



# News From

Cantref Llanfrynach Llanhamlach Groesffordd  
Nant Ddu and Llechfaen

## Where We Belong – Ein Cynefin

[www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://www.llanfrynach-community.org.uk)

### JUNE 2014

## TOO FAST

Fast traffic on major trunk roads in the communities of Llanhamlach and Nant Ddu is causing repeated accidents and stress for residents and visitors alike.

The Community Council's wish for the speed limit on the A40 in Llanhamlach and the A470 at Nant Ddu to be reduced from 60 to 50 mph has now been raised with the First Minister, Carwyn Jones. A Welsh Government review of local speed limits on trunk roads was begun in 2009 but the required contact has not been made with the communities and the review is due for completion by the end of 2014.



Another crash on A470, Nant Ddu, March 2013

Both communities have a long history of repeated and sometimes extremely serious traffic accidents. Both have a high volume of fast-moving traffic as well as visiting tourists and local people slowing down to enter and exit hotels, farms and homes, potentially a very dangerous combination. At Nant Ddu Mrs Frankie Prosser has had to have the wall in front of her home rebuilt more than four times. She dreads the sound of yet another major pile up, like the one pictured above, in front of her home.

Mrs Netty Rees, who owns the Coed Owen Bunkhouse in Nant Ddu is very concerned about the dangers for families who stay there when crossing the road to visit the Nant Ddu Lodge Hotel just opposite. Comments have been made in her visitors' book about the stress of crossing the A470 with children. Mrs Rees says, "I note that the Community Council is recommending a local speed limit of 50 mph. We residents think a 40 mph restriction with a speed camera should be recommended; 50 mph would still be too fast!"

In Llanhamlach the situation is also one where the combination of fast through cars and motor-bikes mixing with local traffic and visitors to the Old Ford and Peterstone Court Hotel, slowing down to turn off the road creates a constant potential for accidents. Residents and businesses in both communities say that enforcing the current speed limit and encouraging safe driving are not sufficient measures to improve safety. According to Dave McCarthy of the Old Ford Inn, Llanhamlach should have double white lines, to prevent overtaking, on the whole residential stretch of the road together with traffic-calming measures.

The problem is that many drivers already ignore the existing double white lines on the stretch of the A40 by Peterstone Court. Gordon Jones says he looks out of his window daily at the traffic roaring by and drivers still overtaking illegally. Both men think enforcement must be a major factor supporting whatever measures are taken. Mr McCarthy says he is constantly warning customers leaving his pub, "There is a terrifying chance of joining the carriageway and then meeting an overtaking car coming towards you: be careful, look both ways."

Following requests from County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick and a meeting with Community Councillor Mervyn Bramley, Kirsty Williams AM tackled First Minister Carwyn Jones about the lack of public consultation. She said, "More and more constituents and community councils are coming to me telling me they are unhappy with the speed limits in their area. The Welsh Labour Government said when they issued guidance on this in 2009 that communities would be consulted. However, to date this has not happened.

The residents who live in the towns and villages alongside trunk roads deserve to have their voices heard. I would urge any constituents who feel strongly on the issue of speed limits to contact me so that their views can inform this process."

The Community Council has produced notes on the specific issues in Nant Ddu and Llanhamlach (available from the Clerk or our website [llanfrynach-community.org.uk](http://llanfrynach-community.org.uk)) and Kirsty Williams has requested a local meeting with the Highway Authorities to discuss them.

Residents who want to make their views known should contact Kirsty Williams 4 Watergate, Brecon/Aberhonddu, LD3 9AN 01874 625739 [www.kirstywilliams.org.uk](http://www.kirstywilliams.org.uk) [www.welshlibdems.org.uk](http://www.welshlibdems.org.uk) or Powys County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick or their Community Councillor. All contact details are on the back page.

# TOO SLOW

Does your broadband speed have more in common with a snail than a sports car? A large proportion of people in Wales, particularly in rural locations, struggle to connect to the internet at anything like an adequate speed – thus not being able to participate effectively with what has become a vital part of 21<sup>st</sup> century life.

The good news is that within a year Superfast Broadband is promised for both the Llanfrynach and Brecon exchanges. The roll-out of fibre connections to the cabinets (those mysterious little green boxes at the roadside), is due to start from the Brecon exchange in September 2014 and from the Llanfrynach exchange in March 2015. For more information, to see a map of your area and to register your interest and phone number, go to <http://www.superfast-cymru.com/home>.

However, some homes and businesses may still be too far from their nearest cabinet to reap the benefits, and performance may be reduced if there are too many premises on a shared line trying to connect at the same time. For such places financial help is available. For individuals, businesses, third sector organisations and communities which have a consistent download speed of less than 2 Mbits/sec (look online for companies to help you measure your speed), there are grants of up to £1,000 per home. This money can be pooled by neighbours or spent on individual premises to get satellite access or other ways of improving speed. For more info look at **Access Broadband Cymru scheme** Email: [broadband@wales.qsi.gov.uk](mailto:broadband@wales.qsi.gov.uk) .

## FULL SPEED AHEAD – WHAT’S HAPPENING

**Highways:** Resurfacing work at the Groesffordd Park road junction has been completed in the last 2 weeks. Resurfacing is now planned on the A40 from Llanhamlach to Scethrog. At some locations, this will involve a convoy system as well as width restrictions and routing goods vehicles via Talgarth. Thanks to the Welsh Government, road drainage improvements have recently been carried out to the A40 at the Llanhamlach dip, which has occasionally flooded in the winter storms; and Powys CC has prioritised funds to enlarge the stream culvert on the C96 Groesffordd to Llangorse road that is a longstanding cause of flooding and was also damaged in the winter storms.

**Llanfrynach Phone Box:** Volunteers from the village will soon begin work on bringing this local landmark back into pristine condition. This classic Gilbert Scott K6 phone box cost the Village Hall Committee £1. So far it has given much pleasure as an art gallery with some entertaining and fun exhibitions. Now it is proving a great success as a free library – leave a couple of books you have enjoyed (no duds please) and take something away to read. So at just £1, the hall committee think it was great value for money. The rules on glazing and painting the phone box are strict! Just the right colour red and the right kind of glass etc. If anyone would like to help call Steve on 665776.

**Tŷ Bach Llanfrynach Loos:** Plans are to do some painting and decorating this year. Also investigations are under way to use rainwater instead of mains water to save on the water bill. Donations are still coming in steadily – don’t forget every penny helps to keep this facility available for the convenience of residents and visitors alike. And now the Tŷ Bach is on Twitter! In its first week the @llanfrynachloos twitter account had 134 views, 25 followers, 5 linked visits and 61 tweets and continues to grow in popularity!

**Beacons Soil for Flanders Memorial:** Plans are in progress for a wonderful event in mid-July (date yet to be confirmed) to commemorate those who took part in the First World War. Earth will be taken from Pen y Fan (by kind permission of the National Trust) to Flanders. Officers from the National Park together with 106 Brigade and members of the Welsh Memorial in Flanders campaign team are coordinating a service, which will be held at the top of Pen y Fan. Snowdonia National Park is also to contribute earth from Snowdon. The earth will then be spread in Flanders where a specially commissioned dragon is to be unveiled on 16th August by the First Minister and Secretary of State for Wales in a service to commemorate all Welsh people who took part in the First World War.

## FÊTES AND SPORTS SEASON IN FULL SWING

It’s that time of year when the sun shines! Cakes are baked; veg are shown, races run. First off the mark was Cantef Sports, which as usual provided a wonderful day out for the whole community with Geoff Probert astonishing everyone as a newcomer to the traditional Wellie throwing by completely wiping out the competition and almost some of the crowd! He had two throws, one landed on the barbecue, the other in the middle of the spectators, after which the competition was abandoned!

Everyone from all communities is urged to join in the fun at **Llanfrynach Sports on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July** where traditional sheep-tossing and splat-the-rat can be enjoyed while downing a glass of Pimms. Teas provided by Llanhamlach Church and stalls run by WI and other locals will have lots on offer.

**Groesffordd Show. Sports and Games will start at 1pm on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August** with fancy dress, vegetable and produce

# Time for Residents and Newts to have a Party!

## Successful habitat restoration for endangered newts at Cantref Pond

Cefn Cantref Pond is an old established farm pond that can be found on local maps dating back to c1820. The residents of the newly restored barns, now called Pen Cantref, wanted to bring the pond back to a state where it can be easily maintained. They enlisted the help of The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust (ARC), The Green Valleys CIC, Brecknock Wildlife Trust, Keep Wales Tidy and Powys County Council.



**Residents' working party at Cantref Pond**  
Robert Clarke, Barrie and Toni Whitehead, Lis Davies

**Peter Hills of the ARC Trust** [peter.hill@arc-trust.org](mailto:peter.hill@arc-trust.org) writes, "Great crested newts are a declining species and live at the pond which had become overgrown and was reducing in size and depth significantly. As well as vegetated areas, the newts require areas of open water to perform their nocturnal courtship displays. The pond was restored during the winter months when newts are hibernating on land, ensuring that the works caused minimum impact upon the newts and other aquatic wildlife. Thanks to the Pen Cantref Residents' Association having brought the situation to my attention and working together with us on this, the newts will now continue to live and breed at the pond. Great crested newts are a European protected species and have declined significantly across England and Wales, mainly due to fish being introduced to breeding sites, and ponds becoming unsuitable over time. Positive action from proactive, wildlife aware groups such as the Pen Cantref Residents Association can certainly help reverse the decline of the animals and help the population recover. What ARC Trust would like to do next is identify a site nearby at which we can create a second, new pond. Doing so would increase colony connectivity and breeding habitat for this declining species."

Gareth Ellis of the Green Valleys Project and an intrepid band of residents carried out the clearance of the willow and other trees invading the pond on the North side. This was followed towards the end of February by further clearance and dredging of the north side of the pond. More about the progress of the pond and about the newts can be found at [lanfrynach-community.org](http://lanfrynach-community.org) or at <http://pencantref.co.uk/index.html>



**The Sack Race at Cantref Sports**

## Llanfrynach-community.org.uk

It's your community website and it's improving all the time. Want the local weather forecast, find a plumber, electrician, carpenter, B&B, what's on at the WI, where the Church services are, look at Council minutes, brilliant local maps or find links to other local organisations?

Well it's all there and more. If you would like details of your organisation, trade or business to be included just get in touch with the Clerk Bronwyn Fox or your Community Councillor. It's all free

## Tony is New Chair

Tony Hamnett of Groesffordd is the new chair of Llanfrynach Community Council. Having had a career as a research scientist with the Agricultural Research Council, he requalified in his 40's as a solicitor.



**Tony Hamnett**

# Suffering from those irritating unwanted nuisance calls?

By Kim Brook, member for Wales, Communications Consumer Panel, Ofcom

Such calls can cause distress and anxiety, and some calls have dishonest or criminal intent. Preventing or reducing nuisance calls is complex, but a high priority for a number of government agencies and telecoms companies. Here are some tips to help you reduce the number of nuisance calls and advice about what to do when you receive them.

**Register with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS):** TPS is a free service run by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which allows consumers to opt out of receiving any unsolicited telesales calls. You can register your fixed line phone number or mobile at <http://www.tpsonline.org.uk>, or by phoning 0845 070 0707. It takes up to 28 days to come into effect. It is illegal for telemarketers to call TPS-registered numbers. Although this will reduce the number of calls you receive, it won't stop them all. Companies may still call you if you've given them permission, intentionally or inadvertently – you may just have ticked the wrong box on a website. Read the blurb on the website and make sure you opt out. Then, contact the company and ask them not to call you. Some companies still break the rules, and making a complaint about them is vital in helping the regulators take targeted action.

When you receive a nuisance call, make a note of the date, time, name of the firm and also the number you were called from (even if it doesn't look like a valid number). You can make a report/complaint to the relevant organisation or regulator even if you don't have all the above information. A full guide to the various forms of nuisance calls and how to report them is at <http://consumers.ofcom.co.uk/tell-us/telecoms/>. This website gives a complete set of guidance on unwanted calls and texts. You can also phone Ofcom on 0300 123 3333.

Note that there are some commercial companies that claim to offer (chargeable) services similar to TPS; in my experience these have very limited effect; TPS is the only register that organisations are legally obliged to check against before making live telesales calls. TPS and Ofcom are not affiliated to any of these commercial organisations.

**Use 'Caller Line Identification' (CLI) on your Handset:** Most modern fixed-line telephone handsets, and all mobiles, can display the caller's number; exceptions are international calls, people who are ex-directory or choose to withhold their number, (shows as 'withheld') or calls from extensions working through a switchboard (shows as 'unavailable') – although companies should enable their central switchboard number to be displayed. CLI is currently free for BT customers and some other providers – check with your own provider. If your display shows 'international', 'unavailable' or 'withheld', you have the option of waiting to see if your answering machine clicks in and a genuine message is left. If no message is left, the call probably originated from a call centre and was abandoned, such calls are illegal and should be reported to Ofcom (see the link above). Unfortunately some nuisance calls originate from organisations that generate a false number.

**How to deal with a Nuisance Call:** If you do answer an unwanted call for any reason, it can be useful to say nothing for a short time; often a machine-generated call will terminate automatically. If this happens, the originator is legally obliged to leave a message stating who was calling and show a number you can call back on. (Be careful it's not a premium rate number beginning with 09!). If you think it is an unwanted call, get the details as above and inform them that you will be making a complaint – and do please carry out the threat. (Unless you find the whole thing too exhausting!)

If anyone starts asking you for your financial data, or wants to levy a charge for having just 'fixed' your Microsoft problem, or get them out of jail in Nigeria following a loss of their wallet, or you receive a threatening or abusive call, get as many details as you can and immediately report all the details to the police – dial 101.

## Members of Llanfrynach Community Council

### CANTREF WARD

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