

TRAFFIC



The Council has been actively campaigning for the reinstatement of the Llanymynech & Pant Bypass and the campaign has been particularly high profile in this last year, since 93% of residents had supported the Bypass in the recent Village Appraisal.

Following the Council's suggestion for a letter writing campaign, it was decided to seek the support of the MP's for the area. A site meeting was arranged for late January 2000 and it was agreed to ask the Appraisal Group to assist in the gathering of evidence for a dossier, which could be presented to Ministers.

The Group was sent into a flurry of activity when they learnt, just before the long Millennium holiday, that the Welsh Secretary wanted to meet the MP's the first week in January. Everyone rose to the occasion splendidly and in the space of just 3 days, very professional documents were produced.

Press coverage was organised for the site visit and arrangements made for a possible public meeting, should enough people attend.



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Three television companies and five newspapers covered the event. Filming took place throughout the village with various people being interviewed. The item was featured on national television at prime time as well as excellent publicity in the national press. The international border, which causes the funding difficulty with the Bypass, was made a particular feature of the publicity photographs. The most popular being the shot of Owen and Lembit shaking hands across the border in the middle of the road.



There then followed a spontaneous public meeting in Pant Memorial Institute. Speaking to a packed Hall of approximately 150 people, both MP's pledged their support and promised to keep the pressure on for the return of the Bypass into the road programme.

The letter writing campaign is being kept up and the Council has made the Annual Parish Meeting the focus for an update on the campaign.

VILLAGE APPRAISAL

The Appraisal Report contained 33 recommendations and most, if not all, have had some progress. The major concern was traffic, which remains at the forefront of the Council's efforts. The more significant developments are reported in the following pages.

LLANYMYNECH HERITAGE PARTENERSHIP

The Parish Council had been concerned for some time to both conserve and develop the important heritage of this area and the Village Appraisal enabled this through the formation of the Partnership, which was formed as a result.

The inaugural meeting was held in February 1999 following an invitation to all organisations or statutory bodies with an interest in the area to send a representative. There are now 16 organisations attending and have been making significant progress.

Over the months the Partnership has been split into separate working groups – built environment, natural environment, local history, tourism etc. Each Group would then report back to the full meeting and in this way a large amount of ground was covered in a short space of time. Consideration was given to designating part of the village as a Conservation Area. This being taken forward through the consultation process. The Group has drawn up a

Strategy agreed by all parties, which will be publicised at various events for the community's endorsement. The initial comments will be invited at the event being held on the 13th May – A Memories Day, mentioned elsewhere in this paper.

A bid for funding was successfully made to the Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme and with matched funding from other sources £86,000 has been achieved. A Project Officer has now been appointed.



*Celebrating
the first
birthday of
the
Partnership
Group*

A NEW VILLAGE GREEN



A yearned for focus for the village of Pant became a reality due to a generous donation to the Parish Council, which enabled the purchase of a plot of land opposite the Cross Guns. The Mayor and Mayoress Cllr and Mrs. Stan Brown cut the tape at a ceremony to open the Green on the 12th May 1999.

A donation of £1,000 was received from The Mayor's Charity Fund for the Village Green. The Appraisal Group has been involved in bulb planting and landscaping the area since then. A partnership project with North Shropshire College will result in a special commemorative seat. There will be tree planting, including the Shropshire Star Millennium Oak. A large rock donated by La Farge quarry has been sited which will eventually have a plaque affixed.

PANT VILLAGE LIBRARY

1999 also had the Launch of the Village Library on the 10th June with Claire Cartlidge, Oswestry Librarian. The Library is housed in Pant Memorial Institute and opens on alternate Tuesdays. The books are provided by the Library Service and changed regularly. It is a free service and was made possible by a grant from Leader II Community Action Grant. Readers do not have to be registered with the Library service



WORKING TOGETHER

The youth of the village have had the support of Councillors. The Council arranged the visits of the Rural Youth Bus, has encouraged and supported a Group starting a Youth Club and given a donation of £100 for their rent of the village hall. The Council paid £300 towards a Youth Co-ordinator to work in the village. They have assisted a group of young people with a project for Llanymynech playing field.

The Council has worked in partnership with other organisations on a number of projects

Working with Oswestry & Welsh Border Tourism Association and event was held in

the village for the 'Be a Local Tourist' project in April this year.

Heritage Walks leaflets featuring footpaths in the parish have been published, also with the Association.

Many visitors from other areas, as well as the local community support the annual Parish Council Footpath Walk. The 1999 Walk took place on a balmy summer evening and was led by Cllr Robin Morris accompanied by his dog. Many of the Walkers also took the opportunity to exercise their dogs



CELEBRATION

The first event arising from the Partnership will be a Memories Day to be held throughout Saturday 13th May at Llanymynech Village Hall, when there will be wonderful displays of old photographs and documents, based on themes of village life, the canal, the quarry etc., with opportunities to reminisce and share memories. The Partnership Strategy will be available and Dial a Ride buses available to transport people to the event.

The Council's Millennium Memories Books, which have been circulating the village for residents to write down their anecdotes and tales of the past, will also be on display and will be available to add additional information.



WHERE AND WHEN????

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

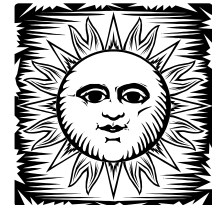
Accounts for the year 1998/99 have been audited. Income amounted to £9 743 and expenditure was £11 112. The difference was funded from the small reserve the Council holds, which now stands at £5 227. Under section 137 of the Local Government Act the Council is able to make donations.

Out of a budget of £100 donations of £25 each were given to Youth Service Cookery Competition, Community Service Team costs for footpath clearance, The Samaritans and Helpmates.



VILLAGE WELCOME

The Village Welcome leaflet produced by the Council for new residents, but useful to everyone as a local directory, is now in its 4th edition.



WHO ARE THE PARISH COUNCILLORS?

The Chairperson is Cllr Peter McConville. Other Councillors are Adam Brown, Stan Brown, Billy Desborough, Mrs. Dilys Gaskill, Bob Jones, Mark Keaveny, Terry Mason, Robin Morris, Ian Pollitt and Mrs. Janet Smith. It is the first time the Council has had a Father and Son serving at the same time – Stan and Adam Brown. Cllr Stan Brown was also the first Mayor from the village.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

The Councillors are kept busy with the everyday matters of roads, footways, street lighting, name signs and planning.

The play equipment is inspected and maintained and when necessary old equipment removed and replaced.

The problem of dog fouling seems to be an ongoing issue. Notices are now in place to remind people of the ByeLaws – Fines of £1,000 can be imposed if dog owners are prosecuted for not clearing up after their pets. The Council is particularly concerned about the health threat to village children using the playing fields, where dogs are being taken for exercise. They have displayed further signs, appointed responsible people to gather evidence and will shortly be having dog warden visits.

The Council, jointly with Carreghofa Community Council, operates the cemetery. In summer 1999 an extension to the burial ground was consecrated.

Both Village Halls are supported usually with small donations. Pant Memorial Institute applied successfully for National Lottery funding using the Appraisal as evidence together with a letter of support from the Council.

Llanymynech Village Hall is also seeking funding for rebuilding and has been given similar support.

Representations were made against the proposals for the changes in Electoral arrangements, whereby the ward created would be called Llanyblodwel and Pant.

Objections were made to the type and number of dwellings planned for the old Boral Edenhall site. In order to strengthen the argument against unwelcome development, the Council propose to carry out a Housing Needs Survey during 2000.

