

Pendine Community Council

Chair's Annual Report

2015/16

I was pleased to be elected Chair of the council for the third time last May. At the time there were six members of the council and one vacant post. However this was quickly filled and we welcomed Cllr. Jenny Kelly. For several meetings we had a full team, but unfortunately in December three members of the council resigned for personal and other reasons. Members were saddened to see Margaret King, Jenny Kelly and Gary Aitken leave after making valuable contributions. The council is struggling to fill these vacancies and having gone through due process, we are now in a position to co-opt willing volunteers. Please put your name forward and come and join us. 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 another quiet year in terms of planning in the community with no housing applications from individuals or developers. The council has commented on several nearby wind-turbine applications and prior to commenting to Carmarthenshire County Council about the proposed solar farm, members took part in a site visit. There were still some concerns after the visit about the development and these were expressed to CCC by the clerk.

Carmarthenshire County Council have pressed on with the new building near the museum, which is scheduled to be completed this month with tenants taking over the spaces by the beginning of the season. Throughout the summer there were numerous complaints about the lack of maintenance of the Gateway Scheme, which had thigh high grass desperately needing a cut on the verges leading into the community. Following pressure by the community council the grass was eventually cut. Our contractor did his best 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. Towards the end of this business year the County Council was awarded development funding by Welsh Government to develop projects identified in the Pendine/Llanmiloe Regeneration Strategy. I have met with officers of CCC and the MOD to discuss some potentially very exciting projects.

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. Film and Television crews, seemed to be everywhere this year. These included the German equivalent of Top Gear, the former cricketer Freddie Flintoff - filmed in his mobile fish and chip shop and 20th Century Fox filming a medieval drama, which was networked across the world. All these activities generated enough income for the council to reduce the basic band "D" community charge from £54.70 to

£50 for next year and provide a range of community services. These included repairs to the play area, improvements to the new war memorial, the Christmas tree and new motifs for Christmas next year. In addition the council unanimously agreed to allow the community to develop a memorial garden on council land off Pendine Hill. Finally the council supported the annual firework display which again this year was a tremendous success and congratulations to all those involved.

May 2016

Peter Bowering

Chair

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