

Wick Community Council

NEWSLETTER – December 2016



Wick Community Council

Wick Community Council wishes all who live in and visit our community a very Happy Christmas.

Christmas Activities

Our poor Xmas tree, so badly weather beaten over the years was replaced last year by a cut tree and there will now be a new one every year.

We are grateful to David Wilson Homes for providing us with our Christmas Tree this year.

As well as the Christmas Tree the Community Council is pleased to support Carols on the Green which this year will take place on Friday 9th December.

Council News

This year we were again able to ensure that the Council's precept was the lowest in the Vale. We have achieved that by careful housekeeping and by the fact that the officers of the council and all of the councillors carry out their roles without claiming either salary or expenses. Every penny which you as council tax payers pays towards the Council is spent on providing services for the Community. As well as attending council meetings councillors attend training sessions and represent the community at meetings with other agencies, the Vale Council etc.

Who we are?

Full details of all our councillors including their addresses, how to contact them and their responsibilities are available on our noticeboard by the school and on our page on the website www.wickinthevaleofglamorgan.net

Our Chair is Councillor Robin Sheppard, Broughton.

Vice Chair Cllr Stewart Dearlove, Cwrt y Felin.

Clerk Cllr Conway Hawkins, Eweny Road.

Cllr Susan Littleford, Broughton and Cllr David Ambrose Eweny Road.

We normally meet on the third Thursday of each month, except during August, and the public are welcome to attend.

Normally we have 7 councillors but there is currently a casual vacancy on the council, residents who may be interested in filling this vacancy should contact The Clerk although anyone interested should note that their term of office will only last until April 2017 as elections for new councillors will take place on 4th May 2017. To stand for election residents must be included on the Register of Electors and the Community Council urges everyone to make sure that they are registered to vote.

Play Rangers in Wick – Summer 2016

Wick Community Council was pleased to support the Vale's Play Rangers visits to Wick again this year. During the course of the 6 week summer holiday around 30 children and young people from the village took part, some attending all six sessions at the Sports Pavilion. We were very lucky with the weather with just 1 day when the weather was poor and even this didn't stop the children, and some of the adults, enjoying their play.

The feedback from children and parents involved was very positive. We hope to be able to support them again next year.

Reshaping Services

Residents will be well aware of the difficult financial time facing local government in Wales with the Vale Council having to find considerable savings of around £24 million. Wick Community Councillors have been and will continue to work closely with the Vale Council to ensure that services delivered to residents of Wick are protected. We attend regular meeting with the Vale Council on this and we'll keep you informed of developments as they occur. We will be meeting with officers from the Vale Council shortly to discuss the future of the Sports Pavilion, the Community Council is determined to do all it can to protect this facility for community use.

Village Information Pack

An updated Village Information pack is available on www.wickinthevaleofglamorgan.net and a village email tree can be joined by contacting wicknews@gmail.com

Wick Sports Pavilion

Wick Community Council manages the Pavilion on behalf of the Vale Council. This year the facilities have been improved by the installation of replacement windows and blinds. With the recently installed disabled facilities, heating and lighting this is now a more attractive venue for meetings, small parties, rehearsals, training, talks etc. Wi-Fi is available in conjunction with Wick Youth Club.

We are currently working with the Vale Council to have other facilities at the Pavilion upgraded, especially the kitchen.

We are pleased that this year the Pavilion and Rugby field is being used for evening training purposes by young members of Llantwit Major Rugby Club but the pavilion remains available for bookings for most of the week, especially during the daytime.

Bookings for the Pavilion can be made by email to wickcommunitycouncil@gmail.com or phone 07710209437.

New Homes Development

The building of the new homes at St Brides Road is well underway and Wick Community Council welcomes the new residents who have already moved into St James Gardens. At the time of printing this newsletter already 6 homes are occupied and a further 8 should be by Christmas.

During the course of next year, probably towards the end of the year, S106 funding will become available to develop local community facilities to ensure that our new residents can be assimilated into our village. The planning agreement specifies that the funding be used to develop services either at Wick Village Hall, St James Church, for dual use at Wick School, at Wick Sports Pavilion or for the mobile library. We have already started discussions with local organisations which could benefit from this and there will be a public consultation on any plans involving all interested residents in the New Year.

Local Lettings Policy

The Community Council was keen to ensure that local people who needed homes would be able to access the social housing which is being built at St James Gardens.

We met with representatives of the Vale Council and United Welsh Housing Association to develop a local lettings policy to ensure that families with a local connection have priority in any lettings.

This has been achieved although we were disappointed that the Vale refused to extend the policy to the few remaining council houses in the village and that, in allocating the very few three bedroom houses on the site that they would not recognise a particular local need for families with children who were approaching their tenth birthday by adopting a more flexible approach. We have asked our Assembly Member to take this matter up for us.

New Police Community Support Officer

A new PcsO has been appointed for our area, PcsO Angela Stone can be contacted by email on Angela.Stone@south-wales.pnn.police.uk or by mobile phone number 07805301415.