

Rebuilding Communities

Reflections from

Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau Community Council

and

Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau Community Transport Group

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Cellan a Llanfair Clydogau Community Transport Group

REFLECTIONS FROM

The Problem

How can we, as a community council, help to rebuild communities after Covid and in the 'post Covid' economy?

Challenges for our own community

- Life after lockdown
- Closure of the village pub
- Council cuts, and poor response to council tender, severely threatens local bus services
 - Service retained, but reduced
 - No service after 5pm
 - No weekend service.

Challenges for our community council

- Previous generation do not stand in 2022
- Clerk also resigns
- Access to online bank account is difficult impacting the timely completion of the previous year end accounts
- Website developer moves from area, will no longer support the website
- Interaction with the local community is very low.

The Opportunity

To become a force for change within our community

A new beginning - Life after Covid

- **Extend** constituency, embrace the chance to regenerate and bring new blood into the council
 - Diversity, gender, age, background
 - New ideas, new thinking - **embrace change**
 - Fresh enthusiasm
 - Re-engage with the community.
- **Re-orient** and refocus
 - Its not just about 'filling the grit bins' or 'reviewing the planning applications'!
 - Look to what is happening in the community
 - Where do we fit and how do we serve?

What to do?

- **Communicate:**
 - Open, honest, transparent
 - A new website redesigned for a new council
 - A new clerk, experienced and a natural Welsh speaker for bi-lingual publications.
- **Engage:**
 - See above!
 - Look for opportunities, not just to preserve the status quo but to enhance and improve the community.
- **Empower:**
 - Encourage self-support in the community but not at 'arms length', give advice, guidance, direct help and money.

The 'Solution'

The start of an ongoing partnership with our community Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau Community Transport Group

Working with the community

- **Liaise** with the local bus action group
 - **Communications** channel
 - Advice and also **participation**.
- **Assist:**
 - With the initiation of a pilot 'Saturday Bus Service'
 - With grant funding application
 - By direct involvement - monitoring and documenting statistics on service and use.
- **Form:**
 - Closer alliances
 - The Cellan and Llanfair Clydogau Community Transport Group – representation on Executive Committee.

The outcome for the community council

Ongoing, but so far we have:

- **Started** the process of understanding;
 - What our community needs
 - Who we are and what we can do?
- **Identified** the new opportunities that come from engagement - for dialogue and co-operation.
- **Fostered** new links/relationships with;
 - Our local County Councilor, our local MP and MS, and the Cambrian News
 - The local '585 bus' action group and wider transport groups
 - Cellan Village improvement society
 - Dolen Teifi and the CTA
 - More widely in our community.

The Future

To grow, and remain a force for change within our community

What now for us?

- What would we have done differently?
 - Not much, we had few tools, resources or mechanisms.
- What can we do differently in the future?
 - **Extend our engagement** and **listen more**
 - Identify how we may more **effectively deploy our resources** to support the community.
 - Develop and **use our skills and knowledge** to **add value to our community** and assist with:
 - **Grants**, finding, applying, budgeting
 - **Direct funding** through the precept
 - **Direct action - actual involvement** with community projects.
 - **Evolve experimentally, grow organically.**

What Now for you?

- **Think** about how the community council engages with it's community and how the community engages with it's community council
- **Discover** the local issues which people in you communities care about:
 - 20mph speed limit?
 - Rural Transport?
 - County council funding cuts?
 - NHS delays?
 - Inclusion, isolation of individuals, cohesion of the community?
 - What else?
- **Identify** what your council is doing/can start doing to support communities through these issues.

The End!

Thank you for your company

Visit our website:

<https://cyngor-llanfairclydogau-council.org.uk/gb/>

Or Contact our Clerk at:

clerkllanfaircellan@gmail.com

Please, feel free to ask any questions you may have ..

...if you require any further information or assistance