Llantwit Major Town Council Cyngor Tref Llanilltud Fawr



"IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF LLANTWIT MAJOR"



ANNUAL REPORT For financial year 2020/2021

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Introduction

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL – MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Welcome to the Mayor's Annual Report for 2020/2021. It will be obvious to all that this report will be dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the work done by and for the people of Llantwit Major. From a Mayoral viewpoint my year in office has been a frustrating year but, from a personal view, I have seen it bring out the best in many people.

Social media has been overwhelmingly the most used method of communication between friends, families and organizations around the area and, apart from few adverse comments, I have seen in general a supportive and tolerant approach taken by all. Of course, most of my Mayoral commitments had to be curtailed and, other than an appearance on a Facebook video and a few words on Bro Radio, my only real duties representing the town have been VJ Day in August and Remembrance Sunday in November, more of which later. I did try to volunteer as a driver to take patients to get their vaccinations, unfortunately I was deemed too overweight and too elderly. Better news was that my car was deemed acceptable.

From a Council standpoint – and I know my fellow Councillors will agree – the Town Hall staff have been beacons of hard work, dedication and selfless commitment. They have done far more than required at times when the older Councillors have been necessarily isolating. Early on in the year the Llantwit Major 10K run was cancelled, so the staff set about devising something that might replace it, at least in boosting morale, if not athleticism. A 10K walk, run or cycle ride would get you a bright orange commemorative T-shirt. I wear mine with pride and had a lovely hike around St Donats and the coastal path too. The event was well attended, with Major Milers obviously running the distance to fully earn their shirts. A charity box was displayed in the Town Hall for entrants, which raised £300 for my chosen charity Vale Plus – a big Thank You to all for that.

Also, in August we saw the commemoration of VJ Day. The Reverend Canon Edwin Counsel and Pastor Phil Hibbert set up a small ceremony which we were invited to attend. It was live streamed and was very well received by those who would have so wished to be there in person.

Similarly, in November, we had the Remembrance Sunday commemoration. It was obvious to all that people would gather around the cenotaph on the day. So, to ensure that social distancing was observed, our Council Staff developed a complex plan of timing and distancing, from 9am onwards, that would ensure no group and no individual was denied access to the cenotaph to pay their respects. Again, it was filmed

for those who could not attend, and I feel pride, and so should the staff, that the Llantwit Major remembrance event was held up as an exemplar of how to organise an event in lockdown. Once more, my thanks go out to The Reverend Counsel, Pastor Hibbert and also to Mr Paul Lindsay, who has supported the Council in many events and ceremonies over a number of years.

I feel great sorrow for the businesses in the town who have had to shut their doors to obey the pandemic rules. I can assure them though, that the people of Llantwit Major are ready and waiting to start buying their goods and services once again. I need to acknowledge too that the businesses that were allowed to open, mainly food outlets, have taken great pains to ensure that their customers are safe when going about their shopping. Well done and thank you all.

I'd like to pay tribute too to the hundreds of volunteers who came forward to help their friends and neighbours, primarily with shopping and delivery of medicines, but also with company and a listening ear at a time when loneliness was – and still is – a source of anguish and anxiety. Those volunteers truly are selfless and caring and Llantwit Major should be proud of them.

I'd like also to praise the work of the Llantwit Major Youth Council. Under the expert guidance of the Vale Youth Services staff, they have been busy designing and getting installed a new litter bin on the Recreation Field, which the rest of town is also sorely in need of. In addition, the Youth Council has purchased products and set up a "Period Poverty" project to distribute sanitary products to those in need. This has not always been without its hurdles, but they have pushed the project through so that the products are now reaching those in need.

Writing this has made me realise that there are so many around the town who are deserving of our profound praise and thanks; so much so, that I cannot envisage doing it individually. Nevertheless, I'd like to offer my sincere gratitude to those who have worked to make our locked-down lives that much easier. There will, I'm sure, come a time when all the town's volunteers, organisers, drivers, medical staff, etc, etc will have their efforts formally commended and duly recognised. Until that time I hope they can sometimes take a breath and think about the warmth and appreciation we feel for them.

Almost finally, there must be a tribute to the Llantwit Major Town Council. We have recently had an assessment of our meetings by the Vale Standards Committee and the initial verbal report said that the Council works well together as a team and get things done quickly and efficiently. This has proven to be the case throughout the year and, from behind our screens we have carried out the day-to-day management such that the town is now better lit, the play parks are safer with CCTV and softer floor covering.

Better heating and facilities for hirers has been installed in our old buildings where needed. Risk Assessments are in place for use of buildings, PPE has been purchased, deep cleaning has been carried out. Arrangements for recycling bags were put in place when the library closed. All this was done with sound financial management. There have been savings made in the face of a major drop in income so that we have decide that there will be no increase in Council Tax this year.

One mammoth project we are pursuing is the acquisition of land for a cemetery. It will be a major outlay, but I hope, with grants, loans and development funding, that we are able to finance and build this as a community asset in the coming years. It is not an obligation on the Council to provide this, but we feel it would be remiss of us not to explore its feasibility to the utmost.

I look forward now to the projects for 2021.

- A Covid Book to keep for posterity featuring residents' experiences during the pandemic.
- A new Town Council quarterly newsletter to be distributed via local shops.
- New adult exercise equipment being installed on the Recreation Field.
- Exploring the installation of an electric car charging point.
- External lighting of our fabulous Town Hall.
- Floodlights in the Tennis Courts to enable more and better play.

Finally, I hope that the next Mayor will have a more engaging year than did I. It may well be that some safety regulations will need to stay in place, but as I write, it seems that the light at the end of the tunnel is not, as last time, a Covid train speeding towards us, but a new lease of freedom. Our European neighbours are still locked in its throes and the virus may well reach us again, but I hope that the faith most have placed in the vaccines will not prove misplaced. I look forward to the next few months seeing us climb out of this pit and being able to bask in the light of some sort of normality again.

Keep well and stay safe.

Councillor Gerwyn Thomas Llantwit Major Town Mayor

Background to this Report

This report was compiled following the introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The report shows how the Town Council has taken steps towards meeting local objectives as laid out in the local Well-being plan for our area. These objectives are based on our own knowledge and consideration of circumstances and characteristics for our area.

The Town Council have worked with many local organisations to meet the objectives laid out, either financially, administrative support or use of facilities.

Majority of 'projects' are now either on the Town Council website or Social Media Sites. Feedback is always encouraged from local residents.

The report covers the municipal year of Councillor G Thomas term in office as Town Mayor and Chair of the Council, which started in May 2020.

The year has been defined by the Coronavirus Pandemic which put the country into lockdown from March 2020. Although limited lifting of restrictions, then further lockdown regulations between then and April 2021, the world is still dealing with this unprecedent virus that has impacted on everyone, so dearly.

The Annual Report this year thus reflects heavily on the Covid 19 Pandemic, showing its impact on us and our community and how the Town Council responded to the pandemic. The legislation from the Coronavirus Act 2020 defined how Councils could continue to operate during this time. This included working from home, holding remote Council Meetings, and the reopening of council facilities whilst adhering to social distancing and Welsh Government Covid 19 guidelines.

Ruth Quinn Town Clerk to Llantwit Major Town Council

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

Llantwit Major Town Council serves a population of approximately 14,500. It is the third largest Town/Community Council within the catchment of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and still growing.

The Town Council was formed in 1974 although before this Llantwit Major was served by a Parish Council and this can be traced back to 1894.

Llantwit Major (Llanilltud Fawr) is steeped in history with it being named as the site of the main church of Illtud, one of the founding Saints of the monastic settlements of the 5th century AD in Wales. Nowadays Llantwit Major is surrounded by countryside and has excellent transport links, as well as to the South the Bristol Channel and the Heritage Coastline.

Llantwit Major Town Council is made up of 14 elected Councillors representing 4 wards, West Ward, South East Ward, North Ward and Boverton Ward. There is a team of 5 staff working both full time and part time delivering services on a daily basis.

The Council is responsible for many facilities, including 5 community buildings (2 of which are listed), bowling green, tennis courts, 2 playparks, 2 open spaces, recreation field, ornamental pond, cemetery and allotment site. Under the Reshaping Services Projects (being initiated by the Vale of Glamorgan Council) discussions are being undertaken to take over more facilities within the Town.

In 2013 the Town Council resolved to work in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Youth Services and provide a Youth Council. This has continued to grow and representatives from the Youth Council regularly attend Full Town Council meetings and take part in discussions.

The majority of the Councils funds derive from its precept (this is the amount of Council tax allocated to the Town Council). The Council budgets both its income and expenditure for the coming financial year and then a precept request is submitted to the Vale of Glamorgan Council. For the financial year 20/21 the Council estimated that it would require an expenditure of £289,350 to allow for running costs of their facilities, projects and grants/donations. It was estimated that an income of £41,120 would be generated from its facilities, therefore the remainder; £247,930 would be funded from the precept request.

Further details regarding Council members, agendas, reports, minutes, finances and more information is available on the Town Council website llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk.

CHAPTER ONE: A PROSPEROUS LLANTWIT MAJOR

What we think we did well:

- Throughout most of 2020/2021 we have kept the Old School Headmasters Office open and hired out on a permanent basis to a Local Counselling Service, providing essential therapy to those in need during 'lockdown'.
- When Lockdown restrictions permitted the Town Council following Coronavirus
 Regulations partially reopened some of their Town Council Buildings to regular
 Hirers to restart their Community Groups (e.g., Line Dancing / Adult Education
 Groups / Tai Chi).
- The Town Hall opened to the general public to provide information and support during the coronavirus pandemic. The Town Hall Staff distributed Waste Recycling Bags to the residents of the town when the local library was still closed due to Covid 19.
- The Town Council organised the reopening of the two local nurseries ran from the
 Old School as per Government guidelines.
- A new kitchen was installed in the Old School Back Annexe.
- CCTV cameras were erected on the side of the Sports Pavilion overlooking the Play Park in the Recreation Field and the view of the main door and entrance to the Bowls Club.
- A new wireless sound system was installed in Llantonian Hall.
- Repair and refurbishment of the four Welcome to Llantwit Major Road signs situated on the main entrance points into the town.
- The Town Council supported the Vale of Glamorgan Council initiative (i.e., via Welsh Government Funding opportunities and the Resilience Forum Llantwit Major) to improve the towns centre and to promote tourism and increase footfall

- to the town. (e.g., Refurbishment to the Llantwit Major Train and Bus Station Car Park area).
- All Weddings and receptions planned in the Council Chamber and Town Hall were transferred to 2021 dates due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Additional weddings had been provisionally booked in for 2021 subject to the latest government guidelines.
- The general public can continue to view all our Hiring Facilities via our website and our online Booking System. Thus, enabling the Town Council to continue to successfully promote and market our venues to all categories of our town.
- The Town Council provided financial support in 2020 to the Christmas Committee to ensure that Llantwit Major Christmas Lights were erected and switched on over the festive period.
- Continued to support the Chamber of Trade and maintain good working relationships with the businesses of the town. Continuing to support a plastic free town by still providing water refill station points.
- Provided financial support to Llantwit Youth Council to ensure it continues to successfully run in Llantwit Major. Providing opportunities for the young people to work closely with the Town Council to improve services and facilities for the town. In 2020 they have worked on getting a new bin installed in the Recreation Field with their continuing fight against litter in the town and have set up a 'period poverty' project giving out sanitary products to girls that cannot afford to purchase these basic essentials.
- The Town Council funded and ran a Llantwit Major Town Hall Lockdown 10K to improve morale during Covid 19 Lockdown.
- Continue to support the expansion and development of Llantwit Major Tennis

 Club and assisting with helping to review the funding opportunities to install

floodlights on the four courts to enable the courts to be played on all year round. The Town Council organised the courts to be resurfaced due to a fault with the macadam surface originally laid in 2019. Following much negotiation all liabilities and costs were met by the third party that manufactured the tarmac.

What we think we could do better:

- To provide better support for local children towards Summer / Holiday /Sporting
 Activity Programmes using Town Council facilities.
- Continue to work with the Chamber of Trade and Vale of Glamorgan Council Town
 Development Team to obtain ideas and funding for improving Llantwit Major
 Town Centre and increasing the footfall to the Town.
- Continue to further support family day projects and community events, Covid 19 restrictions permitting.
- To continually review Vale of Glamorgan Council and Welsh Government funding opportunities to provide additional grants available to improve/develop facilities for our town and assist with putting on existing and new events for our town.

Facts and Figures:

- Over 200 residents took part in the Lockdown 10K on foot or bike. The Town
 Council provided each finisher with a bright orange t-shirt depicting the 10K Logo
 and date to commemorate taking part in this unique event during the coronavirus
 pandemic.
- The Youth Council meets regularly over the year to discuss local issues and help to raise money for the Mayors chosen charities. They attend, up to 6 times a year,

the Full Town Council Meetings. The Youth Council is recruiting, and membership is continually growing.

 The Old School continues to house two oversubscribed Play Groups. One Playgroup has taken over two rooms upstairs in the Old School due to increase in demand.

What was said about us:

'The Llantwit Major Lock Down 10k was a brilliant idea; well done Town Council. At a time when the country was in virtual lock down, the opportunity to do a community event, albeit socially distanced was very welcome. We did it as a family on the first day and met others doing the same thing. Knowing this made it an odd but very welcome community event.

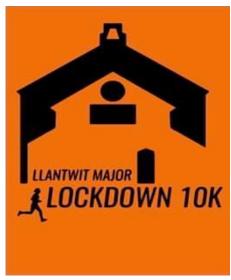
Really enjoyed the Llantwit Major Lock Down 10k concept. The distance was enough to be a challenge but not too far that some might not even try. Getting a tee shirt as a prize afterwards made it even better, the children loved it.'

John Lewis (Llantwit Major Resident and Major Miler)

'Gillybeans playgroup would like to thank Llantwit Major Town Council for their support and understanding at a difficult time for us reopening after such a long time being closed due to Covid 19.'

Gillian Holton Playleader Gillybeans Playgroup





Llantwit Major Lockdown 10k and the staring point from the Town Hall



CHAPTER TWO: A RESILIENT LLANTWIT MAJOR

What we think we did well:

- Continuing to provide 96 Allotment Plots to local residents. Continue to maintain the site by keeping the grass paths cut and the hedgerows maintained. The Allotments have provided an invaluable place for tenants to come during lockdown and interest in having an Allotment increased dramatically during the pandemic. At present there is over 25 people on the waiting list for an Allotment Plot.
- The Planning Committee have worked tirelessly to ensure all Planning Applications in our Town are reviewed and comply and adhere to all Planning regulations. They ensure that each individual Application follows the planning/conservation/ecological and environmental guidelines. In 2020, in particular, they have increasingly queried tree felling Applications with TPO tagging.
- Work has continued throughout the coronavirus pandemic to maintain and preserve our listed buildings (Old School and Town Hall) whilst following CADW and Vale of Glamorgan Planning guidelines. Projects undertaken include:
 - a) Replacing Welsh slates on the Town Hall due to high winds in January 2021
 - b) Walls in Old School having existing stone re-exposed to allow walls to breath and prevent ongoing damp problems.
 - C) The old mother electrical circuit board in the Town Hall has been replaced to prevent the haphazard electrical tripping problems experienced by Hirers and council staff.
 - D) New leading installed on the Town Hall roof to prevent water leaking into the internal stairway.

- E) New hardwood solid gate fitted at the Old School in keeping with existing gate design that was beyond repair. Maintaining the character of the site.
- F) Repairs to the Old School Heating and full maintenance checks undertaken to ensure the buildings heating system is fit for purpose for the towns busy playgroups that are based at the site from 8am to 5pm daily.
- The Town Council are continuing to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to take over Stradling Park, via an Asset Transfer. A small piece of land in the centre of Llantwit Major that has become overgrown and neglected. The Town Councils aim is to create a safe, quiet, environmentally friendly area for the residents of the town.
- Continuing to work with 'Plant Llantwit' in supporting the planting of new sapling trees/hedges around the town and supported town residents in maintaining a woodland area in the old part of the town from a potential building development.
- Continue to promote and develop the wildflower area outside Llantonian Hall and in the Recreation Field. Providing an environmentally friendly area as well as providing a bright and colourful area on unused pieces of land.
- Our Handyman has made more recyclable Plant Boxes that have been placed around the town and for the window ledges in the main Town Hall. A planting programme is undertaken twice yearly with suitable seasonal bedding plants and shrubs.
- Continually monitor and undertake any maintenance work required to ensure the trees in our parks meet all the health and safety requirements.
- The Town Council are continuing to monitor Boverton Cemetery to ensure the safety and preservation of the gravestones. A company has been contracted to 'Topple Test' all graves in the Cemetery during the next few months.

What we think we could do better:

 Continue to Work closely with outside parties and the local community to encourage sustainability, lockdown restrictions permitting.

Facts and Figures:

 Our members sit on a range of community organisations, adding value to their work, strengthening community relations and reporting back to the Council to ensure public accountability.

What was said about us:

'In Llantwit Major this awful pandemic has brought the benefits of allotment gardening to the fore. People have seen first-hand the multitude of benefits that can be had from an allotment plot even when isolated or on lockdown. It has been the ideal safe-haven offering all the benefits of fresh air, sunshine, fresh vegetables and more importantly communication with our fellow plot-holders for our mental wellbeing (albeit at a safe distance and abiding by contact precautions).

It is no wonder that the waiting list for an allotment plot in Llantwit Major has seen a significant increase during this pandemic'.

Llantwit Major Allotment Plot Holder

'As a resident, I appreciate the excellent work done by the council clerks in helping with the objections to latest planning application for Ham Wood. Our research found that the Ham Wood planning application was Contrary to several policies that the planning department are bound by, e.g.

- 1. LDP Policies MG1, MG19, MG21, MG22, MG27, MD2, MD9 and SP10
- 2. Planning Policy Wales 2018
- 3. LDP Policy for Trees, Woodlands & Hedgerows 2018
- 4. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- 5. Protection Badgers Act 1992
- 6. The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- 7. etc, etc.

Thankfully, our efforts and objections were rewarded when the Vale Planning Department rejected the application on the above grounds'. Llantwit Major Resident

Town Hall Summer 2020

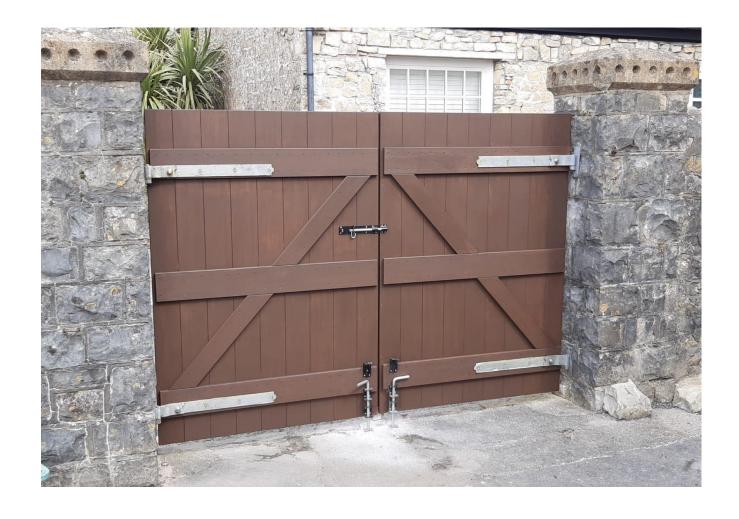


Old School (Cylch Playgroup)



Llanmaes Road Allotment Site





Newly refurbished Wooden Gates in Old School Playground

CHAPTER THREE: A HEALTHIER LLANTWIT MAJOR

What we think we did well:

- This year due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Town Council Staff ran a volunteer support line to provide prescription/ shopping and support for the elderly, self isolating and vulnerable members of the community. For up to 6 months the staff ran a 12 hour support line with the support of local volunteer residents providing much needed shopping/ prescriptions/conversation to over 120 people in need of help during this difficult time.
- The Town Council ran a 10K Lockdown Virtual Run. An event to encourage residents to stay active during lockdown and improve their mental health. All ages could take part (run/walk or bike). All participants won a free Lockdown t-shirt provided and funded by the Town Council.
- Sport Wales Grant was successfully obtained, and four new pieces of Adult Gym Equipment was installed on the Recreation Field.
- Continued throughout lockdown, regulations permitting, to open our 2 children play parks. Wet pour flooring was replaced in the U10's Play park and repairs also made to some of the play equipment.
- A new tennis surface was laid on all four courts in 2020 and will be repainted with 'Wimbledon Colours' (purple and green) in April 2021.
- The Town Council worked quickly to re-open their buildings to organisations for the elderly and fitness groups when lockdown restrictions were lifted. They ensured the safety of re-entering Council Buildings by providing and requesting full Risk Assessments from both parties. Ensuring all PPE equipment was on site and readily available, cleaning rotas organised to ensure the safety of employees and hirers during the pandemic.

- To continue to work with the Rugby Club to improve facilities on and around the Recreation Field.
- To continue to work with the Tennis Club to improve the facilities on the site,
 including floodlights and improvements to the Tennis Pavilion.
- To continue to work with the Bowls Club in maintaining the Bowling Green surface to a high standard for both social and competitive play.
- Aim to further relations with all sporting organisation on the Recreation Field and develop stronger links, working together for the benefit of the whole community.
- The Town Council offer reduced Hiring Fees to the local Age Connect and Parkinson Group to provide keep fit/community classes in Llantonian Hall.
- Continue to fund and maintain the Community Heartbeat Defibrillator in the Red
 Phone Box in the centre of town.
- The Town Council are still trying to progress with Annington Homes on West Camp the ownership of the old tennis courts with the eventual aim of installing two football goals / basketball posts for the teenagers in the area.
- The Old Headmasters Study has been refurbished and is now hired on a permanent basis to a Local Counselling Service, the first facility of this kind within the town.
- The Town Council have supported a Happy to Chat Bench situated outside the Town Hall. For people who feel isolated in their daily lives, the benches are an opportunity to make a connection with someone new. They also give people who want to help the lonely members of their community a way to do so.
- The Town Council provided all employees the opportunity to meet with a qualified Counsellor during the Coronavirus pandemic.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other local organisations to provide and promote activities for children after school and in the school holidays.
- Continue to work with the Tennis Club to achieve their goals of installing floodlights on the courts.
- Ensure we continue to provide safe playground equipment in our Parks and always look at improving these areas and where possible ensure inclusive usage.
- Look at further Grant funding opportunities to provide free fitness classes
 /activities/equipment for all ages of the Community.
- To improve communication and links with all schools/clubs etc to make them aware of the facilities the Town Council can offer to help make Llantwit Major a healthier town.
- To review and find further ways to promote the Town Council facilities and achievements throughout the community.

Facts and figures

- 200+ residents of the town took part in the LMTH 10K Lockdown run, walk, bike ride.
- 100+ volunteers gave up their time and support to help those in need in our town during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Town Council are supporting ways of increasing awareness and providing activities/facilities for the aged population of the town.
- Llantonian Hall is used by Age Connect Groups to provide regular keep fit/wellbeing classes for the older population of Llantwit Major.

- Parkinson Group and the Stroke Association hire Llantonian Hall monthly to provide support and wellbeing to those in the Community who are suffering from these debilitating illnesses.
- The Town Council continue to support Llantwit Major Dementia Friends in aiming to make the town aware and become a dementia friendly town.

What was said about us:

'I'd like to thank the Town Council for organising a Shopper for me during the pandemic. I could not have managed without them. I am so grateful that are still continuing to help me. Please accept my sincere gratitude'

Kay Welsh (resident Llantwit Major)

'Just wanted to thank Llantwit Major Town Council for setting up & organising the shopping volunteers during lockdown. I really appreciated being given the chance to help others during this time & I know the elderly lady I shopped for was really grateful as she was especially vulnerable due to her health problems. I think she really appreciated the phone call every week as well!'

Juliet Howles (Volunteer)

Adult Exercise Equipment installed at Recreation Field





Llantwit Major's Bowling Green



CHAPTER FOUR: A MORE EQUAL LLANTWIT MAJOR

What we think we did well:

 Town Council awarded Grants to local organisations to assist with providing additional funds to enable them to continue to maintain and run their groups.
 Grants were given to:

Llantwit Major Milers,

RAF Voluntary Band / Open Top Bus Mobile Carol Concert

Wales Air Ambulance

Llanilltud Fawr in Flower,

Llantwit Major 10K,

Llantwit Major Christmas Lights

- The Town Council, despite Lockdown regulations ran a Remembrance Service for the Town, maintaining social distancing and numbers restricted to 30 people.
 They provided a live feed of the event so that no resident of the town missed the chance to see the Service.
- The Town Council worked closely with both local Pharmacists of the town to provide a daily delivery services of prescriptions to those self-isolating during the pandemic.
- The Town Council manned a telephone support line for all residents of the town during the first lockdown in 2020. Three members of staff took turns to run the support lines from 8am to 8pm.
- The Town Council support various organisations that have been set up in Llantwit Major including the Twinning Committee, Fair Trade, Dementia Friends and Christmas Committee.

- The Town council are continuing to administer and work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and local resident's / landowners to reinstate a public footpath in Trebeferad.
- The Town Council have supported the Mayors chosen charities. This year being Vale Plus.
- The Town Council continue to support the Twinning Committee in Llantwit Major re re-establishing links with the French town of Le Pouliguen.

What we think we could do better

- Continue to support inclusive play equipment when upgrading play equipment.
- Continue to look at ways to provide access to the main hall in the Town Hall.
- Continue to develop links with businesses to work together to improve the town and increase its footfall.

Facts and figures

- The Town Council offers reduced rates on all its facilities for those using them to raise funds for charitable organisations or those holding weekly/monthly event classes for those which help residents.
- 6 Grants were handed out to local organisations.

What was said about us:

'Llantwit Major Town Twinning Association was resurrected early in 2019, after lying dormant for several years. The revival was very much due to the initiative taken by former Town Mayor, Councillor David Ellis, who called a meeting of interested parties, resulting in Kelly Marsh being elected Chair. Following this an Annual General Meeting was held, which was surprisingly well attended, resulting in the adoption of a constitution, the election of John Deakin as Secretary and the formation of a Committee, which included Councillor Ellis and Councillor David Foster. Councillor Bob Gant was also a member in his then capacity of Town Mayor.

Throughout the following months, a significant number of members were recruited, and several fund-raising events were arranged, including a French themed Quiz Night,

Coffee mornings and a stall at the Victorian Fayre. This resulted in the Association quickly becoming financially stable. Liaisons also took place with the Le Pouliguen Twinning Association Officers, with a view of arranging reciprocal visits in 2020.

Unfortunately, shortly after the 2020 A.G.M. the first Covid 19 lockdown was imposed, which resulted in plans for visits to Le Pouliguen to be postponed for the foreseeable future and that remains the case. At that meeting Les Beckwith was elected Chair and Councillor David Foster as Treasurer. Also, two new Committee members John Lewis and Kath Little were elected.

This year's A.G.M. has been postponed until the Autumn, when hopefully it will be possible to resume fund raising activities and make arrangements for a party from Llantwit Major to visit Le Pouliguen in 2022, and for the citizens of Llantwit to host and entertain our French friends later in the year.

Despite the setbacks, the Town Twinning Association remains in a strong position and will resume activities as soon as restrictions allow. This situation is no small way the result of the support of the Town Council over the past two years, without which it is unlikely that the progress made would have been achieved.'

John Deakin (Town Twinning Committee)

WW2 Veteran Jim Morgan on Remembrance Sunday



Area in Trebeferad, Boverton where the Town Council are working to reinstate a section of footpath (highlighted in yellow on map below)



Grant provided by Town Council to assist with an Open Top Bus Mobile

Carol Concert through the town



CHAPTER FIVE: A LLANTWIT MAJOR OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES

What we think we did well:

- The Town Council refurbished the Old School kitchen providing a functional modern kitchen for the Council Chamber, Hirers and for Wedding ceremonies.
- It is hoped, Covid 19 permitting that the first wedding ceremony will take place in the Council Chamber in 2021. Subject to Welsh Government Guidelines 3 wedding ceremonies are arranged in the Council Chamber for 2021 and 2 wedding receptions booked in the Town Hall.
- A new PA system has been installed in Llantonian Hall to provide a better sound system for all ages and groups hiring the Hall.
- CCTV was installed on the exterior of the Sports Pavilion. To provide residents
 walking through the Recreation Field additional safety measures and the Bowls
 Club and Sports Pavilion an additional security feature.
- The Town Council provided a Volunteers Support Network for all residents of the town that have had to self-isolate and were vulnerable during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The Old Headmasters Office is now hired out on a long-term lease for a Local Counselling Service, the first set up in Llantwit Major, providing much needed support for those suffering mental health issues within our town.
- The Town Council continue to support the History Society by providing them a room in the Old School at a cost effective annual rental agreement.
- Where possible (and financially viable) all work and tenders undertaken by the Town Council will use local Companies to carry out repairs and services to Town Council Buildings and Properties.
- The Town Council updated their Website so that it is 97% website compliant / accessible as per the latest Welsh Government policies.

- The Town Council uses the website, social media sites and the Notice Board to keep the community updated on local events/ news updates for the town.
- The Town Council adapted the Notice Board to provide the residents with a 'Birth,
 Marriage and Death' Notice Board. With the demise of the local Gem Newspaper
 this Notice Board provided this much needed information to the residents of our
 community.
- The Town Councill helped promote Fairtrade Fortnight in the town during February /March 2021. They worked with the Fairtrade Forum Committee to regain Fairtrade status for our town in 2020. The Town Council organised remote coffee mornings / afternoon teas / wine tasting evenings and promoted Vale Schools taking part in a Fairtrade art competition.
- The Town Council produced a Quarterly Newsletter depicting the latest Council news and events. Local Businesses and Shops have agreed to act as a distribution point for the Newsletter.
- The Town Council working with a Grant from Filco Foods Stores to produce a
 Covid 19 Book detailing residents (of all ages) experiences during the coronavirus
 pandemic. The book will be available for residents of the town to purchase to
 commemorate this unprecedented period of our town's history.
- The Town Council continue to work with organisations to further develop our towns profile and provide a cohesive community. Organisations include Town Twinning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Plant Llantwit, Christmas Committee, Events Committee and the Chamber of Trade.
- The Town Council are working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on an asset transfer project and reshaping services projects. Projects include:

Public Toilet Blocks

Car Parks

Stradling Park

What we think we could do better

- Continue to improve the Town Council profile through Multi-media social network sites (e.g., start using Twitter). Find alternative ways to promote Town Council news (e.g., further Quarterly Newsletter/Flyers) to promote Councils Policies and activities now that the local Newspaper has closed down.
- Further encourage 'all' Councillors to use the Cloud to access Agendas and Minutes online to reduce the paper output in the Office.
- To continue to work with and further improve links with voluntary organisations with the town.
- To continue to push forward potential Asset Transfer/Reshaping Services/Grant Funding Projects with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- With the latest Welsh Government Regulations provide facilities for all Council
 Meetings to be undertaken as 'Hybrid Meetings (i.e., to provide equipment /
 technology so that Councillors and the general public can take part in Meetings
 from home or from the Council Chamber).

Facts and figures

- Despite challenging times Llantwit Major still has the lowest vacancy rates in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- To continue to work with the Town Study Steering Group and the Vale of Glamorgan Council re promoting tourism and increasing footfall to our town. (e.g., supporting redevelopment of the Rail & Bus station Car Park area / Banners depicting 'Love Llantwit Major and flags outside the Town Hall depicting the 'Love Llantwit Major' logo as part of a £80,000 project funded by the Welsh Government to improve town centres throughout the Vale).

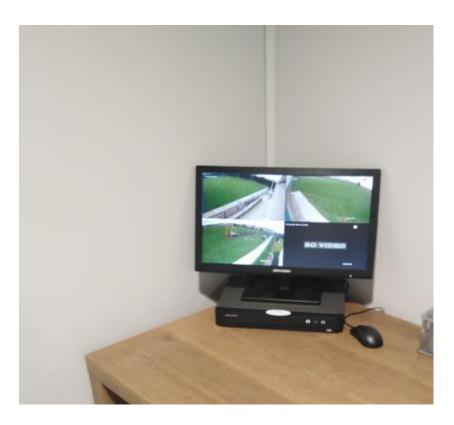
 Once Lockdown restrictions permit start reselling car stickers and canvas bags depicting 'Cariad Llanilltud Fawr' and 'Love Llantwit Major'.

What was said about us:

'In early 2019 Treganna Design were commissioned to design and develop a new website for LLantwit Town Council. It had to incorporate all the elements of the existing site, along with new functionality and a fresh and more contemporary feel. As technology develops, new rules always come into play for websites, so in January 2021 we re-examined the whole site to give it 97% compliance for accessibility (WCAG 2.1AA checker). Viewers can now easily adapt the site to suit their own needs, especially for the visually impaired.'

Treganna Designs





<u>Installed Sound System in Llantonian Hall and CCTV system in Sports</u>

<u>Pavilion</u>



The Rainbows Fairtrade Fortnight activities



CHAPTER SIX: A LLANTWIT MAJOR OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE

What we think we did well:

- Town Councillors continue to support the newly formed Town Twinning
 Committee to further encourage and develop links with the French town.
- The Town Council organised a Remembrance Day Service around the Cenotaph adhering to Government Guidelines re Covid 19. Each organisation of the town was allowed a representative to lay a wreath at a specific time at the Cenotaph. At 10.45 thirty dignitaries were invited to attend a social distanced Remembrance Service to honour those fallen. This was 'live streamed' giving an opportunity for all residents of the town to be part of the Service.
- The Town Council and Staff were invited to take part in the project to install 3 art
 Sculptures on the Bro Tathan Business Park and along the new Northern Access
 Road. The Sculptures are to represent the past and future of the area
 (incorporating the history of the air base and the geological heritage of the site).
- All new signs displayed in our Town Council Buildings and Open Spaces are written in both Welsh and English.
- The Town Council continue to care and maintain their listed Buildings (Town Hall,
 Old School and Cenotaph) working with CADW and the Vale of Glamorgan Council
 to ensure the buildings comply with the architectural/historical
 regulations/guidelines.
- The local History Society house their archive room in one of our premises. The
 archive room is open once a week to residents and visitors subject to Government
 Guidelines.
- Banners, Flags, Canvas Bags, Car Stickers for promoting tourism within the town area bi-lingual (half printed with Welsh wording and half English wording)

- A member of staff is a fluent Welsh speaker and all documentation if required can be translated into Welsh/English and English/Welsh.
- Any incoming telephone calls to the Town Hall are answered in both Welsh and English.
- The Town Council continually review the Council's Welsh Language Scheme.
- A project is being undertaken by the Town Council to look at lighting the front of the Town Hall building. This will emphasise the importance of the building to the town and highlight the historical structure of the building.

What we think we could do better:

- Re-establish stronger links with the Town Councils of Le Pouliguen, France and Llantwit Major.
- The Town Council Staff and Councillors try to improve their knowledge and use of the Welsh Language.
- The Town Council Staff improve their knowledge of the history of Llantwit Major for visitors that come into the Town Hall for tourist information.

Facts and figures

 Over 30 organisations attended the Remembrance Day Service (adhering to Government Coronavirus guidelines).

What was said about us:

Dear Town Councillors and Staff,

I would like to offer my personal thanks firstly for taking the decision to observe Remembrance Sunday as a community at a time when many authorities had decided not to do so presumably because of the difficulties it would I present. Under the circumstances the organisation and communication by you and your staff could hardly have been improved upon. The ceremony admirably conducted by the clergy was carried out with all the dignity it deserved at the same time observing all the strictures imposed on it. Well done! and congratulations. I wish you all Good Health and Safety.

Your sincerely

Jim Morgan (World War II Veteran)

Remembrance Day 2020



Welcome to Llantiwt Major refurbshed signs, detailing twinned with Le Pouliiguen



Bilingual Covid Saftey Signs placed in Town Council Parks



LET'S HELP EACH OTHER PLAY SAFE



Sanitise your hands before, during, and after using the play park, especially after touching play equipment



Maintain a social distance between yourself and others



Wash your hands thoroughly when you get home



Dispose of your rubbish sensibly



LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL T: 01446 793707



If the play area is busy, please wait or come back at another time.

Max Persons



Please do not consume food and drink whilst in park

CHAPTER SEVEN: A GLOBAL RESPONSIBLE LLANTWIT MAJOR

What we think we did well:

- That the Town Council continue to promote Llantwit Major as a plastic free town.
 They continue to offer a water refill point in the Town Hall.
- The Town Council try to reduce the usage off plastic items by using carboard cups,
 straws at events.
- The Town Council were awarded their Fairtrade status in 2020 and continue to work with businesses to further promote fairtrade (i.e., fairtrade fortnight). They plan to produce a fairtrade leaflet once lockdown restrictions permit.
- The old stone wall at Seaview Park is having the ivy carefully removed to preserve and repair the wall for future years.
- The Town Council are starting to investigate electric charge points in the town
 with the 2030 government regulations coming into force re electric vehicles. Early
 investigations being undertaken re costings/ technology and possible site
 locations being undertaken.
- The Town Council are beginning to look at alternative fuel supplies for their buildings, to assist our environmental, ecological policies of our Council.
- Any new vehicles purchased by the Town Council, if feasible, will be electric vehicles to further endorse the Councils Ecological Policy.
- Working with Plant Llantwit and the Vale Planning Department the Council our constantly looking at ways to preserve trees within our town, those specifically with TPO tags.
- The Town Council continue to sell shopping bags depicting the 'Love Llantwit Major' logo to encourage residents to use recyclable bags for shopping and promoting our town as environmentally friendly.

- There are now over 96 Allotment Plots run and regularly inspected by the Town Council. The Town Council ensure all Tenants and Council Staff follow and adhere to the recommended environmental guidelines.
- The Town Council are still working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council re the asset transfer of Stradling Park. A disused and overgrown small pocket park in the centre of Llantwit Major. The Town Council wish to take this over and create an environmentally attractive area for the residents of Llantwit Major.
- All new indoor and outside furniture installed by the Town Council (where possible) is made from recyclable material (e.g., Plant Boxes around the Cenotaph, Benches in the Cemetery and West Street Pool).
- We recycle weekly all waste cardboard/paper and plastic that accumulates in the Town Hall Office. All shredded paper is taken up to the Allotment Site for tenants to use as mulch on the Allotment Plots.
- West Street Pool is thriving, and there is now at least 6 large Koi Karp in the pond.
 The drainage area has been cleared in and around the Pool. The Handyman
 regularly clears out the overgrown vegetation and weeds from the pond. The
 pond is very healthy and houses a variety of fish and wildlife and is in good
 condition to ensure its continuing preservation for the future.
- Continue to provide recycled poo bags in the Office. Encouraging resident of the town to pick up their dog faeces. During 2020 the Town Council also supplied residents of the town with recycling waste bags when the local library was closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- The Town Council employ Daily litter picks of all their parks and open spaces.
- The Town Council created a new wildlife flower bed outside Llantonian Hall.
- All lights/bulbs/external lamp posts are now replaced with LED or solar lighting.
- Provided an Annual Grant to Llanilltud Fawr in Flower so they can continue to provide flower displays throughout the town centre.

In line with the Environment Wales Act 2016 Section 6 the Town Council compiled
a Biodiversity Statement/Policy and a Report in 2019. This is currently being
reviewed and a new report will be issued during 2021/22.

What we think we could do better:

- We will continue to look at ways of supporting sustainable approaches in recycling, waste management and use of resources.
- Further develop our range of Fairtrade products within the Office (e.g., Cleaning products, stationary).
- Re-establish ties with the Chamber of Trade, now the new Committee has been elected, to work together to further promote our goal of making our town plastic free and further develop the availability of fairtrade products throughout the town.
- Continue to work with Plant Llantwit to plant and maintain saplings/hedgerows on Town Council land.

Facts and figures

- Over 96 Allotment Plots and an ever increasing Waiting list of over 25 residents.
- Over 50 entries in the Vale School Fairtrade competition which had the project title 'the World we want to live in'.
- West Street Pool has over 50 fish/wildlife varieties (including wild ducks!)
 inhabiting the pond.

What was said about us:

'I wanted to let you know that I will be leaving Fields in Trust at the end of April and therefore say thank you to the Town Council for all your support and collaboration over the years. It has been really important to our work and appreciated. Thanks again and best wishes for the future'.

Rhodri Edwards (Fields in trust Manager, Wales)

'For decades, some of us have been aware of the shocking ways in which our products are grown or made, where people are working in inhumane conditions, allowing consumers to buy too cheaply and wastefully, creating huge profits for the World's big companies. The Fairtrade Forum gives us an opportunity to bring this to the attention of our fellow citizens of Llantwit Major, and hopefully lead them towards more thoughtful purchasing and consumption.'

Annie Paine (Fairtrade Committee)





Allotment Site



CHAPTER EIGHT: A COMPETENT LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

Within the Welsh Governments Local Government Wales Act 2021, there is a section *General Power of Competence*. This Bill is aimed to bring more consistency to Town and Community Councils, developing a higher standard of governance and financial management controls.

Under the General Power of Competence regulations, a Town Council must ensure:

- Two thirds of Councillors must be elected Councillors must be elected at either an ordinary election or a by-election.
- Requirement that the Clerk is qualified A Clerk with relevant professional qualifications, such as the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CILCA).
- Council needs to have clear audited accounts for the last 2 years sound financial management and internal control systems.

To ensure the Town Council meet these requirements regular internal audits are undertaken and it can be noted in this Annual Report that:

- 14 members were elected by an ordinary election held in May 2017.
- The Town Clerk holds the CILCA qualification.
- All Town Council staff are up to date on all relevant courses in relation to their job specification.
- We have a sound management and financial controls in place which are reviewed annually.
- In addition, we have a website that is regularly updated containing all agendas, minutes, reports, accounts and contact details.

- The Deputy Town Clerk obtained the CILCA Qualification in March 2021.
- Town Council Staff during lockdown undertook additional Ellis Whittham online training courses to assist with their job rules (e.g., risk assessment training, health and safety, food hygiene, asbestos awareness, health and well-being of staff, working at heights etc).

CHAPTER 9 – Our Llantwit Major – Our Future

In Chapter 1 to 8 of the Annual Report has concentrated on the National Well Being Goals as set out as in the Well Being Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has also adapted their policies to include four local Well Being Objectives. These being:

- a) To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.
- b) To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation.
- c) To give children the best start in life.
- d) To protect, enhance and value our environment.

Chapters 10, 11, 12 and 13 detail these objectives and how, we as a Town Council, intend to work towards meeting these local goals.

CHAPTER 10

To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services.

This objective is to enable people to become involved in their community, help to increase a sense of belonging within the Town, increase satisfaction with life in general and ensure that Llantwit Major is confident and their voices are heard within the Vale of Glamorgan.

What we have done so far?

- The Town Council administer the Town Study Steering Group.
 Representatives from various organisations within the Town meet to develop and implement ideas to improve Llantwit Major. A Vale Councillor is also being requested to sit on the Committee to pass updates back to the relevant Vale of Glamorgan Council Departments.
- 2. The Town Council continue to actively support the Chamber of Trade and work with local businesses to improve and shape local services within the town.
- 3. The Town Council provide Grants to assist with funding local organisations (e.g., Christmas Committee, LM10K) to continue to provide a service to the community.
- 4. Town Council continue to support many local organisations including Fair Trade Forum, Plant Llantwit, Chamber of Trade, Town Twinning Committee, Llanilltud Fawr in Flower, Christmas Lights Committee, the Tennis Club and the Bowls Club to assist with their continuation and further development.
- 5. Supported the Town by opening our Town Hall, running events for the town and running a Volunteers Support Help Line during the Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 6. Liaising with Vale of Glamorgan Council to improve the town of Llantwit Major for our residents.

What will take longer to achieve?

- 1. To continue to try and improve relations with organisations and businesses within the Town and find ways to get more people involved within their community.
- 2. To continue to support local organisations and businesses (such as the Chamber of Trade, Llantwit Major Dementia Friends, Fair Trade Forum, Plant Llantwit, Christmas Light Committee, Events Group etc).
- 3. To further promote our Town Council facilities and Parks to provide opportunities of organisations within the community to tackle isolation, loneliness and making healthy lifestyle changes. To provide further opportunities via the Town Council facilities to implement better services for the Town.

What will success look like in 2023?

- 1. Skills, resources and expertise regarding engagements are shared across organisations for the benefit of the town. Getting organisations to work together for the benefit of the community.
- 2. Contributions of all age groups are recognised within the local community.
- 3. Volunteers are encouraged and feel valued.
- 4. Sharing standards for engagement are developed.

CHAPTER 11

To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation

Llantwit Major is a comparatively wealthy town and many residents enjoy a high standard of living in a safe and attractive environment. However, there are still areas within the town that experience disadvantage, low education achievement and higher unemployment levels.

What have we done so far?

- 1. Successfully gained a grant to install 4 pieces of adult gym equipment in the Recreation Field available free for use to any resident over the age of 14.
- 2. Successfully renegotiated the resurfacing of four tennis courts providing sport facilities for the residents of our community at affordable prices. Also, the Town Council obtained funding for the Tennis Club to put towards installing floodlights on the courts making the courts available to play all year round and in the evenings, for our town.
- 3. We have updated the play parks with new matting to provide safe play equipment for the children in our town. Providing free play equipment in peaceful surroundings with benches and picnic areas for families to entertain their children.
- 4. We offer reduced rates to various organisations who hire our venues (e.g., Parkinson's Group, Pensioners Club). We also offer reduced rates for all Charity organisations hiring our facilities.
- 5. We offer Annual Grants to organisations to ensure Community Groups are supported (e.g., LM Milers, RAAF Voluntary Band). Providing easy access to residents of the town to many local activities, from sport, music, horticultural, history etc.
- 6. We provided a 'Happy to Chat' Bench outside the Town Hall. A place where those in a vulnerable position can sit, talk and be offered support by residents of the town.
- 7. Continue to provide 96 Allotment Plots at very low rates for residents of the Town. This includes providing plots for local organisations (e.g., Plant Llantwit) and locals with learning disabilities, to provide a place where they can learn new

skills at affordable prices. The average price of an Allotment plot for a year in 2020 was £13.00, this includes water rates and general maintenance and cutting of the paths by the Town Council.

What we can start doing today?

To continue to source Grant and Fund opportunities to provide additional services and community events for our town.

To liaise with the community (i.e., through written questionnaires and social media apps) on how as a Town Council we can improve our town and tackle inequalities within our community.

The Town Council continue to work with community groups and businesses at ways to improve the services within our town.

To provide further community events for the town (e.g., Annual Pantomime, Citizen Awards Event, Open Air Cinema event) for all sectors on the community encouraging social and educational learning.

Promote more widely the Town Council facilities. To publicise and advertise our Halls to encourage the community to take part in classes ranging from Yoga to Archaeology.

Work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Services team to provide more activities (e.g., sports clubs, holiday camps) for the children of Llantwit Major.

To provide an affordable venue for our residents to hold a wedding ceremony and reception. Total package to hire Council Chamber and Town Hall is £500 for the weekend.

What will take longer to achieve?

- 1. Working together with all organisations / businesses of the town to improve equality in the Community.
- 2. Continue to look at ways to improve our environment (e.g., working with Plant Llantwit, Vale of Glamorgan Council).
- 3. Use our facilities further to provide better use of our facilities for the under privileged and aged members of the community.

4. Continue to support and develop our play parks and sport facilities. Look at further funding opportunities to provide free sport activities for the community.

What will success look like in 2023?

- 1. The Community of Llantwit Major becomes safer, stronger, and more resilient.
- 2. Give residents a better understanding of how their contribution on the environment can make to their well-being.
- 3. Create a sustainable environmental project which brings a range of well-being benefits to the local community. A project that is being considered to fulfil this brief is regeneration of Stradling Park, an overgrown park in the heart of Llantwit Major.

CHAPTER 12

Give children the best start in life

Working together to ensure all children within Llantwit Major have the best start in life and the inequalities that exist within the Town are reduced. Also improve the wellbeing of parents and carers of young children who have such a big influence on their development.

What we have done so far?

- 1. Maintained and developed two Playgrounds within Llantwit Major, providing inclusive equipment when viable.
- 2. The Town Council support the Youth Council financially to allow the children of Llantwit Major to have a voice within the Town Council, what vision they have for the future growth and development of the Town. Two Councillors regularly attend the Youth Council Meetings.
- 3. The Town Council support 2 Playgroups ran in the Old School by giving reduced rental rates.
- 4. The Town Council fund (subject to Covid 19 restrictions) a Touring Pantomime that comes and performs two shows in Llantonian Hall, providing affordable entertainment for the residents of Llantwit Major.
- 5. The Town Council assisted various local organisations with Grants (e.g., LM Milers. LM Tennis Club) providing after school activities for children of the Town.
- 6. The Town Council are working with the Tennis Club to install floodlighting on all four tennis courts. Providing opportunities for play all year round and provide opportunities for other sport groups/organisations to use the area for after school activities.
- 7. Continue to maintain and upkeep two play parks on the Recreation Field. Have installed inclusive/musical equipment for both parks with funding from a sports development grant.

What will take longer to deliver?

- To work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to offer Town Council facilities to provide better and more regular Play Scheme Activities for Llantwit Major children during all holiday periods and provide additional after school clubs for children (e.g., children's running groups, girl's netball etc).
- 2. Continue to work with the MOD St Athan and Annington Homes to look at creating a Play Park for teenagers at East Camp/ St Athan on the old disused Tennis Court site.
- 3. To continue to work with external organisations to provide activities for children (e.g., Sport, music, education) utilising fully Town Council facilities to create better well-being for children and parents.

What will success look like in 2023?

- 1. We all understand how our organisations activities can contribute to giving children a good start in life.
- 2. Individual families and communities in Llantwit Major becoming safer, stronger and more resilient.

CHAPTER 13

Protect, enhance and value our environment

As a Town Council must collectively take action to protect, enhance and value our environment for now and future generations, ensuring as a town we are globally responsible.

What we do now?

- 1. All are open spaces are registered as Field in Trust Sites.
- 2. The Town Council are in the process of working with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to complete an asset transfer to take over the running of Stradling Park, an area of overgrown wasteland and transform it with wildflowers and shrubs and create an open space/relaxation area for the residents of Llantwit Major.
- 3. The Town Council continue to support making Llantwit Major a plastic free town. They have produced 'Love Llantwit Major' Canvas Bags for people to buy and use, instead of purchasing plastic bags from retailers.
- 4. The Town Council have renewed the towns Fairtrade status. Encouraging shops and businesses to stock fair trade products and residents/local organisations to buy fair trade to protect our environment.
- 5. The Town Council offer a water refill point at the Town Hall.
- 6. The Town Council continue to run 96 Allotment Plots, providing opportunities for residents to grow their own fruit and vegetables. There is in 2020 a waiting list of 25 people.
- 7. The Town Council continue to maintain the towns historic monument, the Cenotaph. It is cleaned twice yearly. We maintain and repair our listed buildings the Old School and the Town Hall.

What will take longer to deliver?

- The Town Council continue to work with various organisations to fulfil environmental projects for the Town. We are working with the Chamber of Trade to promote tourism, make our town plastic free.
- 2. The Town Council are liaising with Plant Llantwit to establish a programme to replant trees and shrubs throughout the town.
- 3. Continue to look at future projects to assist both with tourism and help the environment. Projects include Electric Bikes in the town, further bike trails and trying to establish and maintain footpaths in the town through the Footpath Forum Committee.
- 4. Continue to maximise the benefit of our environment by continuing to promote our town as a place to visit. Further develop the 'Love Llantwit Major' theme. Continue to try to develop Llantwit Major as a tourist town to visit in the Vale for walking, cycling, the beach, historical landmarks, shopping and place to come to eat and socialise. The Town Council need to develop stronger links with the Chamber of Trade, Businesses and local/national organisations to further promote and build our town status.
- 5. Look into electric charge points and bio-diversity fuels for our Council Buildings to assist with making our town Eco Friendly in coming years for the next generation.
- 6. Continue to adapt the Town Council assets to maximise their potential for community use as well as an environmental resource.

What will success look like in 2023?

- 1. Continue to gain a better understanding of the impact of our actions on the environment and how much of an asset our local environment is.
- To look at finding and funding a new area of land within the town to be developed into a new Cemetery for Llantwit Major and complete Topple Testing on the graves in our existing Cemetery.

Way forward

This year's Annual Report is derived much from the adversities faced by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Our existing Goals and budgets for the year were greatly impacted from the virus outbreak. Income for 2020/2021 was down by approximately £30,000 due to the pandemic. A decision was taken by the Town Council to draw on its reserves to cover the loss and thus ensure that the Town Councils precept request could remained unchanged from the previous financial year (i.e., £59.20, which is based on amount a band 'D' household would pay over the year to the Town Council).

The Town Councils main priority for 2021 is to continue to help the community as well as trying to reopen all our Council Buildings to our Hirers. Aiming first to open Llantonian Hall and the Town Hall to our regular Hirers, following Government guidelines re Coronavirus. Then extend to open our Buildings to casual and new Hirer's and we hope subject the continuing easing of lockdown restrictions hold our first Wedding Service in the Council Chamber.

The Town Councils main priority is to ensure the safety of their staff and Hirers and will adhere to Welsh Government guidelines re Coronavirus as well as ensuring all Cleaning and PPE equipment are in place and followed.

The Town Council will aim to undertake various projects during the 2021/2022 financial year including:

Production of Covid 19 Book re the town's experiences during the pandemic

External Lighting of the Town Hall

Topple Testing in the Cemetery

Investigate electric points for the town and alternative fuel options for our Buildings

Continue to work with Vale of Glamorgan Council re Reshaping Services Projects and Asset Transfer of Land

The Town council will also have the challenges of Town Council elections in May 2022 and the additional workload this will impact on Councillors and Staff. The Town Council must further endeavour to inform our community of a Local Councillors roles and responsibilities. Encourage members of the public to consider becoming a Councillor. Explain what being a Councillor entails and encourage (if they are passionate about their community and want to have a say in what happens in their Town) that they could be eligible to stand as a Councillor.

There are also the challenges still to be faced with the United Kingdoms exit from the EU. The impact of Brexit (and Coronavirus) will undoubtedly have an impact on funding for both the Borough, Welsh Government and United Kingdom.

The Town Council in the 2021/2022 year must continue to promote themselves within the community. They must act as a catalyst to encourage all businesses and organisations to work together to promote Llantwit Major to increase footfall and tourism to our town to help our community to recover and grow following the coronavirus pandemic.

The Town Council face a challenging and busy year ahead but look forward to getting back to some form of normality, reopening our Offices and continue in our aim to make the Town Hall the focal point for our community for the forthcoming years.

Project undertaken 2020/21

Projects undertaken by Town Council in 2020/2021

- 1) During first Lockdown ran a Volunteers Support Line for the community which supported over 120 residents of the town.
- 2) Organised a LM10K Town Hall Lock down run for the town.
- 3) Organised the Remembrance Service subject to Lockdown restrictions and provided a live feed of the event for the town.
- 4) When lockdown restrictions permitted, we reopened our buildings subject to government guidelines, Risk Assessments were rewritten, PPE Equipment purchased, deep cleaning of all buildings arranged, installed relevant signage to ensure the safety for our hirers. The Town Hall was opened to the public and became the pace where Recycling/food bags could be collected from when the Library was closed.
- 5) Wet pour flooring replaced in U10's play park, and repairs made to some of the equipment.
- 6) Youth Council Litter Bin installed in Play Park.
- 7) New kitchen installed in Old School.
- 8) Applied and gained confirmation that listed building consent has been given for the new lighting to be installed on the Town Hall. Tenders to go out in April 2021.
- 9) New wooden big gate to side of Old School to be installed during easter holidays 2021.
- 10) New fire door was fitted on the sports pavilion overlooking the recreation field. It had rotted and concerns were if pushed would give way.
- 11) The new surface on the tennis courts has now been laid. The repainting of the surface will be undertaken in April 2021.
- 12) Old School Heating has undergone full maintenance checks and issues resolved.
- 13) Water has been leaking into the Town Hall by the internal stair way. New leading has been placed on the roof around this area and the area is being monitored to see if this resolves this problem.
- 14) Slates were replaced on the Town Hall and the Compass Building after the high winds in January 2021.
- 15) The Town Hall main board has been updated to hopefully prevent the electrics that have been regularly tripping in the building.
- 16) CCTV is being installed at the Sports Pavilion.
- 17) The new permanent sound system in Llantonian Hall should be installed within the next few weeks.
- 18) The Handyman is removing the ivy along Seaview Park stone wall.
- 19) The drainage area has been cleared around West End Pool.
- 20) Fairtrade fortnight projects undertaken in the town.

Future 2021 Projects

- 21) Covid 19 Book to be produced detailing resident's experiences during the pandemic.
- 22) Town Council Quarterly newsletter to be produced and distributed in shops.
- 23) Four pieces of Adult Play Equipment Flag to be installed in Recreation Funding following successful Sports Wales funding.
- 24) Continue to review an electric car point in the town
- 25) Topple Testing in Cemetery
- 26) External lighting of Town Hall
- 27) Continue project to look at Floodlights in the Tennis Courts
- 28) Ongoing building maintenance/ reopening buildings subject to lockdown restrictions / Annual Council events subject to government guidelines (i.e., Remembrance service/ civic service/ citizen awards event / pantomime etc)

Projects of Events during the past year

Town Council Volunteers delivering shopping during the pandemic



Llantwit Youth Council Bin



Llantwit Major Remembrance Service 2020





Llantwit Major Town Hall Lockdown 10K





Fairtrade Fortnight





LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Environmental Projects within Town

The Town Council are working hard to improve the environment of our town and are committed to looking at future sustainable projects.

Over the last few years, we have planted wildflower gardens on the Recreation Field, outside Llantonian Hall and in Lorna Hughes Park. We have worked and supported Plant Llantwit. New sapling trees and hedgerows are being planted in Sea view Park.

The Town Council worked with the Chamber of Trade to offer water refill points in businesses/shops throughout the town. As a Council we are encouraging a plastic free town, encouraging hirers of our facilities to not use plastic cups/straws etc as well as recycle all their waste.

The Fairtrade Committee have also managed last year to renew the towns Fairtrade Status. Many of our local stores offer Fairtrade products for sale and as part of Fairtrade fortnight in March 2021 organisations ran Fairtrade remoted coffee mornings and schools took part in a Fairtrade competition 'choose the world you want'.

Future projects the Council will be looking at include the feasibility of installing an electric car point within the town. If you have any environmental ideas the Council could do to improve the town then please contact us at the Town Hall.

Improvements in the Town

- A new sound system in Llantonian Hall
- · The renewal of safety surfaces in playgrounds
- The installation of adult fitness equipment in the Recreation Ground with 100% grants
- · 2 New CCTV cameras in the Recreation Ground
- Using over 90% grant aid to install floodlights on the increasingly popular tennis courts.
- Plans are being finalised to floodlight the Town Hall.

Grant Aid

Each year the Town Council award small Grants to many local organisations in the Town. In the past we have supported the Boys Brigade, Rainbows, Netball Club, Women Institutes, Parkinsons Club, Vale Plus, Ladies Choir, Scout Group and many more. Applications are welcome all year round and are considered in early January, Please contact us for an application form.

Larger grants are considered for charitable events in the Town, and the Town Council are proud that they have supported the Llantwit Major 10K Committee from the very beginning and have continued to do so for the past 5 years, ensuring the continued success and growth of the 10K event held in August.

We also contribute yearly to the Christmas Illuminations in the Town. Each year those installing the Christmas Illuminations have been awarded a Grant to ensure the Town has its display for the festive period. Working closely with the Christmas Committee, in 2019 we were successful in a Grant application from the Vale of Glamorgan Council for the purchase of all new illumination and the installation of RCD boxes to ensure they could be safely installed, and the Town would be 'lit up' once again.

Last year we financially supported the RAF Voluntary Band with their open top bus being driven around the Town and surrounding area, bringing Christmas music to cheer residents up.

Each year we also financially support Llanilltud Fawr in Flower, awarding them a Grant to purchase and plant their annual flower display in the centre of the Town.

There are many wonderful, hard working voluntary groups and organisation in the Town, and we would like to thank them for all the work they do to ensure Llantwit Major continues to be the friendliest, community spirited Town to live. Diolch!



Town Hall Llantwit Major Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1SD

Phone: 01446 793707

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER





A Message from the Mayor

This is our first Town Council Newsletter which I hope you will find interesting and will tell you what the Town Council is doing. Since the demise of "The Gem' local news is sometimes hard to come by and not everyone connects with 'social media'. If you find the Newsletter useful we will issue others periodically.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Ian Hunt of FILCO who came forward with the offer to have the Newsletter available in his stores and the other traders who have

offered their premises.

Councillor Gerwyr Thomas, Mayor of Llantwit Major

Lockdown - March 2020

It is over a year ago we had the first serious lockdown and isolation. Although there may now be some light at the end of the tunnel those early days were very dark and uncertain.

The Town Council wishes to place on record its thanks to our small staff who immediately reacted to the situation and started delivering shopping and medical needs when little other help was available. They then organised a team of some 130 volunteers who gave up their time over many weeks to assist with the deliveries co-ordinated by Town Council staff.

Our sincere thanks goes to our staff and the volunteers who provided such essential service in the early days and weeks.





Town Council—What do we do?

We provide more services than any other Town or Community Council in the Vale of Glamorgan area. We are responsible for :-

The Bowling Green and Pavilion, The Tennis Courts and Pavilion, The Liantonian Hall, The Town Hall, The Old School, The Under 10s play area, The Recreation Ground and the play area and adult fitness equipment, Seaview Park, Lorna Hughes Park, The Allotments and the Cemetery.

We are not responsible for potholes in the road or defective pavements but these can be reported to the Vale Council on 700111 or by email c1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Weddings

Llantwit Major Town Council have worked hard over the last few years to refurbish the Town Hall and make it popular place to hold parties, weddings, family and group celebrations, thus providing Llantwit Major with a venue to hold functions, in the heart of the community, at cost effective prices.

In 2018 the Town Council was successful in obtaining a licence to allow civic wedding ceremonies to take place in the Council Chamber, at the back of the Old School.

Less than 200 meters from the Old School is the Town Hall Building, an ideal location for the wedding reception/ evening entertainment, holding a maximum capacity of 100. The Town Council hold a music and alcohol licence for the venue.

Remembrance Day 2020

It was clear early in the development stages of arranging the Remembrance Service in 2020 that things would be very different than previous years. Although we were unable to have a Parade through Town, we were pleased to be able to provide an alternative service which complied with Welsh Government legislation.

Organisations were invited to have a representative lay a wreath at staggered times. A live stream was provided to allow residents to view from home.

Council Tax

Llantwit Major Town Council has announced there will be NO INCREASE in its Council Tax for the coming year.

Financially this has been a very challenging year and successive lockdowns has meant the Council has lost £40,000 in valuable rental income from Llantonian Hall, The Town Hall etc. as well as spending unexpected sums on PPE at our various sites.

Despite this the Council has sought to look for savings throughout the year and as a result has decided not to increase the amount of Council Tax payable to it from April. This is not to say the bills arriving will not be more, as the Vale Council and the Police have increased their requirements and these form the majority of the bill you will receive.

It is likely we will be the only Town Council in the Vale Council area not asking its residents to pay more next year.

Not increasing our Council Tax confirms the Council's commitment to look after the people of Llantwit Major and provide quality services at affordable costs.

Family Notice Board

With our local paper not being published, we are looking for other ways to share news. If you have a family announcement you would like to share with the residents of Llantwit Major, please call the Town Council for your notice to be displayed in our notice board at the centre of town.

Please note, all death notices must come through a funeral director as it would if bein published to a local newspaper. Birth, special birthdays and wedding notices are also welcome.

Llantwit Major Town Council can be contacted via details on the back page.

Llantwit Major in Lockdown Book

The Town Council are currently developing the idea of collating a memory book of residents' experience during lockdown in Lantwit Major. We want the book to include pieces from all age groups, whether a toddler or senior citizen. The book can include poens, photographs, artwork, children's drawings—anything that has been inspired during your time at home. The book will then be available to purchase.

We are pleased to announce that there has been enough interest and with a kind donation from Mr Hunt, we are now able to proceed with developing the project

If you would like to have your project featured in the book, please get in touch by messaging us on Facebook or using the contact details on the back page of the Newsletter.

Lockdown 10k

With a strong running community in Llantwit Major, the Town Council recognised that fun runs would be missed in 2020. As an alternative, the 'Lockdown 10k' was arranged. It invited runners, walkers, cyclist of all abilities living in Llantwit Major (or surrounding area) to take part.

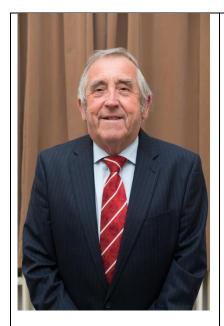
Participants had a week in August to complete a 10k in their own time. The only condition was to start from the Town Hall.

The event was a great success with over 100 people taking part, all of which received their own a '10k Lockdown' t-shirt as a keepsake.



COUNCILLORS

WEST WARD



Councillor Gwyn John Ashgrove House High Street Llantwit Major CF61 1SS

01446 793669

<u>Cllr.GJohn@llantwitmajortown</u> <u>council.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee
Recreation & Buildings
Committee



Councillor David Powell

(Deputy Town Mayor)
Purlon Farm
Wick Road
Llantwit Major
CF61 1YU

01446 792527

<u>Cllr.DPowell@llantwitmajortow</u> <u>ncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee **Recreation and Buildings** Committee Footpath Forum (Chair) **Town Study Steering Group** 5 Year Plan Committee **Working Group** Planning Committee (Deputy Chair) School Garden Citizen Awards Panel Remembrance Day Committee **Reshaping Services Committee Christmas Light Committee** Friends of Glamorgan Heritage Coast

SOUTH EAST WARD



Councillor Gordon Wilkie 64 Ham Lane South Llantwit Major CF61 1RN

01446 795490

<u>Cllr.GWilkie@llantwitmajortown</u> <u>council.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy
Committee
Recreation and Buildings
Committee
Youth Link Councillor
Allotment Sub Committee
Meeting
Remembrance Day
Committee
Reshaping Services
Committee
Ysgol Dewi Sant Infant
School (Governor)



Councillor Gerwyn Thomas

(Town Mayor)

71 Illtyd Avenue Llantwit Major CF61 1TH 01446 792007

<u>Cllr.GThomas@llantwitmajortown</u> <u>council.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee **Recreation and Buildings** Committee Footpath Forum **Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group** Youth Link Councillor Citizen Awards Panel School Gardens 5 Year Plan Committee Reshaping Services Committee Remembrance Day Committee Vale of Glamorgan Community Liaison Committee Pubwatch One Voice Wales Christmas Light Committee



Councillor Graham Morgan

19 Waterfall Mews Ham Manor Park Llantwit Major CF61 1BA

079 832 126 38

<u>Cllr.GMorgan@llantwitmajor</u> <u>towncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee **Recreation and Buildings** Committee (Deputy Chair) Footpath Forum **Town Study Steering Group** (Chair) **Planning Committee Town Hall Working Group** Youth Link Councillor Citizen Awards Panel 5 Year Plan Committee Allotment Sub Committee **Bowls Club Sub Committee** Tennis Club Sub Committee **Reshaping Services** Committee Vale of Glamorgan Council **Community Liaison** Committee

BOVERTON WARD



Councillor Jeff Evans

10 The Walled Garden Llantwit Major CF61 1RP

01446 790676

<u>Cllr.Jevans@llantwitmajor</u> <u>towncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy
Committee
Recreation and Buildings
Committee (Chair)
Planning Committee
Citizen Awards Panel
Town Hall Working Group
5 Year Plan Committee
Bowls Club Sub Committee
Tennis Club Sub Committee
Reshaping Services
Committee



Councillor Sally Hanks

Greenmeadow Mill Road Llantwit Major CF61 1UH

01446 796803

<u>Cllr.SHanks@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy
Committee
Recreation and Buildings
Committee
Town Hall Working Group
Five Year Plan
Citizen Awards Panel (Chair)
Allotment Sub-Committee
Llantwit Major Chamber of
Trade
Ysgol Ddraig Junior School
(Governor)



Councillor Robert Gant

1 Glamorgan Close Llantwit Major CF61 1UF

01446 795367

<u>Cllr.RGant@llantwitmajortowncou</u> ncil.gov.uk

Committees

Finance and Policy
Committee

Recreation and Buildings

Committee

Footpath Forum

Town Study Steering Group

Town Hall Working Group

Fair Trade Committee School Gardens

Scribbi Gard

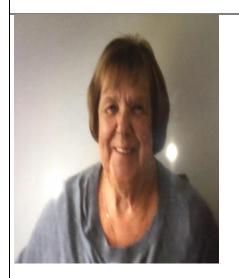
Charities

Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower

Good Neighbour Scheme

Steering Group

One Voice Wales



Councillor Gill Hughes

12 Voss Park Drive Llantwit Major Cf61 1YD

07978 707058

<u>Cllr.GHughes@llantwitmajortowncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy

Committee

Recreation and Buildings

Committee

Town Study Steering Group

Planning Committee

Allotment Sub Committee

(Chair)

Remembrance Day

Committee

Llantwit Major Chamber of

Trade

Llanilltyd Fawr in Flower

Town Twinning Association

Wick and Marcross Church

in Wales (Governor)

NORTH WARD



Councillor Dr Peter Dickson

Fairfield Cowbridge Road Llantwit Major **CF61 2YS**

01446 790393

Cllr.PDickson@llantwitmajortown council.gov.uk

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee

Recreation and Buildings

Committee

Town Study Steering Group Planning Committee (Chair) Remembrance Day

Committee

Power Station Liaison Group Friends of Glamorgan **Heritage Coast**



Councillor Mrs Jayne Norman

28 Dyfrig Court Llantwit Major CF61 2GA 01446 796039

Cllr.JNorman@llantwitmajortown Council.gov.uk

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee **Recreation and Buildings** Committee



Councillor Dr P D Ellis

Willastones 13 Heol Pentre'r Felin Llantwit Major **CF61 2XS**

01446 796517

Cllr.DEllis@llantwitmajortown council.gov.uk

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee Recreation and Buildings Committee Town Study Steering Group Town Hall Working Group Remembrance Day Committee Charities FairTrade Committee Good Neighbour Scheme Steering Group P.A.C.T Town Twinning Association



Councillor Eddie Williams

3 Grange Gardens Llantwit Major CF61 2XB

01446 793021

<u>Cllr.EWilliams@llantwitmajor</u> <u>towncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy
Committee
Recreation and Buildings
Committee



Councillor David Foster

17 Llanmaes Road Llantwit Major CF61 2XD 01146 792179

<u>Cllr.DFoster@llantwitmajor</u> <u>towncouncil.gov.uk</u>

Committees

Finance and Policy Committee - Chair **Recreation and Buildings** Committee **Planning Committee** Town Hall Working Group -Chair 5 Year Plan Committee – Chair Citizen Awards Panel **Bowls Club Sub Committee** Tennis Club Sub Committee **Reshaping Services** Committee - Chair **Town Twinning Association** St Illtyds Primary School (Governor)

Town Councillors 2020/2021

Due to Coronavirus pandemic all Meetings were undertaken by Zoom.

