



Nelson Community News

The Newsletter of Nelson Community Council

Summer 2021

Chairman's Letter

Dear Resident.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve the community as Chairperson of Nelson Community Council. My fellow Community Councillors appointed me Chair in November 2020 with Rod Powell being my Vice-Chair.

As my predecessor Gill Davies said in the previous newsletter, "This is a quite different newsletter than previous ones".

Times have changed and it is still an exceedingly difficult time for us all. One thing that has not changed in this past year is the community spirit of the village, from people checking in on elderly and vulnerable residents to supporting local businesses through this incredibly challenging time. I am immensely proud of Nelson and its residents.

The Community Council are still holding monthly meetings remotely and we are still here if you need us. (Please check out the back page for our telephone numbers). We also have a new website and a Facebook page. Unfortunately, the uncertainty of our popular summer events like the Summer Show and Songs of Praise still hang in the balance. I for one have missed these events and I'm sure you have too, but we have introduced our Halloween, Christmas and Easter online competitions, which are hopefully "pandemic proof".

Sadly this year we lost our former clerk Alan Hoskins. Alan was a highly valued and respected member of our Community Council. We send our condolences to Chris, Carys and families.

My chosen charity for this term is Taff Bargoed Foodbank Nelson. I will close now by saying; I hope you all keep safe and well and hope you enjoy your summer.

Cllr Laura Dufty
Chairperson Nelson Community Council

Alan Hoskin Tribute

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute publicly to Alan Hoskin. Alan was Clerk to Nelson Community Council between 1994 and 2015.

It is an opportunity for many of us to reflect on the privilege of knowing and working with Alan not only as a colleague but a good friend. Alan was instrumental in the development of the Summer Show, Songs of Praise and the Christmas Street Lighting events that will continue to be enjoyed by the residents of Nelson.

A more lasting memorial is under consideration and will be arranged in due course.



Christmas Window Competition

Even during the pandemic our Christmas window competition was a great success once again when our local businesses transformed their normal trading windows into Christmas themes, which combined with our Christmas lights certainly helped brighten up the village. We would like to say a big thank you to all those who entered the competition this year and congratulations to the winners.

Previously the judging of the competition has been done by all 9 members of Nelson Community Council who have voted for each entrant to form a consensus and thus select a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winner.

We hope to make a slight change to the Christmas 2021 competition where you the residents of our village will have the opportunity to vote for each entrant. Please remember to look at them and make your selections. More details on how to submit your results will be issued in our winter newsletter and Social Media



Christmas Decoration Competition

Entries in the completion were low but, as the saying goes, it's quality not quantity. The competition was divided into three sections: best Christmas tree, best window decoration and best-decorated house. Prizes were 1st - £20, 2nd - £10 and 3rd - £5 and the winners were:

Best Christmas tree:

- 1st M. Harris,
- 2nd V Steel, joint
- 3rd S Hawkins and D Harfoot

Best window decoration:

- 1st B Owen

Best decorated house:

- 1st H Jenkins
- 2nd H Wood.



Congratulations to all the prize winners.

Nelson Community Councillor (co-opted)

1 vacancy exists for community councillor in the ward of Llwynycelyn (This does not preclude residents from other areas of Nelson or living in other qualifying areas from applying)

Anyone who has an interest in working with fellow community councillors for the residents of Nelson and resides within the qualifying area should provide a written submission by 31st August 2021 detailing: Name, Address, Telephone Number, Email and Brief.

Brief should be no more than 2 sides of A4, preferably typed using Ariel size 12, detailing your aspirations for the village of Nelson and the qualities you feel you would bring to the council

Email: clerk.nelson@outlook.com or
Post: The Clerk, Nelson Community Council, 1 Jenkins Row, Rhymney, NP22 5PJ

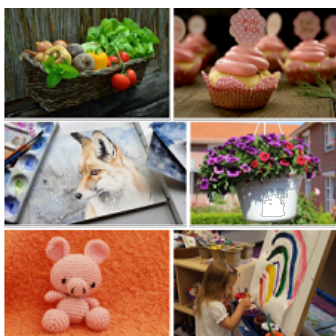


Summer Show 2021

At the time of going to print, it remains uncertain whether large gatherings will be permitted in August when we usually hold the Community Horticultural, Cookery & Craft Show. Last year we hosted the show online. This year it would be great if we could have a physical show, but it needs to be undercover, and usually it would be indoors at Llancaeach Juniors School.

In the coming weeks we will try to plan for a physical show but, if this proves to be impractical, we'll once again have an online show. Watch out for news on the Community Council website, Facebook page and in the village noticeboard.

It is looking increasingly likely that the show will be held virtually so please keep an eye on the website, social media and notice boards for further information.



ONLINE HORTICULTURAL, COOKERY & CRAFT SHOW

This year's show is taking place online. Entries will need to be photographed and submitted by email before the closing date: Sunday, 2nd August 2020.

Details at: www.facebook.com/NelsonCommunityCouncil



Classes for
produce, flowers,
cookery,
needlework,
handicrafts, art,
photography and
children's classes

Free entry

Schedule of
classes at:
www.facebook.com/NelsonCommunityCouncil

Prizes in each
class: £5, £3 & £2

Open to residents
of Nelson and
surrounding
villages

NELSON COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
39 Commercial Street,
Nelson CF46 6NF

Children's Easter Art Competition

Children could enter a painted egg and a painting/drawing on an Easter theme. Again we had limited entries, which meant that everyone who entered received a prize of £5 each. Well done to Megan Harris, Lowri Paul, Joy Cox. Caleb Cox and Elijah Cox.

All competition entries can be viewed on the Community Council's Summer Show and Competitions website at:
<https://summershow563914955.wordpress.com/>



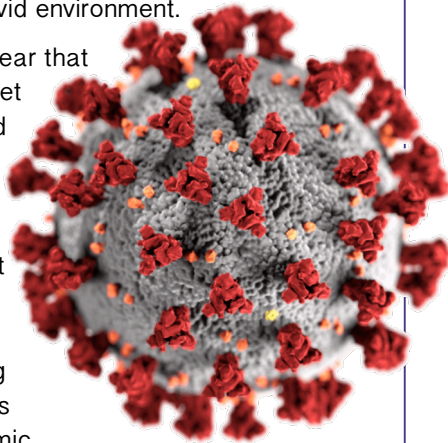
CCBC Coronavirus Response

With over a year since the start of the pandemic and the introduction of the first national lockdown many families have lost loved ones and we have all faced unprecedented restrictions to our daily lives. Throughout all the pain and disruption of the pandemic, the one constant shining light has been our fantastic public services - the NHS, Social Care, Emergency Services and working in partnership with them all, local councils.

As Deputy Leader of CCBC I was amazed at the speed at which the whole organisation responded to the challenges and pressures of the past 12 months. The council has truly wrapped its arms around the community to protect and support our most vulnerable residents, while continuing to deliver key frontline services.

Our social care staff in residential homes have been at the frontline of the battle against coronavirus, but staff in all areas have been doing their bit, whether it's carrying out refuse collections, delivering free school meals and protecting the vulnerable. While office based staff were moved swiftly to home working, they continued to provide the 'back room' support services that allow the organisation to function and continued supporting struggling business by providing grants and information about operating in a Covid environment.

It has certainly been a year that none of us will ever forget and despite the loss and heartache that has affected so many across the country, it is important that we do not overlook the positivity, hope, kindness and examples of outstanding community spirit that has also shaped this pandemic.



Thank you for doing your bit to keep our community safe

Nelson Community Council Website

You may have noticed the Council has updated its website and it now fully accessible.

We have had a few teething problems but hopefully it is now fully functional (if you detect any issues please notify the Clerk).

You should find it beneficial to follow the website as you will not only be able to view the business of the Council; minutes, agendas, view any vacancies plus it also has a news and events section where you will receive information regarding events being provided by the Council. The site also has links to other websites you may find useful.

There is a gallery section and if you have any interesting photographs of Nelson we will endeavour to display them. We could also include links to local businesses if they would like to submit their details

www.nelson-mid-glam.gov.uk

Nelson Bus Station Toilets

As you may appreciate the Community Council has been working tirelessly in its bid to get the Public Toilets reopened. Unfortunately, it was never something the Community Council could do alone as the cost of upgrading/running/maintaining and cleaning the toilets would either have resulted in significant increase in the Precept charged or using a large proportion of the Community Council budget, which would have been at the expense of other events/support previously provided.



The Community Council has now been able to draw together support from Interserve (the Contractor responsible for developing the Commercial units in the village) who have undertaken a redecoration of the building and provided financial support towards the new door entry system. The community Council has provided the bulk of the funding for the door entry system with the facility being run by Caerphilly Taxi Association (who run other facilities across the borough) and they will be taking out an agreement with CCBC for the use of the building and be responsible for its day to day cleansing and maintenance.

It would be remiss of us not to say a big thank you to Interserve and of course the Taxi Association without whose support the Community Council would not have been able to deliver this facility back to the residents and visitors to Nelson. As we enter the final stages of trying to reintroduce this facility we just await the signing of the agreement between the Taxi Association and Caerphilly Council.

There will be a small charge for use of the facility, which will contribute to the running costs of the building.

Lockdown: Bro Allta and Cwm Rhymni

The staff worked tirelessly throughout all lockdowns, providing hub provision (for key worker children etc.) and online work for the pupils. Currently Cwm Rhymni pupils undertake at home testing twice a week as well as wearing masks when in the school. At Bro Allta, since September, following retirement of the head teacher; the school has been successfully managed by Mrs Meinir Jones from the senior team.

Grant Aid

Despite a difficult year for all, Nelson Community Council has continued to meet remotely and has approved Grant Aid Funding for the following good causes: Local church for maintenance of grounds, Local food bank, Local allotments, Local Young farmers, Welsh Air Ambulance

If you run or are part of a local community group and can provide copies of certified accounts then you may be able to apply for grant funding. Applications available from; clerk.nelson@outlook.com

The Caerphilly Local Development Plan

As you may be aware a Local development Plan, or LDP as it is commonly termed, is a policy document that provides the framework for making planning decisions on all development proposals. The current LDP is now 11 years old and needs to be updated. The Strategic Planning Team have been charged with preparing the new replacement LDP and work on this has commenced in earnest.

I am pleased to have been invited to write a regular piece for the Newsletter to let you know where we are in the LDP process and what events are coming up that you need to be aware of.

The Council are looking to approve the Delivery Agreement, which sets out the timetable for delivery of the LDP and who we will consult/involve and when, at the beginning of June and, when approved by Welsh Government, this will formally commence the 3 and a half years that we have to prepare the LDP.

We are just about to embark on the Visioning for the LDP, a process that identifies the vision of what the county borough will look like at the end of the new plan period (2035) and the objectives for the LDP. As part of this we are holding Member Seminars on 24th, 26th and 28th May and 7th June where we are looking for input from CCBC Councillors and the Community Councils into this process. So can I urge that your representatives attend these seminars so that your input can be considered as part of the process.

We will be holding further events in September (Population & Household projections- 6th, 7th, 9th and 10th September) and December (Areas of Growth 25th Nov, 1st, 2nd and 14th Dec). I look forward to seeing you there.

Lockdown: Thank you! On Behalf of Nelson Village

Thanks NHS, all Key workers, schools, CCBC and local shops to name but a few, who have worked throughout the pandemic. Also, in some streets, residents delivered, and others received cards with offers of help - at the very start of the lockdown before more formal services were organised/provided by CCBC - well done in taking the initiative first!



Caleb Cox

Members List

Laura Dufty : 07411596027

Gill Davies: 01443 450201

Rod Powell (Chair): 07966 324060

Brett Jenkins: 07852744048

Ann Gray: 01443 450069

Brenda Miles (Vice-Chair): 01443 453435

Sean Morgan: 01443 451191

Eifion Dafydd: 01443 453342

