

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022/2023

It has been a busy year for Kerry Community Council and I'm pleased to report the following:

1. The renovation and extension of Kerry Toilets was completed in April and officially opened on 6th May 2023. The Amenities group led by Cllr Neil Hayward, along with Powys Building Contractors Ltd have done a fantastic job in extending the existing building to create a modern disabled facility which includes a baby changing area, and improving and updating the internal layout of the existing block.

We are very grateful to The National Lottery, Garreglwyd Wind Farm Benefit fund and WYRO Green Homes for supporting this project. The contribution from Wyro Green Homes was part of the S106 agreement following the completion of the new housing development in the village.

2. KCC have also commenced a scheme to renew the equipment in the children's playground situated in Dolforgan Park, Kerry. Last December, at the Village Fair, views were sought from residents to select the types of equipment that would be most popular with children under eight years of age.

The Amenities group have secured funding grants from the National Lottery of £40,000, Garreglwyd Wind Farm Benefit Fund of £7,800. The budget has been bolstered by a Contribution of £10,000 from Wyro Green Homes as part of their S106 agreement to the Community, along with a top-up of £5,000 from KCC. The scheme Fund now stands at £62,800.

Tenders are now being sought and the project is intended to commence in September after the school summer holidays.

3. Last autumn a selection of native fruit trees was donated to the Community and they were planted by residents on Dolforgan Park, near the football ground. We hope they will enhance the area and in years to come provide the residents of Kerry with fruit.

4. In 2021, Mr Gareth Gough, a local resident was appointed our Biodiversity Officer. He has continued our work with the wild flower garden in the cemetery and has reported on future possibilities for the area. This has included the creation of a shrubbery on the grass embankment opposite Kerry Shop. It is felt that this area needs sprucing up as it is a focal point in Kerry Village and with the County Councils timetable of cuts being reduced, this area was at times becoming wild and untidy.

5. Sarn New Development, KCC are disappointed that we were not consulted when the decision was made to remove the S106 Contribution from the developer. This substantial figure had been originally earmarked by PCC as a grant to build a new classroom at St Michael's school, Kerry.

6. Brynlywarch School proposed new building

We responded to the pre consultation. These plans are however proving to be controversial and we are continuing to gather views from residents.

7. Speeding through our Villages

This is a constant concern and two residents have now volunteered for CSW training

8. Garreglwyd Wind Farm Benefit Fund

Allocations of funding for 2023 were made as follows:

£

Grant Recipient	£
Kerry Bowling Club.	500.00
Dolfor Free Church.	3,800.00
Dolfor WI.	100.00
Dolfor Sports.	1,000.00
St Michael's School.	6,000.00
Dolfor Short Mat Bowls Club.	100.00
KCC Dolforgan Play Area Project	7,800.00

Applications are invited each year from our community area of Dolfor, Sarn and Kerry for projects that enhance the area.

KERRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

9. In November we welcomed our new clerk Mrs Ria Roberts to the role and thanked Mrs Louise Evans who was leaving to take on full-time employment. We are very pleased to see that Ria has already completed several aspects of training which will help her to see that Kerry Community Council is functioning well and also complying with all the new legislation placed on us by the Welsh Government.

10. In March 2023, Mr Kevin Lander relinquished his position as caretaker of the two playgrounds, as he was moving out of the area. We were very sorry to see Kevin go as he has been a terrific community action man for many years, and we wish Kevin and Annie well in their new home. In recognition of his outstanding service, which he always insisted in completing on a voluntary basis, we have made a donation of £250 to his nominated charity, The Wales Air Ambulance.

Mr K Cornell was subsequently appointed to inspect weekly and maintain the two Kerry playground areas

11. During 2023/24 the Council supported a number of local organisations/ groups under S137, which also included funding for the Jubilee Celebrations held in the three villages.

The organisations that were supported are;

Kerry - Kerry WI, Herbert Hopefuls, St Michaels C of W School, Kerry Football Club, Friends of St Michaels School, Kerry Fun Day
Dolfor - Dolfor Community Centre, Dolfor Free Church, Dolfor WI
Sarn - Sarn Recreation Association, Sarn Bowling Club

Kerry Community Council Grant Applications forms can be requested from the Clerk – clerk@kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk or downloaded from our website www.kerrycommunitycouncil.gov.uk.

12. In February 2023, the Council also agreed to provide funding for the Coronation Day events £500 to Kerry and £250 each to both Dolfor and Sarn.

13. I would also like to take this opportunity to note the sad passing of the Council's long serving Internal Auditor, Mr John Hester. In recognition of his work for the Council a donation of £250.00 was given to his preferred charity - Fight Bladder Cancer.

I conclude by thanking my fellow councillors for their considerable efforts and commitment during the year

David Jones
Chair
Kerry Community Council – May 2023