



# St Athan Community Council

## Winter / Spring Newsletter



**DECEMBER 2021**



Roger Eustace  
Council Chairman

Following the very successful Fete in September, your Community Council have been actively engaged in improving different aspects of life for residents. Hopefully you will have seen the large Remembrance Day poppies placed on lamp posts throughout the ward, which we supported with the British Legion and others, and it was gratifying to see the great turnout at the Memorial on the day itself.

### Traffic

The concerns of Gileston residents about crossing the B4265 by the memorial have been raised at both County Council and Welsh Government levels and discussions continue regarding a solution. Further details to follow in due course. We have also been instrumental in the setting up of a new Community Speed Watch Group to raise awareness, and to act as a deterrent, of speeding through the Ward, so please support the volunteers in this important work. Your Community Council will continue to represent local interests on various committees to ensure that local views are properly communicated, which include reviewing and commenting on local planning applications to the County Council.

### Local Improvements

As you will see from the following articles, we have, in addition to normal maintenance works in the Ward, arranged for repair and restoration works to be undertaken at various locations, including the BT Exchange Building and Flemingston telephone box, to keep St Athan Ward looking good. Litter picks have been organised, but more local support is needed both in collecting the rubbish and changing mindsets to stop this type of

behaviour. A B-Lines project is also now underway to help deal with the loss of flowers and pollinators and to improve our local environment.

## Christmas Activities



Christmas is coming and we hope everyone enjoyed the November Christmas Lights Switching On event. Please also join in the planned open top bus Christmas Sing-along, which proved to be very popular last year, taking place on Sunday 19th December. Bus routes and timings are:

- 14:05 Starting at - Pinewood Square
- 14:20 The Gathering Place
- 14:35 St John's View
- 14:50 Tathan Crescent/Roberts Close
- 15:05 Tathan Crescent/Rectory Drive
- 15:20 Berkrols Avenue/Pantycelyn Place
- 15:35 Chapel Close/ Co Op
- 15:50 Last stop - Milsom House
- 16:00 Arrive back at MOD St Athan East Gate

## And What About 2022

The plan is to always do our best for local residents and make 2022 another great year pushing forward with the B-Line Project, Litter Picks and Summer Fete. Details about all these events and more will be uploaded to the Council Website [Welcome to St Athan Online \(stathancommunitycouncil.org.uk\)](https://stathancommunitycouncil.org.uk) and displayed on the Council notice board by the village Post Office.

## Thankyou

None of the above would be possible without your support and the commitment of your local Community Councillors, who I would formally like to thank for their ongoing hard work. On behalf of all Community Councillors, I hope you, your family and friends have a most enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and Prosperous 2022.

## NEW Community Speed Watch Group

Following a Public Meeting in July 2021 it was decided to form a Community Speed Watch (CSW) Group with the aim of making local roads safer for everyone.



CSW is an educational scheme to help people reduce speeding traffic through our community. The scheme enables volunteers to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

To become a CSW volunteer for St Athan Ward, take an active role in road safety please email [st.athan@outlook.com](mailto:st.athan@outlook.com)

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## Paul Lewis Community Centre Management Committee



This is very much a hands-on committee role. Unfortunately, centre activities were stopped for much of this year due to the enforced Covid 19 restrictions. Now that these restrictions have been removed its business as usual.

More recently, the centre has run a refreshment stall and tombola at the summer Fete, resulting in a decision to once again hold our very popular Halloween disco. There is lots more planned including helping the St Athan Fete become even better next year.

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## Natural Regeneration

The natural regeneration of wildflower and grass seed is one of the cheapest and easiest methods of enhancing the plants present in grassland. Restoring semi-natural habitats by natural regeneration from the seed

bank, the use of local green hay or colonization from plants in adjacent areas, is the most effective and ecologically robust method for improving plant diversity at these sites for the long-term.

Importantly, these methods also help safeguard the distinctiveness of local flora. This is part of the magic of wildflowers; a Norfolk wildflower meadow, with green-winged orchids and pepper-saxifrage, will be different in character to a Carmarthenshire wildflower meadow with whorled caraway and lesser butterfly-orchids, which makes both of them special.

### **Local Nature Partnership - Community Meadows Project**

The council are working with the Vale of Glamorgan council Local Nature Partnership to stop the decay of the material, which in turn will allow few common species of wildflower to grow. The partnership is also running a grassland harvesting project including the purchased of a new brush seed harvester, to be used on species rich meadows across the Vale and suitable areas within St Athan. The plan is to have a sizable number of seed which community groups and community councils are welcome to use on their own sites. The benefit of this method is rather than buying seed which could come from abroad or a completely different type of meadow, it comes from great examples of meadows within the same county.

### **B-Lines Project**

B-Lines are an imaginative and beautiful solution to the problem of the loss of flowers and pollinators. Imagine trying to travel around Britain without our road and rail network, life would be impossible. Well for much of our wildlife this is the reality. The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside. These routes are then being mapped by a wildlife organisation called Buglife. This will provide large areas of brand-new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies but also a host of other wildlife. The following images show potential areas within St Athan that could be considered for the B-Line Project.

## Gileston Ward



Lane heading towards Aberthaw beach, Left to grow long, cut twice a year and check in the summer.



Small, wooded area within Gileston, possible bulb planting in borders and along edges

## St Athan Ward

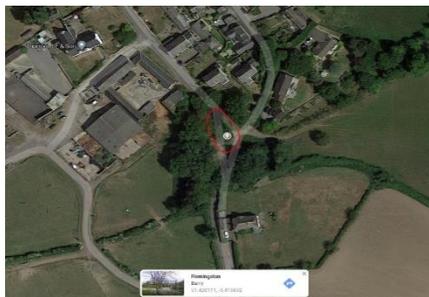


Junction between B4265 and Gileston Road, plan to change management of road verges. Left to grow long, cut twice a year. Area highlighted in blue, bank of a mix of cornflower and poppies to commemorate World War Monument.



The area in red shows small patch of mown grass with fencing and hedge surrounding. The plan is for the bramble coming through the fence to be cut back. The fence then covered with trellis and climbing plants and one or two small local heritage fruit trees planted.

## Flemington Ward



Area highlighted in red, small conifer removed and grass left to grow long.

Cut twice a year come back to check on species diversity in a year or so time.



Area highlighted in red left to grow, except small strip along the outside.

Cut twice a year and check back next summer to examine species richness.

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## British Telecom Exchange Building

We are working with B.T. to develop a programme of works aimed at tidying up the outside of exchange building and surrounding foliage. If you know of a local area in need of a little TLC, please get in touch.



## Working together pays off

The Community Council recently joined forces with the Visible Crew team to clear an overgrown area in the centre of St Athan. Our thanks for the hard work go out to the Youth Offending Service.

## Local Volunteer – Callum Carr

Many of our residents will be aware of the fantastic charitable work undertaken by Callum Carr, including, operating a clothes and cycle bank and litter picking.

Please note, the clothes bank has moved to St Tathan Church. The next date to access free available coats, shoes, etc will be Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup>. A donation towards the upkeep of this service would be greatly appreciated. For more details go onto Facebook St Clothes bank or ring Paul on 01446 311241

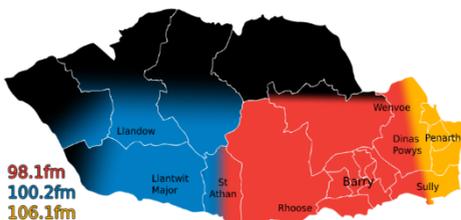
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## Council Supports Local Radio Station



Bro Radio is focussed on serving the Vale of Glamorgan and increasing its footprint to include all parts of St Athan. The station promotes a feeling of social identity and community pride amongst the urban, rural and coastal communities which exist within the county.

Its programming reflects the life of the residents it serves, with a mixture of locally relevant news, information and music during the day, with specialist music and information programming, covering sport, key communities, Welsh Language and specialist music genres during the evening and weekends.



The station aims to offer an alternative to commercial, national and BBC Radio, by educating, entertaining, informing and engaging with the community it serves that other media services cannot and with the help of the St Athan Community Council, Bro Radio has announced plans to expand its coverage into our ward.

Bro Radio is voluntary organisation, with all volunteers receiving quality training from professional, experienced personnel in journalism, presenting, production, or whatever area of radio broadcasting interests them. This training has enabled many of our volunteers to move onto paid employment at other radio stations and media outlets. To find out more about volunteering, call 01446 420 681 or e-mail [Admin@broradio.fm](mailto:Admin@broradio.fm)

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@the  of our community

# GlamorganStar

The staff at the Glamorgan Star would like to let St Athan residents know about our newspaper. Many of us were part of the Glamorgan GEM and we want to bring a community newspaper back to the Vale.

The Glamorgan Star is a free, fortnightly paper, publishing on a Thursday, and is available at selected outlets around the Vale. We welcome local stories from people in St Athan and aim to make people aware of as many community events as possible.

The newspaper is also available to read online. Simply go to <https://glamorganstar.co.uk> and click on 'digital edition'. On page 2, you will find contact numbers for our editorial and advertising staff, and also a list of businesses who stock the newspaper.