

Llangors Youth and Community Centre
Chairperson's Annual Report (May 2016)

This has been a very busy year for the Community Centre and it is heartening to note that the extensive use of the Centre is a clear indication of the important role that it plays as a venue for a large range of community activities. It is important, therefore, to thank all the committee members and others who actively and enthusiastically play a role in running the Centre, including its upkeep and maintenance. In particular I would like to thank Mike Featherstone for his efforts to keep us financially healthy and for his advice and support over the past twelve months during my first term of office. Thanks must also go to Alison and Derek Willmott who take the bookings for the centre and generally keep an eye on events.

The following issues are those that I would particularly like to refer to:

Community Centre Maintenance

Activities in relation to the maintenance of the Community Centre, and updating its facilities, inevitably takes up much of our time and money. This year external repairs have included painting the building and the ongoing maintenance of the grounds. Items purchased have included 50 very comfortable stackable chairs as well as a new microwave and kettle for the kitchen, while the carpet in the committee room and foyer have been commercially cleaned. A small marquee was also purchased for the village fete while regular maintenance checks have led to some new electric switches and fire exit lights.

Solar Panels

30 photo voltaic panels were installed on the Community Centre's roof in November 2015. Donations of money for the project were requested from local residents and businesses. The response was excellent, with the money raised, supplemented by some existing finances, allowing for the immediate purchase of the panels. We await the income that the panels will generate but, even more significantly, this environmentally friendly project will leave a legacy for the future.

Car Parking

The committee, at the beginning of the school's 2015 summer term, made the parking facilities of the Community Centre available to parents. This arose following problems with parents parking cars on the roadside, particularly near the junction of the B4560 and the Brecon road, leading to police monitoring of the situation. With the involvement of the Community Council, the Community Centre offered its car parking facilities, which were already being used informally by some parents, on a more formal basis. This has proved successful and the Community Centre's car park is now used on a regular basis by parents.

Existing Activities

The Coffee Mornings and Post Office services on Mondays & Thursdays continue to be very popular. Once a month, the Coffee Mornings raise money for charity and, during the last 12 months, the following charities have benefitted: Usk House, Dial-a-Ride, Midwives@Ethiopia', Tree Aid, Wales Air Ambulance, Brookside, Hay Brecon & Talgarth Sanctuary for Refugees, L'Arche, Alzheimers Research & Care, Brecon Mountain Rescue.

Sadly, the extremely successful Monday Luncheon club saw its last meal being cooked in April 2016. A huge thanks to Anne Evans and Alison Willmott for starting and continuing this venture for the past 12

years. It has been much appreciated by all who have attended and will leave a big gap which will hopefully be filled in some way in the future.

New Activities

The Saturday morning keep fit classes that have been run for a number of years for the Parkinson Group have now been extended to other mature people within the community. Also, two new dance classes have commenced on Tuesday & Thursday evenings which are run by Rowan Kennedy-Brown. The culmination of the dance and drama classes resulted in a very successful Showcase Evening being held in April 2016.

Village Fete

Held on its regular slot of the last Saturday in July, this was also another successful event, partly due to some new events as well as the good weather. Hopefully this can be replicated this year.

Defibrillator

The committee of the Community Centre has recently heard from the British Heart Foundation (BHF) that it has been successful in its application for a defibrillator under the BHF scheme, which offers them to communities at a cost well below commercial price (£400). The defibrillator will be located on the external wall of the Community Centre. Thanks are extended to the Community Council who have purchased the cabinet that will hold it and this has already been installed. Donations to cover cost of purchasing the defibrillator have been received from Brecon Rotary Club, Brecon Lions Club, The Walled Garden as well as donations from a Sunday market stall. Similar arrangements have seen a defibrillator already set up in Llangasty, with one each also earmarked for Llanfihangel Talyllyn and Pennorth. Training will be organized at all sites once all the defibrillators have been installed.

School Plans

There has been much activity over the last 12 months in respect of the adjacent primary school. Representatives of the Community Centre attended a meeting at the school on 12 May, along with the school's teachers and governors as well as representatives of the Community Council. The meeting's purpose was to receive and consider current ideas that Powys County Council (PCC) have in respect of this development, as presented by Gareth Jones and Betsan Ifan (PCC). This included a provisional design plan of the site in general and the specific location & outline of the new building. While these proposals do not include school use of the Community Centre's building, they do contain features that are relevant to the Community Centre, including:

- A proposal for joint use by the school and the Community Centre of each other's parking facilities
- The need to ensure access to the current school site for the Community Centre's sewerage system
- The impact of the proposed development of the school on community use of facilities that are currently enjoyed, and the suitability of any possible alternatives that might be proposed.

Future plans:

1. Ongoing consultation with PCC regarding new school plans
2. Plans for the old village hall site
3. Replacement of some double glazing windows especially those in the committee room
4. Fundraising activities to replenish funds

5. ?Replacement of carpet in committee room

Melrose East,

Chair,

Llangors Youth and Community Centre