



Llanblethian  
Community Council  
Magazine May 1981

# Llanblethian Community Council News

## An Introduction To The First Issue

When Councillor Louis Fisher suggested that your Community Council considered the issuing of a quarterly newsletter, it was welcomed by all members, and I am very pleased that the idea is now proceeding; these comments will be an introduction to the first issue.

Firstly, the communications between the community residents and their Councillors will be stimulated with a view to keeping all the public in touch with developments and activities in the town and the surrounding Community Council area. This should lead to a closer relationship of trust and understanding.

In this first Community News we would like to introduce the members of your Council by articles on some of the wide variety of topics and projects that we deal with at the monthly Council meetings, held in the Council Chamber at the Eastgate Street Divisional Offices and at various meetings held, discussing your Community matters with our Town Council, Borough Council and County Council colleagues.

Our aim will be to provide Community News which is of interest to all the residents of the area, and the success of this publication will be ensured by the two-way communications and contributions from residents, organisations, clubs and groups.

Your Community is growing and progressing, and we as a Council feel that everybody should know what is going on. The LLANBLETHIAN COMMUNITY NEWS, we trust, will provide this very important service.

Yours sincerely,

PHIL LEWIS

CHAIRMAN,  
LLANBLETHIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Residents of Llanblethian Community Council

As you can see from our Chairman's introduction, Llanblethian Community Council has decided to produce a quarterly newsletter for the purpose of informing the residents of the work carried out by the Council. I have been given the responsibility of Editor, but this is a task which I readily accept as I feel it can be challenging and rewarding.

This, the first edition will be financed by the Council but future editions will, we hope, be self-financing through the sale of advertising space.

My first responsibility I feel, is to introduce the Llanblethian Council members and other Council members representing the area. They are:-

### Llanblethian Community Council

Chairman - Councillor Phil Lewis - Tel. Cowbridge 2718

Gordon Gates " 2233

" Louis Fisher " 4181

" Alan Rees " 3708

" Howard Phillips " 2338

" W. E. M. Gough " 2395

" Mrs. M. McKibbin " 4574

Clerk Mrs. M. Frost " 3607

Treasurer -

Mr. G. Mees Barclays Bank " 2277

### Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council

Councillor John Arnott " 3258

" Sam Northway " 2611

### South Glamorgan County Council

County Councillor Gwyn Thomas Bridgend 2254

Llanblethian Council meet at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday in each month, except August, at the old Cowbridge R.D.C. Offices, 79 Eastgate, Cowbridge. The public can attend these meetings and in recent months some members of the public have done so.

My task however, is to inform you, the Public, of some of the work carried out by your Council. We have, as you may know, for many years, tried to purchase a piece of land at Piccadilly, Llanblethian, in order to establish a childrens' playground. I am now able to tell you that at last it does seem that this dream is now becoming a reality, and in the near future

Llanblethian will be the owners of this land.

Progress is also being made on the purchase of another piece of ground at Cae Rex to be used as allotments, and anyone interested in acquiring an allotment should write to the clerk - Mrs. M. Frost, Little Haven, Llanquian Close Cowbridge.

The Vale Authority have increased the cesspit emptying charges from £45 in the year 1980-81 to £15 per 2,000 gal. load up to a maximum of £120 per year for the year 1981-82. Llanblethian feel this to be an outrageous increase which should not be imposed on people who can not be served by a main sewer system. Llanblethian Council made strong objections to the Vale Authority and this has resulted in the proposed increase being reduced from a maximum of £140 to £120. But I'm sure we haven't heard the last of this and when residents of Trerhyngyll, Penllyne, Ystradowen St. Hilary, St. Mary Church, and Welsh St. Donats, have to pay before the service is carried out I'm sure there are going to be many more objections.

Llanblethian Community Council serves a much greater area than most people realise. It extends from Breech Farm, Llysworney in the South to Uplands Farm Llanharry Road in the North encompassing Penylan, Trerhyngyll and Aberthin. It also includes the television transmitter station in the east and Tyla Rhosyr housing developments in the West. In addition it includes all the major housing developments around the town of Cowbridge, such as Brookfield Park, most of Druids Green, The Verlands, Broad Shoard, Mill Park and Llantwit Major Road.

This, however, is likely to change as the Boundary Commission set up under the Local Government Act 1972 have proposed to group Cowbridge Town, which consists, broadly speaking, the main street of Cowbridge, together with Llanblethian. A new name has not yet been agreed for the new Council and if anyone has any ideas, please let us know.

Llanblethian Council would like to see this News Letter being used by you, the Public, as a means of expressing your views on the way in which your Local Council serves your needs. If anyone would like to make a contribution, please do so, by contacting me at Cowbridge 3137 or Cowbridge 4181 or write to me, L. C. Fisher, Welsh St. Donats Road, Cowbridge.

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# Best Kept Village Competition



This is the time of the year when some of the Vale villages are preparing to challenge for the title of Best Kept Village in the Vale of Glamorgan which will earn the winner a Cup, Village Sign and £100,00.

As the name implies, the winner is the "BEST KEPT" village, not the "most beautiful"; in other words, a village which is kept neat and tidy and well-maintained. Churchyard and grass verges cut, gardens neat and tidy, absence of litter etc.

There is, in addition, a Junior Section carrying a top prize of £25. In this Section, a small, very small or even two or three small sections are maintained by children up to the age of 16 or 17. It is incredible what pains the juniors will take, including neat little flower beds planted with annuals in some previously overlooked part of the village - a joy to see.

The full Prize List and the winners in 1980 were:-

<u>MAIN SECTION</u>	1. Silver-gilt Cup (valued at £2,000) -	Pendoylan
	Village Sign and £100	
	2. Gwyn Thomas Silver Cup and £50 -	Llysworney
	3. £40 -	Gileston
	4. £30 -	Llanmaes
<u>JUNIOR SECTION</u>	1. Silver Cup and £25 -	Llysworney
	2. Barbara Jones Cup and £20 -	Wick
	3. £15.00 -	Llandow
	4. £10.00 -	-

The prizes in the Junior Section have been increased for 1981.

Last year, ten villages entered the Main Competition and ten in the Junior Section.

The date of the main judging is July 8th with the Preliminary Judging the week before.

The Secretary is MR. HUBERT THOMAS, ST. CRISPINS, EASTGATE, COWBRIDGE - TELEPHONE: COWBRIDGE 2384, from whom entry forms can be obtained.

W. E. M. Gough - Representative "Best Kept Village" Committee.



## Cowbridge and District Leisure Facilities

At first glance it would appear that Cowbridge is fairly well provided for with regard to sporting facilities. Facilities are available for - tennis, squash, badminton, indoor bowls, and there are clubs that cater for rugby, cricket and soccer.

However, it seems none of these facilities are provided by the Local Authority responsible for Leisure Services - the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council. All the sporting facilities in the Cowbridge District are provided by private clubs. The Athletic Club being the main provider, this simple fact begs the question - Why do we pay five pence in the pound on our rate bills when we are not provided with any facilities at all? If you have a moment, look around, and try to find the lone leisure facility provided by the Borough Council. There is a set of childrens playground equipment at the Borough Council housing development at Aberthin, which was provided by the old Cowbridge Rural District Council and is now maintained by the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council.

Llanblethian Community Council in conjunction with Cowbridge Town Council, have, over the years, been persistent in their efforts to stimulate the Borough Council to remedy the complete lack of basic leisure facilities in this area. The Borough Council have been consistent in their replies indicating that there is a lack of realistically priced, suitable land available in this area suitable for the provision of leisure facilities.

However, Llanblethian Community Council and Cowbridge Town Council showed their determination when they instigated a series of meetings with South Glamorgan County Council which resulted in the County Council offering suitable land at the Aberthin Road school site for the provision of sports/ community hall. The Vale Council have indicated that monies will be available for this provision. Can we now hopefully look forward to some much needed leisure facilities for Cowbridge? There is no money available in this coming financial year but the Vale Authority have promised to consider the financing of this project in the year 1982-83.

Alan Rees, Vice Chairman and Leisure Sub-Committee member.

## PLANNING - A Plain Man's Guide

Planning is possibly the most controversial of all the work of the Community Council, and from time to time a Council is criticised by members of the public for "approving" or, in some cases, "rejecting" certain applications that come before it.

The Community Council has not the power to approve or reject a planning application. Its powers are limited to expressing its views to the local planning authority which in Llanblethian, is the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council.

Before 1974, the then Parish Council had no say in Planning matters. They were never informed of any applications and when they dared to express any views to the Rural District Council, were told, not always politely, to mind their own business; the results being that (a) the first intimation the public had of a development was the arrival of earth moving equipment and (b) certain very peculiar and sometimes sinister decisions.

The Local Government Act 1972 changed all this and conferred on Community Councils the right of information and comment, "sufficient information being given to enable comment to be made". Strenuous efforts in Parliament to give community councils power of consultation were opposed by the Borough and District Councils.

The senior councils are not compelled to agree with the views of the Community Council, but it must be stated in all fairness that while certain Authorities, notably in West Wales, still ignore the Community Councils, the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council usually take Llanbleddian's views into account, as they rightly regard the Community Council as having a greater local knowledge.

In the case of Llanbleddian and Cowbridge, there is a further safeguard in the existence of the Conservation Area Advisory Sub-Committee, on which both Llanbleddian and Cowbridge have representatives and which is chaired by the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council's Planning Committee Chairman; again the Borough Council is not bound by the findings of the Conservation Committee but usually has regard to its comments.

Readers may be interested to have some idea of the points considered by both the Community Council and the Conservation Sub-Committee. These can be summed up in one sentence as being "Is this a suitable development?"

but in detail the following points are among those considered when applicable:

- (a) Is this an undue extension of the village.
- (b) Is there a risk of a Cottage Industry.
- (c) Is the design aesthetically pleasing.
- (d) Will the development have a bad effect on the general visual effect.
- (e) Will the approach be a traffic hazard.
- (f) Is there adequate off-street parking.
- (g) Is a building too large for the site.
- (h) Is a building too close to adjacent dwellings.
- (i) Is this an isolated development in an otherwise undeveloped area.
- (j) Is there likely to be local objections.
- (k) Will this take agricultural land.
- (l) Will it be necessary to remove trees.

A final point which must be kept constantly in mind and which is constantly considered by the Borough Council is the very important question "If development is refused, can this refusal be substantiated if the applicant appeals to the Secretary of State for Wales and under present Government Policy this is a very important point with regard to 'Infilling', but this is not to imply that all proposed Infilling will be allowed."

The subject of Planning is vast, but the foregoing is an attempt to convey some of the questions involved.

W. E. M. Gough - Chairman, Planning Committee.

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# The Ecclesiastical & Parochial Charities of Evan Jenkins

An interesting and important task of the Llanblethian Community Council is its involvement with the management of these ancient charities, which date back to the 17th Century.

The Jenkins family, which established the charities was of considerable standing in the Vale of Glamorgan at that time. Evan Jenkins gave the rent of a "tenement and 13 acres of land in the manor of Talyfan for ever to repair the tenor bell in Llanblethian Church" with the remainder of the rents to be equally divided between Llanblethian and Ystradowen Churches and the "overplus to apprentice poor boys and to clothe decayed labourers not receiving parish relief." Evan Jenkins' brother, Sir Leoline Jenkins, Knight and Doctor of Laws, Judge of the Admiralty, Privy Counsellor to King Charles II and Principal Secretary of State, gave the tenor bell itself and £20 every fourth year for the poor of the parish for ever.

Sir Leoline was educated at Cowbridge School and went on to Jesus College, Oxford. He had many adventures as a Royalist and after the Restoration returned as Principal of the College. He bought Cowbridge (Grammar) School as a going concern and on his death in 1685 bequeathed it to the Governing Body of Jesus College who governed the School for some 2½ centuries.

The Evan Jenkins charitable trusts were comprised on the 21st January, 1699 and are affected by an Order of the Charity Commissioners on 1st September, 1896. They are now described as the Ecclesiastical and Parochial Charities and are applicable for keeping in order the tenor bell at Llanblethian Church, the reparation of the parish churches of Llanblethian and Ystradowen, for "binding" children as apprentices, relieving old labourers unable to work and for the relief of the poor in both parishes.

The ecclesiastical charities are applied by trustees appointed by the vicars and wardens of the two churches. The parochial charity for Ystradowen is applied by trustees from within the village.

So far as the parochial charity for Llanblethian is concerned, four trustees are appointed by the Community Council. Generally, assistance may be given to individuals living in the Parish, e.g. Llanblethian, Aberthin, Trerhyngyll, Maendy, Penylan, Newton. The trustees have no power to do other than what the trusts of the charity allow, but it is for the trustees to decide whether need exists in any particular case and they are asked by the Charity Commissioners to take note of continuing

social changes. Aid is given, for example, for the supply of tools, equipment and books, or for the payment of fees for instruction and examinations. Labourers and the poor referred to in the charity are regarded by the trustees as those in genuine need, but not necessarily destitute.

Help may be given to relieve sudden distress, to meet bills or to provide fuel. The sick can be provided with such items as special diets, telephones, or the cost of adapting homes to their needs, or for convalescence. In the case of the unemployed, grants are possible for those in financial need to supplement State unemployment benefits, or to assist with travelling and other expenses which might be incurred when seeking work.

Charity funds may not, however, be used for purposes which would otherwise be met out of rates, taxes or other public funds, but may, in suitable cases, be applied to supplement statutory relief or assistance.

The trustees are anxious to give assistance whenever possible and ask that anyone wishing help, or who feel they know of needy cases, should get in touch with Councillor Gordon Gates, Lansdowne, Piccadilly, Llanblethian (telephone Cowbridge 2233). Every case will be sympathetically considered in confidence by the Llanblethian trustees, who with their fellow trustees and with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, have sold some of Evan Jenkins "13 acres of land" so as to bring in a realistic income at today's prices to enable the charity to be applied in the way the brothers Jenkins intended nearly 300 years ago.

Gordon Gates, M.B.E., Evan Jenkins, and the Parochial Charities.



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Full information from The Festival Secretary, Mrs. W. E. M. Gough  
The Well House, Penylan Newton, Cowbridge, Tel: Cowbridge 2395



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