

The Pantlan Reporter

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Pant Project – A Smarter Centre

Following a suggestion made at the Village meeting in 2012, the Council were considering removal of the roadside hedge at Pant playing field and replacement with railings, to make the footway wider and safer and also enable the field to be visible as well as reducing maintenance costs. Also there had been requests for a bus shelter, but because of the narrowness of the footway, this seemed an impossibility. However, the idea was taken forward with quotations being obtained for hooped topped railings to replace the hedge. This information enabled the Clerk to make an application to Awards for All, part of the Big Lottery Fund (£5,535) and the Shropshire Council Local Joint Committee (£300) to make up to the match funding of the Parish Council.

It was also decided if the hedge was to be removed, there would be the opportunity to install a bus shelter on a small piece of the playing field, which could nicely match up with the railings. So a further grant application was made to the Shropshire Council sustainable transport fund, which will grant 75% of the costs of a shelter. This grant amounted to £2,284 and the Parish Council had to fund the remainder as well as the concrete base. The total project costs were £8,505 excluding vat.

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Evans Construction completed the concrete base and Metalworld of Llyncllys installed the railings in late July with the shelter going in at the same time. The installation was quickly completed and the black heritage style railings match the adjacent Stan Brown commemorative seat, so that area of the village looks really smart. The bus shelter is appreciated, particularly in wet weather, and because the hedge is no longer there, the users have a good sight line for the oncoming bus. Alison and Ian of The Cross Guns obligingly had their hedge cut, to match up the line, which has made that it safer for pedestrians to walk in that area. Poppy seeds have been scattered at the base of the railings and other plantings are planned.



The only part that detracted from all this tidying was the verge in front of the Village Green, which was very overgrown and messy. The Highways Agency were no longer prepared to pay for such areas to be mown, only those where visibility was required. The Council managed to have some cuts in 2012 for the Olympic Torch visit and then a few volunteers also mowed the area. The Parish Council have now included the entire length up to Greystones Court to be included in their grass cutting programme and will cover the additional cost.

Llanymynech Improvements

As was reported last year, the new skate park was opened in Llanymynech last summer. As it is the other side of the shelter and mostly accessed via the gap in the hedge, it posed a hazard as there was no 'sight line' if a young person cycled through the hedge gap. It was agreed to install two small off set runs of railings on the village hall side, so that a cyclist would be slowed down to negotiate them. Metalworld completed this project for £900 ex vat including remodelling of the shelter. The back of the shelter was removed to allow the village hall cctv vision of the skate park. However, this is proving to be unpopular as the users are not protected from the rain, so a rethink is needed for this. It would have to be a low cost solution, until such time as the funding resulting from the Badgers Green development arrives. This would allow the purchase of a new purpose designed youth shelter, currently expected at the end of 2014 unless house sales slow down.



A safer quieter road

The A483 remains the dominant factor in the lives of people living in Pant or those travelling through. Last year saw the large scale road works, which although disruptive have improved matters to some extent. The very poor surface was improved with sound masking asphalt, grids were strengthened and drainage improved. There were a number of small snaggings, which took a little while to sort out with the Highways Agency. However, the expected dropped kerb opposite Red Lane, remodelling of the top of Station Road kerb and a Pedestrian crossing did not appear.

Finally the crossing was installed, but the lights were not working for some months.

Eventually they were switched on and operative from August. After so many years of pressuring to get a crossing in Pant, it is at last a reality.



Power to the people

This Council continues to be involved in the discussions/campaigns/public meetings and any other aspects of the thorny question of providing more power. The villages are affected by generation of power from new wind farms and how this will be carried to the national grid. Although the Parish has not been directly involved in the Public Inquiry, they have supported the survey of the residents organised by Carreghofa Community Council with the results published on the website. They have also attended the second special meeting for Parish Councils, with Owen Paterson MP and Keith Barrow, and have had a Presentation by Martin Clare, Chairman of Carreghofa Community Council to the Parish Council meeting to update Councillors on the pylon campaign and Public Inquiry. National Grid representatives have spoken with Councillors and the Chairman and some Councillors have attended Carreghofa's meetings to exchange information.



Planning a Way Forward

The Parish Council have fed their views into Shropshire Council's planning document - Local Development Framework and as a Hub for limited development they have participated in holding consultations on two sites in Llanymynech. They have also given their views on the Site Allocations and Management of Development document - SAMdev for short. This document is now out for the final consultation stage. There is concern in many areas about the government decision that local planning authorities have to be able to prove at least a 5 year supply of housing land, and if they are unable to do so, the National Planning Policy will be imposed upon them. This would effectively over-ride the local decision process, and as Shropshire cannot prove a 5 year land supply, many Parish Councils are campaigning to have this decision over ruled. The Parish Council have signed the on-line petition on this matter.



Your New Council and Councillors

The Chairman is currently Cllr Mrs. Dilys Gaskill. The Councillors elected at the Election in May 2013 were Adam Brown, Mrs Dilys Gaskill, Peter McConville, Terry Mason, Mike Melling, Ian Pollitt, Peter Roberts, Barry Robinson and Mrs. Janet Smith. These Councillors were joined by Cllrs Ken Allcock and Robin Hitch who were co-opted following the Election to fill the two vacant seats. Mrs. Vivien Byrne is the Clerk. Cllr Arthur Walpole is the Shropshire Councillor.

MONEY MONEY MONEY



Accounts for the year 2012/13 have been audited by Mazars. The Precept for the year amounted to £22,298. Donations were a total of £182 - £25 each to Macmillan Nurses and C.A.B. and £82 towards maintenance of the village clock on St. Agatha's Church.