**2021/22 - ANNUAL REPORT**

Wentlooge Community Council over that the last year has performed well under difficult situations within the Covid Pandemic. Although it was difficult to have a public presence, the council continued on with the projects and tasks that they set out at the beginning of the year.

To continue to play an active part in the living levels project to enhance the historical significance of this area together with the continuing improvement to wildlife and eco systems. This has paid benefits in the obvious increase in numbers of endangered species on the Wentlooge Levels together with numerous sightings of Otter, Vole, Adda and many birds especially during the migration seasons.

The council are also part of the Orchard programme led by Gwent Wildlife Trust and the last year has seen an increase in the number of orchards in our area and the restoration of others. This was celebrated by a carved apple seat being given and installed at the local school to celebrate their new orchard and the Platinum flag status for the eco work.

The history of the levels has been enhanced by several information points, places to see, local wildlife details and history information for this unique area.

The council continues to work with multiple agencies to address the situation of fly-tipping and litter, by having an active role and a voice in all forums both locally and nationally. Members of the council have also been out and about clearing up litter all, across, the levels.

We continue to contribute to all relevant consultations from Welsh Government, Local Authorities, and many other agencies.

The council has kept to it commitment of protecting the historical and natural makeup of the Wentlooge Levels and take this into account in any applications or proposed changes that come to us for comment.

There has been a great deal of work to support the Welsh Government vision of opening up, all the ancient walkways. There is one application in at present, another being prepared with many more to come. This will open up this area for everyone to appreciate this in turn will promote and protect the area we care for.

We still campaign for traffic management and improved road conditions some of which were action within the last year. We also successfully negotiated with two large businesses on the Wentlooge Business Park and they now have all their heavy goods vehicles using the route towards Cardiff rather than the B4239.

The financial controls of the council and the Work of the Clerk has now shown dividends and we are in the strongest position we have been in for many years.

The precept was increased in 2021 to meet the shortfall in funding from Newport City Council. Up until 2019/20 to fund your council we raised money from two sources, an earmarked or precepted amount of council tax and an annual concurrent grant contribution of approximately £3200 from Newport City Council to help pay for the services we provide.

To meet the shortfall in funding the council has been forced to increase the precepted amount from the tax payer. Band D will now pay £4.28 precept per month compared to £2.14 to the year before.

During 2021/22 the council has spent £13607 and has £9524 to take over to next year. This allows the council to hold sufficient reserves for any emergencies to carry out work in the community and provide donations in the community.

The Council donated or made grants of the following sums of money during the year:

MacMillan Cancer £35

The Health and Wellbeing project at Marshfield primary school through the Parents and Teachers association as children from WCC area attend the school - £100

Wales Air Ambulance £50

TyHafan £100

Peterstone Village Hall £1650

St Brides Village Hall £1650

It is the Councils objective to have a defibrillator in both villages this year and they are very close to this being a reality with only one local location yet to be determined.

Due to delays by the audit office the council has not received the Auditor General for Wales opinion on the 2020/21 external audit.