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UPDATE ON BROADBAND EVENTS

Two community events held as we continue to press the case for SuperFast broadband in our rural communities

RAGLAN SCHOOL UP AND RUNNING

Pupils and staff are enjoying the new 21st Century School which was delivered by MCC, providing a learning environment for future generations

PETITION UPDATE

Two petitions are underway relating to the A40 trunk road in both Raglan and Llanover wards.

RAGLAN AND LLANOVER NEWSLETTER

■ Sara and Penny are your local County Councillors for the Llanover and Raglan wards on Monmouthshire County Council. We work closely with the Community Councils in your area—Llanover, Llanarth Fawr and Raglan — to identify local issues of concern.

Representing large rural wards we feel that it is helpful to send out a newsletter to residents in addition to our ward surgeries which are held monthly. The aim of our newsletter is to provide a snapshot of some of the activity we have been involved in over the previous few months and what's coming up on the horizon.

We are always keen to hear from you about what matters most in your community and how we can address this through local government services and action. Please do let us know how we can support you or address any issues you have.



Sara and Penny with David Davies MP at Usk Show

'SUPERFAST' BROADBAND?

■ Adequate broadband continues to be a concern for rural residents

We have been working closely with BT and the Welsh Government to understand when our communities will be able to access SuperFast broadband. Sara has held two community events this winter in **Llanover** and **Llanvapley** where we received presentations from BT on the rollout plans and residents had the opportunity to raise their own concerns.

Under the current programme the objective of BT and the Welsh Government was to see 96% of Wales receive access to SuperFast speeds. We are concerned that Monmouthshire is no where near this figure and our communities are losing out, creating a digital divide.

We continue to press for better provision and for our own communities to be included in the current rollout plan which ends this summer. **We ask that any residents who would like to learn more about when they may be able to access SuperFast broadband, or would like to hold a community event, to get in touch.**

LOCAL ROUND-UP

1

With the **Llanvapley Solar Park** now operational Sara is working closely with Llanarth Fawr Community Council and local residents to ensure that we see a return on the community benefit that has been promised as part of the scheme, which would help support local projects.

2

The **new car park in Raglan** has proved very successful for both school bus provisions and parents alike as it provides a safe environment for school drop off and pick up. Penny has worked with officers to ensure more signage will be placed around Raglan to encourage greater use of the car park

3

There has been continued concerns around the enforcement of speeding issues throughout the local area. Sara has worked with officers and members to set up a **Road Safety Task and Finish Group** which will examine the county wide policies in relation to speeding and enforcement.

RAGLAN SCHOOL— A SUCCESS STORY



Following the opening of the new **Raglan CIW VC Primary School** in autumn 2015, as part of Monmouthshire County Council's 21st Century School programme, pupils and staff are enjoying the new learning environment and the facilities provided. The Governors and pupils welcomed Adelaide Dunn as the temporary head teacher in situ until September.

Official opening of Raglan School with the Bishop of Monmouth and Leader of the Council Peter Fox alongside Penny, staff and pupils

Action on flooding

Sara has been working with residents in **Llanfair Kilgeddin** to identify how we can resolve issues within the local area.

We have had agreement from the Diocese to use the school as a storage for sandbags for the community in the event of flooding.

Longer term we have been successful in our funding bid to Welsh Government to conduct a local Project Appraisal Report to hopefully identify a long term solution to the ongoing flooding issues.

REPORTING BACK...

■ In January Sara and Penny supported the RABI fundraiser at the Monmouthshire Livestock Market

Joining other Councillors after a full day of meetings we enjoyed a light hearted quiz evening raising funds for RABI, supporting agricultural families in hardship throughout the county. This is a charity close to our hearts and, as always, the food at the Livestock Market was a winner (even if we weren't quite so successful in the quiz!)



■ Raglan Teas

Raglan Teas was started in 2014 by the Raglan Project Team and volunteers, and supports people with dementia and associated health issues who feel isolated in the community. It is a monthly social event held in the Raglan Old School on the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm. Everyone is very welcome!



■ MUGA—Multi Use Games Area

After much negotiation, Raglan Community Council are taking possession of the MUGA as an asset transfer from MCC, and an Area grant has been awarded to make some improvements to increase its overall use by Raglan residents.

■ Highways Issues

A Consultation/Exhibition Day is being held by MCC through Raglan Community Council to enable all residents to have a say in any highways issues that concern them. The comments will then be collated, alongside the feedback of the recent survey, and this will be presented at a public meeting. The date is to be confirmed but will be widely publicized.

■ Ward Surgeries

All are welcome to our ward surgeries, no appointment is needed:

- Raglan Old School, 6th March
- Llanvapley Pavilion, 27th March
- Both 4.30-6pm

ACTION AROUND THE AREA



■ A40 Noise Petition—Road Resurfacing

Sara continues to campaign for the **resurfacing of the A40**. A petition was presented to the National Assembly for Wales in the summer and we continue to press the Welsh Government to honour the commitment in the Noise Action Plan which stated that the road would be a priority. The noise impact from this road is of particular concern to residents living in the **Bryn** and **Bryngwyn**.

■ A40 Raglan Trunk Road Petition

Resident Sarah Griffiths has organised a petition requesting the Welsh Government to provide signage regarding the pedestrian crossings and to implement a speed restriction from the A449 to the Raglan roundabout. The petition is available in the Raglan Post Office or online—letters of support have been sent to Welsh Government by David Davies MP, Nick Ramsay AM, Penny and RCC.