

NEW RADNOR COMMUNITY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to this annual report which I hope will provide you with information on your local Council and what it does for the community.

New Radnor and its surrounding area are one of outstanding beauty and tranquility. It is also an area of great community spirit, something that has been very apparent over the last two years during the covid pandemic when everyone has pulled together and helped each other. Without doubt this has made a difficult time considerably easier.

Since May 2020 the Community Council has been meeting virtually online and while this is not always perfect it has allowed us to continue to meet and to carry on our normal business. It also makes access for the public easier. A recent grant application has provided us with 80% of the funding to purchase extra IT equipment so that a return to face-to-face meetings can hopefully soon happen but with the continuation of online access for those that wish to attend in this way.

There is much information about the Council on our website –

<https://newradnor.net/>

There is also information on the website on the community generally and the Council is happy to add more community information if supplied to our Clerk (contact details at the end of this report).

I am very honoured to have the role of Chairman and to be able to put something back into the community and I welcome any feedback or comment on what the Council is doing.

Please do read this annual report and if you have any questions or suggestions do get in touch with myself, our Clerk or one of the Councillors.

Best wishes

Richard Harris, Chairman

ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The Role of the Council

Community Councils are known as the first tier of local government, the tier closest to the residents it represents and consisting of local people working to benefit the local area.

It is consulted on –

Planning Applications

Tree Works

Comments on County Council formal policy changes e.g. street lighting, affordable housing and changes to play areas, grass cutting, street cleaning etc.

Some Welsh Government formal policy changes e.g. changes to Council Tax, second homes legislation.

It works on projects to benefit the local area –

Currently -

Ultra-Fast Broadband Project.

Small Grant Fund for community groups.

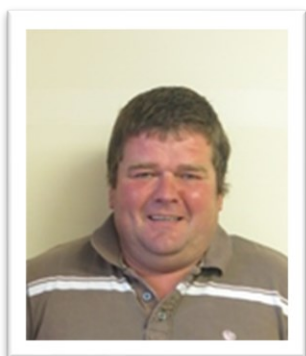
Provision of two community defibrillators and their ongoing maintenance.

Provision of Dog Bag Dispensers at key locations around the village.

Campaigning to reduce speeding on the A44.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Richard Harris, Chairman



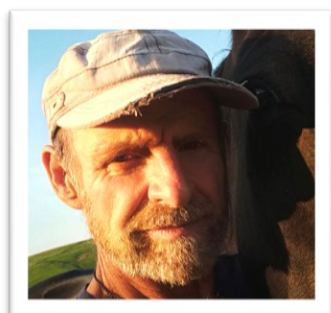
Richard Harris has been Chairman of the Council since May, 2016. Richard farms locally and his children all attended the village school. He was responsible for arranging the jubilee mugs project and the distribution to local children. He is a former Radnor Valley School governor and on the local YFC Advisory Committee.

Jenny Hodge, Vice Chairman



Jenny Hodge has been Vice-Chairman since May 2016 and is the Council representative on One Voice Wales (the body for all Town and Community Councils in Wales). Living in New Radnor itself Jenny is always ready to listen to the concerns of residents and to help where she can.

Nigel Dodman



Nigel Dodman has been on the Community Council since 2004 and is a past Chairman. He lives near Llanfihangel Nant Melan and represents the Community Council on the PACE group (Powys Action on Climate Emergency). He is also the Council lead on the Dark Skies Project.

Elaine Blackman (stood down – May 2022)

Elio Giordano



Elio Giordano joined the Council in June 2017. He lives in Llanfihangel Nant Melan with his wife and young family.

Cath Newnham



Cath Newnham joined the Council in December 2021 and so is relatively new to the Council. She has lived in the village since 1993 and brought up two children in the village (now grown up). She works as a science teacher at a small independent school near Knighton.

Ken Williams



Ken Williams joined the Council in September 2014. An experienced paramedic, Ken lives in New Radnor with his family. In the past he has carried out defibrillator and cpr training in the village and he is involved in the erection of the village Christmas tree and lights each year for the Community Council.

Edward Powell (joined July, 2022)

Cllr. Powell was co-opted onto the Council in July 2022. He is a local farmer and lives in Llanfihangel Nant Melan with his family.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY AND INFORMATION

The Community Council raises most of its funds through the Council Tax. It sets a budget each January for the forthcoming financial year (April to March).

2021-22 Spending summary (full accounts on the website)

2021-22	£
Administration	5299.54
Small Grants/Donations	1415.00
Dog Bag Refill Supplies	86.95
Misc. inc additional dog bag dispenser	111.63
Total	6913.12

In 2021-22 a household in a Band D Council Tax property paid £32 (in total) over the year towards the Community Council costs.

The Council retains some funds each year to meet emergency spending and to allow for occasional costs (such as replacement bench seats).

SMALL GRANTS

The small grants/donations awarded in the year were to –

St. Mary's PCC

St. Michael's PCC

New Radnor Baptist Chapel

Wales Air Ambulance

New Radnor Carnival

East Radnorshire Care

Powys Citizens Advice Bureau

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Pre School/Play Provision in New Radnor

New Radnor Over 60s Club

New Radnor Snooker Club

Macmillan Cymru

Tenovus Cancer Care

Llangollen Musical Eisteddfod

Any group or organization wishing to apply for a small grant should contact the Clerk for more information.

Note: In order to be considered for inclusion in the budget for the following financial year please apply by 1st January i.e., for a grant in 2023-24 you will need to apply by 1st January 2023.

DARK SKIES PROJECT

In the UK today less than 10% of the population can enjoy a truly dark sky. Light pollution affects health, wildlife and energy consumption.

Following an approach from a local resident the Council began investigating the possibility of applying for dark sky status for New Radnor Council area and also to invite neighbouring Community Councils to work with us to apply for dark sky status for the Radnor Forest area.

The project has already held several meetings and the numbers involved have increased with a willing group of about 15 people willing to assist in the project.

An approach to the International Dark Skies Association has been made to ask if the communities may make a joint application and a decision is awaited.

The street lighting in New Radnor itself was upgraded a few years ago following consultation with the Council and while not fully compliant with dark sky status is at a level when it should not affect a decision.

The benefits of dark skies are –

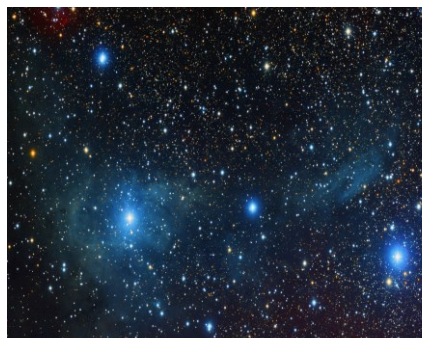
To preserve the environment and protect the natural behaviour of nocturnal wildlife.

To enjoy the full experience of our night skies and to see our stars.

To appreciate the character and beauty of the natural landscape.

To protect our health and well-being.

Anyone interested in helping with this project should get in touch with the Clerk. Contact details at the back of this booklet.



COMMUNITY ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND PROJECT

In the Autumn of 2021 the Council, working with Broadway Partners, a rural internet provider, sent letters to all properties in its area to gauge interest in bringing ultra-fast (min 100mb) fibre to the premises broadband to New Radnor and surrounding rural properties.

The target of 30% of properties was reached in February and a funding application was submitted to UK Government in early April and a decision is currently still awaited.

You can still register an interest in the project (with no commitment) by going to the Broadway website –

[Rural Broadband Providers | Best & Cheapest Rural Internet UK \(broadwaybroadband.co.uk\)](http://broadwaybroadband.co.uk)

Or you can ring our Clerk – contact details at the back of this booklet.

FAQ on the Project

I'm in a contract with another provider so I can't register can I?

Yes you can register. You are not committed. Registration will help the scheme get started and will help us enormously. The project will take some time and it is likely your contract will have ended before we are ready to ask you if you want to commit to connecting your property.

I have a good speed now. Why would registration benefit me?

Few if any properties in the area have a fibre to the premises connection with speeds starting at 100mbps. Some will have fibre from the cabinet but this is likely to have a max speed of around 70mbps. As more and more use is made of the internet ever faster speeds will be needed. This connection will help future proof your connection into the future and will also make your property more attractive to buyers should you sell.

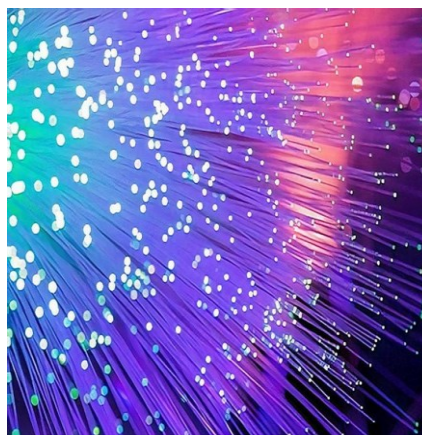
What will my commitment be if the project goes ahead and I decide to connect my property?

You will need to commit your 'connection voucher' from UK government. This can only be claimed by an official provider such as Broadway Partners, it cannot be claimed by individuals. Your connection will then be free of charge.

Once connected you will be in a contract for a minimum 12 month period. The minimum speed of 100 mbps currently costs £19.99 per month. After this you are free to leave if you wish but we very much hope you will be pleased with connection and continue. £19.99 is a very competitive price.

Would waiting for BT be a better idea?

There is no current evidence that BT are interested in extending even their existing superfast broadband service to those properties in our area that are not currently connected.



SPEEDING ON THE A44

During the year the Council has been attempting to put pressure on the police and other authorities to tackle the issue of excessive speeding along the A44, particularly the length by New Radnor village to the 'Forest Bends'.

Members have met with the Police and Crime Commissioner. Dafydd Llewellyn, representatives of roads policing and spoken to our local Police Community Support Officer and to the County Council.

Councillors feel that enforcement has a limited effect and cannot be carried out often enough to have any long-lasting effect. They have asked for average speed cameras, starting after the Walton speed limit and ending in the area of Penybont but are meeting with resistance on the grounds of cost and the lack of high enough casualty figures. Councillors feel that prevention is better than cure and also that as many walkers, cyclist and horse riders locally avoid the road, particularly at weekends, the true effect of the speeding is not easily seen or proved.

If you have experienced an incident or near miss on the A44 please can you get in touch so the details can be logged and collated as evidence for the campaign.



HOW CAN THE COUNCIL HELP YOU?

The Community Council is interested to know what you want from your Council.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future projects please do get in touch or if there is an issue that needs attention, please let us know.

Please note that the following matters fall under the County Council and as such the Community Council can lobby for action or change but it has no power to act directly or to insist!

County Council matters are –

- Highways including road surfaces and potholes
- Street sweeping
- Refuse and Recycling
- Road Signs
- Verge grass cutting
- Council Housing
- Education
- Social Services
- Planning
-

The PCC switchboard number is 01597 826000

County Councillor for our Area

County Councillor Michael Jones stood down from the County Council in May 2022 having represented the Old Radnor Ward (which includes New Radnor area) since 1985 and regularly attended New Radnor Council meetings to provide information and advice and to take up County matters with the various officers. His wide breadth of experience and knowledge will be missed.

The new County Councillor is Edward Jones and his contact details are on both the Powys and Community Council websites.

Your Council - A Summary

New Radnor Community Council covers New Radnor and Llanfihangel Nant Melan villages and surrounding areas.

It is made up of seven Councillors and has one paid part time officer, the Clerk to the Council.

Members during 2021-22 were –

Richard Harris (Chairman)

Jenny Hodge (Vice-Chairman)

Elaine Blackman

Nigel Dodman

Elio Giordano

Cath Newnham

Ken Williams

Clerk to the Council

Tracey Price

Contact Us

Tracey Price, Clerk to the Council

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Email: newradnorcc@outlook.com

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