



Yscir Community



Yscir Community Council

NEWSLETTER 2022

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From our Chair, Jane Price

As the saying goes, 'Where has the time gone?' Yet another year since our last newsletter went out. The Community Council held many of its meetings via Zoom video conferencing but at last has started meeting in person.

As you can see from this newsletter, we are still very concerned regarding Powys County Council's proposal to close Cradoc School; we are supporting the school as much as we can to keep it open.

I would like to thank all the community councillors for all their hard work and commitment for the community, attending the meetings in their own time and in supporting me as their chair.

It is with great regret that I report that Mike Westhorpe, our Clerk, will be retiring from his post at the end of May. He is looking forward to more free time and camper van travel. For the last 10 years serving our Council Mike has been an outstanding, knowledgeable and valued member of our team. Thank you Mike for all your hard work, enthusiasm and professionalism.

In his place we shall be welcoming Mrs Jane Joseph from Trallong as the new Clerk to Yscir Community Council. Jane is also Clerk to Trallong, Penbont and Llanfihangel Nant Bran Community Council.

I would like to wish all of you within the Yscir Community all the very best. Stay safe, and if you do think of anything that the council could be doing to help under the current circumstances, please contact me, any of the other councillors, or the clerk.

YSCIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

Yscir Community Council consists of 7 councillors, elected by the local community every 5 years (with an election due in May 2022). The Council meets 6 times a year with additional meetings, if required, to consider planning applications. Although not a member of the council, county councillor Iain McIntosh has attended its meetings and been very active in helping the council to get work done by Powys County Council in the area.

The Council has worked hard to increase the number of defibrillators in the community. Thanks to generous donations by two members of the community there are now defibrillators in Aberbran (outside Ty Torlan) and Battle (opposite Heol y Garreg). In addition there are defibrillators at Cradoc School (near front entrance) and at Cradoc Golf Club (rear of clubhouse).

BT has agreed to repair and repaint the telephone box in Cradoc, which will continue to operate as an emergency only box.

Speedwatch has been introduced to try and make the roads safer in our villages (see article overleaf).

The Council has opposed the closure of Cradoc School, making representations to Powys County Council at each stage of the process.

Work is ongoing to identify sites and secure permission to plant trees in Yscir for the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative.

Lastly, our community notice boards are showing their age and we are considering how, or even if, we should replace them. To give us some idea of how the community accesses community information, perhaps you would comment on our Facebook page, or contact me or one of the councillors. Thank you.

Michael Westhorpe, Clerk to Yscir Community Council

Proposed Closure of Cradoc School



On Friday 11th March 2022, Powys County Council Cabinet Members agreed to support the proposal to close Cradoc CP School and merge it with Mount Street Junior and Mount Street Infant schools, with a proposed site at the old High School site at Penlan.

Along with the majority of the community, the Community Council does not support this decision. We thank everyone who has been involved in communicating their comments to the Council over the last two years.

So what are the next steps? There is a strong working group which is determined to keep fighting the closure of the school that has engaged with a fantastic team of legal advisers to support us through the next steps. We now have until 8th April to make our legal challenge, which is then likely to go to a Judicial Review and be heard by an independent judge. We have no timeline for this but we will continue to update the Community as and when we can.

If anyone has anything they wish to raise with the working group then please can you let the clerk know via email.

Rebecca Watkins, Chair, Save & Rebuild Cradoc School Group



Comment from Cllr Iain McIntosh: -

"I'd like to thank everyone who has helped to fight against this proposal over the last 18 months by informing Powys County Council that closing Cradoc CP School is the wrong decision. Unfortunately, Cabinet members at the local authority recently voted unanimously to proceed with the project which, I believe, raises a number of issues from a legal perspective. As a member of the working group, we are all therefore very determined to continue the fight against the closure of our school.

I have also launched a new petition to force the county council to debate the closure of our school, as well as all other Powys schools, at a full council meeting. If we reach 500 signatures or more then the local authority must place this on their meeting agenda. Look out for a link to this petition on social media, or please help by signing the petition that I'll be bringing around the community in the coming weeks."

YSCIR COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME



Our community speed watch scheme has now been up and running for nine months and we have completed 20 sessions. We currently have six trained volunteers but would welcome other interested residents as each session requires 3 people. Just contact the clerk for more information.

The main aim is to create a safer environment for all residents living within our community. It will also help to identify areas of greater concern.

You may have wondered why we cannot carry out sessions in all parts of the community? The scheme only operates in 20, 30 and 40 mph speed restriction areas. We are only allowed to carry out the sessions in areas that have been approved for health and safety and accurate observations.

We do appreciate the cheery waves, especially on the cold, windy days.