

As I come to the end of my 4th year as Chair of Trefnant Community council I look back at the last 12 months with many different emotions. I have always felt a great deal of pride to be the Chair of this council and this hasn't diminished at all throughout my tenure. The last 12 months have brought some challenges along the way on a personal level which has, as you're aware, led me to question whether I could continue to offer my 100% commitment to the role however the commitment to the Community Council and the community itself remains.

As with the previous years in the role we have again put the community upmost on our priorities and continued our determination to keep important issues such as the imminent Local Development Plan and Llanerch Bridge high on the agenda. This commitment though hasn't overshadowed other more local issues such as the general upkeep of the village, road conditions, and everyday community issues that are at the heart of our every day lives.

Whilst we can't always achieve everything in a short space of time and are heavily reliant on partner organisations such as the Local Authority for support, we can ensure issues such as blocked drains, litter bins, planning issues and other local issues are dealt with as efficiently as possible. The large issues are regularly monitored and discussed with any developments noted. Engagement with the local authority remains a challenge with some requests taking far longer than is ideal with the replacement of the highway post on the Llanerch Park loop or the relocation of the bin near the bus stops being good examples. We still await updates on the LDP and continue to rely on Cllr Elson for updates about the bridge with no formal communication with DCC at any point.

In the community itself we continue to support and promote local events and have donated funding to local groups in support of their activities and will continue to offer support where possible going forward. I hope to see this continue for many years to come as we demonstrate how, as a community council, we strive to give something back to our residents.

The last few weeks has seen a Senedd election and a change in administration for the first time since Wales had its own Assembly/Senedd. What this change will mean for our communities remains to be seen, if at all, but we all understand the challenges communities face in the current climate. One would hope, given the promise to stand up for communities in Wales, that the link between the Senedd, Local Government and local communities will strengthen. I know we will continue to do what we can for our residents and will continue to be a proactive community council who puts the thoughts and needs of our residents first.

I also hope this change leads to improved communication between the multiple layers of government, for example regarding the bridge, the Replacement Local Development Plan, Planning matters and recent communication between the Community Council and Welsh Government as prime examples.

This brings me to a more personal message. As I mentioned in January, after 4 years in the role and after a challenging 12 months personally I felt it was the right time for me to step down as chair to allow me more time to focus on personal issues. I'd like to thank everyone here for your support over the last 4 years. I had hoped I could get to 5 years but naturally other priorities must come first.

I've really enjoyed my time as chair immensely and would recommend the role to anyone who is considering taking it on. I would also remind everyone of the conversation when I accepted the role of whether the role could be done on a rotational basis which may perhaps see it as slightly less daunting and encourage more volunteers going forward. I will look forward to continuing my role on the council and offer my full continued support to the Community Council and new chair once appointed.

Diolch yn fawr pawb, thank you all.
Shane