

## **Carreghofa Community Council: Report for 2024/5**

The Council has had a positive year, and has continued to develop and strengthen its work on behalf of residents in the Carreghofa community. The Council held 10 regular meetings throughout the year, in addition to an emergency meeting held in September. Over the last twelve months we were able to respond to a number of community concerns and issues, as well as on-going review and maintenance of Carreghofa amenities.

Following the promotional activity undertaken in 2024 the Council had a full complement of councillors in 2024/5, and I would like to thank each of them for the time, energy and commitment they have shown in their work and service for the Council. Our Community Councillors freely volunteer their time and work to support our work, and their contributions are warmly recognised. As in previous years we were also very grateful for the commitment and time of County Councillor Arwel Jones who continued to make a significant contribution to the work of the Council and provide effective liaison with Powys Council. Particular thanks are also due to Mike Donkin, our Clerk, for his very professional and unstinting work in supporting the effective operation of the Council.

We have continued to develop an active social media presence, particularly Facebook, to monitor and respond to community views on a range of issues, including speeding, planning and development, the restoration project related to the Montgomery Canal, and also to promote and support community events and initiatives. We have also improved the Carreghofa Community Council, with updating of news and notices, and we are planning to extend this in 2025/6 with improved links and community resources. We are particularly grateful to Cllrs Hall and Parry for their ongoing work in this area.

In June 2024 councillors took part in a full walkabout of the Carreghofa area, including housing estates, Walls Bridge play area, the football field, and parts of the Carreghofa Trail pathway. This was a valuable exercise and identified areas of concern or possibilities for improvement. One major development this year has been the installation of planters at various points in the village. These have been much appreciated by Carreghofa residents. I would like to again record thanks to Cllr Done for his work on constructing and publicising these, and also to all other councillors and volunteers for their work on maintaining these so that they look so attractive throughout the year and enhance the community area.

### **Montgomery Canal Restoration**

Work on restoration and maintenance of the canal and towpath has continued this year following the intensive dredging work undertaken in 2024. We have continued to work closely with the Canals and Rivers Trust and Powys Council to consult with the community on how best the restoration work can be progressed, and particularly for planning activities related to the two crossings at Walls Bridge and Williams Bridge. Restoration activities were held back a little in the year, but we are anticipating that work on the Walls Bridge crossing and associated work will commence later this month, following successful submission of planning applications and the clearance work already undertaken at the site. We are excited to what will be the new community space at Walls Bridge. The Council, together with Llanymynech and Pant Parish

Council, was very happy to support this consultation process and to work with the Trust to ensure that future progress on the project can best be supported.

## **Finances**

Council finances remain healthy and in good order, although more was spent this year because of expenditure on new planters and also because of dual subscriptions. We were again able to support local projects and initiatives through donations, including and the Llanymynech Community Café and St Agatha's Church Clock, in addition to support for organisations with direct impact on Carreghofa such as the Tennis Club. The Council remains keen to identify and support further projects and will continue to publicise opportunities with local organisations and community groups.

## **Planning**

One major area of work for the Council is related to Planning and Development, including review of individual small-scale planning applications, but also comment and review of major developments such as proposals for new housing or infrastructure projects.

In September 2024 the Council held an emergency meeting to review candidate sites for new residential development in the Carreghofa area related to the updated Local Development Plan. Whilst recognising that some new housing is needed the Council remains concerned about the pace and scale of residential development, and the extent to which it is supported by equivalent development of transport infrastructure and supporting resources (health, education and other services). In addition, as a community on the English/Welsh border, there are concerns about net over-development of the village as a whole.

The Council also responded to the Green Gen Vyrnwy Frankton Connection Application which will lead to the installation of new pylons straddling the Carreghofa community. Following community consultation the Council recognised that such a project was required to support electricity transmission, that the original proposals had been downscaled to reduce the height of the new pylons. However we remain concerned about the impact of the proposed line on the natural and historical resources of the Carreghofa area.

## **Highways and Amenities**

In 2024/5 the Council advertised for a new ground maintenance contract for competitive bids and we now have a new contract in place. This has already proved very successful, with a major impact on improving the look of community spaces. In addition to regular and ongoing maintenance throughout the year work was also undertaken at specific sites – Cae Haidd, the Dolphin car park and Wall Bridge – which were in need of major clearance work. Resident feedback has been very positive.

Ongoing work on limited repairs to potholes and verges has continued, with regular liaison with Powys Council for action where possible. There continue to be issues with potholes on Carreghofa Lane due to heavy farm traffic, and also to roadways and verges in the Pen-y-Foel area.

Concerns about football and school parking were again raised throughout the year, and the Council continues to keep this under review.

Concerns had been registered about the operation and maintenance of the defibrillator at The Dolphin site, and uncertainty about guardianship. These have now been resolved, and the unit is fully operational and registered with a designated guardian. Particular thanks are due to Cllr Savage for her work on this matter.

### **Speeding and Traffic**

Issues related to speeding and traffic were recurrent issues of concern, and specifically the impact of the new 20mph speed limits within the area. Concerns were expressed about adherence and enforcement of new speed limits and traffic volumes, especially in residential areas, along the B4398 towards Carreghofa School, and also at the A483 crossroads. Issues have been reported to Go Wales and also to Dyfed-Powys Police. Our local PCSO officer attended also meetings so that these issues could be raised.

Trans Cymru have now agreed to install a new bus shelter on the A483 northwards, and this will be a very welcome asset for the community.

### **Liaison with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council**

Regular liaison and links with Llanymynech and Pant Parish Council continued throughout the year. This included co-attendance at meetings and sharing of communication between the two councils on issues including discussions about a community shop, shared oversight of the governance of Llanymynech Village Hall, and also discussions about extending the space available for burial land in the village.

### **Ongoing Business of the Council**

The regular work of the Council includes review of local planning applications, responses to local and regional consultations (on issues such as housing development, tourism development, energy infrastructure and the environment), and formal receipt of communications from regional and national bodies and organisations. A number of formal responses were produced throughout the year to represent the views and interests of the Carreghofa community.

Richard Dover, Chair  
Carreghofa Community Council  
May 2025