

## **Llanfynydd Village Society Open Meeting & Community Space Project Group Update 23/10/2014**

**Venue:** Speit Chapel.

**Welcome:**

Meirion Jones welcomed the LVS committee, the Steering Group and attendees from the community.

**Steering Group Update:**

Chris Papworth presented the update:

- The Steering Group was elected from volunteers at the open meeting 20th May 2014 with the aim of securing a community space for Llanfynydd
- The group met with a Lottery Funding Officer for advice and guidance
- The group is affiliated with the LVS ( a constituted group with a bank account, able to support the steering group with funds, administrative services and other skills)
- As recommended by the Lottery Officer, the group designed, printed and delivered a questionnaire, as part of the consultation and involvement of the community. Cledwyn Davies, Glyn Dyer and Meirion Jones hand delivered the questionnaires to over 180 farms and households, returning for a second or third time when householders were not in or requested time to complete the form. Many thanks to Cledwyn, Glyn and Meirion for all their time, effort and petrol!
- The information provided in the responses has been collated and continues to be updated as the last few trickle in. A bar chart of the most up to date results is attached.
- The results will form a Lottery Grant application. The first stage is an outline proposal and this is being worked on by Claire Papworth and Clare Edwards from the Community Bureau (funding adviser for the Carmarthenshire Rural Development Plan) and will be completed as soon as possible.
- The Steering Group continues to explore other funding options including private investment.
- The questionnaire responses revealed the "Penybont" building to be the most popular venue followed by the school and the group will continue to investigate all options.
- The Steering group is compiling a list of all the organisations and clubs in the area together with their contact details, seeking further letters of support and participation from them.

Meirion thanked Chris for his update and invited questions from the audience.

Question:-

**How many people responded to the questionnaire?**

Over 145 forms have been returned, which means that over 145 households and farms have responded. Forms are still trickling in and the information collated is updated to reflect late additions.

## **V A P School**

Councillor Mansel Charles advised that the county council would be handing back the school building to the Church of Wales. The Revd. Canon Brian Witt believes the Church would be sympathetic if the community wanted to keep the building but it would need to be run by a management committee. Rev. Witt will keep Mansel informed of any legal or other developments. It is possible that the use of the building could be restricted to educational activities. It is too early to say if the Church will be willing to let or sell the building. It is likely that the Church will want to make use of the building.

## **Overview of Llanfynydd Village Society by Claire Papworth**

- The LVS is a constituted voluntary group seeking to maintain and where appropriate improve the facilities and amenities of the village and support village social life. The group liaises and works with the community council, county council, other groups and organisations to seek funding for village activities and projects.
- Members of the group have recently attended a Carmarthenshire county council Grant Evening in Llandovery and are in contact with CAVS (Carmarthenshire Voluntary Services) to identify grants available. The range of available grants is diverse so other groups are welcome to contact us if they have a requirement.
- The LVS provides the Community Space Project Steering Group with administrative support and funding to assist it's Lottery Application for a community space.
- The LVS seeks to improve communication in the village via the Community Website, the "Community News" Facebook Page, noticeboards, newsletters and the Cothi Voice eBulletin. Please enjoy and add your own information to these facilities.
- We fundraise to create funds for community projects and our current fundraiser is an eye-catching, red and white tea towel proclaiming, "I love Llanfynydd". The tea towels are on sale for £4.50 at Dryslywn Community Shop, Pant Glas and from committee members.
- Our membership fee is £5 per annum and this sum is used to support the administration costs of running the group and to raise funds for community projects. New members are very welcome.

Claire invited questions from the audience:-

### **Who is on the committee?**

The committee members are:-

Claire Papworth    Chair

Meirion Jones     Vice Chair

Helen Sargent    Sec/Treasurer

Hilary Coole     PR

Marylynne Hawkins    Fund raisers/Activity Co-ordinators

Grace Maidment      Fund raisers/Activity Co-ordinators.

Chris Papworth    Projects.

A member of the audience commented that there is blurring between the LVS and Steering Groups. It is the case that Chris and Claire Papworth are members of both groups, but this viewed as an advantage as they contribute a great deal of time and effort to both groups and facilitate communication between the two.

Meirion commented that all members of the Steering Group are equally valued and it is vital that everyone pulls together to make the Community Space project a success. If the Steering Group is successful with the first stage application, it will be granted Lottery funding to employ professionals to produce a business and project plan working both the LVS and Steering Group to achieve the best bid possible.

### **Christmas in Llanfynydd**

Llanfynydd celebrations are centred around the Church and we usually enjoy a Carol Service/Concert. The closing of the school may affect the situation. Christmas plans will be discussed in Church on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Mansel will check possible dates –the 15<sup>th</sup> December was thought to be suitable so as to avoid clashing with the Capel Isaac concert on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Val Martin informed the meeting that the Church had yet to make its decision on any activities.

Meirion said it was good to see so many homes decorated with exterior lights last year and he hoped this would continue. The subject of a village Christmas tree was raised. Chris Papworth suggested that the tree inside the Church yard near to the Lytch gate might be suitable for decoration as there is a power supply inside the gate. Val Martin was concerned there might be Health and Safety issues tapping into that particular supply. Meirion commented that the subject of Christmas decorations would be discussed at the November Community Council meeting.

We will wait to hear from the Church and Mansel

### **Ideas for 2015**

It was suggested it would be helpful if a sheet giving details of all group meetings in the community should be put on the notice boards on a monthly basis for the benefit of those residents who don't have computers. This will be looked into as a possibility as the Steering Group were collating group information.

Meirion thanked everyone for coming.

The next open meeting and Steering Group update is expected to be held in the Spring.

Meeting opened at 7.35pm, closed at 9.10pm.

Helen Sargent LVS secretary