

Chair's Report – 6 April 2017



- **22 February** – Attended the first Public Meeting of Lower Graig y Rhacca Residents Group – it was great to see the Community coming together to discuss various concerns they had. The local Police were also present to offer advice.
- **1 March** – Chaired the Machen Community Road Watch Committee Meeting. Guests present : an Officer from CCBCs Highways Department and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering. A very positive meeting.
- **3 March** – Thoroughly enjoyed the well attended St David's Day Concert at St John's Church, Machen. The Organist was David Lowe and the live music was from two local youths Owen and Lloyd. All funds raised went to Machen Community Road Watch. Many thanks to Cllr Chris Morgan for organising the said event and to Cllrs Lisa Phipps, Brian James and Jill Winslade for attending. Also present was the PCC for Gwent, Jeff Cuthbert.
- **9 March** – Had the pleasure of attending the Bedwas Theatre Group Celebration Evening at the Bedwas OAP Hall. They have been awarded £5,000 Lottery Funding to purchase much needed sound and light equipment. Also present Cllrs Lisa Phipps, Dave Davies and Jill Winslade, Hefin David (AM) and the Mayoress of Caerphilly County Borough Council. Looking forward to attending their Summer Concert.
- **14 March** – Undertook One Voice Wales Training on Introduction to Community Engagement. Community and Town Councils are accountable to local people and have a duty to improve the quality of life and environment for citizens in their area and to represent the interests of the different parts of the Community equally. For more information on the services of One Voice Wales please visit their website: www.onevoicewales.org.uk
- **16 March** – Attended Machen Show Committee Meeting. New and exciting changes for this year's Show which takes place on the 1st Saturday in July. It will be their 76th year.
- **19 March** – Attended the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Boat Trip. Thank you to Cllr Chris Morgan for organising. 47 people in total attended, including Cllrs Jill Winslade, Lisa Phipps, Liz Aldworth, Dave Davies, Brian James and Emma Davies. Thank you to everyone for supporting our Campaign and I hope you enjoyed the day as much as I did. All proceeds will go to Machen Community Road Watch. For more information on Dragonfly Cruises and Dayboats go to their website www.dragonfly-cruises.co.uk
- **Spring 2017 Newsletter** – There is 16 pages in total. It will take 10 days to print 4000 copies. Thank you to everyone who contributed. Enjoy and happy reading.

- **Parent Governor Vacancies** at Bedwas High School. Please contact the School direct for more information on 029 2085 9800.

Dates for your diaries:

- From 27 March to 2 April – Calling all Teachers : There's loads of ways to get involved in World Autism Awareness Week at School 2017. For more information please visit their website : www.autism.org.uk
- From 8 May to 14 May : Around the World Slow Down Day – will you pledge to #SlowDown and save lives? For more information : www.unroadsafetyweek.org

My End of Term of Office 2016-2017:

As I draw to the end of my current 1 year term of office, I would like to record my thanks to our Vice-Chair Cllr Derek Havard, and the hard working Councillors who have supported me and the Council and the wider Community throughout the last 12 months. Your hard work and commitment is essential to the smooth running of the Community Council. Once again I would like to thank our Clerk Jolene Dalton for her professionalism and enthusiasm.

Our communications strategy has been enhanced by the re-introduction of our yearly Newsletter after a break last year. The website is being updated on a regular basis and long may this continue, as I have received positive feedback from members of the public.

We opened the Council Offices with light refreshments for the Queen's 90th birthday in June 2016 and for Remembrance Sunday in November 2016.

We sponsored the BTM United FC Fun Day with Trethomas Bluebirds FC in July 2016. We sponsored a Climbing Wall at the Bedwas Rocks in June 2016. We organised the Macmillan Coffee Morning at the Bedwas OAP Hall in September 2016 and hope this will continue to be a yearly event.

Another successful Carol Singing Service was held before Christmas with BTM Band Next Generation. With the involvement of School children in the BTM area we are looking to purchase 5 live Christmas Trees, of which they will be planted near their Schools.

We continue to support the Bedwas Workmen's Hall and its Management Committee. We are in the process of putting together a Business Plan so we can apply for Grant Funding to undertake a complete renovation of the Hall. From 2016-2017 the Community Council gave financial support of just under £20,000.

Finally I would like to say that I wish my successor and his/her Deputy every good wish for their 12 month term. It has been an honour to serve the Community as Chairperson of BTM Community Council for the past 12 months.

Kind regards
Cllr Amanda McConnell