

# Nelson Community News

## The Newsletter of Nelson Community Council

### Winter 2024

Dear Resident,

As this year's Chairperson I welcome you to our Winter Edition of Nelson Community Council's Newsletter. Since the last newsletter I'm pleased to report on a number of successful events held over the Summer.

A huge thank you to Treharmony Ladies Choir and Llancaeath Junior School children choir for joining us in July for our "Songs of Praise" event held in St John's Church. £193 was raised for my chosen charity- Cancer Research Wales. The ladies of St John's Church ended a very pleasant evening with delicious refreshments- thank you.

The Summer Show held in Llancaeath School hall again achieved record attendance and what has now become the norm, excellent entries. The talent and skill of Nelson residents never disappoints. Many thanks to everyone involved and the generous £305 raised for my chosen charity.

On a dank and dreary Remembrance Sunday an impressive number of residents including many children and youths met at the War Memorial to pay their respects. Many thanks to Father Andrew Davies for officiating at both the Memorial and Church services, Geraint Barnes for playing the last post and Glyn Staples for maintaining the site. Many commented on the Poppy blanket created some years ago by ladies who reside at Heol Islwyn. It is truly a unique work of art.



Last but by no means least, will be our

Christmas event on **20th December**. At 5pm

Santa will be coming to Llancaeath Junior School when he will again be handing out a small gift to our children aged 11 and under. While waiting for Santa to arrive Simon Sparkle will entertain the children with a Magic Show. Always a success. **This will begin at 4pm**. Please note all free of charge.

To get us in a real Christmas spirit and forget the woes of the world for a little while, we will have carol singing on the Handball Court at 6pm. Leading us will be the Salvation Army Band and Treharmony Ladies Choir. You might also enjoy the mince pies and Mulled Wine.

To end with a success, with a Community Council cash injection the Public Toilets are to reopen. Earlier in the year we commissioned a full Nelson Institute building survey. Having only recently received its report, there is, as yet, no action to date. We will keep you updated on its progress.

On behalf of myself and fellow Councillors we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy Prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support and we welcome you to join us at our monthly meetings on 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm.

Ann Gray

Chair of Nelson Community Council

#### 🌿 Christmas Shop Window Competition 🌿

Every business is automatically entered. Please have your window ready by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December for judging. There are prizes for 1<sup>st</sup> (£50), 2<sup>nd</sup> (£30) and 3<sup>rd</sup> (£20). Good luck everyone!

# Your Council

## Summer Show

Thank you so much for your contributions to our Summer Show, which was an amazing success, from our excellent judges, our photographer Lewis Astley, Llancaeath school and the wonderful Bethel Chapel who provided refreshments. Congratulations to our winners- it was great to see you all!



### Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO) Awards

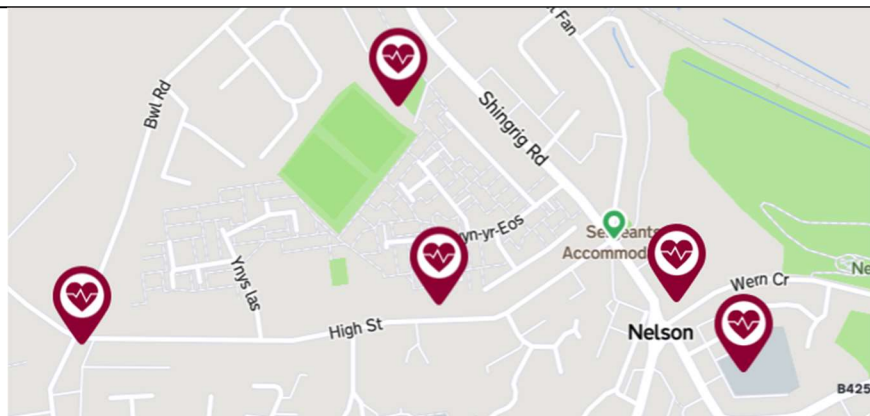
Congratulations to our very own Cllr Laura Dufty who was awarded the Mayor's Civic Award at the recent GAVO Awards in October. We are so proud of Laura who was recognised for her dedication to numerous local causes, including foodbanks, collecting donations, running a craft club, and helping out with the warm space events at St John's Church – as well as volunteering at Nelson Community Centre and being a governor at Llancaiach Junior School. Well done Laura!

Also recognised were Michelle Hooper and Leigh Tiley of the Welsh Wallball Association who won the Sport and Leisure Award. We are very proud of their work in the village.



### Defibrillators

**In an emergency dial 999.** You can view a map of defibrillators at [www.defibfinder.uk](http://www.defibfinder.uk). We are committed to improving the provision of defibrillators in the village. We are currently awaiting installation of a defibrillator on the grass where Bwl Road meets Shingrig Road and planning the siting of a defibrillator on Heol Fawr.



### Your Councillors

Eifion Ap Llwyd Dafydd: 01443 453342	Gill Davies (Vice-Chair): 01443 450201
Laura Dufty 07411 596027	Rod Powell: 07966 324060
Ann Gray (Chair): 01443 450069	Aled John: 07815 142729
Brenda Miles*: 07875 379965	Sean Morgan*: 07973 989721

Please contact the clerk with any queries: [clerk.nelson@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.nelson@outlook.com)

Members of the public can attend our meetings. They take place on the second Thursday of every month (except August) in Nelson Institute.

# Planning

Council Members over the past few months have been kept busy responding to various proposals affecting Nelson. The Twyn Hywel Energy Park has now been given the go ahead, as has the synchronous condenser at Llanfabon, despite our objections. Both these projects mean the Cilfynydd Substation will be extended. In addition, we objected to CCBCs mothballing of Llancaeath Fawr and Blackwood Miners Institute, the proposal to stop Meals Direct (which was subsequently saved), and most recently the proposal to close our Library.

## Twyn Hywel Energy Park

Welsh Government approved the planning application for on 5th November 2024. The Inspector noted that the area was within the pre-assessed area for wind energy. He stated that none of the properties within 2 km of the proposed turbines would become an unpleasant place to live. But he accepted there would be an adverse and significant effect on landscape character around the site, and significant impact on visual amenity from properties and settlements closest to the site.

The noted benefits of the scheme included CO<sub>2</sub> savings, contribution to Welsh Government's targets for renewable energy generation, and employment opportunities. In balancing the benefits of the scheme against the harm, the Inspector considered there was a clear case for granting permission for the development. Forty-two conditions were imposed on the developer to minimise the adverse impacts, these included limiting hours for construction to between 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 9am-1pm on Saturday.

The developer must agree a Construction Transport Management Plan with CCBC, with a site speed limit of 15 mph.

The means of access to the site from the public road network, including the timing of works, also must be agreed.

This is particularly relevant to Nelson as the proposed entrance is through Ty Du. The decision letter and full report are available at:

<https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales> case ref: DNS/3272053



## Ty Du Development

On 13<sup>th</sup> November, planning consent was given to United Welsh Housing to build 169 houses at Ty Du. Going forward, the Housing Association will need to apply for grant funding from the Welsh Government to make the scheme affordable. If successful, tenders will be sought for a builder.

## Active Travel Plan

CCBC recently consulted on an Active Travel Plan for Nelson. The project is considering how certain routes could be developed for pedestrians and cyclists. The main proposals centre on these main routes:

- Along Crossfield Road and High Street, connecting from the A472 Mafon Road roundabout to Bwl Road via Llanfabon School.
- Along Shingrig Road and Llwyn-yr-Eos, then through Maes Mabon Estate, connecting from the Commercial Street / High Street junction to Bwl Road.

More information available here:

<https://conversation.caerphilly.gov.uk/active-travel-nelson-caerphilly>

## Battery storage facility

Innova have launched a pre-planning consultation on a 400-Megawatt battery storage facility at Llanfabon. Planning permission is expected to be submitted in 2026 and, if approved, the development would take 2 years to build. It will be developed over an area of 6.5 hectares and is expected to power 1.2 million houses. Information is available at <https://innova.co.uk/projects/cilfynydd-energy-centre/>

## Aldi

More information available here:  
<https://aldiconsultation.co.uk/nelson/proposals/>

Recently, the retailer Aldi has also been granted planning permission for a new store at the Co-op site



on Mabon Road. Nelson Community Council have asked for a meeting to provide an update.

# Our Community

## Services

	Calfaria Baptist Chapel	Bethel Church
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	7pm- Christmas Concert Ystrad male voice choir	
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10:30am Carol service with refreshments	6pm Carols by candlelight
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:15am Service	10am Service

### Llancaeath Junior School

Staff have been busy developing our young people as ethically-informed citizens. By wearing red in October, we demonstrated our pride as Welsh citizens. And we also considered the diversity of our nation and the world, and how important it is to equally celebrate the contributions that everyone makes. And by wearing yellow, the importance of looking after our mental health, no matter what age, was highlighted.



**Heol Fawr Allotment Association-** The Summer Show was well represented, 18 prizes were gained in all, most noticeably, retention of the Colin Brain Memorial Trophy by Bobby Brain. • There is an allotment shop selling a variety of goods- open to the public on Sundays 9.30-12am or when requested. • Rotovators and cultivators are available to hire and a polytunnel is available for use by members for early propagation. • This year we purchased and installed a defibrillator located in the polytunnel. • We are striving to improve facilities by installing a new electricity supply, providing power for electrical equipment, and allowing us to improve security and access for local groups. • Please contact the Secretary on 07710944160 about available allotments.

The **Welsh Wallball Association** has been busy. • The team attended the Euro1 wall tournament in Valencia in September. There was success in the women's B group coming third in the group and the men's over 40's doubles with many wins. • The team will be competing in Toulouse in December in the French Euro1 wall tournament. • We are working hard to raise funds for the youth team to travel to the UK Open in February. Last year, we achieved gold in the Boys youth. Any support is greatly appreciated.



### Nelson Community Centre

**Mon to Fri-** Ladybirds Playgroup; **Mon:** 12-2pm- Community Kitchen; 6:30-9pm- Bingo; **Tue:** 9:30am-12 CCBC Multiply cooking course; 6pm-7pm Pad Blast - High-intensity interval training) (L Pember 07962 714378); 7.15-9.15pm - Bowls every fortnight **Wed:** 12:30-2:30pm Parent Network; 12-1:30pm & 7:30-8:30pm -Line Dancing (Jan Woodward 07919 082125). **Thu:** 6-8pm - Taekwon-Do (L Pember). **Sat:** 9-10am Nelson Cavaliers FC U5. **Sun:** 11-4pm Berean Christadelphians; 1.15pm Sunday School; 2.30 Afternoon Bible Talk; 5-7pm- Taekwon-Do (L Pember)

### Ysgol Bro Allta

Building work has been completed and the pupils have benefited greatly from having 4 new classrooms with new resources. The outside area has also been developed and being used by younger pupils to develop their personal and social skills. We are thrilled!

**Hollybush allotments-** Weather was not on our side for the growing season. Despite this we were still able to put on a display for the Nelson Community Show and were awarded first prize for a selection of vegetables. • The children's growing area has now been completed, thanks to Amco Giffen. We await our green waste compost and are grateful to Bryn Quarries for supplying this material. • Security cameras are now installed making the site safer and more secure. • The garden will again be planted to give colour to the area. • Members have started to prepare their plots for the next growing season, and we all look forward to better weather for next year. We have some plots available



**Nelson Cavaliers AFC-** We now have an under 14's junior team who are 2<sup>nd</sup> in the league and Under 5's group who meet on Saturday mornings, 9am, at Nelson Community Centre. If there are any parents who would like to get involved supporting other age groups, then the club would be prepared to support you with courses that are required to coach. Please contact secretary, Rod Powell on 07966 324060.