myself and Cllrs Jill Winslade and Lisa Jones attended Picnic in the Park at the Riverside Park, Trethomas. We enjoyed jacket potatoes and salad which was homegrown at the local allotments. We took part in a Hedgehog Question Game. I learnt quite a lot about hedgehogs from a Lady by the name of Jane who is a Rescuer from Newport. In 1950s it was estimated to be 36.5 million and in 1995 estimated to be 1,550,000 in Great Britain. Therefore population decreasing. You could help by setting up a “Hedgehog Street” For more information please visit [www.hedgehogstreet.org](http://www.hedgehogstreet.org)
- Attended Trethomas Bluebirds Game at Bedwas RFC. Sadly didn't win that day but was very close and a great game.
- Wednesday the 21 September, attended Machen Community Road Watch Committee Meeting. Advised Rob (Chair) and Jo (Deputy Chair) will be standing down from their roles, however, they wish to remain as Committee Members. Announcement of the New Chair and Deputy Chair will be at the AGM on Wednesday the 5 October.
- Saturday the 24 September, attended BTM Brass Band 100 Club Launch Night with Cllr Lisa Jones. It was a very relaxed evening with music played by the Band. We also had a guided tour of the refurbished Band Room building. Informed rooms are available to rent by the public.
- Monday the 26 September, I had the pleasure of seeing a Shipping Container with a difference in Newport. I would very much like to see Caerphilly Homes doing a pilot of their own to help address the ongoing problem of homelessness and meet the need of single/couple occupancy. It is of low and affordable cost £20,000 per shipping container. They are stackable, have limitless up cycle potential and believe it is future living. To know more about this particular project please visit [www.amazinggracespaces.org](http://www.amazinggracespaces.org)
- On Wednesday the 28 September, Machen Community Road Watch had their public meeting of which around 45 people were present including Cllrs Derek Havard, Lisa Jones, Jill Winslade and Chris Morgan, Sergeant Andy Elias, Inspector Andrew O’Keefe and our AM Hefin David.

***I would like to say a huge Thank You to the Volunteers of Machen Community Road Watch for helping to deliver the Public Meeting***

***Leaflet to every household in Machen and Lower Graig y Rhacca. Also to the Sponsor who kindly produced the Leaflets but wishes to remain anonymous.***

***And to Cllrs Lisa Jones, Jill Winslade, Chris Morgan, Derek Havard, Inspector Andrew O'Keefe, Sergeant Andy Elias and Hefin David (AM) for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend the Public Meeting of Machen Community Road Watch and to Machen Legion for providing the venue.***

- I have been liaising with The Highways Department of CCBC for the installation of "School ahead" signs in Machen as at present there are none. On Thursday the 29 September I was informed that the same will be done within the next 6-8 weeks.
- On Thursday the 29 September, attended the AGM & Governors meeting of Machen Primary. Also present was Cllrs Chris Morgan & Mary Williams. Was provided with and discussed the School Development Plan and Post Inspection Action Plan for 2016/2017.
- On Thursday the 29 September, attended BTM Ward LP Meeting as now formally up and running again.
- On Friday the 30 September, I had the pleasure of attending 2 Macmillan coffee mornings, one at Machen Rugby Club and one at Bedwas OAP Hall. Well done to Cllrs Liz Aldsworth, June Gale, Emma Davies, Lisa Jones, Jill Winslade and Derek Havard's wife Ann for organising the one in Bedwas of which I hope will continue to be a yearly event.
- On Saturday the 1 October, myself and Cllr Jill Winslade attended Rudry Village Hall whereby there was exhibitions from the Ruperra Trust, Local Conservation Groups and BTM Brass Band provided the music. Also undertook a photo shoot with the Community Council's large cheque and Representative for the Ruperra Trust.
- On Wednesday the 5 October, myself and Cllrs Chris Morgan, Lisa Jones & Jill Winslade attended the AGM of Machen Community Road Watch. I was elected as Chair and Jeannette Harding as Deputy Chair.

***I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rob Evans & Jo Brown for their commitment in building a strong and prosperous Committee, whilst working tirelessly to increase the creditability and visibility of MCRW and look forward to their ongoing involvement as Committee Members. I'm sure our second year will be even greater and hope Machen Residents will continue to support and champion our endeavours, as with their help we can accomplish great things.***

***Reminder: Advice Surgery this Saturday the 8 October 2016 between 10.30am to 12.30pm. I would respectfully ask that Members please let me know if they will be available to attend?***

***The Chair's Christmas Carol Service with BTM Band Next Generation has been provisionally booked for Tuesday the 13 December, at 6pm at the BTM Offices. Do Members agree and accept the Poster our Youth Rep Adam Bird kindly drafted for the event?***

End of Report.