

Wick Community Council Annual Report - 2021/22

Despite restrictions of face-to-face meetings imposed by the Covid lockdown last year, business continued as usual for Wick Community Council (WCC) with meetings taking place via Zoom. Once restrictions eased, socially distanced meetings resumed at the Sports Pavilion, though a number of planned projects for 2021/22 such as refurbishment of benches in Wick were postponed.

Thanks to prudent management of the Council's finances, reserves at the end of year, 31st March 2022 were about £20,000, of this £16,000 has been set aside for improvements to the Sports Pavilion and £2000 for improvements around the village. Note: £2000 is always retained for unexpected circumstances.

Income from hire of the Pavilion in 2021/22 was £1,219, though it will be important to increase income in 2022/23 to offset increased costs of managing the building, as we look forward to being able to conclude negotiations with the Vale Council this summer 2022, and secure the lease for the Pavilion and Sports Field.

In view of the large reserve Councillors voted not to increase the precept for 2021/22, currently set at £6,000. The precept has also been set at £6000 for 2022/23.

Households in Wick pay between £10.00 and £20.00 per year towards the cost of running the Community Council. We were successful in obtaining a play grant of £1,588 that was used to buy play equipment, and reclaimed £1,128 of VAT. The Annual Return for 2021/22 will be submitted to Audit Wales on the 17th June 2022. Further financial information is available on our website www.wickcc.wales

In May 2021, an important ambition was realised when the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) financed with Section 106 money from the new housing development was opened. Professor Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales cut the tape, at a well-attended celebration involving members of Wick Youth Club, amongst others.

Wick Community Council was able to arrange for Vale Play Rangers to run 'Summer of Fun' activities on the Sports Field for young people during the summer holidays. These sessions were supported with Welsh Government funds, and proved very popular with over 100 children taking part.

Section 106 funds also paid for a new pavement to run along the northern side of the Village Green, improving pedestrian access to the bus stop from Cwrt y Felin. We have contacted the Vale Council and requested that this work is completed with the addition of a drop-kerb at the Trepit Road end of the pavement, and continued to press the Vale Council to repair the roof of the bus shelter on the Green.

We are also trying to address other issues and improvements around the village, and are entering into a contract with the Vale Council to repair and refurbish benches around the village. We are hopeful that this will be completed in the Summer of 2022.

In October 2021, Councillors met with the Vale's Biodiversity Officer to discuss improvements along main road running through the village. A subsequent funding application to the Vale was successful, and a programme of planting of native spring flowers is due to begin in Autumn 2022.

WCC has also initiated discussions with The Duchy of Lancaster (owners of the village green and surrounding green spaces) about tree planting at 2 locations around the Green, with funds from both the Woodland Trust's Queen's Jubilee Fund, and Welsh Government. The Community Council

has also paid for the damaged railings to be removed by the Village Green/Trepit Road, and are hopeful that the Duchy of Lancaster will pay for landscaping of the area.

Throughout the year WCC has continued to press the case with both the Police and the Vale Council for action regarding speeding vehicles on the main road through the village. A survey initiated by WCC among residents had 90 responses by September, all identifying various degrees of concern. WCC remain committed to supporting residents in pursuing this issue, and would remind residents that the survey is still available to complete on our website www.wickcc.wales

Finally, we would like to thank all Councillors for their invaluable and entirely voluntary work on behalf of the community of Wick during the past year, and would like to thank our three outgoing Community Councillors Kate Jauncey, Richard Lewis and Stewart Dearlove for their contributions and support. We would also like to thank outgoing Vale of Glamorgan Councillor Stewart Edwards for his help and support over the past 4 years.