

# Pontypudlian

## 30 June 2008

The Pontypudlian is a newsletter produced by Councillor Fred Wildgust. I hope produce it every six weeks. Covering issues affecting the residents of the ward, and details of meetings I have attended and campaigning activities. In the fullness of time it will evolve into an interesting 'quick read'.

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*As a councillor I am not allowed to express an opinion on a given topic in public. If I do I may lose my right to vote on that topic in the future.*

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### Community News

The labour party still control the council even after having failed to secure a majority of seats. The labour group secured the council by gaining the support of two independents Alistair Cunnington and Peter Cathcart and the three representatives of Plaid Cymru. I don't have a problem with Councillors making free will decisions, what I have a problem with is in some wards the only alternative candidate to labour was Plaid Cymru. Many people in the five wards where they electorate voted for an alternative to labour feel betrayed. The five councillors that supported labour have been since secured significant posts within the labour administration.

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### Campaign for Democracy

I am not happy about the situation, where five councillors appear to completely ignore the wishes of the electorate and support an administration that in the eyes of many has failed. I am utterly convinced that the people of the Pontypool Town

Ward elected me because they know I am a fighter and am not bound by any party whip. This is what I intend to do about it; I am going to challenge the leadership of the council by organising a Torfaen wide petition. If you would like to support this campaign in anyway, please feel free to call or email me.

The aim of the petition is to secure a recorded open vote in the Council Chambers by all Councillors. The vote will be in front of the regions media and all the eyes of Torfaen will be on the five Councillors that supported the Labour regime. They will be voting on democracy and have to nail their colours to the mast...

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### Pontypool Park Users Group

Over the past 12 months I have been campaigning for the establishment of a Park Users Group, the aim of the group would be to allow the residents of Pontypool to have a say in how the park is managed. Currently, as many people are aware there are some significant problems to be addressed by TCBC. In my view there has been a failure of the council to meet the key objectives of the original project, which has resulted in the project losing focus and key elements of the project not been carried out. Many people have commented on the excessive tree felling, badly maintained ponds, poor flower bed maintenance, shabby Italian Gardens and much more. Hundreds of people have signed a petition demanding the establishment of a Park Users Group. The Heritage Lottery Fund is currently looking into the disappointment of the residents of the area and will be consulting with TCBC in due course. I am hoping our fight is

coming to an end and within a few weeks the people of Pontypool will have direct involvement in the management of the park.

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### Community Improvement

I went on walkabout with Andrew Cox an Environmental Heath Officer from TCBC. We walked along Churchwood into the recreational field near Hospital Road. The lane near the field is a disgrace, due to fly tippers. I suggested that if the gate across the lane that takes you to the football field was relocated near to the road, it would be impossible to fly tip in the woods. This action has been agreed and the gate is to be moved, all legitimately use the lane will have a key.

TCBC have ignored the area for years but now they have agreed to litter pick the Churchwood recreational field. They are going to install 3 vandal proof bins and a new seat. The bins will be emptied weekly and the area will be littered picked every two weeks.

The lane through the field and on to park road is a problem because it is owned by the Pontypool Park Estate and TCBC have no responsibility for its up keep. Users of the lane are well aware how dangerous it is especially were it crosses over the brook. But I am meeting with the countryside access officer to see if she can find a solution.

Traffic calming measures on Park Road and Penygarn Hill, I have had two meeting with Peter Durkin about the Old School site. I wanted to know what was happening on the site and what the plans for the old chapel are. I was keen know about capacity in the local school for new residents and

also how TCBC intended to deal with the high speed traffic problem on Park Road.

I stressed to him that when large vehicles are coming down the hill they often have to mount the pavement to avoid high speed cars going up the hill. The cars cut off the corner and force other road users onto the pavement. They have agreed to re-examine the problem and come back to me with options... Watch this space.

I have been working with residents living in the area of the Clarence Corner adjoining the Tesco garage. They have a problem with delivery vehicles blocking the road whilst waiting to enter the Tesco service bay. The vehicles often completely block the road, with engines running causing all kinds of problems for residents and other road users. The Residents Association representative have a meeting planned with the Tesco Manager.

The Woodlands Field Project wooden chalet project. I have expressed my concern about this project as loudly as I can. I think that it is outrageous to invest £650,000 of public money in a wooden building in a green field site. The Big Lottery Fund has agreed to the grant and the money is available for construction to start shortly. Within the past 8 weeks three buildings have been destroyed by fire in the park. I would hate this to happen to the chalet and peoples dreams be shattered, but I am inclined to think it will be a target for local arsonists.

As was the dance hall on November the 5<sup>th</sup> 2007.

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Vermin roaming our streets, I attended a site meeting in Pontypool to work with officers to find a solution to dealing with a vermin problem. A solution was found and action was taken straight away, in the longterm it's proposed that overgrown planted areas are turfed with a decorative tree planted. This will remove the undergrowth and the hiding places for vermin. It will also prevent litter building up and being ignored.

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### **Planning Applications**

Planning applications/issues over the past few weeks there have been a number of planning applications within the ward. Most of these focus on shop signage and the building of an extension or two. The key planning issues that I have had to discuss and included site visits are:

The proposed cemetery site at Hollybush, the site if approval is granted will offer three types of service, traditional burial, natural burial and a dedicated area for children. There will be sufficient space for at least 50 years of service.

The proposed housing development at the old steel works site at Panteg. It is a large site and there are issues regarding contaminated ground, removal of existing structures and the numbers and types of properties to be developed. There is a great opportunity for the local community to benefit by the use of 106 agreements to secure community investment from the property developer.

The third application that affects the region and perhaps South Wales as a whole is the proposed creation of a

Specialist Critical Care Centre on the Llanfrechfa Grange site on the western edge of Llanyrafon. The site will also contain the creation of a housing development.

If you want to know more about any of these planning applications contact the Planning Department of TCBC.

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### **Public Health Notices**

#### **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Immunisation Programme.**

A vaccine will be added to the routine immunisation programme from September 2008. The virus is sexually transmitted and is the cause of some strains of cervical cancer. For further information contact the Torfaen Public Health Team 01495 332154

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### **Surgery Details**

Surgeries are held on the last Friday and Saturday of every month. They are held at St Matthews Church Hall (Friday 11am-1pm) and Pontypool Museum (Saturday 2pm-5pm). They operate all through the summer.

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### **Contact Details**

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MAY 2008 elections  
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for democracy!**

**[www.torfaen4us.co.uk](http://www.torfaen4us.co.uk)**

## Events & Activities

### **AMGUEDDFA PONTYPOOL MUSEUM**

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
MORNING

*starting end of July and  
throughout the  
Summer School Holidays  
10.00-12.00*

*Full programme of FREE  
activities include:*

- *Tile & Shell mosaics*
- *Make your own  
bookmark*
- *Dress Up & Draw –  
Pirates*
- *Tile painting*
- *Peg Dolls - Soldiers  
& Princesses*
- *Art & Craft Sessions*
- *Make a Hand Puppet*

Current exhibition: Jill & David Hobbs 'Contemporary Welsh Landscapes' until 10th August followed by Maldwyn Charles mixed media exhibition

Tel 01495-752036 for details

### **Pontypool Town Ward Businesses Advertise for FREE here**

email  
[fred.wildgust@virgin.net](mailto:fred.wildgust@virgin.net)

### **Lucille Murphy**

**Childminding Services**  
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