

Llangors Youth and Community Centre

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 23rd 2017

CHAIR'S REPORT:

This has been another busy and successful year for the Community Centre. It would not run on its own so I am very grateful to all the committee members who work hard to ensure that activities run smoothly and we have enough funds to support the work of the community centre. To that end I am particularly grateful to Mike Featherstone who has yet again ensured that we are financially secure for another year (I hope!). He will tell us in more detail exactly how we are faring with our finances afterwards. I am also exceedingly grateful to Alison and Derek Willmott who organize the bookings for the community centre, send out invoices, ensure the money is safely gathered in and inform us of any problems along the way. This is a big commitment and a time consuming one as well, so thanks very much. I don't particularly want to pick on individual members of the committee as I'm sure we all do as much as we can when we can but I would like to thank Anne Evans and Pat Hope who are always on hand to make delicious home made refreshments which add to any fundraising event and much enjoyed by both locals and visitors. We also have other support from Tony Evans and Greg who are always on hand if anything needs doing and it is much appreciated. Thanks also to Jill and Ord who help with the raffle and manage to extract money from everyone!

The weekly bookings in the community centre have remained good and indeed have increased slightly with an additional dance class run by Rowan Kennedy-Brown.

As well as these regular events, the hall has been booked out for ad hoc activities including wedding parties, refugee day, birthday parties, Parkinson meetings etc

Fundraising is always an important aspect of our work and the weekly coffee mornings bring in a small but regular income, together with the selling of books. Our main fundraising event last year was the Village Fete and Sports which was very successful. The weather was kind to us as many people attended and we all had a great day – hard work but well worth it!

Sunday Markets were held during the summer months and generally were well attended and enjoyed.

Solar Panels are now generating income as well as helping to save the planet!

'Potage and Pudding' was launched in October 2016. Thanks to Linda Kells for organizing this. It has proved to be very successful with 30 – 40 people attending the monthly event. It was decided that a charge of £56 should be made for use of the Community Centre facilities as some of the cooking is done on site. More volunteers are needed to ensure its continuity and encouraging anyone in the village, or beyond, who wants to attend – young and not so young!

People booking the Community Centre for big events such as weddings are now being asked to pay a non-refundable deposit of £50. One wedding was cancelled this year due to the building works being undertaken at the rear of the centre, no deposit had been paid as the couple had booked the centre before it was required.

On May 1st a very successful Plant Sale was held at the community centre. A total of £458 was raised. A huge thanks to Mary Anderson for her hard work preparing all the beautiful plants the sale of which contributed to over half the amount raised. Other stalls included

cakes, books, bric a brac, toys (Ailsa for HBTSR) and photographs/cards (Hazel Price). Refreshments provided by Pat and Anne. Raffle by Jill.

On to other activities:

A 'Keep the Village Tidy' event was held in conjunction with Llangors Cub Pack and supported by Rachel Palmer from Keep Wales Tidy. A total of 25 bags of rubbish were collected from the roadside in and around the village and lake area.

PC Jason Hawkins attended a Thursday coffee morning and gave a presentation on Internet Security highlighting ways to avoid scams.

Regular garden maintenance has taken place to ensure that the area around the Community Centre looks attractive and welcoming. Thanks to all those who help. As well as committee members, we are joined by locals including Tony Evans, Jim Price and Wally James.

Maintenance of the Community Centre:

Sian John has continued to clean the Community Centre, 2 hours per week. It has been recognized that this is not always enough time to keep the centre clean and additional cleaning has been provided by members of the committee, again many thanks in particular to Anne Evans. Thanks to Sian for her work cleaning the centre.

3 windows in the committee room were replaced during the year as they had 'blown'.

The play equipment in the playground adjacent to the Community Centre will shortly need to be replaced. Work is currently being undertaken to question parents and children currently using the playground on the type of play equipment they would like in the future. I am very grateful to Sara Alford who is assisting with this project.

Other:

A defibrillator was purchased from the British Heart Foundation and installed on the Community Centre wall with funds from Llangors Community Council. We raised more money than was needed to purchase the defibrillator and this money will be earmarked to use in the future to pay for a replacement defibrillator. A coffee morning held at the Community Centre in October 2016 raised £170 with a further £140 raised by Llangors school for the British Heart Foundation. The money was presented to BHF fundraiser for the area, Jayne Lewis who attended the event. Training has been provided on the use of the defibrillator as well as basic resuscitation techniques. 24 people attended the training. More training will be provided, an annual update is encouraged as it is easy to forget. Fortunately, it has not needed to be used.

The Committee purchased the telephone kiosk in the middle of the village from BT for £1. It will be painted and refurbished and be available for community use in due course.

Unfortunately, the recycling bins were removed from the car park earlier this year by PCC, as they were in all other rural communities in an effort to save money.

Issues:

We have been working closely with Llangors School and PCC to agree to the sharing of respective car parks when required. A Licence Agreement is currently being drawn up with PCC on the shared use of car parks.

There is also the possibility of acquiring some of the current school ground via a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). This will be portion of ground that the school currently sits on and is adjacent to the Community Centre. We are unlikely to get all the ground that was applied for initially. This will be decided when the school is completed and the old school demolished, so we are looking at beginning of 2018 to know what is likely to happen.

Llangors Community Council are very keen that the shared use of the playing field continues once the new school is completed for use by the community, out of school hours as has been the case for the past 50+ years. We wish to support the community council in this and are attending meetings to decide on the best way to achieve this. The school governors are against any community use due to safeguarding issues and possible damage to the new school. Hopefully a compromise can be reached.

Challenges for 2017/18

1. Fundraising as the school playing field is not available for the Village Fete and Sports
2. Maintenance – underfloor heating, replace carpet in committee room
3. Replacement of playground equipment
4. Continued dialogue with Llangors School and PCC regarding shared use of facilities and CAT
5. Use of old village hall site

I think that concludes most of the work the committee has been involved in over the past year and again I would like to thank everyone for their continued help and support.

Melrose East

Chair, Llangors Youth and Community Centre