

SCC Chair's report for the AGM.

Welcome everyone to this our Community council Annual General Meeting, Croeso i bawb i .  
gyfarfod y cyngor.

The first thing I would like to say is thank you to the community for continuing to be so engaged with what is going on in our village. We are one of the few community councils that always contests elections to the council, fewer than 20% of town and community councils do this, most cannot raise a full council, but this community is truly democratic. This last year we have seen a general election and by-election and each has been keenly contested. The community knows that each councillor has a democratic mandate for his or her seat on the council.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Bruce Payne for the tremendous work he does as our clerk, it is a paid post but we truly get our money's worth, his commitment is total and the time he puts in truly exceeds his job specification. Thank you Bruce and may you long continue in your role.

The council that was elected in May last year, and in the ensuing by-election, has a good representation of older and younger members, male and female. It is an energetic and committed group of people who are proud to be serving their community.

Our community has seen a number of its members dying this year and each one is commemorated by a lowering of the flags outside the Clubhouse and on Parc y Capel. The council holds a moment of silence in respect of those that have passed away.

The SCC has now been put on a proper business footing with key objectives and identified responsibilities.

We have 7 objectives:

- 1.To conduct all business in a transparent manner
- 2.To urgently implement the adopted Climate Emergency Policy
- 3.To actively support healthy living through the delivery of a safe village environment
- 4.To work towards the protection and development of local green areas
- 5.To actively support and promote the Welsh Language and culture.
- 6.To achieve the General Powers of Competence
- 7.To accomplish more homes with greater housing choice and better employment opportunities.

Clearly we have set ourselves some tough challenges but progress is being made and these objectives will guide the council over the next year.

The Ombudsman for Wales was notified of a complaint against members of the council however the ombudsman decided there was no charge to answer and there was no investigation.

As we came out of the Covid epidemic and then got hit by the steep rise in fuel prices, the council initiated a local warm rooms project to allow people to meet socially in a comfortable space with refreshments and sometimes entertainment. Thanks to Richie Davies for making the cawl and Bethany for the chair yoga.

One of the major issues that the council has led on this year has been the campaign to keep a surgery in the village. Under the auspices of the council a working group has been set up which

has been hugely proactive in working with the Health Board to come up with a solution that answers our need for local primary care that is holistic and based on a preventative principle. Sue Denman, Iain Robertson Steel and Gareth Chapman have spearheaded that effort. And perhaps we can ask Sue to give us an update under that heading in the agenda.

Parc y Capel was donated to the community, and we thank the chapel for its generosity. The council has initiated a Winter and Spring Fayre this year on Parc y Capel, an effort led by Richie Davies. These have been very successful and raised funds for the council and will now become a permanent fixture on our calendar.

This year the multigenerational footpath, that connects upper and lower Solva, was completed, at least two of its three phases, after hard lobbying by the council. We thank the Pembrokeshire coast National Parks Authority for funding this popular additional facility.

We have brought into use the Foreshore area and ensured it is well maintained. This is now a regular spot for tourists.

We have raised funds for the purchase of new playground equipment for the lower play park and we thank Alyssia for her efforts here. This after the existing equipment was deemed unsafe. Rob Richards went out of his way to ensure the remains of the old equipment were safely removed. Sam Ellison is leading on the initiative to replace the existing skate park in upper Solva.

The regular events continue with the firework display this year being more popular than ever with sufficient funds being raised to finance the next display. We thank Mark Carter for his leadership here.

There remain significant challenges ahead, not least the threat to the public toilets in the lower car park. We have engaged the County Council over this issue and discussions are ongoing with National Park over keeping this essential facility open. The possibility of a capital asset transfer is open to us but first there are more discussions to be had.

Offshoot projects from the council continue to flourish. The allotment project is now in full swing with all plots taken and we can look forward to a bumper harvest of vegetables, once again Richie has led the way admirably. The Clubhouse is well used with a new tarmac apron, to allow easy access, being added this year. The Memorial Hall is as popular as ever.