



# BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Cyngor Cymunedol Bracla

**Winter Newsletter 2020/ Cylchlythyr Gaeaf 2020**



May I start by wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. 2020 has been a strange and difficult year for all of us, but despite the difficulties, it's been heart-warming to see our community come together to do things like shop for the most vulnerable, not to mention the inspiring work our NHS & social care staff, as well as other key workers have done throughout the pandemic.

Even though we have had to cancel some of our most popular events this year, such as the Brackla Fun Day and our well-attended Fireworks Night, the work of Brackla Community Council keeps going. Over the last year, we have kept Brackla Community Centre for all the community to use, worked hard to protect our green spaces and worked with schools and others to keep Brackla tidy. We have also made sure that the street scene in Brackla remains as pleasant as possible, by installing our popular hanging baskets, adding new bins across Brackla, running our 'Brackla in Bloom' competition and even had councillors delivering dog bags to residents' homes - and much, much more.

We are currently making future plans here in Brackla, so if there is something you feel that Brackla needs over the coming years, please contact the Community Council. We are always keen to hear from local residents like you.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and learning about just some of the things the Community Council is doing here in Brackla.

**Cllr Tom Giffard**

**Chair, Brackla Community Council**

## **CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

Fancy the chance to win a Christmas Hamper? No raffle ticket needed!

As we have unfortunately been unable to run any of our events this year Brackla Community Council would like to spread a bit of Christmas cheer by offering the residents of Brackla the opportunity to win a Christmas Hamper!

You can enter by simply clicking on our contact form on the website and providing us with your details. Alternatively, you can email us via [clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk) or by writing to us at Brackla Community Council, c/o Oak Tree Surgery, Whitethorn Drive, Brackla, Bridgend, CF31 2PQ.

If you feel like adding some views in the comments section, or in your email or letter, on what you think should be the priorities locally in Brackla, we would be extremely grateful.

The draw will be undertaken at our December Council meeting on 17th December 2020. (Please ensure you provide contact details such as telephone or address).

## **NEW CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Council have purchased new Christmas Lights that have been put up around the roundabouts in Brackla, and other lights have been spread more evenly in the area. The tree outside the community Centre also has new lights and we are hoping the area looks better than ever!



Despite events having to be cancelled this year and the office being closed, Brackla Community Council have continued to operate, with staff working from home, striving to re-open the Centre and also continuing with a series of projects. Below is a snapshot of the work that has been undertaken throughout the pandemic.

### **DOG BAG DELIVERY SCHEME**

While our office remains closed until further noticed, we have set up a temporary dog bag delivery service for Brackla residents. For more information on the scheme or for booking a delivery on the next available cycle, please visit our website:

<https://www.bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk/dog-poo-bag-delivery/>

### **BRACKLA IN BLOOM 2020**

Our usual event was slightly different this year, residents still entered the competition under the 3 categories and each of those entrants will receive a highly commended certificate and voucher. We hope that as the world returns to normal, we will be able to hold our usual competition and afternoon tea presentation next year and have more entries than ever before.

### **FLOWER DISPLAYS AND GRASS CUTTING**

The floral displays and grass cutting throughout Brackla have continued throughout the Pandemic. To commemorate VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year we created two VE day display of flowers in the planters on Brackla Way and near Simonston Road. The Community Council have now arranged for Rainbow flower displays in these 2 planters as a way of thanking Key Workers.



### **PEBBLE PATHWAY OF HOPE**

A 'Pebble Pathway of Hope' has been created in Channel View initiated by local resident Seren to say 'Thank you' to NHS and Key workers who have continued to work and put themselves at risk during the Coronavirus Pandemic. Local residents and volunteers are looking to preserve the pathway and make it a permanent feature in Channel View. In the meantime, with the aim of getting as many people involved as possible, we would still like to encourage everyone to get painting and help expand the pathway.

The Community Council are also looking to put some sort of permanent display at the Community Centre to thank key workers in the Community

### **BRACKLA COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Whilst the Community Centre was closed throughout lockdown, the building was able to be used by Banana Moon Nursery to help provide vital childcare for key worker children in the local area. We are happy to say that the Community Centre is now able to open, all be it only to specific groups at this time with limited numbers, but we are so glad to see groups returning again. All social distancing, government guidance and safety measures are in place and we look forward to welcoming even more groups and users back hopefully in the not so distant future.

The Community Council also have some big plans starting hopefully soon for some repair and maintenance work on the Centre including new fascias and guttering, windows, a possible new heating system, improved disabled access as well as lots of 'TLC' that is needed such as painting and decorating. We would really like to thank all those that support Brackla Community Centre – there are so many users now of all ages, whether those that attend for martial arts, keep fit, singing, sewing, knitting, dancing or hire it for wonderful parties – it all helps to keep this fantastic facility open and running and your continued support is very much appreciated.





## FLY-TIPPING

The Community Council have collaborated with Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to resolve several fly-tipping issues in the area throughout the year.

If you notice or know of any fly-tipping in Brackla, please report it to BCBC either by emailing [cleanupthecounty@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cleanupthecounty@bridgend.gov.uk) or by contacting 01656 643643.

## GREEN SPACES

Many of you will have seen the recent campaign for 'Save our Fields' in Brackla where local residents are campaigning to protect local green spaces from being built on. Focus has been on the relocation of Ysgol Bro Ogwr and the feasibility study that has been undertaken on the land at Brackla Hill. The Community Council has been looking into this with several letters being sent to BCBC Chief Executive, Leader and Corporate Director, Education and Family Support. Members have expressed their concerns regarding any building on green space in Brackla given that there is already a deficit of accessible green space in the area, and the Community Council have argued that there is a real need to try and protect and preserve it for the local community. The Community Council have firstly asked for increased communication and information sharing so that they can be informed appropriately. This way they can then share this information with Brackla residents to ensure they are aware of what is going on in the local area. For now, we have been advised that no decision has yet been made but if a decision were to be made to progress there would be a full and rigorous consultation process undertaken.

## BRACKLA LOVE IT DON'T TRASH IT

Brackla Community Council are working alongside Bridgend County Borough Council and all primary schools in Brackla. A competition was held within the Schools to design a poster/logo for the project, and a winner was chosen by the BCBC team. The winning design will be placed on bins, lamppost and in noticeboards throughout Brackla. To coincide with this project the Community Council will be working with BCBC and purchasing new litter bins that will be placed around the local area. It is hoped that bins will have an identifiable QR code, linked via the 'What3words' App that will help the public report bin issues directly to Bridgend County Borough Council and to Brackla Community Council.

## DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

We are currently looking into the possibility of providing new Defibrillators in Brackla. We also believe that it is useful for residents to know where others are located in the area should they need to be used. Below is a current list of locations:

- Brackla Community Centre
- Maes Glas Vets
- Archdeacon John Lewis Primary School
- Ysgol Bro Ogwr Primary School
- Bryn-y-Cae Care Home
- Bridgend Masonic Hall

For further information regarding location and access times, please visit:

<https://111.wales.nhs.uk/LocalServices/default.aspx?s=DefibrillatorLocations&locale=en>

## KEEP WALES TIDY – BRACKLA WILDLIFE GARDEN

We have been lucky enough to have been successful this year in a bid to receive a starter package for a wildlife garden from the environmental Charity, Keep Wales Tidy. These packages hope to enhance local places for nature, that can be sustained in future years. So far, we have created a wildflower planter at the front of the Community Centre and erected bird feeders, bug boxes and bug hotels around the Centre grounds. More recently one of our Councillors was joined by local nursery children, (socially distancing of course), who had lots of fun planting autumn bulbs in planters in the back garden of the Centre ready to sprout and blossom in the spring! We hope to use the garden and information guidance we have received to encourage the community to work with us to protect, preserve and enhance the natural habitats and wildlife in the local area.



## Brackla Community Councillors

Councillor	Address	Tel	Email
David Aston (Independent Labour)	64 Georgian Way Brackla CF31 2EY	663452 0778 606 7573	david_aston@ymail.com
Eugene Caparros (Welsh Labour)	2 Glasfryn Brackla CF31 2JN	07849124047	
Joshua Chohan (Welsh Conservatives)	25 Cefn Coed, Bridgend CF31 4PH	07807915128	cllrjoshuachohan@gmail.com
Tom Giffard (Welsh Conservatives)	75 Bishopswood Brackla CF31 2LY	07814408560	cllr.tom.giffard@bridgend.gov.uk
Ian Hibble (Welsh Labour)	46 Tremains Court Brackla CF31 2SR	768335	cllr.ianhibble@hotmail.com
Keith Hughes (Welsh Conservatives)	18 Bramble Close Briarfields Brackla CF31 2PS	07753634503	cllr.keith.hughes@gmail.com
Ciaron Jackson (Welsh Labour)	c/o Brackla Community Council Office	767072	
Aniel Pucella (Welsh Conservatives)	Casa Prima House Gwaun Coed Brackla CF31 2HS	663193 07850960512	Cllr.aniel.pucella@bridgend.gov.uk
Kay Rowlands (Welsh Conservatives)	9 Cae Bron Brackla CF31 2HQ	07840255517	cllr.kay.rowlands@bridgend.gov.uk
John Spanswick (Welsh Labour)	8 Rushfield Gardens Bridgend CF31 1DE	646534 07977520080	cllr.john.spanswick@bridgend.gov.uk
Tyler Walsh (Welsh Conservatives)	16 Trem-y-Mor Brackla CF31 2HA	07827229481	TylerWalshBrackla@outlook.com

2020 has certainly been a year to remember. We have seen communities pull together to help each other and key workers working tirelessly to maintain essential services at such a crucial time, selflessly putting themselves at risk to do so.

Brackla Community Council would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all these generous individuals and we hope that everyone will continue to support them by staying safe and following government regulations throughout the holiday period and beyond. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

### **BRACKLA COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Room 36 Oak Tree Surgery (SIDE ENTRANCE VIA THE STEPS)

Whitethorn Drive Brackla CF31 2PQ

Opening hours 10 – 4 weekdays

Tel: 01656 767072

[www.bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk)

Email: [clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bracklacomunitycouncil.gov.uk)

The Community Council hold monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, 6:30pm in the Boardroom of Oaktree Surgery (currently being held via Zoom until further notice). The press and public are invited to attend these meetings.