



Since becoming the Chairman of Draethen Waterloo & Rudry (DWR) Community Council, I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful residents and business owners at events such as the Rudry Fete, the Showcase Awards, Community Litter picks, Speed watch, Luncheon clubs and many other community activities and consultations.

2017 has been a year of huge change at the DWR Community Council eventful and at times challenging. Fundamentally, the biggest change has been cultural, with changes to the way DWR is run. There has been considerable restructuring to reinforce our new mission statement, “Fair for all – chwarae teg I bawb” the values, much more community centred and I am pleased to say considerable work has been done to improve our internal systems. During the past 8 months we have undertaken reviews of several policies, including our Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, FOI Policy, Complaints, Dignity at Work, Staff Discipline, Welsh Language and our Local Resolution Protocol. Our policies are ‘living documents’ and as such are subject to regular review and by the new year we hope to have concluded those reviews for this year and are ready to publish our agreed policies.

I am also pleased to say that our finances are in the best condition they have ever been but that is in no small part to do with the fact we have had Acting Clerk Brian Hancock and Cllr Garland who have managed the day to day running of the Council without any payment for their efforts for the past eight months. We are still looking to recruit a Clerk and hopefully by 2018 they will be installed and ready to take on the challenges DWR Council work brings.

We have many positive things to look forward to and the outcomes of the Consultation has given us the evidence and the foundation to progress encouraging community opportunities. One of our greatest successes this year is to learn that the 20 mile per hour speed limit outside of Rudry Primary school will now become permanent keeping our children a little safer on the lanes around that problematic area. This is down to the dogged activities of our Speed watch team out in rain and shine monitoring speed and feeding back data to CCBC and police HQ. We have some work to do to gain a reduction in speed control outside of the Hall but we will plod on during its current 18 month probation period and see what the data produces in time.

For those of you who appreciate the little park in Rudry I hope you now enjoy the additional picnic bench we installed for your pleasure. It’s a durable accessible bench and table to take a picnic and watch the children revel on the play equipment.

Christmas for me is a time for remembering and reflecting on the year that has passed. It’s also a time where we can join with family and friends to enjoy the Christmas festivities. We must however remember, sadly, that there are those that are lonely and bereaved, there are some that are homeless and there are those for whom life does not hold any hope. Through my time as Chairman, it has been a great honour to meet and work with many voluntary organisations and to celebrate with them the achievements and awards they have received. Working in the voluntary sector gives so much to so many, but it also returns a great sense of purpose to those who have given their time freely.

For those of you getting a small break at Christmas – have a good one. For those of you working all or part of the holidays – I hope it’s not too busy and that you get a break some time. As this is a particularly busy time of the year for me and my business I know how precious time can be. As a diverse community always there to support one another because It’s part of who we are, I ask that you to look out for one another over this Christmas period. I would also like to thank all of those who will be looking after us over the Christmas period, from the emergency services, our hospitals and our local authorities who keep our roads gritted and safe. I wish you all a happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Cllr Terry Hall - Chairman, DWR Community Council