

TYISHA RESIDENTS AND TENANTS ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Message from the Executive Committee

This has been a busy and successful year for the Association. This report outlines what we have achieved as a group this year - both residents and tenants, and committee members. We would like to thank all our members for your continued support, and for your attendance at meetings and events. This group is for you. We want to take your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns seriously. We hope we have done that in 2008, and we hope to do so again in 2009, if re-elected, individually, and as a group.

Thanks also to all the numerous service providers who have not only attended meetings, but also followed up on members' concerns, and worked with individuals and the committee to resolve issues of concern to the community.



Overview

Our full meetings have seen an increase in attendance from just over 20 at the beginning of the year, (16 at the last AGM), to 35+ residents on average at the end of this year, plus service providers such as town and county councillors, Keep Wales Tidy, Dyfed Powys Police, Community Safety Partnership, and Communities First, among others.

As well as 9 full residents' meetings since the last AGM, the committee has also met regularly (15 times) to plan meetings, events and trips, and to discuss, and follow up on, issues raised in full meetings.



Mal Heath, Community Safety Partnership



The end of a meeting

Social evenings, trips, etc

We have organised various social evenings, trips, children's parties, youth activities, and even armchair aerobics!

- Trip to Builth Wells – 27th November 2007
- Children's Christmas parties (2007 and 2008)
- Trip to St Fagans – 12th February 2008
- Cawl night -- 26th March 2008
- Bingo night - 28th May 2008
- Trip to Tenby – 15th August 2008
- Children's Halloween Party 2008
- Youth Activity Week (Autumn half term 2008)
- Armchair Aerobics (Autumn/Winter 2008)
- Christmas Dinner 2008

Trip to St Fagans



We hope by organising these events we have provided activities for various parts of the community, young and old. The feedback we have had has been positive and enthusiastic for each event. The current executive committee are considering setting up an Events Committee to assist in the organisation of such events and activities.



Bingo night



Children's Christmas Party

Local Issues

We have assisted in resolving various issues raised by members:

Home Bargains Licensing – appealed the application for a license to sell alcohol. Although the license was granted, a good relationship has been established between Home Bargains and the Residents and Tenants Association.

Notice board – as a consequence of developing a good working relationship with Home Bargains, their management agreed to fund and install a notice board at the shop for the sole use of the Residents Association.

29 Station Road Licensing – members of the Executive Committee (at the request of residents) successfully objected to the application for a 4am license, at the Licensing Committee Hearing. The license was granted only until 1am. The owners appealed this decision, but subsequently withdrew the 4am request – they now have a license till 2am, in line with other licensed premises in the area. Members of the Executive attended this appeal.

Traffic - many ongoing issues raised by members. A Road Safety Public Meeting was held on 10 October 2008 with John McEvoy, from Carmarthenshire County Council Highways Department. Issues regarding Caersalem Terrace, Marsh Street and Bigyn Park Terrace, amongst others, were discussed. We understand that some action will be taken shortly.



2 issues – Home Bargains, and buses!!

Proposed school in Crown Park – A Public Meeting about this issue was held on 26th November 2008. It was organised and chaired by our executive committee. Rob Sully, from Carmarthenshire County Council's Education Department, attended, along with town and county councillors. Residents' concerns regarding the new School and its proposed location were put across strongly by residents.

Other issues

- Obtained a 'Hearing Loop' system in St Barnabas Hall – microphone is now in place.
- Heating in Waddles Court – issue now resolved
- Relocation of bench at Bigyn Hill



Tyisha, looking from Bigyn hill



Marsh Street – one area having traffic problems

- Requested notice boards for all Council/Community Halls in Tyisha. This is now awaiting funding.
- Requested and obtained installation of new litter bins around Tyisha/Station Road

- Resolved problems at Child's Play premises for residents re: down-pipes/water flow.
- Timetables and information regarding Bws Bach and the free Tesco Bus, have been distributed and links are available on the website.
- The Committees' request to discuss a direct bus route from Tyisha to Trostre, with First Cymru is ongoing – we are now working in co-operation with Morfa Residents and Tenants Association on this matter.
- Set up a Suggestion box for attendees to use at the meetings.

Representation on other committees, action groups, etc

Representatives of the Committee have

- Regularly attended and represented Tyisha and its residents at the **Safer Communities Action Group** and the **Environment & Regeneration Action Group**. Their attendance ensures that your concerns regarding Safety, Security, the Community and its Regeneration are always fairly reported.
- Regularly attended Communities First Partnership Meetings. A member of the Tyisha executive committee was elected this year as an Executive Member of the Partnership.
- Developed good working relationships with 5 Ty's Tenants Association and Old Lodge & Cwrt Neville Tenants and Residents Association



Our local PCSO



National Assembly for Wales

- Linked with and representation on Carmarthenshire Connect website re activities/events of the Tyisha Residents and Tenants Association.
- Attended Networking Meetings at Foothold, in order to get to know about and work with other local groups.
- Attended a 'Tidy Towns' Presentation in Carmarthen, regarding environmental issues such as recycling and litter clearance.

- Attended the 'Voices For Change Cymru', Petitioning Conference, Cardiff.
- Been invited to visit the Welsh Assembly Government.
- Attended the Llanelli 'Green Consumer Day' event run by the Environment and Regeneration Action Group.
- Attended the Llanelli Fairtrade Open Day.
- Attended Anti-Social Behaviour Public Meeting – chaired by Nia Griffith MP.
- Attendance and representation at Llanelli Fairtrade Steering Committee.

Voices For Change Cymru Seminar



Training, Workshops, etc

Members of the committee, and other members of the group, have attended various training courses and workshops in order to better help in the work of Tyisha Residents and Tenants Association. They have also visited other groups and organisations to learn and develop skills, and gather information, for the benefit of the group:

- Alley Gating Visit to Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, to learn about the system in place and to provide feedback for the group.
- Visit to Ystradgynlais to learn about work of Community Groups and Communities First in that area.
- Public Communication Workshop at the Antioch Centre

- Food Hygiene Course attended by several committee members, to ensure that the group is able to provide catering at events and meetings.
- Heartstart First Aid Course attended by 3 committee members, to ensure that suitable first aid cover is in place at all events and meetings.
- Attendance at “Blogging” Computer Training, run by Carmarthenshire Connect.
- Visit to Recycling Centre, Carmarthen
- Internet/Computer Safety Presentation – this was held during a full Tyisha Residents and Tenants Association meeting, to enable all members to be better informed on this matter.
- SCAMS presentation (by Community Safety Partnership and Communities First)– this was held during a full Tyisha Residents and Tenants Association meeting, to enable all members to be better informed on this matter

Visit to a Community Centre
in Ystradgynlais



Website

We have built a website with the help of CVC Circuit Riders: www.tyisharesidents.org.uk, to improve communication and raise awareness of the group/activities/events. Software to regularly update the site will be bought with the recent Awards For All grant.

Group Policies

Policies have been produced in order to support the working of the group. We now have in place:

- Child Protection Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy

All policies can be made available for any member to see.

Furthermore, all committee members have now been CRB checked, to ensure the safety of children and others attending group events

Funding

We have successfully applied for 2 grants this year. These have helped towards the running of the group, and also funded trips and social events.

Communities First Trust Fund - £3640.85

Received December 2007.

Items bought include: printer for secretary, digital camera for group, stationery and postage, catering equipment, funding for events and trips (Builth Wells, St Fagans). Fund completed and report has been sent to WCVA for closure.

Awards for All Wales – £2576

Received January 2009

Successful application for grant for equipment to support the working of the committee and the group as a whole, ie computers and computer software for secretary and treasurer (these belong to the group and are to be made available to members as necessary), marketing material, and catering equipment.

THANKS

Many thanks to all Service Providers who have assisted this group throughout the year: Special thanks go to members of Dyfed Powys Police and Police Community Support.

We were also very kindly supported by CYCA Youth Sports Champion for the Halloween Party, and by St Pauls Family Centre at Childrens Christmas Party.

The Committee and some friends of the group kindly donated all food/cakes etc. for many of the events throughout the year. Thanks also to those who have donated gifts for raffles and/or financial donations throughout the year – you know who you are! THANK YOU!!

