

CHAIR'S REPORT - NOVEMBER 2016

As this is the last newsletter before the end of 2016, it seems appropriate to reflect back on the year.

This year has seen two big renovation projects in Caerwent funded from a combination of Section 106 funding and a huge amount of fund raising from both the Caerwent Playing Fields Association and the Community Centre Committee. I've been to a number of functions recently at the Village Hall and constantly hear people complimenting the work that has been completed. I also visited the Community Centre this week and was impressed by the facilities that are available. The sports hall is an amazing space that is used for a wide variety of activities throughout the week. It really is a credit to the Community Centre Committee who work tirelessly to maintain the facility and continue to raise funds for further renovation works. We have two amazing facilities in Caerwent that we should be very proud of.

Our first defibrillator has been installed in the Coach and Horses in Caerwent and we held our first CPR and defibrillator training on 17th November. Whilst the defibrillator is very intuitive and speaks instructions, having some training and being able to practice using it gave me a level of confidence should the need ever arise. A second training is planned for December 8th at 6.30pm in the Village Hall and I would encourage everyone to take up the opportunity. A big thank you to the Chepstow and Caldicot Lions for providing the defibrillator. We are now discussing a second defibrillator for Llanfair Discoed.

The asset transfer of the Village Hall to the Community Council has been approved and the legal representatives are finalising the legalities. This will provide greater opportunity to apply for grants for further work to the Village Hall.

In addition to the above the Council has supported a number of funding requests from local groups as well as supporting the Village Hall and the Community Centre.

If anyone has ever thought about being a part of the Community Council, we have a vacancy for a Councillor for the Llanfair Discoed ward. The position is open to anyone over the age of 18 that resides within 3 miles of the Community Council area or own/tenant any land/premises or have their only place of work in the area. The vacancy would be filled until May next year when all Councillors have to stand for election. If you are interested, then please contact the Clerk (email below).

Moving on to planning applications considered during our November meeting:

2016/011220 Land North of Castlewood, Llanfair Discoed
Construction of New Gateway Access
Approved

Notification had been received from MCC re a tree removal in the churchyard of St Stephen and St Tathan in Caerwent. Reasons given were that the tree has a significant lean, it is close to recent burial plots which is a cause for concern should the tree be uprooted in high winds and the ground around the tree has raised recently. Agreed with MCC Tree Officer that this be removed and request that two/three saplings be planted.

Whilst writing this newsletter it is evident that in our community there are lots of people that give up their time to make a difference. This month, CCC would like to say a big Thank You to Neil Williams and Nia Gittins, the 'Dynamic Duo'. Neil, previously Chair, and Nia, Secretary of the CPFA have worked tirelessly over many years to raise much needed funds for the Village Hall. More recently, Neil has managed the renovation works in the Village Hall, which is no easy task! Nia will be leaving the village in the New Year to be closer to family and will be missed by us all but we wish her the very best in her new home. If there is anyone that you would like to recognize and thank, please contact me (email below).

At the time of writing this (November) it seems quite inappropriate to mention Christmas, but as the newsletter is published in December I think it is quite acceptable to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas!

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Community Council Chair

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