



COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL

AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Welcome to our newsletter which gives an overview of the council and the work we carry out for you and our community. It's been a busy time since last year's local elections which saw 6 first time councillors join the 5 existing members. Coity Higher is changing, with significant development bringing new residents to our community whilst the longstanding challenges remain and increase. The Community Council is reflecting and responding to this change and striving to provide the services and facilities that you want.

We have formal responsibilities such as the operation of allotments, maintenance of the war memorial at St Mary's church and the upkeep of footpaths. We maintain the play park at Heol y Groes, Litchard and the playing field behind St Mary's Church in Coity. But the council does so much more. We provide hanging baskets, floral displays and Christmas lights. This year we funded the summer activities and a family fitness scheme in Parc Derwen open to all Coity Higher residents. We are leading the way having installed 6 public access defibrillators across the community. We have also developed a Community Access Plan in consultation with you and are working with Bridgend

County Borough Council to improve safe routes to schools. This year we have installed more bins, refurbished benches and employed contractors to weed our main roads. We also represent your views; working with and challenging Bridgend County Borough Council, developers and others on your behalf.

Coity Higher Community Council is forward thinking and my fellow councillors share a passion for our community. But we work for you. We welcome and encourage your views, it's your council and we are here to make it work for our community.

Councillor Martin Williams (Chair)

ABOUT COITY HIGHER COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Formed in 1974, Coity Higher Community Council covers the electoral wards of Coity, Pendre and Litchard. You elect 11 councillors every 5 years who volunteer to represent the three wards. The council is funded through your council tax. Our 2018/19 Precept

is £88,000 and makes up part of our budget of £110,150. The full budget can be viewed on our website.

The council are statutory consultees on planning matters and have representation on the governing bodies of Coety & Litchard Primary Schools.

The full council meets on the second Thursday of every month at Coity Higher Community Centre at 7pm except in August. You are welcome to attend to observe proceedings and we encourage you to come along. Our Finance and Community Access Committee meetings are also open to the public and advertised on our noticeboards and website.

AWARD WINNING COUNCILLOR

In the year running up to the centenary celebrations of women obtaining the right to vote, Councillor Anita



Davies was presented with the #IAmEmbolden Community Activist Award 2018 for d/deaf and disabled women at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay. Around the same time Councillor Davies was recognised in the Mail Online's celebration of the top 100 brilliant women in Wales.

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IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HELPING TO SAVE LIVES

We are proud that we have purchased and installed 6 defibrillators in secure cabinets with 24 hours access for the public. It was essential that these critical community assets were placed in prominent locations if they were to have the maximum benefit. Therefore, they have been installed in very different places within the wards. These locations were selected to ensure that the Coity Higher community has comprehensive access to these lifesaving assets.



They can be found at: **Coity Higher Community Centre**, off Heol West Plas, **Litchard Primary School**, Heol y Groes Litchard, **Coity Primary School**, Parc Derwen, **Post Office**, Coity, **Red Dragon**, Litchard and **ATS Tyre Service**, just south of Pendre.

SUMMER PLAY SCHEME – ACTIVE 4 LIFE



We funded an excellent school holiday activity scheme that was held this summer at Coity Primary School. It was open to children aged 8-12 from all the Coity Higher wards. The scheme operated over a 4 week period for 4 hours a day. Activities included sport, games,

creative play, arts and crafts and a range of educational and well-being focussed events. The scheme encouraged young people to be more active and develop a sense of community by mixing with other young people and was a great success.



FAMILY FITNESS SCHEME

With the help of a Community Chest grant from Sports Wales the Community Council has engaged the services of Forces Fitness a local company who ran a family fitness programme over the summer months on the 4G pitch at Coity Primary School. This scheme was open to all residents of Coity Higher.

LOCAL PLAY AREAS



Litchard: We recently refurbished the play area off Heol y Groes in Litchard following a consultation with the

school children and installed it with up to date play equipment. The new play area has been very well received and is proving a firm favourite with the children who use it.

Coity: We own Coity Playing Field and maintain it with regular grass cutting and litter clearing so it can be enjoyed by local residents.

Pendre: We are negotiating with Bridgend County Borough Council to take over the Great Western Avenue play park so we can better maintain this as a local community facility.

We have recently inspected all play areas within Coity Higher and are considering what role the Community Council can play in their long-term future.

We've also entered into discussions with the Developers of Parc Derwen and Bridgend County Borough Council to encourage the completion of the play areas on the development.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GROUPS AND EVENTS

We have a long tradition of providing financial support to local events such as fetes and concerts within the Coity Higher community.



We have also supported groups organising such things as Christmas dinners for seniors or community activities and charities that provide support for our community.

If you would like to apply for financial support for your group or event please complete the form on our website and e-mail it to the clerk for consideration by the council.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY ACCESS

COMMUNITY ACCESS PLAN

Following a presentation by Bridgend County Borough Council officers the Community Council carried out a consultation with the residents and stakeholders of Coity Higher and undertook site surveys to gain an understanding of how people travel within our community and what prevents us from walking and cycling more. We looked at how you travelled to work, the shops, how your children get to school, the doctors and generally make your day to day journeys. The evidence gathering phase highlighted “hot spots” within the Coity Higher area where there were specific concerns relating to community access and safety.

The consultation culminated in a Community Access Plan which makes recommendations as to where improvement opportunities exist and offered solutions for consideration.

The Community Access Plan is a live document, updated regularly by the Community Access Committee, and is used to inform the community council’s priorities for funding and investment. It identifies areas which need attention and from this a rolling programme of work has been implemented. The full document is available on our website:

coityhighercommunitycouncil.co.uk

COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRESS

We have worked with your local Borough Councillors and Bridgend County Borough Council officers to implement some of the high priority items within the Access Plan. These include the pedestrian barrier at Trem Y Castell, new road signs at Heol Gorsedd and resurfacing the junction of Glynbridge Gardens.



We are also actively pursuing the diversion of Footpath 17 linking Parc Derwen to “The Pines” and measures to reduce both traffic speed and volume on Litchard Hill and Heol Spencer. With the latter we have written to St Brides Minor Community Council to seek a joint approach to the issue of speeding traffic over Coity Common.

ACTIVE TRAVEL AND SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Community Access Plan has identified numerous issues that require significant capital investment. Therefore, the Community Council has worked in partnership with Bridgend County Borough Council to identify two strategic pedestrian routes through the three wards which link residents with facilities such as schools, hospitals shops and community centres. These routes were incorporated into a bid and submitted to the Welsh Government for funding through their Active Travel Scheme. Although unsuccessful this year our funding bid has been put onto a reserve list and will be resubmitted again this Autumn with a greater focus on Safer Routes To Schools, as this is the main criteria set by the Welsh Government.

To strengthen our application we need more evidence from residents on how you access schools and local facilities, the type of transport you currently use

and the impact safer routes would have on your transport choices. We will be actively consulting with you in the next few months and your input either through questionnaires or by joining us in reviewing the routes we have identified will be critical to the success of our funding application. We encourage you to contact your Community Councillors or the Clerk to feedback any comments or suggestions you may have.

MAINTAINING PUBLIC FOOTPATHS



Did you know there are 45 Rights of Way footpaths throughout the 3 wards which are looked after by the Community Council? Some are popular pedestrian routes used daily, others are rural and rarely walked but all must be maintained. If you know of a footpath that needs clearing please contact our Clerk as we rely on the public to pass on this information to us.

REDUCING SPEEDING

Residents have expressed concern about speeding hot spots across the Coity Higher wards. Following consultations with residents we are pleased therefore to have installed speed activated warning signs in all 3 wards at Litchard Terrace, Litchard Hill and on the bypass at Trem y Castell, Coity.

IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

FIRST WORLD WAR CENTENARY YEAR

To mark the Centenary of the end of the First World War we are refurbishing the railings around the Coity War Memorial. We've also painted the bench next to it and we're dedicating Coity Playing Field as part of the Centenary Fields in Trust initiative. This means that the field will be protected as a green site.

ALLOTMENT GARDENS

We own an Allotment Garden off Heol West Plas which has 34 plots for the use of residents within all wards. The rent per full plot is currently £30pa. There is always a waiting list so if you'd like to apply please contact our Clerk.

FLORAL DISPLAYS

For the last six years we've provided hanging baskets and planted daffodils in all wards. In the last 3 years we've added 3 tier planters which are planted twice a year for summer and winter, 1 at the top of Litchard Hill and 1 on Coity Road near Llys Gwyn.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

For the last two years we've erected solar powered Christmas trees on the main spine roads within the 3 wards. Last year we purchased lights for Coity and this year we'll be purchasing lights for Pendre, with a plan to purchase lights for Litchard for Christmas 2019. Areas not on the main spine roads will have solar lights until provision can be made in the budget to purchase more.

COMMUNITY AWARD

Shortly we will be asking residents for nominations for our annual

Community Award. This is an award presented each year for outstanding contribution to the community. The winning recipient is invited to attend a council meeting for a presentation of a plaque, flowers etc. in recognition of their achievement.



SCHOOL COMMUNITY AWARD

Each year at the end of the summer term, the council provides Litchard and Coity Primary Schools with a small trophy and £50 of book vouchers so that they can recognise the contribution a child or group of children have made to the community. In 2018 the winners were Hollie Evans, Litchard Primary School and Lucas Kenny, Coity Primary School.

DOGGIE DOO

This year we installed a free doggie bag dispenser and litter bin in Litchard playing field and other litter bins around the areas to encourage dog owners to pick up.



WEEDING AND CLEANER STREETS

Street cleaning and weeding are the responsibilities of Bridgend County Borough Council, however, your Community Councillors and the Clerk will refer issues to Bridgend County Borough Council as they arise.

This year we have employed a contractor to undertake additional weeding along the main spine roads within the community. We will continue to keep a close eye on weeds, litter and leaves in the autumn and make similar targeted interventions where necessary.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

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