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**PENTYRCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**



**CYNGOR CYMUNED PENTYRCH**

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# Annual Report 2020-2021

## Introduction from the Chairman

This is Pentyrch Community Council's third Annual Report. With each report, we want to let you know who we are, what we do and how we do it. More is expected of us as Cardiff Council's cuts reduce their services and as Welsh Government expects us to be more ambitious for our communities.

This year was, as for the whole world, dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the early days of lockdown, PCC worked with local volunteers to connect residents in need with those who could help them. We kept up a steady flow of official advice and information from Cardiff and Welsh Government on our website and Facebook pages.

PCC moved to hold all its meetings online using Microsoft Teams, once it was lawful for us to do so. Having got used to it, it is actually not a bad way to hold meetings and has the advantage of increasing accessibility for members of the press and public, as well as Councillors. So many of us were forced to go online during the lockdowns that more people than usual attended our meetings.

PCC's office staff (the Clerk and Community Engagement Officer) started to work from home on March 17 and are still there over a year later. We have been visiting the office weekly to pick up mail and phone messages. Our two outdoor Community Maintenance Officers have continued to work pretty much throughout the year. When advised by Welsh Government, we have told them to stay home and safe. Otherwise, we have varied their working time to be either working on separate days or together but socially distant, following official advice. That way we have been able to keep delivering our environmental services, although sometimes not as often as usual.

We were very sorry to have to close the library and museum in the PCC office and look forward to the day when they can re-open.

The Community Link increased to four issues a year in 2019. We weren't sure if there would be enough content but we needn't have worried. We continue to be impressed by the number of submissions for each issue and delighted that most of the cost is off-set by advertising. We are very grateful for the groups who deliver an issue to every household in the PCC area. This year there were only three issues because Covid-19 meant that the printers were closed and deliveries weren't possible for Autumn 2020.

Despite everything, we worked with several community partnerships and groups during this year:

- Parc: this group leads the way in securing new play and other equipment in Memorial Park, Pentyrch. We had to close the park in the early days of the year and were delighted when it could reopen. Parc have continued to plan the next installations and we in the coming year you will see some new litter bins, benches, picnic table and fencing.
- Creigiau Recreation Charity: PCC and CRC signed a Lease for the playing fields and pavilion at Creigiau Recreation Area on December 24 2020. PCC owns the site and CRC wanted a Lease so that they could have security of tenure that would allow them to apply for funding to upgrade the sports facilities. Not long after the Lease was signed, CRC/EHC ask to vary it and increase the land they manage. This was explored and we hope that this will be resolved quickly.
- Love Where You Live: this is a national programme and PCC has been involved with the Cardiff programme throughout the year. We have been able to help set up and support community groups in Creigiau, Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth. These groups started with local litter picks, supported by Cardiff Council and Keep Wales Tidy, and then branched off into other environmental projects such as Keep Creigiau Tidy which went on to work with Sustrans on the old rail lines in Creigiau. Community walks could not take place because of Covid but we will start them again as soon as possible. The Terracycle project set up at PCC's office became one of the community collection points for recyclable packaging. So far, an amazing total of 135kgs of waste has been diverted from landfill to recycling.
- Pentyrch Neighbourhood Watch: we have continued to work together to try to solve the problems of multiple users of the new path at Memorial Park.
- Garth Rotary are using the forecourt of the PCC office for their food storage bin. Collections for local food banks have been very impressive and PCC was happy to give Garth Rotary a grant towards the cost of the bin. Garth Rotary also helped install a new defibrillator in the old phone box near Creigiau Inn. That provides easily accessible life-saving equipment for everyone. PCC were happy to give a grant towards the cost.
- CCLIPROWclaimers: This is group continues to investigate public rights of way in the PCC area. 2026 is the deadline for registering forgotten paths. Representative attend PCC's Climate Change and Wellbeing Working Group. Impressively detailed reports on footpaths are being sent to Cardiff's Public Rights of Way team, with copies to PCC.

Summer 2021, Cllr Mike Sherwood, Chairman

## Who are we?

Pentyrch Community Council (PCC) is constituted under the Local Government Act 1972 and is at the most local level of local government. PCC has 13 members divided into 3 Wards : Gwaelod y Garth (2 Members); Pentyrch (6 Members); Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern (5 Members).

Council Members are elected in a contested election, elected unopposed (if no one stands against a candidate) or co-opted. Co-option takes place if there are fewer candidates than seats at an ordinary election or if no one comes forward to call an election following a casual vacancy.

PCC has 4 members of staff: the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer; the Community Engagement Officer and two Community Maintenance Officers.



The Pentyrch Community Council area

## **PCC Contacts as at March 2021**

All PCC councillors and the Clerk can be found on our website.

Creigiau : Stuart Thomas, Wynford Ellis Owen, Mike Sherwood, Jena Quilter, Amanda Thorpe

Pentyrch : Sara Pickard, John Harrison, Karen Thomas, Simon Roberts, Ian Jones, Gary Dixon

Gwaelod y Garth : Sandie Rosser, Teresa Filipponi

Clerk : Helena Fox

Community Engagement Officer : Deb Hunt

Community Maintenance Officers : Colin Davies, Gary Welsby

Changes during the year: Ian Jones was elected to PCC in April 2020. Gary Dixon was co-opted onto PCC in October 2020.

## **What do we do?**

PCC owns and manages land and buildings, supports local projects, represents the community in local and national consultations and lobbies on your behalf on local concerns, particularly highway maintenance, traffic and public transport, quarries, planning and development.

There is an increasing bureaucratic burden in running community councils as our work is affected by more laws and regulations. We want to operate professionally and meet the required or recommended standards. Much of this official work is done by the Clerk.

The Clerk manages the council and advises Members on the law and best practice. As RFO she is responsible for managing the finances and preparing accounts for audit. The Community Engagement Officer liaises with our villages in our growing range of community projects and events which are detailed later. She runs our social media profile on Facebooks and helps produce the Community Link magazine and supports the Clerk with administrative tasks. The Community Maintenance Officers manage the land we own and keep it in good order. This involves grass and hedge cutting, woodland management, repairs to fences and benches. They also pick up litter five days a week and deal with fly-tipping where possible. You may be familiar with our silver Toyota truck with the PCC logo on its side.

We deal with regular questions and concerns from the general public and help them to sort them out. Typically these involve broken street lights, unemptied rubbish bins, bins not collected, drains blocked, fly tipping, roads and pavements.

We publicize information on our website ([www.pentyrch.cc](http://www.pentyrch.cc)) and on Facebook. We also have 7 noticeboards in the community for official PCC business and community use.

PCC owns and manages the following land and buildings:

**Community Assets: Property**

Garth Common (freehold)

Memorial Park, Pentyrch (99 year lease from 1951)

Pentyrch Village Hall (freehold)

Bronllwyn Graveyard, Pentyrch (freehold)

Ael y Bryn & Lon y Fro open spaces (freehold)

Garth Villa Woodland (freehold)

Parc y Felin Woodland (freehold)

Terrace Woodland, Creigiau (freehold)

Penuel Road Graveyard, Pentyrch (999 year Lease from 1996)

Fairmeadow Fields, Pentyrch 999 (lease)

Creigiau Recreation Ground (freehold)

Carpark land at Pentyrch Village Hall (freehold)

Pantbach, Pentyrch (freehold)

Lon y Fro, Pentyrch (freehold)

Land south of Cefn Bychan (freehold)

Cefn Bychan/Fairmeadow Woodland

Castell y Mynach Open Spaces

Land off Ffordd Dinefwr, Creigiau

Millennium Mosaic, Pentyrch

**Community Assets: Other**

Public benches: 39

Council Noticeboards: 7

Historical postcards  
Memorial Park Playground Equipment  
Commemorative Benches: 3 WW1  
Commemorative Benches: 1 WW2  
Decorative Bench at Frog Pond, Creigiau

### **How do we do what we do?**

PCC, like all town and community councils, must make its decisions in public and these are done in our monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month except August. These were advertised on our website only this year ([www.pentyrch.cc](http://www.pentyrch.cc)). We usually spend four months in each of Creigiau, Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth but all meetings took place online this year. All Minutes can be found on our website. We put our Minutes online as soon as practical after each meeting. From May 2021 it will be a legal requirement to put at least basic information including who attended meetings and what decisions were made online within seven working days.

PCC has a number of committees to deal with specific aspects of our work: the Finance Committee meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month; the Planning Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month. Other committees meet quarterly or as needed: Building & Estates; Business Plan, Staffing; Health & Safety.

We now have two working groups that meet regularly: Wellbeing and Climate Change Group and a Transport Group. These groups are not official PCC meetings so can meet as and when they want and can involve members of the public. Recommendations are then made to PCC's Finance Committee and/or Main Council meetings for decisions. The Wellbeing and Climate Change Group has a particular interest in environmental issues such as footpaths, tree planting and land management. The Transport Group has a particular interest in the Cardiff Metro and how it will help improve services in the PCC area.

Creigiau councillors usually hold monthly surgeries in the Church Hall as way of meeting informally with residents who can raise issues and concerns which PCC can act on or refer on to the right person. These could not take place this year.

This year our Spring Community meetings were again cancelled because of the Coronavirus Emergency. They should be a way of bringing councillors and residents together in a more informal setting than the rather formal monthly meetings. We will be back in the community as soon as possible.

In summary, councillors make decisions and officers/staff carry them out. No councillor can take a decision on their own on behalf of the council because they are part of a corporate body that can only act after a majority vote. Decisions can be delegated to a committee or subcommittee or another council or to the Clerk and this has to be recorded in the Minutes.

The public and press have a legal right to attend all PCC main and committee meetings and can only be excluded for specific confidential items such as staffing matters or where the financial interest of the council and thus the community could be disadvantaged, for example when a large contract is being prepared for tender.

Like all community and town councils, PCC is funded by the Precept: this is levied via Council Tax and collected, for us, by Cardiff Council, and paid to PCC each April.

We also have contributions to our income from the solar panels on our building at 1 Penuel Road; land rental and easement fees; burial fees; advertisements in the Community Link and occasional donations. We can apply for grants but none were applied for this year.

## **PCC Finance**

For more detail on PCC's finances, see the Finance page of PCC's website: [www.pentyrch.cc](http://www.pentyrch.cc)

### **Income & Expenditure**

For 2020-2021, PCC set a Precept of £175,000 and a budget of £186,636. It spent £136,545 with an income of £181,186. This leaves an underspend on the year of £44,641.

### **Assets**

At 31.3.2020, PCC's assets stood at £131,380.42. At 31.3.2021 they stand at £135,068.69. The increase is due to the purchase of tools, new PCC noticeboards, survey pins for Creigiau Rec and a new bench for the Frog Pond.

A record of the Council's assets is kept on the PCC computer system. A detailed list is part of PCC's annual accounts.

It is important to note that local government finance does not account for depreciation of assets and we have to record the value as the original cost paid. Where no cost is known we show the value as £1.

As the Balance Sheet shows, after taking account of debtors and creditors the net assets of PCC are £126,841 compared with £82,200 at the previous year end.

### **General Fund and Ear-marked Reserves**

As at 31.3.2021, PCC's General Fund stands at £81,311 from £41,464 a year before, an improvement from 25% of gross expenditure to 59%. This is a significant achievement in two financial years during which the General Fund has increased from 2% at the end of 2017-18 to 59% at the end of 2020-2021.

<b>Year</b>	<b>General Fund £</b>	<b>Expenditure for year £</b>	<b>General Fund as % of Expenditure</b>
2020-21	81,650	136,545	59
2019-20	41,464	163,905	25
2018-19	16,833	120,134	14
2017-18	1,781	109,225	2
2016-17	18,916	112,190	17
2014-15	33,159	102,147	32
2013-14	40,158	85,715	47
2012-13	39,576	129,805	30
2011-12	85,177	93,241	91

Covid-19 and the restrictions it brought mean that the General Fund is now higher than expected and PCC will address this during the 2021-2022 year. PCC will review its ear-marked reserves and will move some of its General Fund into the ear-marked reserve Community Support Fund to help local organizations dealing with the effects of Covid-19.

### **Population Change**

PCC's population did not start to grow during 2020-2021 as expected because of significant delays at the building site at Llanilltern Village, due partly to the disruptions of Covid-19. In some 4 years, 500 new homes are due to be completed, which will trigger the building of a new primary school. The entire development of 1,500 new homes is expected to complete in about 2028. During 2020-21 there were delays in construction

at the start of the financial year because of extremely wet weather followed by the national disruption caused by the Coronavirus lockdown. Despite that, some 149 new households joined PCC's community at Llanilltern Village and more are expected in 2021-22.

2019 saw the early stages of development of Site E, the land south of Creigiau and north of the A4119. When complete this will add some 680 new homes to the PCC area. We did not expect any new homes to be occupied during 2020-21 and no progress was made on this development that we are aware of.

Cardiff Council's Council Tax department confirm that when they set the Band D Equivalent (BDE) number each December, they take into account expected completions of new homes during the coming year. They also bear the burden of any uncollected council tax although the average collection rate is 98.5% for Cardiff, and higher in the PCC area.

Recent figures for BDEs for the PCC area:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Band D Equivalents</b>
2008-09	3105
2009-10	3097
2010-11	3121
2011-12	3121
2012-13	3127
2013-14	3108
2014-15	3131
2016-17	---
2017-18	3258
2018-19	3263
2019-20	3280
2020-21	3316

The table below shows the Council Tax contributions paid in the PCC area towards the Precept:

<b>Council Tax Band</b>	<b>PCC contribution 2018-19 £/year</b>	<b>PCC contribution 2019-20 £/year</b>	<b>PCC contribution 2020-21 £/year</b>
	Precept: £143,000	Precept: £155,000	Precept £175,000
A	29	32	35
B	34	37	40
C	39	42	46
D	44	47	52
E	54	58	63
F	63	68	75
G	73	79	87
H	88	95	104
I	102	110	121

Because any change in the Precept is shared across the community this table shows that this year's £20,000 increase in the Precept varied from an extra £3/year for Band A to £11/year for Band I properties.

Cardiff Council gave the number of properties in the PCC area as of February 2020 as:

<b>Village</b>	<b>Number of Properties</b>	<b>Number of Streets</b>	<b>Number of Electors</b>
Gwaelod y Garth	511	20	915
Pentyrch	1,002	46	1,925
Creigiau & Capel Llanilltern	1,074	50	2,139
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>4,979</b>

The latest figures from Cardiff show the number of properties and electors in the PCC area as of January 2021:

Village	Number of Properties	Number of Streets	Number of Electors
Gwaelod y Garth	510	20	922
Pentyrch	1,001	46	1,913
Creigiau & Capel Llanilltern	1,223	50	2,134
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>4,969</b>

As the number of new homes rises, PCC will have the option of increasing its income while keeping the amount levied the same/household but from more homes. Any increase needed in the Precept levied will be spread over more households, reducing the effect per household.

## Grants

During the year PCC awarded the following grants:

### S.137 and Power of Well Being Grants Awarded

- Garth Rotary : £76.50  
Total S137 payments made £76.50

### Other Grants Made

PPE for NHS	£220
Pentyrch Cricket Club	£214
Penrhys Pilgrim Way	£200
Gwaelod Rangers Club	£200
Creigiau Recreation Charity	£3,500
Garth Rotary Club	£339
Total other grants made	<u>£4,673</u>

## **The Local Government Elections (Wales) Act 2021**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (the Act) provides for the establishment of a new and reformed legislative framework for local government elections, democracy, performance and governance.

The major package of reforms includes electoral reform, a general power of competence for principal councils and eligible community councils; more consistent and coherent collaboration and joint working; voluntary mergers and increasing public participation in local government.

The Act received Royal Assent on 20 January 2021 and provides for a phased approach to introducing various provisions. Where dates of coming into force for particular provisions are known, they have been specified in the summary below.

### **Elections**

The Act provides for the extension of the local government franchise to allow 16 and 17 year-olds to be able to register to vote in Welsh local government elections and any poll in Wales which uses the local government franchise such as mayoral elections and referendums.

### **Public participation**

The Act makes it easier for meetings to take place through a variety of arrangements, including multi-location meetings where all individuals are attending virtually and hybrid meetings - where a number of individuals are attending in person at a designated location and others are attending virtually from a range of other locations. The Act makes permanent provision for remote meetings (multi-location) and electronic publication of documents from 1 May 2021.

The electronic publication of documents extends to include making available key information as soon as reasonably practicable, and within seven working days of the community council meeting taking place, and must include: the names of members who attended; apologies for absence; declarations of interest; any decisions taken and the outcome of any votes. This would not apply to any decisions taken in private, or where disclosure of the information would be contrary to any enactment.

From 5 May 2022 people presiding over community and town council meetings that are open to the public must give members of the public in attendance reasonable opportunity to make representation about any business being discussed at the meeting, unless this is likely to prejudice the effective conduct of the meeting.

## **Community Council Annual Reports**

From April 2022 community and town councils will have a duty to prepare and publish a report about the council's priorities, activities and achievements. The first report must relate to the financial April 2021- March 2022 and be published as soon as reasonably practicable after April 2022.

## **The Power of General Competence**

These are changing times for Community & Town Councils. PCC faces both challenges and opportunities. We want to be ready for change so that we can continue to serve our communities.

The Act provides eligible community councils with a general power of competence, with the aim of bringing about more effective, capable and innovative local government. The general power will allow eligible community councils to act in their communities' best interests, generate efficiencies and secure value for money outcomes. They will also be able to raise money by charging for discretionary services and to trade.

It is considered the general power will allow eligible community councils to be more innovative, and move away from a position where they have to identify a specific power in order to undertake a particular activity, to one in which it is assumed they can do something unless there is a statutory restriction preventing it.

The conditions which community councils must meet, in order to be able to resolve themselves an 'eligible community council' are:

- at least two-thirds of the total number of members of the council have been declared to be elected, whether at an ordinary election or at a by-election,
- the clerk to the council holds such qualification or description of qualification as may be specified by the Welsh Ministers by regulations, and
- the council satisfies the audit condition.

The power to exercise the general power of competence for eligible community councils will come into force on 5 May 2022.

## **Conduct of members**

It is already the case that all community councils are required to adopt a code of conduct and all community councillors are expected to have high standards of conduct whether they are part of a political group or not

### **Training of members and staff of community councils**

Community and town councils will have a duty to consider training from 5 May 2022 for councillors and community council staff, and publish the first training plans by November 2022. It is not the intention to ensure that each and every councillor necessarily receives training on the same subjects but to seek to bring about a situation where the councillors as a group, and the staff collectively, possess the knowledge and awareness they need to operate effectively.

### **Engagement with Cardiff Council and community partners**

Cardiff Council has a Charter with all its six community councils. This has improved the contact between PCC and Cardiff including quarterly meetings between the Clerk, other community council clerks in the Cardiff area and senior Cardiff officers. We also have access to the Cardiff Members' support email and phone which means that, for important issues, we can more easily reach the right people. We have good working relationships with Highways and that has helped to get repairs scheduled and done.

Through the NW Cardiff Group we liaise with our neighbouring community councils both in Cardiff and RCT as well as Cardiff Civic Society and community associations in Llandaff, Danescourt and Radyr and Morganstown. It has been invaluable to be able to pool our knowledge and experience when responding to area-wide issues like the big new housing developments and Cardiff Metro. This will be important in the years to come as Cardiff Council runs its consultations on its revised Local Development Plan.

## Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

Although PCC is not yet big enough to have to show its activities against the seven well-being goals of the Act we have decided to make a start, as the Act encourages us to do. Councils with income or expenditure over £200,000 have a duty under this Act. We want to show how we are already helping to achieve some of the national and Cardiff goals and to help us and you identify other things we could be doing. Where we can, we will promote sustainable development in your communities.

Sustainable development is an over-arching theme of Welsh Government – one of the first governments in the world to understand the importance in planning for the needs of present and future generations.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 defines sustainable development as improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The national well-being goals together explain what is meant by the well-being of Wales.

Cardiff Council has a duty under the Act to produce a Well-Being Plan and show how it will work to help achieve the seven national goals.

The national and Cardiff goals are:

<b>National Well-being Goals</b>	<b>Explanation</b>	<b>Cardiff's Goals</b>
Prosperous	An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.	A Capital that works for Wales
Resilient	A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).	Cardiff grows in a resilient way
Healthier	A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	Safe, confident and empowered communities
More Equal	A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).	Cardiff is a great place to grow up

Cohesive Communities	Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	Supporting people out of poverty
Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.	Cardiff is a great place to grow older
Globally responsible	A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	Modernising and integrating our public services

### What is PCC doing now that contributes to the Well-being Goals for Wales and Cardiff?

PCC Activity	Prosperous A Capital that works for Wales	Resilient Cardiff grows in a resilient way	Healthier Safe, confident and empowered communities	More Equal Cardiff is a great place to grow up	Cohesive communities Supporting people out of poverty	Culture Cardiff is a great place to grow older	Global Modernising and integrating our public services
<b>PCC</b>				x	x	x	
Museum				x	x	x	
Library				x	x	x	
Land management		x	x	x	x	x	x
Litter collection	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Community grants			x	x	x	x	
Play and Recreation			x	x	x		

Memorial Park path			x	x	x		
Christmas trees			x	x	x	x	
Floral decorations			x	x	x	x	
Cardiff's LDP community representation		x	x	x	x		
Graveyards					x	x	
WW1 and WW2 commemorative benches			x		x	x	
Love Where You Live		x	x	x	x		
Volunteering	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Community orchard		x	x	x	x	x	
Keep Creigiau Tidy		x	x	x	x	x	
Allotments		x	x	x	x	x	
Quarry liaison groups		x	x		x	x	
NW Cardiff group		x	x		x	x	
Civic Reception			x	x	x	x	
Remembrance Sunday					x	x	
Spring Community meetings			x	x	x	x	
Community Link			x	x	x	x	
Response to Coronavirus Emergency		x	x	x	x	x	

PCC is small compared with Cardiff but we have grown over the last few years and we want to be fit for the purpose of serving our communities as more is expected of us.

### **A Prosperous PCC Area**

We try to use local contractors and suppliers for our work. We provide hanging baskets in Pentyrch which decorate the shopping area at High Corner. We are working with community groups in Creigiau and Gwaelod y Garth to improve the floral decorations and together have taken over Cardiff's planters. We provide Christmas trees for the shops at Pentyrch and Creigiau Inn and Gwaelod y Garth Village Hall.

Through our extensive litter-clearing by our CMOs and local community groups, we keep our communities cleaner and encourage people not to drop litter in the first place. Community events had to be put on hold due to Covid but will be starting up again as soon as possible.

### **A Resilient PCC Area**

PCC owns some 300 acres of land, most of that being parts of the Garth Mountain including woodland. We own the Recreation Field and allotments at Creigiau and Pentyrch Village Hall which is managed on our behalf by the Hall Management Committee.

A dramatic local effect of the lockdowns was the big increase in people walking in the area. It was good to see people out and about, when safe, and getting to know their local area better. It did come with downsides too: more litter, more wear and tear on gates and styles and consider surface wear at the ancient monuments on the Garth. Cadw and PCC are keeping an eye on the Garth and hoping that a quieter summer and good weather encourages the grass to grow back.

Just over a third of PCC's budget pays for the management of land we own or lease. It covers a range of tasks including the mowing of grass from small strips of land on housing estates to the field at Creigiau Rec and Fairmeadow at Pentyrch and keeping our trees healthy and safe.

Pentyrch Surgery submitted a planning application to move from its temporary portacabins at Pentyrch Village Hall to a new site in Rhydlafer, at the junction of Church Road and the A4119. This proposed move met with a mix of opposition and support. People living in Pentyrch did not want to lose their local surgery, and perhaps the local pharmacy too, and many were concerned about the transport problems of reaching the new site. PCC represented these views to Llandaff Surgery (of which the Pentyrch site is a satellite), to the developers, Cardiff Council, the Local Health Board and Welsh Government. The proposed new surgery will have a much wider range of services and facilities for patients and staff and is needed to provide primary care for the growing population in NW Cardiff as a result of the big LDP housing developing along the A4119.

Cardiff's Local Development Plan will be reviewed in 2021. PCC was an active participant in the previous LDP process and as part of the NWCG appeared at the LDP Hearings before the Inspectors and lobbied hard on behalf of our communities. We will be active in representing our community in this new consultation. Many of the issues we identified in the existing LDP arose and we will again focus

particularly on transport and infrastructure. We accept that more housing is needed and are not NIMBYish about the future, but we want developments to be planned well and planned around good public transport. After Covid, there are new priorities to be considered now that more people are likely to be working from home and we have seen the huge importance of access to public open space.

There has been no progress, that we are aware of, on the LDP Site E: the land between Creigiau and the A4119 – so on the other side of that road from the Persimmon development.

The reopening of Creigiau Quarry has brought changes to Heol Pant y Gored with the creation of passing spaces. There are understandable concerns about the effect of blasting and multiple lorry trips and traffic safety. Footpaths have been re-routed and some will be lost but there are plans to provide alternatives. PCC is a member of the quarry liaison group and makes frequent representation to meetings about these and other issues as they arise.

PCC land is affected by the sad loss of ash trees to ash die-back disease. We expect to lose most of the ash in the UK in the next few years. PCC's trees get an expert check every year and we then act on all the work recommended to be done in the coming year. You will notice trees being felled across our community and we will be planning for replanting. It will bring about dramatic changes in some places.

### **A Healthier PCC Area**

By maintaining public open spaces, recreation and play facilities, managing our land and giving grants to local sports groups we help to provide the infrastructure for healthy living. We know from the Village Plan Questionnaire that you want more play facilities for children and young people and we are pleased to have been able to work with PARC to provide more of that.

The Coronavirus Emergency had just begun as this year started, and PCC had closed its office on March 17 2020. Working from home, the Clerk and Community Engagement Officer kept the day to day business of PCC going. More importantly in the emergency, the Community Engagement Officer, Deb Hunt, worked very hard liaising with the community groups and volunteers to support our more vulnerable residents. We were humbled by the number of people who came forward to help.

Play Wales have used some areas of PCC land for children's activities and we are delighted to be able to help with that.

Now that more defibrillators are in place, PCC will be helping to arrange training in their use and CPR training as soon as possible, all dependent on Covid regulations.

PCC and community members planted heritage fruit trees on the wide verge opposite the Frog Pond in Creigiau. We hope that they will inspire people to plant fruit trees, providing blossom for bees and insects and delish fresh local produce for people to eat.

### **A More Equal PCC Area**

PCC has a legal duty to treat all people according to their needs. A key outcome of the Village Plan Questionnaire was the need for more play and recreation opportunities for young people and for those to be age-appropriate. Our work with PARC has helped deliver that for Memorial Park, Pentyrch. PCC owns the Creigiau Recreation Area and on December 24 2021 we signed a Lease with Creigiau Recreation Charity to take over management of the site and develop it to increase its use.

PCC wanted to establish a Youth Council and made initial contact with Cardiff Council's Youth Services Team. Unfortunately, this was put on hold by Covid-19 but PCC will return to this when possible.

A long-running issue in Gwaelod y Garth has been the poor bus service to Whitchurch. It is frustrating how long it is taking to resolve but PCC expects to be part of the consultation around new bus service tenders later in 2021. We have lobbied on behalf of residents for improved ways of booking the Fflecsi bus, asking particularly that the company give proper service for people who do not have smart phones or are comfortable online.

### **A PCC Area of Cohesive Communities**

Although called Pentyrch Community Council, our area includes Gwaelod y Garth, Pentyrch, Creigiau and Capel Llanilltern. Each village has a strong and proud history and identity. Many of the projects we run and support encourage community participation within and amongst those four villages.

The first homeowners moved into the new development in Capel Llanilltern. We welcome our new neighbours and are making sure that they all receive a copy of the Community Link.

PCC fully supported the community anti-speeding campaigns in Pentyrch and Gwaelod y Garth. We asked GoSafe to have more visits to the area. PCC asked Cllr Gavin Hill-John and Cardiff Highways to request a speed table to control speed and a safer crossing point for school pupils. The SafeSchools initiative might help in Gwaelod y Garth too. Community Speed Watch was put on hold for many months due to Covid-19 and can only operate where approved by Police. More places in the local areas will be risk-assessed. The more local people who volunteer to be part of a local team, the better.

PCC has published its Community Link magazine for several decades and volunteers have helped deliver it to every household. Each edition is also available online. The Link reports on official council information, local planning decisions and lots of updates from local groups and schools. It is an excellent way for our communities to find out what has been going and what's planned in the next few months.

PCC installed some new noticeboards during the year. In many ways, social media and the web has overtaken them but they still have a role to play in communities where not everyone is online.

### **A PCC Area of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

We maintain a small museum of local history, artefacts and memorabilia at our Penuel Road office which has sadly been closed throughout this year. We run a community library, which has also had to close for the year, of donated books in Welsh and English that provides a good selection for local people to borrow. Regular donations help keep the contents refreshed and we take any unwanted books to a local charity. The office is available for free rental for anyone wanting to run Welsh language classes or groups.

PCC helps organize the annual Remembrance Service at Pentyrch War Memorial.

We started an annual Civic Reception in 2017 as a way to thank our communities for all the hard work they do during the year to help keep our villages vibrant. This couldn't take place in 2019 but we will start it again as soon as it is safe and sensible to do so.

### **A Globally Responsible PCC Area**

The Council has a duty to use its resources wisely and prudently and we have taken steps to improve our reserves, as set out above. We have set aside Earmarked Reserves to support projects such as new play equipment, Creigiau Recreation Area, and woodland management as well as helping plan for replacing more expensive equipment such as our truck and ride-on mower. We now have duties under the Environment Act Wales (see below).

Our solar panels off-set some of our electricity costs from conventional power supplies. We are moving to battery-powered tools where we can to reduce our use of petrol and diesel. We support the TerraCycle recycling scheme with a collection box at the office. We are changing our mowing regimes to leave areas of grass to grow long and encourage wildflowers to grow and plan to sow some wildflower seed in coming years.

## **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**

**The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty:** The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduced an enhanced duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities. This means that PCC must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity as best it can and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems. PCC should, therefore, embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into its early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as its day to day activities.

PCC seeks to meet its duties under the Act by:

- Managing its trees and grassland to promote biodiversity
- Managing its ponds and streams to promote biodiversity
- Minimize its use of herbicides
- Encourage wildflowers in grassland
- Control invasive non-native species such as Himalayan balsam and Japanese Knotweed

**Helena Fox**

**Clerk to PCC**

# THE 2020-2021 YEAR IN PICTURES

Because of Covid-19, many events could not take place. But some did.



Knit & Natter, Lon y Fro, Pentyrch



Creigiau Allotments



Making visors for the NHS



Keeping Creigiau Lovely



Memorial Park, Pentyrch



Covid snake, Memorial Park



Planting bulbs, Gwaelod y Garth



Pentyrch War Memorial



On the Penrhys Pilgrimage Way



Lan Memorial, Gwaelod y Garth



Tin on the Wall, Creigiau : Food Bank



Keep Creigiau Tidy