

# CHAIR'S REPORT FOR THE TERM OF OFFICE

## 2016/2017



It was an absolute privilege to have been Chair for the year 2016-2017 and it has been an extremely busy and proactive year.

Firstly, I would like to take the time to express my sincere thanks to Cllr Sally Bailey who has been an outstanding Vice Chair during the year.

Secondly, I would like to thank our extremely dedicated and hard-working Clerk. I applaud the commitment and effort that she affords her ever expanding role. Her professionalism and experience is a huge asset to our Council.

The sterling efforts of our Village Wardens/Litter Pickers have ensured that our villages have been kept looking tidy and litter free, and I very much wish to extend my gratitude to them, as well as the various volunteer litter pickers who take pride in their community and help out.

I also acknowledge the countless hours that each Councillor has afforded to their role as Community Councillor over the last year - on a voluntary basis. Our success is a direct result of the commitment and sheer hard work each one has put in - I thank them for that, especially those members who will no longer be on the Council for whatever reason in 2017/2018.

I would like to single out and acknowledge the commitment of one individual as he retires from his role of Councillor after 28 years – Cllr John Major. During his time as a Councillor (for both County and Community Councils) he has seen our villages grow and our community develop. We have heavily relied on his wealth of local knowledge. I would like to thank him for his many years of dedication to the community and wish him all the very best for the future.



*Cllr & Mrs Major at the Civic Service - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2002, following his inauguration as Chair to Monmouthshire County Council*

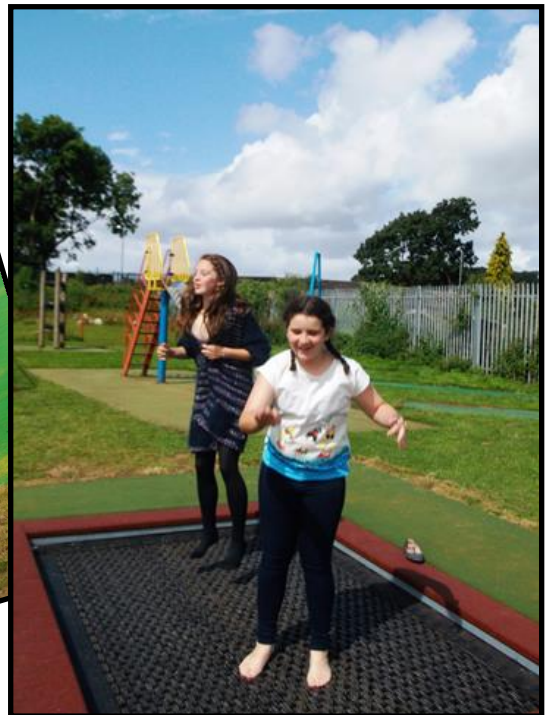
Throughout 2016 - 2017 our committees, working and support groups have taken on numerous tasks and projects. My sincere thanks go to all those Councillors concerned for their input and time, as I do acknowledge that the development of the committees has meant Councillors have been required to attend significantly more meetings.

The Communication and Community Liaison Committee has continued to monitor our website and the use of social media. Their efforts have ensured that we have continued to communicate effectively with residents, including the development of an on-line survey and facilitating 'drop-in' sessions for residents.



The Administration and Personnel Committee have worked tirelessly updating Council policies, ensuring that they are relevant and up-to-date ensuring that the Council delivers on governance and accountability.

Our Parks and Open Spaces Committee have been very busy. During 2016/2017 new play equipment was installed at both our Undy and Sycamore Play Parks.



The new swings and trampolines have been a huge 'hit' with the younger residents of our community.



The committee continued to work with the local Wildlife Warriors Youth Group who have continued to develop and improve the Community Council's Common-y-coed Plantation, undertaking a second bio-diversity study to look at how the habitat has improved and planting a new native boundary hedge.



The committee also trialled the re-instatement of the Annual Village Show by opening entries up to the Council's Allotment Tenants and their families. Our thanks go to all those who exhibited as well as to the judges, who included past Chair of the Community Council, Mrs Carole Hopkins and her husband Roger.



With over 100 entries on the day, the committee will be looking to roll this out to all residents in 2017.



We now have 30 dog waste bins installed across the villages which we continue to maintain. We have noticed that they are now widely used and we have received less complaints relating to dog fouling. We continue to work with the Monmouthshire County Council Litter and Dog Fouling focus group 'Give dog Fouling the Red Card', looking at ways to combat and eradicate the problem.

The Home Zone working group have started to focus once again on improving traffic and parking issues within the villages.

Thank you to all the Councillors who have represented the Community Council on the numerous outside agency groups which we support, such as the elderly focus groups, community health, transport and highways as well as youth groups and activities, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Severnside Area Committee, Gwent Levels Flood Defence Alliance, Natural Resources Wales' Water Level Management Forum, One Voice Wales and our local Primary School Governing Boards.

The Remembrance Day Observance had an increased attendance this year, with a record number attending the Remembrance Sunday Parade. My most sincere thanks to the Royal British Legion, the Churches, the various groups and organisations, Councillors and members of the public for attending what is a very poignant and reflective event to commemorate those from our villages who lost their lives during the two World Wars.

## **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE.**

Dog fouling can cause serious harm to children's health.



## **GIVE DOG FOULING THE RED CARD.**

Report offences at:  
[www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/dogfouling](http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/dogfouling)





Our Open Air Community Carol Service in Magor Square was very well attended and the Council has received very positive feedback in respect of our Christmas lights and trees.



Once again, we have been able to support a number of local groups and organisations by assisting financially, including the Monmouthshire Youth Service Summer and October half term Outreach sessions held at the tennis and MUGA courts. The qualified football and tennis coaching

sessions were especially well received by the youngsters attending the Outreach sessions. We have also been able to facilitate the 'Friday Night Project' outreach sessions that have just started up every Friday night too.

The Clerk is currently working with the Local Neighbourhood Police Team and the Monmouthshire County Council Youth Service to deliver more sessions for the young people during Summer 2017.



I was very proud to attend the presentation of the Monmouthshire County Council Libraries "Big Friendly Read" Summer Reading Challenge prizes at Caldicot Library and Hub. Magor with Undy Community Council had sponsored a 'tablet' which I was able to present, as a prize, to a local child who attends Undy Primary School.

Council were pleased to be able to support the request for financial assistance by Undy AFC, which enabled them to install an external cabinet to house a 24hour accessible AED defibrillator. The clerk joined many residents who then attended a St John Ambulance course on the use of the AED.



A number of Councillors, at the invitation of the Local Neighbourhood Police Team sergeant attended the control room at Police Headquarters in December 2016. It was a very useful to see how both 101 and 999 calls received from members of the public were dealt with. We have continued to work closely with our local officers in identifying local priorities and addressing local concerns.



At this point, I would just like to mention HM The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, albeit they were at the end of the last Council year I did not report on them at the last Annual meeting, and I feel that their success deserves a mention.

The Community Council were delighted to work with and support the uniformed organisations on their Clean for the Queen Campaign community litter pick, and the Wildlife Warriors on their Clean for the Queen BeachWatch litter pick along the Severn Estuary.



The Council more recently issued every participant under the age of 16 with a certificate and commemorative badge to acknowledge their part in the 2016 Clean for the Queen Campaign.



Council also at the time, organised and co-ordinated the lighting of a beacon to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Council extended a welcome to various uniformed organisations, the Wildlife Warriors (who built the beacon) and their families to the lighting of the beacon. Over 300 people attended and enjoyed the beacon and cups of hot chocolate. I would like to express my sincere thanks to John and Lorna Waters of Salisbury Farm for their generosity in offering up the use of their farm for the event.



We were delighted to support the local Brownie pack and the Newport Uskmouth Rotary in the planting of purple crocus to mark the 'Purple 4 Polio' campaign.



It was such a shame that the Monmouthshire County Council work force mowed the crocus before they could be appreciated by everyone.

For the first time, the Commonwealth flag was raised above St Marys Church Magor when, on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 we celebrated Commonwealth Day. A civic service to observe the occasion was held in the church to celebrate and reflect on a Peace Building Commonwealth. We were delighted to be joined by pupils from both Magor and Undy Primary Schools as well as representatives from Gwent Police and local groups and organisations.



I have been privileged to attend numerous functions and fund-raising events in my capacity as the Community Council Chair. These have included the presentation of the Queens Guide Award to a local guide, Macmillan Coffee morning, Art exhibitions by local artists, a Lenten Soup lunch, GWT supporters annual coffee and mince-pies Christmas presentation.

I have also worked alongside Monmouthshire County Council and other organisations looking at the well-being of the community, and most recently was delighted to learn that we have been able to secure s.106 monies, subject to the submission of our business case, towards the refurbishment of our Tennis and MUGA courts.

I took time to reflect on the projects delivered by the Community Council over the last five years – we have achieved so much. No doubt 2017/2018 and the next 5 years will present many challenges to the Community Council as our villages continue to grow and develop and as we tackle some big projects.

As Councillors elected by our community we will of course endeavour to embrace each and every challenge as it arises working together towards the ethos of our mission statement: **“To conserve and improve Magor with Undy as an attractive and sustainable place in which to live, visit and do business”**

*Cllr Donna James  
Chair 2016-2017*



**Commonwealth Day 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**