

# **WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

## **Annual Report - April 2022 to March 2023**

The 2022/23 Year saw changes to Wick Community Council following the May local elections. WCC welcomed three new Community Councillors – Cllr Bob Goddin, Cllr John Williams, and Cllr Rhys Thomas Challenger, and thanked outgoing Cllrs Kate Jauncey, Stewart Dearlove and Richard Lewis for all their work on behalf of WCC over the years. WCC also welcomed two new Ward representatives from The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Cllrs Jo Protheroe and Carys Stallard, who took over from outgoing Vale Cllr Stewart Edwards.

As always throughout the year, WCC pursued a number of matters on behalf of local residents, as well as helping to support a range of activities and events in the community.

Among other activities, WCC made available some funds to go towards small groups celebrating the Queen's Jubilee in June. The Council also made a special grant to Wick Fete and Social Events, to help the annual Wick Summer Fete provide a larger Jubilee celebration for the local and wider community. The Community Council also supported the Fete in the usual way by taking out an advert in the Fete Programme Book.

August saw the completion of the Village Pizza Oven which was provided through funds made available to The Vale Council from David Wilson Homes. At the end of August, a Taster/Training Session for the new Oven was attended by circa 100 residents who were able to enjoy free fresh cooked pizzas on the Wick Sports Field. However, subsequent concerns over the suitability of the Oven's Housing and location meant that the use of the oven was suspended while WCC worked with The Vale Council and others to try to resolve the situation.

Earlier in the year WCC secured funds under The Vale Council's Places for Nature Scheme for wildflower planting in the land between the Star Inn and The Village Shop. In October, Councillors were joined by pupils from Wick School, students from Atlantic College, and members of Sustainable Wick who all helped carry out the planting of Welsh daffodils, native bluebells and primroses.

During the year WCC also gave financial support to a number of other organisations, including Air Ambulance, Wick Young Farmers (for their participation in the national YFS Theatre Competition in Bangor) and St James' Church for the Christmas Carol Service. WCC also worked with The Duchy of Lancaster to make repairs to the broken railings along the Trepit Road side of the Village Green, and secured funding to provide a third defibrillator for the village, to be located outside the Star Inn.

Throughout the year WCC continued to pursue matters on behalf of local residents, many of which involved liaison with The Vale Council. These included raising issues of dog fouling on The Sports Field, liaising with the Vale Council over grass cutting on the Green, continuing to press the Highways Department over speeding vehicles in the village, arranging for The Vale to carry out repairs both to the Bus Shelter at the top of Trepit Road, and to all the public benches around the Village, as well as addressing the lack of wheelchair access to the Green and its Playground area.

Above all, relations with The Vale Council continued to be dominated by the long-standing negotiations over the lease on The Pavilion and Sports Field. Following a series of meetings during

the year between Community Cllrs and Vale Council Officers, some progress has been made towards completing negotiations next year.

I should like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their invaluable and entirely voluntary work on behalf of the Wick community over the past year. In particular, I thank The Clerk, Cllr Hawkins, for his tireless pursuit of a wide range of matters on the Community Council's behalf; and our RFO Cllr Phil Murphy, for all his work in keeping the Council's Finances in excellent order.

David Ambrose, Chair, WCC

May 2023