

The Pantlan Reporter



Issue 6

April 1999

Special points of interest:

- Traffic
- Appraisal
- Library
- Spruce up
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VILLAGE OF THE YEAR

The Parish Council entered the Community Council of Shropshire's competition for the Village of the Year. This is sponsored by Calor Gas and the Daily Telegraph. The entry comprised visual and audio presentations of life in this community. The judges visited the village in September to learn of some of the projects that were taking place. In October The Chairperson and Clerk attended the Shropshire finals and were delighted to learn that the village had come FIRST. A prize of £500 was awarded with a framed certificate and lots of publicity in the local press.

A further entry was made to the na-

tional competition with the final taking place in London in December. We were beaten by Llanbadarn in Powys, but were given a handsome plaque, which is currently on display in the notice board in Pant. It is hoped to put this on permanent dis-



Award of plaque at national finals in the Institute of Civil Engineers, London

play in the village.

TRAFFIC

As most of the residents have endorsed the Council's decision to press for a Bypass for the village, this has continued to be a priority. At the Village of the Year presentation in London, it so happened that the Presenter was Lord Whitty - the Minister for Roads. Naturally Cllr Mrs. Gaskill

reminded him of our pressing need for a Bypass. We have obtained Owen Paterson's support and are arranging a meeting to raise the profile of our Bypass.

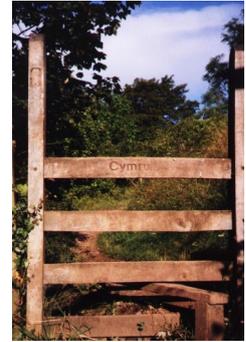


Appraisal

The Village Appraisal has been a most worthwhile exercise and the enthusiasm and professional approach of the Appraisal Group has been much admired by other Councils. Following the production of the questionnaire, which was delivered to every household in Pant, LLanymynech and Carreghofa - our grateful thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the task. The response rate of returns was an amazing 51%, response rates to questionnaires are usually in single figures. All the data was analysed by computer and everyone's comments were included. The Appraisal Group then wrote their report on the findings and published these in a small booklet. The volunteers again swung into action delivering one of

these to every household after the official launch.

The public launch was organised by the Parish Council for the 11th November and a packed hall at Bryn Offa School heard the results first. Each member of the Appraisal Group had taken responsibility for a particular section and gave their report accordingly. It proved what enormous talent there is in our village



*Responses
being sorted
by members of
the Appraisal
Group*

AND TO FOLLOW....

The Appraisal was intended to lead to action and the list of recommendations are gradually being ticked off.

Obviously pressure is being kept on for the Bypass. The others are providing a village green for Pant - which is well on the way now due to a large anonymous donation.

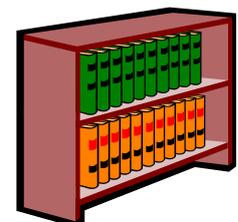
A LIBRARY FOR PANT

A book lending service which was endorsed by the Appraisal is soon to happen. A group of volunteers have come forward and the Parish Council have organised the service with Oswestry Library. A supply of books will be delivered to Pant Memorial Institute and will be available for lending. The village Library may also have story telling for

North Shropshire College have taken up our idea of co-ordinating transport times with their hours and will publicise the free village based computer training more widely.



children during school holidays, or grow to become a club providing refreshments, discussion or just a meeting place. We are also exploring providing transport for anyone who has difficulty visiting Oswestry Library.



SPRUCE UP FOR SPRING

Because so many people asked for a tidier village, a Spring Clean Day was organised by the Council for Saturday 10th April. The Borough Council was asked to remove any dog excrement and then teams in Pant and Llanymynech worked on picking up litter,

clearing soil from the edges of pavements, painting gates, seats and notice boards and planting. Notices concerning responsibility for cleaning up after one's dog will soon be appearing as requested by the Parish Council.



WORKING TOGETHER

One of the main benefits of the Appraisal so far, has been the formation of a Partnership for the development and conservation of the heritage of this area. The Parish Council have been working for some time to achieve this and it

is now established. All local Councils are involved as well as village organisations, interested bodies such as British Waterways, Restoration Trusts etc. This partnership will take forward some of the recommendations from the Appraisal as well as developing the Herit-



CELEBRATION

People were asked how they wished to celebrate the Millennium, varying responses were considered. The Council and the Appraisal Group have circulated

five note books in the village for people to note memories, anecdotes, stories or whatever they wish. These so called 'Millennium Memories' may be pub-



INFORMATION

The Council have been making a determined effort to bring more information to the public as requested in the Appraisal. The Council meeting agenda is sent to the local paper, who follow this up after the meeting to carry reports in the paper of significant items. The Council have gained a lot of publicity this year as a result of the projects they have undertaken. Also items are now

included in the Parish Magazine. A new notice board has been purchased for Llanymynech and will be placed on the wall of Mr & Mrs. Hayward's corner shop with their kind permission. This replaces the old board on the wall of the Cross Keys. Both this notice board and the one in Pant on the side of the playing field are available for use by the community.



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Accounts for the year 1997/98 have been audited, income amounted to £7893 and expenditure was £6291. The Appraisal was funded by a grant from Rural Action and did not impact on local rates. The Parish Council made a

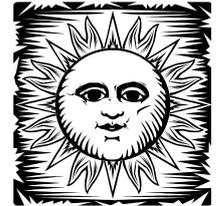
donation of £100 towards the Appraisal. The Parish Council made representations to the Environment Minister Michael Meacher about the demise of Rural Action grants as this was vital to Llanymynech & Pant's Appraisal.



VILLAGE WELCOME

The Village Welcome leaflet produced by the Parish Council was also funded by Rural Action. It has now been re-

printed on green paper, as it was so popular not only to new residents, but to everyone as a local directory.



WHO ARE THE PARISH COUNCILLORS?

The Chairperson is Cllr Mrs. Dilys Gaskill. Other Councillors are Stan Brown, Billy Desborough, Bob Jones, Mark Keaveny, Peter McConville, Terry Mason, Robin Morris, Ian Pollitt and Mrs.

Janet Smith. Currently there is a vacant seat following the resignation of Steve Geary who left the village, but with the forthcoming local Council elections it is hoped all the seats will be filled.



WHAT DO THEY DO?

Apart from all the work already mentioned there are issues to deal with at each monthly meeting. This year the developments at Barley Meadows and Briggs Lane have been dealt with, various road matters and footpaths, street lighting, street name signs. Consultations on various subjects such as transport, electoral arrangements and policing have been responded to. The Council has supported both Village Halls in their proposals for alteration and expansion. Traffic matters have been discussed and the speed cameras requested. Efforts to re-open the toilets at Llanymynech were successful. Comments were made to the Planning Authority - Oswestry Borough Council on a number of applications within the village. The

Gyn Track has been a subject on the Agenda on a few occasions following complaints from residents. The Council have supported and encouraged various projects that the village can benefit from the Care Information Directory, the Volunteer Bureau, Dial-a-Ride etc. The Play Equipment on both playing fields has been dealt with, both Fund Raising Committees have been contacted to officially hand the equipment over to the Council. Repairs to the equipment have been instituted at a cost to the Council of £2,340 plus VAT. The annual Footpath Walk was organised by the Council for the 26th June to coincide with the visit of a group from Zaigerhutte in Germany. The Council is hoping to form a transnational Partner-

