

Dear Residents of Queensferry, Pentre and Sandycroft, my name is Pat Connah, I live in Pentre with Husband Bob, assorted family and animals and am currently Chair of Queensferry Community Council ,I just wanted to let you know what we have been doing of late on your behalf and to open some more communication to find out what you want from us in future.

Firstly I think everyone knows this last year has been one of the most challenging and frightening in our recent history, everything has changed, and no one can predict how long things will take to return to what we then thought as normal, we have all had to adapt, improvise and move outside our comfort zones to get things done.

As a Community Council we are bound by regulations which govern how we can meet, what we can do and how we implement controls and checks on the public money we spend on your behalf. We have had to embrace different working methods, we now meet remotely by zoom, we hold working parties instead of face to face committees, but the work is still being done and we hope you will see we are really trying to do our best for you all.

Meetings still happen on the second Tuesday of each month, and are advertised on our three noticeboards and on our website "queensferry community council.gov.uk" which we are updating regularly, showing minutes and audit results as well as who your councillors are and how to contact them, our Clerk Mrs Janet Jones is available on 01244 520642 and I am happy to take calls on 01244 537842,

We had made a lot of plans for the year which have been interrupted, like every one else, we just have to carry on,we had obtained £5000 match funding from Flintshire County Council, which we hope to buy some new equipment with for the Sandy Croft Playing Field, but due to Covid 19 this has been delayed.

We have continued our policy to renovate streetlights and have them adopted by Flintshire County Council which reduces our repair and maintenance costs and ensures they are more modern and upgraded which we could otherwise not afford. This in turn reduces their carbon footprint as new lamps are LED.

We normally support our wards during Christmas by making a contribution to the Sandycroft community Centre Christmas party, which obviously has not been able to go ahead this year, so we have increased the contribution we make to both Queensferry and Sandy Croft Schools for their Christmas festivities, and made our regular donation to Queensferry War Memorial Institute towards their Christmas Festivities.

We have also made a number of Grants towards various charities on your behalf, supporting the Flintshire Foodbank, British Legion, Welsh Borders Transport and various others details of which are published on our notice boards and website.

We also try to take on board any queries you may have over planning, or other issues we can help with, concerns over littering, Anti-social behaviour, Dog fouling, bin collections street lights and buses, when they run, will all be referred to the appropriate place and chased up on your behalf.

It is very important to us that we manage to stay in touch with you, and that you get in touch with us to let us know about anything that is concerning you,

Do you want us to look into anything else, I have heard people are not happy because there are no Christmas lights up in our wards, do you want us to look into that? We have plans in place to put the large poppies up for next year's Remembrance Festival, do you want additional planters or bulbs planting to brighten the place up a bit, and we want to hear from you and will take all your ideas on board.

We as a Council have refused to take the allowances offered to us, and do not claim expenses thereby keeping our costs down we do not spend your money extravagantly.

We have hears that at the direction of welsh government the leisure centre will remain as Ysby Ennfis, for the foreseeable future, but that come better times it is guaranteed to return to us as Leisure Centre and Ice Rink. And recently came the exiting news that part of the site will be used as a vaccination centre for our part of North Wales, that's really encouraging.

At the last budget calculation we were able to reduce the amount we needed from Council Tax slightly, this year may be more challenging.

If you have any issues or matters to bring to our attention, please contact us and we will do our best to help.

And finally, on behalf of all your Community Councillors,

Have a very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy and Safe New Year.

Pat Connah

01244 537842.

Pat Connah
17/12/20

