

Penyffordd, Penymynydd & Dobshill

VILLAGE NEWSLETTER (Dec 2023)



A Message from the Chairman – Cllr Pat Ransome

It is six months since our last community update and so half way through our year fitting that we take the opportunity to share community news and updates.

As your community council we are here to represent the areas of Penyffordd, Penymynydd and Dobshill and to be a voice for our ever-increasing community. We have seen continued growth in the village with a population now nearing 5000 but our sense of community remains as strong and as focussed. Every individual is a valued and important member of our community and we want to hear from you, to hear your views about both the positives and negatives. We are here to listen. Please remember you can contact any councillor or join us at our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm at the War Memorial Institute.

The past months have been a busy time as we continue to build on several projects in the community as highlighted below. In the coming months we will be seeking the views of the community as we make improvements to the memorial garden, work with Flintshire re the development of the old school site and consider the next steps for the Penyffordd Place Plan. We are aware too of the challenges faced and the effects of the current economic climate. Councillors continue to strive to bring back our regular bus service and tackle

the issue of flooding in the village, both of which are ongoing concerns. The response of the volunteers sandbagging buildings and supporting one another during the recent heavy rainfall was heartening and thanks are due to all who turned out to help. Recently too we listened and responded to the views expressed by the community re the memorial garden/clock project costs. We will be resubmitting plans with reduced costing for consultation.

One of the many qualities of our community are the many invaluable volunteers who give of their time to support both young and old in various groups whether this is our football team coaches, our youth leaders, our church groups, choir leaders, the memory cafe the list is extensive and impossible to name all. We share our thanks for all their often unsung and tireless work throughout the year to make this the special place in which we live.

We also acknowledge the contribution of our two County Councillors Roy Wakelam and Alasdair Ibbotson who provide our link with Flintshire County Council and beyond and thank both for their work in keeping us informed and helping move many community projects forward.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new councillor who will start in January and means that there remains only the second youth representative vacancy to fill on council. If you know of anyone please let our Clerk Sarah Hughes know.

We welcome and need your input – one community, one council so if you wish to be involved please let us know.

So as we approach Christmas and the start of a new year 2024 our best wishes for Christmas and for a peaceful and happy 2024.

Your Community Council

There are 13 members on Penyffordd Community Council. Councillors are office holders who sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office upon their election or appointment - they are therefore part of the local government structure of Wales. At the head of the Council is the Chairman, who is elected annually from amongst its serving Councillors. The Chairman for this year is Councillor Pat Ransome and the Vice-Chair is Councillor Andy Sloan.

The council has the opportunity to appoint two Youth Representatives. We currently have one active member, Natasha Boleyn who was appointed in September 2022 and also one vacancy. This role represents the youth sector and is a 'voice' on the Community Council for local issues affecting young people.

The council is supported by three members of staff. The Clerk - Sarah Hughes, Street Operative - Glyn Davies and Village Groundsman – Chris Jones.

Your Community Councillors are:

Pat Ransome - Chair	Andy Sloan - Vice Chair	Roy Wakelam - Cty Cllr	Alasdair Ibbotson - Cty Cllr
David Walker	Mark Rothero	Jeff Priddin	Paul Blackman
David Williams	Lisa Overington	Oliver Thompson	Susie Williams
VACANCY			

Councillor Vacancy

The council had a vacancy which arose due to the resignation of Julie Jones in May 2023, unfortunately it took a number of advertisements until the council received interest. We are pleased to say that we did receive 4x applications which were all of very high standard and each would have been an asset to the council. The council voted and co-opted Glenys Nethercott in December 2023 and she will join the council January 2024.

Activities during the Year to date

Old School Site

We are continuing to work with FCC on the plans for this site. The contractor Total Controlled Demolition Ltd will be taking delivery of site cabins and security fencing with the intension completing the site setup for the contract. The asbestos removal and internal strip out of the building will start from Monday, 11th December and will be completed after Christmas with the main demolition works starting towards the end of January with the completion date in March 24.

A portion of the site will be transferred to the Community Council for community use, but the exact amount and configuration of the land which will be transferred will be determined in due course.

Place Plan

The council have undertaken a review of the Place Plan, however, it is yet to be determined whether this will be a full review of the existing plan in order to work towards having it adopted as supplementary planning guidance by Flintshire County Council or to produce an update to the existing place plan which shall be appended to the current plan and available as a standalone document.

Wildlife Garden

Report from Woodwork - We started working with Penyffordd Community Council in January 2022 to manage West View Nature Area at the end of Alyn Drive. The area was overgrown and largely inaccessible and has taken a lot of work to create what is now beginning to be a pleasant green space that can not only be enjoyed by the local community but that allows a diverse range of wildlife to thrive.

Securing grant funding from the Heritage Lottery. Fund through Transport for Wales has enabled us to create pathways and plant over 400 trees, including a number of native fruit trees as well as installing signage. We are currently working on creating a bog area that will be a valuable addition to the biodiversity of the nature area.

We have a fantastic group of volunteers that help us at the regular volunteer sessions that we hold. School children from both St John the Baptist Primary in Penymydd and Ysgol Penyffordd helped us with planting and we hope they will enjoy seeing how much the trees have grown in future visits. Managers from local Spar shops and Penyffordd Scout group have been a great help in assisting us creating pathways around the nature area.

Sadly, on a few occasions we have found that trees have been deliberately damaged, which is disappointing for all of us that have been involved in creating the nature area. Fortunately, with the help of our volunteers we have repaired damage and we all remain vigilant in the hope of avoiding any further problems.

If you would like to come along and join our volunteer sessions at the nature area please do get in touch. Our contact details are: info@woodworkcic.co.uk, www.woodworkcic.co.uk or find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter@/helpingnatureandcommunitiestothrive

Memorial Garden Project

The area in front of the clock is known as the Memorial Garden and is one of the central focal points of the village. The council secured planning permission from Flintshire County Council for a design, however this was a number of years ago and since the cost of living crisis, the plans are now being reviewed to potentially offer a scaled down improvement project. Once plans of the scaled down project have been determined, this will then go to public consultation.

Play Area Improvements

Millstone – we are working towards submitting a planning application for the installation of a pump track. The council purchased and installed a further CCTV camera at the play area.

Dobshill – a budget was approved for 2023/24 to allow for improvement works to the play area by installation of a pathway around the site (*intended to allow younger children to learn and ride a bike in a safe environment*), however, again due to costs, the council are now looking at a reviewing the design to a smaller scale.

Tree Planting

A big thank you again to the many residents who have supported the ‘sponsor a tree’ initiative again. This started three years ago and is hopefully going to be a rolling programme that will be a real feature of the village.

Street Lighting

The Council own a selection of street lights throughout the villages, however, all street lights are maintained and repaired by FCC. Any issues or faults should be reported to Flintshire County Council, Streetscene on 01352 701234 or streetscene@flintshire.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can report by downloading the [Flintshire App](#)

Annual Grant Applications

The council sets a budget annually to be able to offer financial assistance to local groups and organizations. This year we are pleased to report that we helped 18 local groups/organisations to the sum of £4246 and further donations to the Penyffordd War Memorial - £4000 and Flintshire Citizens Advice - £300.

Defibrillators

The council has purchased and installed 3x new defibrillators and 2x cabinets. Located 1x outside St Johns School, 1x inside the telephone kiosk on Alyn Drive/Vounog and an upgraded defib installed at the current site of the Bowling Club. The defib at St Johns was kindly funded by the family of the late Rachel Jones.

As a community we are fortunate to have a number of defibs in our local area which are available to the public 24/7. Obviously should you ever need to use one, please always phone 999 and they will direct you to your nearest one and provide the necessary access code.

Telephone Kiosk Alyn Drive	War Memorial Institute	Penyffordd Bowling Club
St John The Baptist V A School	Tents & Events	Dobshill Service Station
Penyffordd Royal British Legion	Penyffordd & Buckley Railway Stations	Oaklea Grange

In order to help as many residents as possible feel confident in using a defib, the council arranged and funded a Defibrillator & CPR Training session In October inviting local businesses. A further session is also due to be held in January which will be open to our local clubs, groups and organisations.

Telephone Kiosk

The telephone kiosk located on the corner of Alyn Drive has recently been refurbishment and has been utilised as an internal noticeboard and seasonal book exchange. This has now been converted to house a defibrillator and the council will be looking to install a new noticeboard next to the kiosk in 2024/25.

Summer Playscheme

In conjunction with Flintshire County Council and Welsh Government, the council financial supports the provision of a 4 week summer playscheme held at The Millstone Play Area.

Penyffordd Carnival

This year was our first year in having a stall at the carnival. This was a wonderful way to engage, meet and speak with our residents.

Kings Coronation

The council awarded a total of £1000 for grants to community groups to assist with funding their events.

Transport

Work continues as we lobby for support for the resumption of the direct Penyffordd to Chester bus service.

New Transport for Wales Wrexham to Bidston Train times 10 December 2023 - 01 June 2024. Full timetable can be viewed [here](#).

Penyffordd to Bidston (mon-fri)									
06.37	07.13	08.05	08.50	10.20	09.38	11.05	11.49	12.35	13.26
14.05	14.50	15.35	16.20	16.51	18.03	18.42	20.01	22.13	
Bidston to Penyffordd (mon-fri)									
07.21	08.06	08.51	09.36	10.21	11.06	11.15	12.36	13.21	14.06
14.51	15.34	16.21	17.06	17.51	18.46	19.32	20.46	22.57	
Penyffordd to Bidston (sat)									
06.37	07.13	08.05	08.50	09.36	10.20	11.05	11.50	12.35	13.26
14.05	14.50	15.35	16.20	17.05	17.50	18.36	20.02	22.13	
Bidston to Penyffordd (sat)									
07.21	08.06	08.51	09.35	10.20	11.05	11.50	12.35	13.20	14.06
14.50	15.35	16.20	17.05	17.50	18.35	19.21	20.46	22.57	
Penyffordd to Bidston (sun)									
09.01	09.59	11.24	12.25	13.53	15.23	16.23	18.13	18.53	21.23
Bidston to Penyffordd (sun)									
09.58	10.59	12.27	13.28	14.57	16.29	17.27	18.59	19.57	22.26

Police

The current PCSOs for our area are:

- PCSO Rachel Duddle - RACHAEL.DUDDLE@northwales.police.uk - 07974 243077
- PCSO Lucy Davies - Lucy.Davies@northwales.police.uk - 07814 075619

Unfortunately, there have been a couple of incidents of vandalism to council property where many people have put time, effort and money into creating a nice environment for people to live, visit, reflect and spend time. Anyone caught vandalising any areas within the villages will be reported to the police and prosecuted.

Budget/Precept

During December and January, the council will be having lengthy discussions to determine the required budget for the coming year which also sets the amount of precept received via FCC. The precept amount is a sum of money incorporated within your council tax bill from FCC.

For more information about the council, council business and to see regular updates please view our website: www.penyfforddcouncil.org and follow us on facebook: Penyffordd Community Council.

Mrs S A Hughes, Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 3 Old Chester Road, Ewloe, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 3RU.
Tel: 01244 537032 Email: clerk@penyfforddcouncil.org

From council members and staff, we would like to take this opportunity of wishing all of our residents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

