
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

ERWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL **ANNUAL REPORT – APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022**

(The 2021 Act requires Community Councils, as soon as practicable after the end the financial year, to prepare and publish an annual report of Council's priorities, activities and achievements over the previous year.)

During the year above, Erwood Community Council has been actively involved in the following:

BROADBAND PROJECT FOR ERWOOD AREA

At the beginning of the financial year, members of the Community Council held a Zoom meeting with the Community Broadband Officer of Powys County Council following the offer of funding to communities in Powys to update their broadband signals. The Council was very interested in the details provided and agreed to arrange an open meeting in June to advise the community of this new project, which was well attended. A project team was then formed with several Community Councillors involved who led the group. They decided that Beacons Telecomm from Crickhowell was the most suitable provider and, with the help of Powys Community Broadband Officer, contacted all households to aim at getting the minimum requirement of 30% households to join up, with the final sign-up level being 50-60%. The provider agreed to connect Erwood Market Hall free of charge. By December 2021, 97 households were now signed up and an application for funding was made to Welsh Government which was successful. Vouchers have now been issued to each interested households and work will now be started very soon to supply the fibre broadband connections to these homes.

PROVISION OF NOTICE BOARDS FOR TWO VILLAGES – CRICKADARN AND LLANEGLWYS

In April 2021, Erwood Community Council agreed to get quotations to supply wooden notice boards for the above Villages in Erwood area, who presently have to display notices on a barn door and telegraph pole. Three local carpenters were asked but all were unable to carry out this work so another four were contacted with no response. A carpenter advertising in a local brochure then agreed to carry out this work and his estimate was compared with commercial firms and two Councillors inspected his work and it was agreed to accept his quotation. Work will commence very soon.

TWO VACANCIES FOR THE POST OF COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

During this year, the vacancies of two Community Councillors occurred and advertised. One applicant had applied to be co-opted and it was agreed that she be given the position. All

relevant posters were amended to one vacancy and another person applied, who was also successful. However, she resigned after a couple of months as realised that she wasn't able to carry out the duties involved as well as her family commitments. Again the post was re-advertised and another person applied but didn't qualify with the necessary criteria. Any vacancies after the Elections will be advertised following the May's Annual General Meeting.

NHS WORKER'S DAY 5.7.21

Erwood Community Council commemorated all the hard work carried out by the NHS staff, especially over Covid-19. One resident in Erwood Village agreed to decorate her house and garden with lots of banners and cardboard cut-outs and outside the toilets in the centre of the Village was also decorated with mannequins. Donations collected at the toilet facilities for a week amounted to £126 and sent to NHS Charities.

REPLACEMENT BENCH IN ERWOOD VILLAGE

Discussions have been taking place at Erwood Community Council meetings to replace an unstable wooden bench in the Village. Erwood Young Farmer's Club had made a recycled talking bench for a competition in their club and asked if it could be located in Erwood which was accepted. They also provided two wooden flower boxes to be placed each side of the bench. The Club had won the competition out of all of Powys Clubs and the Community Council was very pleased to be offered it to brighten up the Village seating area.

PRESENTATION TO THE CLERK'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Clerk had achieved her 50 years as Clerk in 2020. First Of all she was Clerk to Gwenddwr Community Council from 1970 until 1986 when Crickadarn & Gwenddwr Councils joined and became Erwood Community Council. Due to the pandemic, her presentation had to be delayed until July 2021. A surprised party was organised with ex and present Councillors and their partners and the Clerk's family too had been invited to a buffet supplied by everyone. As Chairman of Erwood Community Council, I presented her with an inscribed wooden pendulum wall clock, a bouquet of flowers and a bottle of wine. The Clerk was so thrilled with everything and said it was a night to remember.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT

Erwood Community Council was asked in August 2021 to support the CEE Bill by a local resident so the Council agreed that an Open Meeting be held in the Hall so that a member of the Climate Change Action Group could explain what is involved. Following the meeting, the Council decided to support the Bill and several of the Community Councillors agreed to be members of the Group. This Group was one of four communities that was successful in having funding from

the Government supported by PAVO & PACE to carry out a Community Carbon Audit and this achievement was reported in our local paper. This work is presently on-going with meetings made by Zoom as and when required.

QUEEN'S PLATIUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2nd – 5th June 2022

Erwood Community Council decided that they would provide the children 18 years and under in Erwood area with a celebratory gift each. The first option was a coin each but suitable coins were not available for large orders. It was then decided to give china mugs with the Council's name inscribed on each one. It was also agreed to apply for funding from the National Lottery Awards for All for £600 so this was sent in and was accepted. This funding would just cover the initial cost of the mugs. A community event is to be arranged between several of the local organisations in the area and an afternoon tea is suggested, with sports for all ages and a disco in the evening. Preparations are now being made at the present time.

DEFIBRILLATOR FOR CRICKADARN VILLAGE

It was noted that defibrillators were being offered at a reduced cost for a period of time. Erwood Community Council has four villages in Erwood area and Crickadarn was the only Village without one. The Council decided to get in touch with Builth Wells Health Care Group, who provided the other three to ask if they could arrange to supply one for this Village. This was agreed and appreciated the donation of £200 which the Council sent them towards this very valuable piece of equipment which has now been received. The siting of the defibrillator is presently being decided upon and will be installed in the near future.

DONATIONS TOWARDS THE TWO VILLAGE HALLS AND TO CHARITIES

In March of each year, Erwood Community Council decide on which charities they wish to support and also the amounts to give to the two local Village Halls to help with their finances. The total of £980 was sent to seven different organisations.

TRAINING

Over the last year, three Councillors have attending several training sessions given on Star Leaf by One Voice Wales and a bursary of 50% was received. Councillors are given the OVW's lists of sessions each month to chose from. A total of £140 has been paid to One Voice Wales for year 2021-22. Throughout the month of May, One Voice Wales has offered New Councillors Induction and Code of Conduct training sessions and advise that sessions for Law and Finance should also be offered to all Councillors. A suitable training plan will be made at our Annual General Meeting in May 2022 for Year 2022-3 to include new Councillors following the elections.

RESIGNATION OF TWO COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Two Community Councillors have decided not to stand for Community Councillors at our May elections. Cllr Haydn Powell had been Community Councillor for 38 years and Cllr Elizabeth Williams for 18 years. They will both be missed very much and, on behalf of the Erwood Community Council, wish to thank them for all their help and input given to our Council and the wider area of Erwood over all these years, One new nomination had been accepted during the election process and it is intended to advertise for the other vacancy following the May elections.

Finally, as Chairman, I would like to thank the Clerk and all Community Councillors of Erwood for all the help and support given to me over the last three years I have carried out this post. This has been much appreciated.

Cllr Alan Pryce
Chairman
2.5.2022