**Llangybi Fawr Community Council AGM – Chairman’s Remarks**

It has been another active year for the council. This last year has seen the publication of two CLPs, for Llangybi and for Coed-y-Paen. Thanks for this must go to all those who have contributed by serving on the steering groups, and especially Shirley Hughes, whose determination to see them through to fruition despite being made redundant by MonCC was admirable. It is gratifying that progress is already being made on several of the action points in the plans.

We continue to keep a close watch on local planning applications and also any potential breaches, bringing them to the notice of Enforcement officers when appropriate. Over the last year we have commented on 25 planning applications, including making representaions on any appeals, and raised potential breaches on three cases, all of which have led to the issue of enforcement orders.

We have been able to acquire defibrillators for each of our three villages (one still hasn’t been delivered at the time of writing), thanks to financial help from Mon CC, Monmouthshire Housing Association, and the generous subsidised scheme run by the British Heart Foundation. We have also installed a new noticeboard in Coed-y-Paen as well as new litter bins in Llangybi. This last year has also finally seen a water supply installed for the allotments.

We have again provided financial support for our local churches in the form of donations, and continue to liaise with other organisations, in particular, Monmouthshire Rural Forum, One Voice Wales, Prison Council Liaison Group, and Llangybi Village Hall.

We have frequent communications with Monmouthshire Highways regarding the deplorable state of some of our roads. This year, at our invitation, the cabinet member responsible for highways and a senior highways officer came on a conducted tour of our roads to see the problems for theirselves. This has resulted in some of the worst potholes being filled in, but not a lot more, budget constraints being the plea!

We have raised our precept this year by 7%, in anticipation of devolved responsibilities from Mon CC and higher charges by them for services that they continue to provide for us. To put this rise into context, it will amount to a little more than £1 extra on each household’s council tax bill.

We have responded robustly to the WAG White Paper on Local Government Reorganisation, which sees councils such as ours as inefficient and too small to be effective. I think this review demonstrates the contrary. I would like to say thank you to my fellow councillors for their efforts and support over the last year, and also a big thank you to our clerk, Alan, who has been a great support over the year. It is hard to believe that he started from scratch less than a year ago.

Graham Rogers

19 May 2015