

Pendine Community Council

Chair's Annual Report

2016/17

I was honoured to be elected Chair of the council for the fourth time in May 2016. At the time there were only 4 members on the council and three vacant posts. Unfortunately the council struggled to fill the vacancies initially and it was not until October that we were joined by Darrin Thomas and then in November by Anthony Leefe and Mark Potter. Due to circumstances several members were not able to attend meetings and the July 2016 and then March and April 2017 meetings did not have a quorum. In May 2017 national elections were held including elections to community councils. Unfortunately only Jeff Thornton and I submitted nomination papers and were duly elected uncontested. As a result no new council could be formed and without a quorum the council has been unable to hold formal meetings, including the annual AGM. Public engagement meetings were however held in May, June and July. Carmarthenshire County Council then organised a second election and 3 people submitted nominations before the deadline. As there were 5 vacant seats, Anthony Leefe, Mark Potter and Peter Owen were therefore elected uncontested. The council is currently looking for interested persons to co-opt to the council to fill the last two vacancies.

Members of the public have been present at most of the council's meetings and have made valuable contributions in the public session at the start of the meeting by bringing matters to the attention of the council.

It has been quiet year in terms of planning in the community with only minor developments and changes to existing buildings. Carmarthenshire County Council completed the new Parry Thomas building near the museum and the 5 units have now all been filled. There are still issues with the maintenance of the Gateway Scheme and the area around the county council's car park and the museum. The council have complained on many occasions and the areas have been kept tidy occasionally. Our contractor, Rob Jones, did excellent work to make the rest of the village look attractive for visitors and again we have been thanked by the church for the work he does in maintaining the church yard. Behind the scenes we understand that the county council has been developing the projects identified in the Pendine/Llanmiloe Regeneration Strategy. We have met with officers of CCC to discuss some potentially very exciting projects.

Our former Beach Warden Tony Gray left us during the year due to continuing health issues. The post has been reviewed and we now employ 2 part time seasonal wardens whose primary duties relate to operating the beach and associated parking. They assist visitors, keep the beach tidy and when time permits collect obvious litter left around the village.

Our event strategy continues to develop and we were pleased to welcome back the Vintage Hot Rods, the Straight-liners motorcyclists, the Laugharne Dredgers and the charity fun run for Tŷ Hafan. We have also welcomed film and television crews. All these activities generated enough income for the council to further reduce the basic band "D" community charge from £50 to £47 for the year 2017/18 and provide a range of community services. These included repairs to the play area, the Christmas tree and new motifs for Christmas, removal of Knotweed and additional seating. Finally the council supported the annual firework display which again this year was a tremendous success and congratulations to all those involved.

September 2017

Peter Bowering

Chair

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