



## STORM BERT FLOODING UPDATE

A report into flooding in Llangattock during Storm Bert will conclude that the main causes were exceptional and intense rainfall, surface water run-off, river overflow and blockages caused by debris. The flooding was also aggravated by water overtopping from the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal after it was dammed for engineering works.

Llangattock Community Council has been pressing for answers from the Canal and River Trust (CRT) since the storm in November 2024, and this week, LCC Chair Tim Jones secured a meeting in Llangattock with the head of CRT Wales and South West of England, Ben Cottam, and other senior managers. Tim was joined by County Councillor Jackie Charlton and Flood Warden Gail Jones.

During the meeting, Mr Cottam undertook to review CRT's risk assessment and water management procedures for future engineering works, and to improve communications with LCC, Powys County Council (PCC) and the Llangattock Flood Wardens.

LCC expects the full report, which relied heavily on evidence gathered by residents, to be published shortly and to conclude that extreme rainfall events like this will become more likely due to climate change. Councillors will consider whether LCC can assist PCC, CRT, local landowners and residents to prepare and mitigate future flooding events.



### CANAL REPAIRS



Regular damage by vehicles colliding with Canal Bridge 114, repairs to its structure and measures to prevent further collisions were also discussed between CRT and Cllr Charlton. So too was a leak into Canal Close. Project managers have been appointed for both sets of works, which CRT hopes to conclude within the next 2-3 months.

# ROADWORKS PLANNED LATER THIS MONTH FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE



PCC has told us that work to upgrade the pavement from the northern edge of Llangattock Village to Crickhowell Bridge into a shared-use path will begin later this month. The scheme forms part of a wider Active Travel project, under discussion since 2019, which aims to promote walking and cycling to and from Crickhowell High School and Llangattock.

- This work will be carried out by Abergavenny-based contractor, Alun Griffiths.
- Contractors will arrive on site week commencing Monday 23rd February - the work is expected to take approximately nine weeks.
- Traffic lights will be in operation at the work areas.
- Some disruption is inevitable, but contractors will minimise this wherever possible.

PCC has advised LCC that this work is restricted and stops short of the edge of Llangattock Village itself. A consultation carried out last autumn attracted a wide range of comments from residents, including many from the centre of Llangattock. Further in-depth analysis of these is ongoing by PCC, alongside more recent engagement involving the primary school, parents, and Crickhowell High School. An initial review has taken place, and officers report they are working with the design team ahead of escalating the findings to senior management for their consideration of next steps.

At this stage, the work does not include any further sections within the village. LCC continues to press for improvements to the kissing gates path to be included.

PCC has said it will provide a further update in due course and has clarified that delivery of this initial phase does not imply approval of the whole scheme.

## COMMUNITY HUB NEWS

After detailed investigations and information gathering, LCC is close to submitting a planning application for a community hub at the Recreation Ground. We are waiting for the very heavy rain to ease so that we can use a digger to conduct drainage testing. A team of volunteers working with Llangattock Community Benefit Society is finalising the business case and, if planning permission is obtained, grant applications for capital funds to build the hub/shop/café.

For more about the topics here, please visit our website at [www.llangattock-cc.gov.wales](http://www.llangattock-cc.gov.wales)



## NEW PAID JOB IN LLANGATTOCK

A new part-time paid post is to be created to help maintain LCC's assets, including the Recreation Ground and the cemetery, and run projects to improve community facilities. The precise scope of the role is being developed, but LCC would like to hear from people who are interested in working for the community and being paid for it. This might suit a retired person with practical skills, or a young person seeking to learn project management or administration within a local government setting.

To fund the role, Councillors decided to:

- End an external contract for administrative support to The Clerk.
- Increase burial costs at the cemetery to bring them in line with other Councils nearby. This will also build capital for new cemetery spaces once the existing space is full.
- Reduce the cleaning days at the toilet block back to pre-covid levels of three days a week.

Accounting for inflation, these and other measures will see LCC's precept, 'our bit' of the Council Tax, rise by 16 pence per week (ppw) for a Band D household and 32 ppw for a Band H. A Band D household will pay £98 per year for LCC's services.

If you want more information about the budget please visit the website below. Last year's Annual Report will also be available there shortly.