



Community Policing The Council regularly meet with the Community policing team to discuss issues of concern within our area. The Online Watch Link known as OWL has been running over a year keeping residents aware of local incidents or issues . Using email residents can report matters of concern in their community and the Police can advise of any issues or alert residents to crimes in their area via email. To register and receive information please contact your local CSOs: on 642088 or email Catrin Page for Croesyceiliog or Nicola Redman for Llanyrafon.



The Council is working closely with local Police on new initiatives and is funding a small project working with schools in its area. The aim of the project is to tackle anti social parking at the school gates before and after school.

Website The Council are currently running a project to improve its website as it would like the website not only to be a resource for information on the Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council but also to give useful community information and links to local groups and organisations. If you would like a link to your local community group or organisation to be included on the website please let the Council Administrator have the relevant information and where appropriate we will happily include a link.

Details of the new website will be put on the local noticeboards as soon as it goes "live".

Contact us..... For the latest information from the Community Council, or to view our business plan, minutes or to find who your local councillors are you can access our web site address: croesyandllanyrafon.org (see notice boards for launch of new website) Or contact us

Clerk to the Council, Melanie Mercer - Croesy.llanyccclerk@torfaen.gov.uk
Council Administrator, Cath Hillier - Croesy.llanyccadmin@torfaen.gov.uk

Clerk to the Council, Council Offices, Woodland Road Sports and Social Centre, Woodland Road, Croesyceiliog. Cwmbran. NP44 2DZ. Telephone: 01633 869933

Information about your Community Councillor and the activities of the Council are also posted in the local community notice boards



News from the Community Council

Delivering for our Community

You will have recently received your Council Tax demand from Torfaen which included the Community Council precept. Despite pressures on the Community Council budget, the Council decided not to raise the precept. It has been a busy year with the Council moving forward with exciting projects to improve and support the area and our community. The profile of the Council has been raised with external organisations and issues addressed have included environmental protection and enhancement, antisocial behaviour, legal highs, speeding, parking, post 16 education provision, health delivery and responsibility for additional services to community councils. Support for local play schemes and the CCYP has continued and the Woodland Road Sports & Social Centre saved from closure with a planned expansion under the intended new community ownership. The Centre's handover from Torfaen to the Woodland Road Community Trust, has so far run very smoothly with no disruption to the many users.

The Woodlands Group was formed with the assistance of the Council and Space Saviours. This voluntary group will be actively involved in how the woodlands and pathways are looked after and developed to enhance our community. For more details or to volunteer please contact your local Councillor or the Council Office.



Japanese Knotweed The Council has set a target to make the Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon area a Japanese Knotweed free area within 5 years. We are asking residents to advise us of any local areas where the knotweed is growing. Action to control the spread of this invasive weed takes place annually in the autumn. **Benches** You may have noticed new benches as the Council is gradually replacing old benches in its area. **The Annual Grant Presentation Evening** took place over two evenings in December and January at Llanyrafon Social Club. The Community Council are proud to be able to support so many worthy local organisations. Grants ranged from £150 - £250 for small local organisations such as local school

P.T.A., Brownies / Guides, Arts / Theatre / Choirs as well as numerous groups helping local people to lead active and fulfilling lives. Larger awards given include those for the CAB, Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre, Friends of Llanyrafon Mill, Congress Theatre, Pontrhydyrun Baptist Church, the Cwmbran Centre for Young People, Pontypool Museum and the Friends

of Bruchsal. The new format and venue enabled members to circulate and interact with the recipients of grants and find out more about their roles in our community.

Community Service Award - this year's award was made to Mrs Jan Bennett of the Crownbridge Gateway Club. This club was set up almost forty years ago with the parents of special needs children. Mrs Bennett has been running the club for 36 years. They hold club nights on a Thursday at the Woodland Road they have 50 members on the register aged from 19 years to 60+.



Council Changes Since the last newsletter two Community Councillors have stood down. Cllr. Coombes and Cllr. Caruana – both Councillors served for several terms and we would like to thank them for the work they put in, voluntarily, as Councillors for the Croesyceiliog & Llanyrafon Community Council. Your new Councillors are Cllr. Sean O'Dobhain representing Croesyceiliog South Ward and Cllr. Luke Lewis representing Llanyrafon North Ward. We welcome them to the council. They have both already attended meetings and Cllr. O'Dobhain has been elected Chair of the newly formed Planning & Environment Committee. There have also been staffing changes the Council has a new Clerk, Melanie Mercer. Melanie is an experienced Clerk and brings a wealth of enthusiasm and new ideas to the Council. Melanie has a joint role as she also manages the Woodland Road Community Trust. The Council also now has an Administrator working with the Clerk, this post is undertaken by a local person, Cath Hillier. Cath previously worked for Torfaen County Borough Council and is already proving a valuable member of staff.



Power to the People: Devolution, Democracy & Delivery.

This White Paper has suggested that larger Community Councils may be better able to deliver local services and that some services may be passed down from the County Councils. In order to deliver more services the White Paper suggests that some Community Councils may merge or form co-working partnerships. Our Council is mentioned in the White Paper as having led the way with jointly forming a Community Trust and saving the Woodland Road Sports & Social Centre from closure.

The Council would welcome local comments on the contents of the White Paper – please contact the council office or your community councillor with any relevant comments. The consultation closes on 28th April if you would like to learn more details of the White Paper this can be found on the internet at <http://gov.wales/consultations/localgovernment/power-to-local-people>.

