

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

IMPORTANT – the time and date of the open meeting to discuss issues surrounding drug and alcohol misuse has been changed. The meeting is now to be held at The Opportunity Centre on **Friday 25th June at 1pm until 3pm**. Apologies for any inconvenience.

It will be attended by professionals from the field of substance abuse and treatment. Those living in Plas Madoc are invited to come and give their views and experiences and contribute to a long-term plan to reduce the negative effects that substance misuse can have on a community.

Sure Start

Bored? Want to make new friends? Want to help your child's speech? Then come and see Sure Start at The Opportunity Centre (Communities First Centre next to Rhosymedre Primary Schools) on Tuesdays between 9:30am – 11.30am. There will be a free crèche and refreshments available. Sure Start is also offering a 'Toolkit for Parenting' for parents wanting to learn new ways of dealing with their child's behaviour. The sessions are starting on Thursday 16th September between 12.00pm – 3.00pm and take place at Rhosymedre Primary School. A crèche and light refreshments will be available. For further information or to book a place, contact Claire or Vicky, Sure Start Health Visitors on 01978 823706.

Plas Madoc Over 60s Group

The Stratford-upon-Avon trip was a great success and benefited from superb weather. The coach was full and everyone was able to take in the beauty and history of this important cultural town. Tickets for the next Social Evening are soon to be available. The musical duo "Lowensa" will be appearing at the Air Products Social Club on 21st August. Contact 01978 813915 for ticket information.

Passport to Leisure

Passport to Leisure provides 50% off all Leisure Centre activities (excluding sun beds) and is open to all residents of Plas Madoc, Cefn Mawr, Rhosymedre, Newbridge and Acrefair. The card costs 50p for juniors and £1 for adults and is valid for 12 months.

Passport to Leisure allows juniors (8-16yrs) to use the swimming pool until 4:30pm from Monday to Friday, and all day at the weekends and during the holidays. The adult card is valid for all activities except the sunbeds, until 4:30pm Monday to Friday, all day at weekends (not fitness suite). The adult card is NOT valid during the school holidays. Please call in at The Opportunity Centre on Hampden Way to obtain your Passport to Leisure.

Multimedia Projects

The Plas Madoc MaX and OAP group have now received their camcorder, which was kindly donated by Kellogg's. The Director of the Wrexham Factory, Andy Threlkeld visited the estate this week to present the video camera. Its first outing is going to be the OAP visit to Windemere, where it will be used to capture the sights and sounds of the trip.

Website

Plas Madoc Communities First is working in partnership with staff and pupils from Ysgol Rhiwabon to develop a new website. The website will provide information about the Communities First programme, where visitors will be able to access details of events, training and progress reports. Financial reports and board business will also be available.

The aim is to then continue to develop the website into a fully interactive community site, where local people can link into projects and give feedback and suggestions. If you are interested in the internet and would like to get involved please ring 01978 813917.

BBC

Plas Madoc is now represented on the BBC NE Wales web page as part of the "Where I Live" project. Visit

www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northeast/sites/wrexham_town/pages/plas_madoc.shtml to see photos of the estate and the May Day event. You can leave comments on the website.

Training Opportunities

If you are interested in learning more about computers, alternative therapies or how to speak Welsh, then please ring 01978 813914 for further information. Communities First is keen to provide training courses in these subjects and we need to here from local people who want to get involved.

New Staff

Plas Madoc Communities First is pleased to welcome our new Environmental Projects Officer. Jenny is a graduate from Salford University, where she studied Leisure & Tourism Management specialising in sustainable community work. Jenny is here to help the local community improve the environment in and around the estate, so if you have any ideas please get in touch on 01978 813910.

Youth Projects

As many people know the Youth Partnership on the estate is no longer open. Plas Madoc Communities First is working hard to ensure that this service is returned to the estate as quickly as possible. In the meantime, in partnership with Plas Madoc Leisure Centre and the Play Co-ordinator from Wrexham Council's Sports Development department, a programme of activities is being developed for the summer holidays. Full details will be available shortly.

Pop CD

If you are between 6 and 18 yrs old and interested in making a CD and video about being a young person in Plas Madoc then give Lee a ring on 01978 813918. Lee is looking to develop a project that will allow young people to have a say in the services they would like on the estate. All the ideas will be turned into a CD single with a pop video to go with it.

Peris

Following an incident involving a stolen car a few weeks ago, residents of Peris are taking a stand and calling for safety improvements on local streets. A meeting was

held this week and the Community Safety Officer from North Wales Police are looking at how and where improvements can be made.

Drug & Alcohol Abuse

Local residents and substance misuse professionals came together at an open meeting to contribute to the development of a long-term plan to address the issues of drug and alcohol abuse in Plas Madoc. A mixture of presentations, Q&A sessions and survey forms helped to both inform residents of existing initiatives and allow them to feed their views into the process. Plas Madoc Communities First would like to thank Wrexham SMAT, Ysgol Rhiwabon and Insp. Paul Firth for their support during this project.

Plas Madoc Over 60s Group

Members of the group are snapping up the tickets for the trip to Windemere next month, so if you are a member and would like to go please get in touch to secure your place. Tickets are also available for the next Social in August. Last time over 120 people turned out at Air Products Social Club so if you are interested in coming along in August you are advised to get your ticket soon.

The OAP group has also taken the new camcorder, which was donated by Kellogg's last week, out and about. The aim is to capture as much footage as possible of positive activities in Plas Madoc.

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they would like on the estate. All the ideas will be turned into a CD single with a pop video to go with it.

Peris

The Community Safety Officer from North Wales Police has submitted his report on the safety concerns about the Peris area. The report outlines several improvements, such as kissing gates and improved barriers and has been produced in response to a serious incident involving the chase of a stolen car through Peris. The report has been sent to the 14 residents who attended the last meeting for consultation, and is available to anyone else who has an interest. Please call into The Opportunity Centre, off Hampden Way if you would like to see a copy.

Road Safety

Wrexham County Borough Council will be implementing road safety improvements in and around the Plas Bennion crossroads at the top end of the estate. These will include narrowing the slip-ways on the junctions and installing islands in the centre of the road to improve safety for those crossing. The 40mph zone will also be extended towards Ruabon. This is an important development that will benefit residents of Plas Madoc, particularly youngsters getting to and from Ysgol Rhiwabon.

The Brook

Plas Madoc Communities First has followed up on a complaint about the state of the Brook and ensured that the stretch concerned has been cleaned-up. Jenny Biesty, The Environmental Project Officer is now looking at a wider project to keep the whole of the Brook in a good state. This is particularly important following the flash flood in Hampden Way last week.

Ash Grove Play Area

For those concerned about the removal of the fence around the new play equipment, Communities First can confirm that it will be replaced. Efforts will also be made to improve the surface under the obstacle course and reduce access for motorbikes getting onto the new footpath.

New Councillor

PMCFCL has welcomed Paul Blackwell as newly elected labour member in Plas Madoc and has invited him on their Board. Paul is keen to hear your views and concerns. The consultation we have done over the past 12 months in Plas Madoc has been sent to Paul to give him further insight into need for improvement.

AGM

Our AGM will be held in September and we would welcome everyone to attend. Further information will be given nearer the time.

If you are interested in becoming members of one of our groups please call in and let us know. The groups have been set up as we realise one mans sewer is another mans lily pond, some of you may be concerned that there is not enough youth provision on the estate; whilst others may think there is not enough on the estate for elderly people. Bearing this in mind we have 7 groups we believe cover everything. The groups are;

Safety in the Community, Health and Well Being, Children and Young People, Environment, Housing Improvements, Jobs & Businesses, Education

All of these groups are headed by a Director who will represent you on the PMCFLB. If you would like to express your opinion or if you have any issues in relation to any of these groups please join one and we will endeavour to support and deliver projects that will benefit the community.

Community Beat Officer

Gwyn will be taking over from Dave Roberts who has been poorly for some weeks. He will be at the OC should anyone wishing to speak with him. We will let you know days of availability in the next edition.

Training

Communities First in the process of applying for funding which will provide free training and education courses. These courses are for the tenants and residents of Plas Madoc estate. All updates on the funding progress and when the courses will be held will be posted.

The Opportunity Centre

Communities First is happy to be able to offer the hire of The Opportunity Centre Hall to tenants and residents of Plas Madoc. If you would like to hold children's parties or group meetings, etc. then please get in touch on 01978 813910 and we can provide more details.

There will also soon be an additional building linked onto The Opportunity Centre to house playgroups. The expected completion date is March 2005. Work is to begin in November.

Remodelling

Meetings are held every month in Plas Madoc to discuss improvements to the estate. The remodelling meetings cover issues such as the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) pitch, Safe Routes to School, Safety Proposals for Peris, Playgroups, Community Wardens, Alley gating, Environmental Issues, Medical Centre and Rhosymedre School. If you would like to know what is going on regarding the above points or would like to share your views please come along you would be very welcome, after all it is your estate.

Wardens

Plas Madoc Communities First has requested a community warden for your estate and hope to have more information on this within the next few weeks.

Ash Grove

The play park at Ash Grove is near completion; however, the council have removed the surrounding fence due to rust and corrosion. The council has now agreed to erect a new fence within the next 2 months. It is advised that this park not be used until it is fenced and completely finished.

Fat Club

Watch this space. There will be a Fitter and Trimmer Group starting in the near future. This will be based at the Opportunity Centre and is focusing on healthy eating, exercise, day trips and lots more. The group has been set up by people who live in Plas Madoc and have applied for funding for 12 months. Please call 01978 813915 if you are interested.

Youth Forum

Are you between 11 and 16 yrs old? Do you care about youth issues? Would you like to make a difference to Plas Madoc Estate? If you have answered yes to at least two of these questions then we would like to hear from you. Communities First is setting up a Youth Forum to allow young people to get their views across. This won't be all about boring meetings, there will be trips and activities involved. If you want more information give Lee Marsh a call on 01978 813918.

Dog Micro-chipping

For those people who have registered for a micro-chip for their dog the wait is nearly over. You will shortly receive information on times and dates when the RSPCA will be visiting Plas Madoc to carry out the chipping.

Speed Limits

The Council is currently holding consultation on reducing the speed limit on Plas Madoc Estate to 20mph. The closing dates for comments or objections addressed to the Chief Transportation and Engineering Officer is Friday 23rd July. Please look out for notices in the local press or alternatively a copy of the information can be viewed at The Opportunity Centre.

Plas Madoc Communities First, Wrexham County Borough Council and Rhosymedre Junior School are looking at improving safety in and around the junction of Hampden Way and the access to the school sites. Look out for future developments and if you have any ideas or suggestions please contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917.

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Ash Grove

Communities First's Environmental Officer Jenny Biesty is looking to hear from residents who are interested in developments at Ash Grove. The first phases of the project are complete and this is a chance to give any views on any further improvements that can be made. Please ring Jenny on 01978 813910 or pop into The Opportunity Centre.

Youth Forum Underway

The first meeting of the Youth Forum took place last week. During a really positive meeting the teenagers from Plas Madoc discussed how the group should run and the issues that effect them. The Youth Forum can plan activities and events to benefit young people. If you are interested in getting involved then please give Lee Marsh a ring on 01978 813918.

Adult Learning

As mentioned in previous columns, Communities First is in the process of developing learning opportunities for adults on the estate. We will be inviting a number of organisations to sit on a steering group to help ensure we can provide training courses that suit the needs of the community and are held at times and in places that are easy to attend. We have already offered computer and Welsh language courses and are in the process of developing these further. Let us know what you want!

Recycling

Wrexham County Borough Council has decided to expand the Recycle with Michael scheme to include Plas Madoc. Each household will have already received new bins and information. Plas Madoc Communities First is interested in hearing about the success of this new system and is willing to act as a central contact point to pass any comments to the Council. Please ring 01978 813910 or pop into The Opportunity Centre for a chat.

Remodelling

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Budding Actors Wanted

Clwyd Theatr Cymru is bringing a production of the film 'Brassed Off' to the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre in September. The theatre group is looking for a 9 yr old boy and a 13 yr old girl, both with dark hair and from the area, to act in the play. If you are interested please ring 01978 813917.

Plas Madoc Fitter and Trimmer Club

If you want to become fitter and shed a pound or two, then the Fitter and Trimmer Club may be for you. The club is for men and women from Plas Madoc and is totally free to join. Meetings will cover issues such as healthy eating and recipe ideas, sensible professional advice about weight loss and dieting. There will also be the option of aerobics sessions. All meetings will be held in a relaxed and comfortable environment. Please contact Tina Lisin on 01978 813915 if you would like to know more.

Summer Programme

The summer programme of activities for young people from Plas Madoc is fully underway. The Leisure Centre is running a scheme for 8-11 year olds and Plas Madoc Communities First in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council is laying on additional activities for those aged 12 and above.

The Maelor Angling Association has asked Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd to pass on their congratulations to the youngsters who went fishing last week. Mr Ken Bathers (Chair of MAA) said "the boys were absolutely brilliant; they each caught a fish and were a pleasure to coach. One of the best groups of boys we have taught!" So, well done to all of you! PMCFLtd will be sending someone out next week to take some pictures, to prove just how big the fish really are! If you are interested in getting involved please pop down to The Opportunity Centre. Girls are welcome too!

Holiday Caravan

For those of you who booked the caravan in Rhyl, if you have any photographs we would very much like to see them. Funding for the caravan was provided by the Welsh Assembly Government Communities First Trust Fund and I am sure they would like to see what a fantastic time everyone had. Unfortunately the caravan was only available for 6 months and comes to an end in a few weeks' time. Apologies to people who could not book in time, we will however try to offer the free holiday again next year. If you would like to be involved in this project please contact us on 01978 813910. Perhaps we could have our very own caravan run by the community. Ideas would be welcomed.

Dates for your diary include

Saturday 21st August – Social Evening at Air Products Sports and Social Club to support the OAP group. Lowensa Duo will be performing. Tickets from The Opportunity Centre.

Friday 27th August at 11am – Plas Madoc Remodelling Meeting at The Opportunity Centre to discuss physical improvements to the estate.

Wednesday 29th September at 2pm – Plas Madoc Communities First AGM at The Opportunity Centre.

Plas Madoc Tenants and Residents Association

The T&RA will be holding their AGM on 13th August at 6.30pm at the T&RA 48 Peris. The T&R has been running for many years helping tenants & residents who live on PM estate. If you would like to be part of the committee then go along to the AGM and register your interest as a member of the Board. This will give you the opportunity to have a say in what improvements are needed on the estate. If you would like further information please call in to the OC.

Plas Madoc Fitter and Trimmer Club

If you want to become fitter and shed a pound or two, then the Fitter and Trimmer Club may be for you. The club is for men and women from Plas Madoc and is totally free to join. Meetings will cover issues such as healthy eating and recipe ideas, sensible professional advice about weight loss and dieting. There will also be the option of aerobics sessions. All meetings will be held in a relaxed and comfortable environment. Please contact Tina Lisin on 01978 813915 if you would like to know more.

Summer Programme

The summer programme for ages 8-16 from Plas Madoc is fully underway. Different activities are available all free of charge. Timetables are available from PM. Leisure Centre and The OC.

PMCFL in conjunction with The Maelor Angling Association is providing Fishing at various locations every Monday & Friday during the summer holidays. It is available free to 8-16's from PM. The scheme is proving very successful. If you would like to join, call into The OC for further details! Ken Bathers from the MAA reported back that Monday was a red letter day with all the boys catching a big Trout & Andrew Murphy landed a massive trout of 6lbs which is to be entered in the trout masters for top prize of the month.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 21st August – Social Evening at Air Products Sports & Social Club to support the OAP group. Lowensa Duo will be performing. Tickets from The OC.

Friday 27th August 11am – PM Remodelling Meeting at The OC to discuss physical improvements to the estate.

Tuesday 28th September 2pm – PMCFL AGM at The OC.

Friday 27th August – Closing Party for the summer programme for all the children/young people who have participated. Details to be confirmed shortly.

Ash Grove

The under 8's park at Ash Grove is near completion a fence is in the process of being erected around the park. This will allow your children to play in an enclosed safe environment. The land under the agility track was noted as being hazardous due to large stones, this area has now been raked and grass seeds will be distributed in early September. We aim to develop the Ash Grove site further if you have any ideas of what you would like to see there, please contact Jenny on 813914, she would love to hear your suggestions.

Peris Safety Group

Meeting to be held 18th August @ 3.30pm at OC to discuss proposed safety measures. The group requested safety measures, after a serious incident on Peris. The safety Officer from NW Police has walked around the area and has proposed some safety measures, a representative from WCBC highway department will also be attending.

Remodelling Meeting

Remodelling meeting 27th August @ 10am @ OC. These meetings are held to discuss improvements proposed or necessary on PM. Suggested improvements have been to the demolition areas. Funding for Alley gating has been provided through Groundwork. If you have any suggestions please come to the meeting. Agendas & Minutes are available at the OC for all of our meetings; alternatively we can put you on our mailing list if you are unable to attend.

Summer Scheme

Summer scheme is going well, the children are having a great time, fishing, canoeing etc – 80 children are going to Alton Towers. Any photos you would like put in the PMCFL newsletter please send in. If you require further information regarding the summer scheme the youth team are at the leisure centre from 3.00 – 6.00pm & then on the estate from 6.00 – 9.00pm.

Wrexham Walkabout

Walkabout Wrexham managed by Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire and funded by the Big Lottery Fund, have organised walks starting from PMLC Wednesdays at 3.15pm. The walk will be a great opportunity to meet people and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Interested? Contact Hannah or Anna - 01978 363555.

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Lowensa Duo will be performing. Tickets from OC.

Friday 27th August – Closing Party for the summer programme for all who have participated. Details to be confirmed.

Tuesday 28th September 2pm – PMCFL AGM at the OC

Fitter and Trimmer Club

First meeting will be held at the Opportunity Centre on Thursday 9th September 2004 at 6.30pm, come along for weight loss support. Further information is available from Andrea on 01978 813916. Although Tina Lisin will no longer be working for PMCFL she will continue to lead on the F.A.T club and will be the main contact. Tina will be sorely missed. Her work with Community Association prior to PMCFL and the OAP group has helped many people on the estate and we wish her all the best for the future.

Recycling

There are plans for a recycling centre to be built on The Opportunity Centre car park. This will comprise of 5 to 7 recycling containers depending on the demand. They all have lockable colour coded lids and are locked to posts within the compound, materials collected include glass, cans, paper, plastic bottles and cardboard. I would like to hear any views you may have about the recycling centre positive or negative. Please contact Jenny on 813910

Crime Survey

Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd is keen to find out your experiences of crime and anti-social behaviour on the estate. You will soon receive a very simple questionnaire and it would help a lot if you could complete and return it as quickly as possible. Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd is working to make the estate a safer place and this will be much more successful if we have your views. We realise that not all crime is reported to the police, but we need a way of finding out what is going on if we are to make things better. Don't worry you will not be asked for your name.

Dog Chipping

The dog chipping project will take place on the 9th, 10th and 15th September in The Opportunity Centre car park. All those who have registered their dogs should now have received a letter and appointment time. If you have not received your letter then please contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917. Unfortunately there are no more places available but the project may be repeated early next year if there is enough interest.

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OAP Group

The AGM was held on Tuesday 24th August, which was well attended by its members, there is no change to the executive board, and several members have joined the committee. Ideas of future events were raised, which will be discussed at the next OAP Committee meeting which is to be held on Tuesday 28th September 2004. If you would like to know more about the new committee please contact Andrea Porter on 01978 813916.

The next OAP trip will be on 23rd September 2004 to Caernarfon, tickets on sale now at the The Opportunity Centre or phone for details on 01978 813910

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Summer Programme

Thursday saw two coaches leave the estate for a day trip to Alton Towers as part of the Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd Summer Programme. Despite concerns about the weather the 80 children that made the trip had a brilliant time.

The Summer Programme was brought to a close on Friday with a Celebration party for all those who have been involved over the last 6 weeks. Sumo wrestling, space hoppers, inflated dice games, competitions, refreshments, and loads of other stuff made the day memorable. There was also a mini-Olympics, with participants taking part in slightly modified athletic events. Discos for 8-11 yrs and 12-16 yrs followed in the evening. Thanks to all who attended especially the staff and volunteers.

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Community Safety

Communities First have asked for a community warden for Plas Madoc. We have been successful in our request and a community warden will be starting at the beginning of next year. The purpose of this job is to improve the quality of life of residents in identified communities through the reduction of anti-social behaviour and juvenile nuisance. The warden will also act as eyes and ears of the community and provide information to relevant partner agencies for the purpose of improving community safety. Reporting environmental maintenance such as abandoned cars or damage to property will form part of this service. Adverts for these jobs were in last Wednesday's Evening Leader, and there is a copy in The Opportunity Centre if you are interested.

Events

Last year Communities First held a spectacular bonfire display. We were thinking of something different this year perhaps a Halloween party with prizes for the most original or scary outfit. Any budding artists out there who would like to draw a poster for a Halloween night? The best drawing will be printed and distributed around the estate to advertise the event.

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Fitter and Trimmer Club

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Self Defence Classes for Women

Are you interested in attending self-defence classes? If the answer is yes, then please get in touch with Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917. Plas Madoc Communities First and the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre would like to hear from women living in Plas Madoc who would get involved in training.

Benefits Payments

If you currently receive any benefits payments by giro at the moment then please read-on. The rules are changing soon meaning that all benefits will be paid directly into your bank or post office account. This means that some people will have to set up a new bank account. You should already have received information from the Social Security Office but if you need help in setting up a new bank account, Plas Madoc Communities First may be able to point you in the right direction. Drop into The Opportunity Centre for more information, or ring Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917.

Thank you

A big thank you goes out to everyone who made the Summer Youth Activity Programme such a big success. Plas Madoc Communities First worked in partnership with Wrexham County Council and the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre to provide a wide range of activities for young people on the estate over the 6 week summer holidays. Special thanks goes to the volunteers who supported the scheme all the way through.

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Tuesday 28th September 2pm – PMCFL AGM at The Opportunity Centre

Paul Blackwell – Councillor for Plas Madoc

Paul Blackwell local elected member would like to hear your views and/or ideas you may have concerning the estate. We have provided a room for Paul in The Opportunity Centre where he can hold weekly surgeries please see below for dates and times. Paul is keen to introduce himself to you. Many of you voted for Paul so he is eager to justify your faith in him. If you are unable to see Paul in the evening then you may contact him during the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday on 01490 430 873 or e-mail at paul.blackwell@wrexham.gov.uk.

Environmental Fun

An Environmental Fun Day will take place in late October. There will be a BBQ, games and competitions and displays about different aspects of the local environment. A representative of Wrexham County Borough Council will be attending to answer any questions on the new recycling scheme on the estate.

Brassed Off

Tickets are still available for the production of “Brassed Off” performed by Wales’ only mobile theatre. The sports hall in the Leisure Centre will be converted into a fully equipped theatre auditorium. The story of Brassed Off has been told in an award winning film starring Ewan MacGregor, this lively theatre version has been re-written to be located in North Wales in 1994, when local collieries were being closed down. Music will be provided by Wrexham Brass NEWI. Plas Madoc tenants and residents can benefit from a 2 for 1 deal by taking the special voucher from the Cefn Chronicle to the Leisure Centre or by buying from The Opportunity Centre.

Ash Grove

The fencing work at the under eights play park on Ash Grove is now complete. Wrexham County Borough Council has now finished erecting a new fence to replace the one that was removed for safety reasons. The play park is now a safe environment for your children to play.

Community Groups

Thanks to the Communities First Trust Fund’s Financial Support, the Plas Madoc Dinas Dragons, Plas Madoc Parent Support Group, Plas Madoc Play Scheme and the Fitter and Trimmer (F.A.T) Club will be up and running within the next few weeks. If you would like to know more about any of these projects or how to set up a group; either call into The Opportunity Centre or contact us on 01978 813910 or mail us with your ideas.

Summer Holidays

Plas Madoc Communities First would like to hear your views about the Summer Activity Programme that took place on the estate over the holidays. We have heard from several people, including the police that there was a reduction in juvenile anti-social behaviour. Let us know if this is true. Was the estate quieter this year? Was there less trouble caused by young people because they had different things to get involved with? Please drop us a line at The Opportunity Centre, Hampden Way, Plas Madoc LL14 3US or pop in for a chat. Your feedback is very important to us and will help us plan future projects.

Dates for Your Diary

“Brassed Off” at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre - 22nd to 25th September

Plas Madoc Communities First AGM at Opportunity Centre 2.00pm - Tuesday 28th September

Cllr Paul Blackwell Meetings at Opportunity Centre – 6.30pm to 7.30pm (every Tuesday thereafter)
- Tuesday 19th October

Environmental Fun Day at Opportunity Centre – 10.00am to 3.00pm Friday 29th October

Paul Blackwell – Councillor for Plas Madoc

Paul Blackwell local elected member would like to hear your views and/or ideas you may have concerning the estate. We have provided a room for Paul in The Opportunity Centre where he can hold weekly surgeries please see below for dates and times. Paul is keen to introduce himself to you. Many of you voted for Paul so he is eager to justify your faith in him. If you are unable to see Paul in the evening then you may contact him during the hours of 9.00 am to 5.00 pm Monday to Saturday on 01490 430 873 or e-mail Paul at paul.blackwell@wrexham.gov.uk.

Environmental Fun

An Environmental Fun Day will take place on Friday 29th of October between 10am and 3pm. There will be a BBQ, games and competitions and displays about different aspects of the local environment. A representative of Wrexham County Borough Council will be attending to answer any questions on the new recycling scheme on the estate.

OAP Group

The next trip is to Bury Market on Friday 22nd October 2004, tickets are £5 and are available from the Opportunity Centre, please contact Andrea on 01978 813910 for further details.

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Tina Jones of Hampden Way, whose completed questionnaire about recycling was picked and won a pair of tickets for Brassed Off at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre.

Dates for Your Diary

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday 19 th October | - | Cllr Paul Blackwell Meetings at Opportunity Centre – 6.30pm to 7.30pm (every Tuesday thereafter) |
| Friday 29 th October | - | Environmental Fun Day at Opportunity Centre – 10.00am to 3.00pm |

AGM

The AGM for Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd takes place next week. It has come to our attention that some people will be unable to make the 2pm meeting due to other commitments. Whilst PMCF Ltd accepts these comments, the start time has been fixed to enable our directors to attend. The AGM could not go ahead without all directors present. However, there will be a fully open meeting at the beginning of October, where members of the community will be able to have a say in the Communities First process. Forms are available at The Opportunity Centre if you would like to join any of our sub-groups. We would encourage as many people as possible to attend this meeting to put your views across on how you see Plas Madoc developing in the coming years.

OAP Group

The next trip is to Bury Market on Friday 22nd October 2004, tickets are £5 and are now available from the Opportunity Centre, please contact Andrea on 01978 813910 for further details. Following the AGM, the committee is now up and running and will meet regularly to oversee the events and activities for the group.

Competition Winner

Congratulations to Tina Jones of Hampden Way, whose completed questionnaire about the recycling centre that has been proposed by Wrexham County Borough Council, was picked and won a pair of tickets for Brassed Off at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre.

Dog Micro-chipping

Thanks to all the residents who brought their dogs forward to be micro-chipped recently. This project is now closed but if you are able to get to Caia Park the RSPCA may be able to help from their clinic at Churchill Drive, Wrexham on Monday and Friday only . 11.00 – 12.30pm(Cost £12.50.)

New Staff

Welcome to Natasha Williams the new Assistant Development Worker at Plas Madoc Communities First, who started work this week. Natasha joins us from Coedpoeth Youth Centre, where she has been setting up a number of community projects. This addition to the Communities First team will further help to deliver the kind of improvements that residents of Plas Madoc would like to see on the estate.

Communities First Update

All households will shortly receive a booklet explaining all about the Communities First Programme in Plas Madoc. This will provide answers to questions such as What? Why? and How? and will also include details of all the projects and improvements that Communities First has brought about over the last year.

Pop Music

Over the half-term holiday young people from Plas Madoc will be able to write and record their own CD single, as well as film a pop video to go with it. The song will be about issues that affect them and their feelings as young people living on a council estate. We have assistance from The Prince's Trust – Cymru with funds provided by the Welsh Development Agency to bring in a

professional musician to work on the song. There are limited places on the project and you must be 14 yrs old or over to take part in the CD. For more information on how to take part ring Lee Marsh or Andrew Harradine on 01978 813910.

Environmental Fun

Don't forget the Environmental Fun Day on Friday 29th of October. There will be a BBQ, games and competitions and displays about different aspects of the local environment. A representative of Wrexham County Borough Council will be attending to answer any questions on the new recycling scheme on the estate.

WCBC

If any member of the public has any comments or complaints that cause them concerns about housing related matters such as repairs, improvements and estate management issues, they can contact the Representations and Complaints Officer for housing issues only. He is available at the Housing Department, Lambpit Street, Wrexham LL11 1WH. Tel. 01978 292913.

Dates for Your Diary

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Tuesday 28 th September | - | Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd. AGM – 2pm |
| Wednesday 6 th October | - | Plas Madoc Communities First Open Meeting 6pm |
| Tuesday 19 th October | - | Cllr Paul Blackwell Meetings at Opportunity Centre – 6.30pm to 7.30pm (every third Tuesday thereafter) |
| Friday 29 th October | - | Environmental Fun Day at Opportunity Centre – 10.00am to 3.00pm |

Every Thursday – Fitter And Trimmer Club 6:30pm at The Opportunity Centre

Communities First

Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd is having a public meeting on 6th October at 6pm at The Opportunity Centre. This is to give everybody the opportunity to attend. Membership forms are available now and on the day and we hope as many people from the estate will complete one. There will be staff on hand to explain the importance of your involvement and to help with the completion of the membership application.

If the date or time is inconvenient the forms will be available at any time before and after the 6th October. Positive changes and improvements have already happened on Plas Madoc but we still need you to become involved. Your involvement would not affect your benefits as it would be in a voluntary capacity. If anyone would like to be involved but has a disability that keeps them indoors please let us know as we would like everybody to have the opportunity to participate in the community action plans Plas Madoc Communities First Ltd is putting together.

Alley Gating

The Bodlyn and Bran Residents Action group has received funding through Groundwork to develop a project to close alley ways in their area of the estate. Closing alley ways is thought to reduce incidences of anti-social behaviour. BBRAG need to know the thoughts of all residents in the area and will be sending out survey forms in the next week. Please take this opportunity to put across your views by completing the forms.

Light Bulbs

PMCF's Environmental Officer, Jenny Biesty has secured 2000 energy efficient light bulbs, which are to be distributed to residents on the estate. The light bulbs can help to reduce electricity bills, so are worth getting hold of. To qualify for this light bulb offer you must be able to prove you qualify for a state benefit of some kind, and then fill in a simple form at the Environmental Awareness day in October. PMCF would like to thank Manweb Scottish Power for their help with this offer.

Help with Shopping

Do you struggle to get to the shops in town? Would you like to have your shopping delivered direct to the estate for free? PMCF and Iceland have joined forces to develop a central ordering and delivery service for residents of Plas Madoc. For a £1 per year membership fee, you can join the scheme, drop your Iceland food order into The Opportunity Centre and the collect it when it is ready. The scheme needs 20 members or it will not be able to go ahead. Please contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813910 or pop into The Opportunity Centre to collect a membership form.

Mental Health

Advance Brighter Futures Wrexham is holding an event for World Mental Health Day in October. The open day will raise awareness of the link between mental and physical health and will be held at The Opportunity Centre. Contact Advance Brighter Futures for more information on 01978 313560.

Dance Class

Busy Bodies has arranged to provide two dance classes per week at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre. The classes are a great way to exercise and have some fun! All are welcome. 6-11 year old class is held Tuesdays at 3.40pm – 4.30pm and 12-16 year

class on Wednesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. for further details contact Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on 01978 821600

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 6th October – Plas Madoc Communities First Open Meeting at The Opportunity Centre 6pm

Tuesday 12th October – World Mental Health Day Event at The Opportunity Centre 10am to 4pm

Friday 22nd October – OAP trip to Bury Market Tickets £5 from The Opportunity Centre contact Andrea on 01978 813916

Friday 29th October – Environmental Awareness Event at The Opportunity Centre

Communities First

A big thank you to all the members of the community who took the time to attend the Open Meeting last week, membership forms are still available for our sub groups. Thank you for those received so far.

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Extra Club

The Extra club is now holding sessions at the Opportunity Centre every Tuesday (during term time) from 4-5.45pm. The club is totally free and open to those aged between 8 and 16 who would like extra support with homework and other school projects. Tutors are on hand to help with any schoolwork, and make it fun. Come along and join in.

F.A.T. Club

The fitter and trimmer club is now up and running every Thursday at 6.30pm at The Opportunity Centre, for advice and support on diet and exercise, everybody welcome.

Brassed Off

The Brassed Off production was very well attended; the feedback is that it was a fantastic show.

OAP Trip

There are still places available for the Bury Market trip on the 22nd October, the cost is £5. For further details and to purchase a ticket call into the Opportunity Centre or phone Andrea on 01978 813916

Library Service

There is a mobile library every week outside The Opportunity Centre at 2pm. Please let us know if you are unable to get there.

Community Beat Manager

PC Dave Roberts Plas Madoc's CBM will be holding a surgery at The Opportunity Centre on Monday 25th October 11am – 1pm, and Friday 29th October 1.30 -3.30pm. Anyone wishing to speak to Dave in confidence please come along, or you can phone to make an appointment on 01978 813910.

Plas Madoc Web-Page

The Plas Madoc Web-Page which can be found on the BBC website is currently being updated, with pictures from recent events like the dog chipping and the OAP trip to Caernarfon. If anyone would like to add any pictures or stories to the web-page, please call into The Opportunity Centre or phone Natasha on 01978 813915.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th October – Peris Safety Group Meeting at 2pm at The Opportunity Centre

Friday 22nd October – OAP trip to Bury Market

Friday 29th October – Environmental Awareness Event at The Opportunity Centre

Communities First

We had a good number of completed applications returned for membership to the Communities First sub-groups. Thank you for those received so far. If you were unable to attend the last meeting, forms may be obtained from The Opportunity Centre. Membership of the sub-groups ensures that the community can input their ideas and suggestions into the Communities First process. This involvement is very important if the kinds of improvements that are needed are to take place. We would encourage anyone who has ideas about Plas Madoc to get involved. Please ring Susan Lloyd on 01978 813910.

October Half-term

If you are aged 8-16 and live on Plas Madoc lots of activities have been arranged over the school half-term! Dance, art, fishing, football and trampolining are just a few of the opportunities that will be on offer. A music project is also planned, offering young people from the estate the chance to write a song, produce a CD and make a music video! Further details will be sent to all houses on the estate this week; alternatively you can contact The Opportunity Centre on 01978 813910 for further details

Bulb Planting

Following the unfortunate postponement of this project the other week due to ill-health, children from Ysgol Rhosymedre took part in a bulb planting project to provide a splash of colour on the estate next spring. Groundwork Wrexham & Flintshire provided bulbs and tools last Friday to help both infants and juniors to get involved in improving their environment.

Animal Welfare

Following the successful dog-microchipping scheme we are continuing to raise awareness with regards to animal welfare. Plas Madoc Communities First hopes to set up a group on the estate, which we hope will help address ill health and animal related issues. We would like to hear from anyone with any ideas. One suggestion is to hold a dog / pet show next year, if anyone is interested in getting involved either as a volunteer to help run it or in taking part with your pet, then please get in touch. Any suggestions / ideas please contact Natasha Williams on 01978 813915.

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OAP Trip to Bury Market

There are still places available for the Bury Market trip on the 22nd October, the cost is £5. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome. For further details and to purchase a ticket call into the Opportunity Centre or phone Andrea Price on 01978 813916

Arts & Crafts

Plas Madoc Communities First has been approached by residents wanting to set up an Arts and Crafts group for adults. This group could get involved in all kinds of different art, from painting and sketching to pottery and wood carving. It would also be possible to arrange trips to art galleries to view exhibitions. Please give Andrew Harradine a ring on 01978 813917 or pop into The Opportunity Centre if you are interested.

Dance Class

Busy Bodies dance classes run every week at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre. 6-11 year old class is held Tuesdays at 3.40pm – 4.30pm and 12-16 year class on Wednesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. For further details contact Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on 01978 821600.

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Tuesday 26th October – Community Beat Manager Surgery at The Opportunity Centre

Friday 29th October – Environmental Awareness Event at The Opportunity Centre
Community Beat Manager Surgery at The Opportunity Centre

Communities First

There are still forms available for membership of the sub-groups from The Opportunity Centre. Membership of the sub-groups ensures that the community can input their ideas and suggestions into the Communities First process. This involvement is very important if the kinds of improvements that are needed are to take place. We would encourage anyone who has ideas about Plas Madoc to get involved. Please ring Susan Lloyd on 01978 813910.

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F.A.T. Club

The fitter and trimmer club is now up and running every Thursday at 6.30pm at The Opportunity Centre, for advice and support on diet and exercise, everybody welcome.

Brochures and Newsletters

Brochure and Newsletters will be available on Audio Tape from next week and that if anyone would like these in larger font or brail to contact Natasha Williams, also if any one has any documents they feel may benefit the community they can contact me to have them changed to Larger font, Audio or brail and people can then access them through me.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th October – Community Beat Manager Surgery at The Opportunity Centre
Friday 29th October – Environmental Awareness Event at The Opportunity Centre
Community Beat Manager Surgery at The Opportunity Centre

Peris Buildings

Plas Madoc is grateful to the local authority in allowing us premises to provide youth provision on the estate. We are awaiting approval from the WAG and hope to hear within the next month.

Plas Madoc Communities First

We have had a good response to our requesting people to join PMCF as members on our sub-groups but would still like more. It is essential that local people are involved in the Communities first process and joining the sub groups offers you the opportunity to drive change in the way services are delivered and to tell us what you want. A community action plan will focus on what is needed. The information gathered from you along with statistics we already have will help us to approach the necessary body, such as the local authority, police service, health boards who all link in with CF and are very supportive.

October Half-term

There are more activities available for those aged between 8 and 16 years old this half-term. Angling trips are running again on Wednesday and Thursday, meeting at The Opportunity Centre at 9:45am and Dance Sessions at the Leisure Centre 1-3pm. There will also be art workshops, trampolining and football on offer. Timetables have already been delivered door to door but can also be obtained from The Opportunity Centre.

Climbing Wall Open Day

Plas Madoc Leisure Centre is holding an Open Day for its new Climbing Wall this Wednesday. Tenants and residents are invited to come along and try out the new climbing facility FREE of charge. Although you don't need to pay you are asked to book a place in advance. There are 1 hour sessions available between 10am and 7pm and you will be in the safe hands of trained instructors at all times. For more information contact the Leisure Centre on 01978 821600.

Music, Dance and Video Project

Young people from the estate met up last week to kick off a new project. Working alongside a professional musician a team of teenagers has written a song called "Get on Our Bus", which deals with issues that affect them and then looks forward to how they can make improvements on their estate. Later this week the song will be recorded and filmed for a pop-video. This will include a dance routine, which has been created by youngsters taking part in free dance classes running throughout the week. It is not too late to get involved as the project finishes on Thursday, please contact Andrew Harradine at The Opportunity Centre.

Community Safety

The first meeting of the Community Safety sub-group was held last week. It brought together tenants and residents, representatives from the Police, and WCBC to discuss issues affecting safety of people and property on Plas Madoc. The group has been expanded from the Peris Safety Group, which came together following an incident involving a stolen car. It has now been successful in persuading the Council to replace the inadequate fencing. This is an important development and is the result of campaigning by residents of Peris.

Brochures and Newsletters

Thanks to support from RNIB, Plas Madoc Communities First brochures and newsletters will be available on Audio Tape from next week, for those people who would prefer the information in this format. If you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving information by tape, large font or Braille, then please contact Natasha Williams on 01978 813915. Also if any one has any documents of interest or benefit to the community they can contact Natasha to have them changed to these different formats. People can then access them through The Opportunity Centre.

Help with Shopping

The shopping delivery scheme with Iceland Foods Plc needs more members for it to start running properly. If you would benefit from being able to order your food and have it delivered to Plas Madoc free of charge then this scheme may be of interest. Please get in touch with Andrew on 01978 913917.

Arts & Crafts

Plas Madoc Communities First has been approached by residents wanting to set up an Arts and Crafts group for adults. This group could get involved in all kinds of different art, from painting and sketching to pottery and wood carving. It would also be possible to arrange trips to art galleries to view exhibitions. Please give Andrew Harradine a ring on 01978 813917 or pop into The Opportunity Centre if you are interested.

Dance Class

Busy Bodies dance classes run every week at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre. 6-11 year old class is held Tuesdays at 3.40pm – 4.30pm and 12-16 year class on Wednesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. For further details contact Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on 01978 821600.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 26th October – Community Beat Manager Surgery at The Opportunity Centre
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Environment

Thanks to the environment group for their attendance at this meeting to discuss the amenity site and recycling skip proposed base. The meeting was also attended by Nic Price from WCBC who was sympathetic to the groups concerns and agreed to re-locate the proposed site for the skip. Nic dismissed the groups' fears of the amenity site closing and assured them it was not going to be closed. Thanks to all of you who came to the meeting, the members said they were satisfied with the response from WCBC and pleased that their concerns were taken seriously.

Safety Group

This meeting was well attended by the local community and North Wales Police and Tenants and Residents representative. Confirmation of the Plas Madoc Community Warden starting in January is still on schedule as interviews by North Wales Police have been held. Training for this role starts in November.

Community Beat Manager

It is nice to see Dave Roberts back at work, Dave has held a few surgeries at the Opportunity Centre, and will continue this service for the Community for further information on future surgeries call 01978 813910.

Rhosymedre Infant School

Miss Davies – Head of the infant school says a fantastic day was had by all at the Harvest Festival. The children featured in last weeks Evening Leader shows how proud they were to be there.

Christmas

Has anyone got any suggestions for Christmas? Ideas so far have been: Santa's Grotto held at the Opportunity Centre and a disco later on. Entertainment followed by bingo and a quiz for everyone. Karaoke, talent contest, the list goes on and on. Please let us know what you think as Christmas draws nearer.

Youth Group

We have been asked by our youth group whether it would be possible to have a disco on Friday nights at the Opportunity Centre. Alwyn who lives on the estate has offered to be DJ as he was previously. Of course the centre will be manned by adults and will be closed at a reasonable hour. There will be no alcohol served and will be for a trial period of a month to see how it goes. If you have any matters to bring up concerning this please call in or give us a ring on 01978 813910.

Sub-group Meeting

Many thanks to those of you who attended this meeting. The meeting was held to clarify sub-group members' roles as being imperative to the delivery of the CF programme. Without your support we cannot begin to make improvements, the PMCF Board of Directors will agree to proposals made by yourselves. As most of our Directors live on the estate there is already an understanding of what is needed. For your information we have a structure of all our Directors and members which you should have received over the past few days through the post. For those of you who may not have received our brochure, our Directors/members are:

Sandra Hughes – Resident of Plas Madoc, Brien Powell – Resident of Plas Madoc, Alvin Evans – Resident of Plas Madoc, Paul Blackwell – Local elected member of Plas Madoc, Mark Leather – Deputy Head of Ysgol Ruabon (Chair), Laurence O'Donnell – General Manager of Air Products (used to live on Plas Madoc), Brenda Singfield – Co-coordinator of RNIB. As you can see these people have an interest in Plas Madoc through one way or another and only two of them live outside Plas Madoc/Acrefair.

Arts & Crafts

Plas Madoc Communities First has been approached by residents wanting to set up an Arts and Crafts group for adults. This group could get involved in all kinds of different art, from painting and sketching to pottery and wood carving. It would also be possible to arrange trips to art galleries to view exhibitions. Please give Andrew Harradine a ring on 01978 813917 or pop into The Opportunity Centre if you are interested.

F.A.T. Club

The fitter and trimmer club is now up and running every Thursday at 6.30pm at The Opportunity Centre, for advice and support on diet and exercise, everybody welcome.

Plas Madoc Rockets

Communities First Trust Fund has awarded £3516 to the Plas Madoc Rockets. The money will be used to replace equipment and pay for travelling costs, so the team can compete in tournaments with other groups. The group is for children/young people and they play In-Line Roller Hockey every Saturday at the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre

Dates for your Diary

Community Safety Day – Saturday 20th November, The Opportunity Centre
Environment Sub Group - Meeting Mon 22nd November
Children & Young People - December TBC.

Environment Day

The Awareness Day held last week was a great success with over 70 people coming through the door to view displays from a number of environmental organizations. Congratulations to Wendy Loton and Stephanie Griffiths, who won the raffle prizes of a bottle of whisky and a shopping voucher. A big thank you to Air Products for sponsoring the raffle and for their continued support of the Communities First Programme. The anti-litter poster competition run for pupils of Rhosymedre Junior School was won by Chris Jenkins. The colouring competition for the Infants was won by Oliver Roberts.

FREE Light Bulbs

There are still hundreds of light bulbs available to residents of Plas Madoc. The energy efficient light bulbs last for 12 years and would cost you £17 in the shops. If you live on the estate and receive any form of state benefit – JSA, Income Support, etc. then you can have a free box of bulbs. Please contact the office on 01978 813910 for more information.

Community Beat Manager

Pc Dave Roberts will be holding more surgeries at The Opportunity Centre in the last week of November. This is your chance to talk in complete confidence to your CBM. Look out for posters on the estate for details of the next surgery.

Community Safety Day Event

Later this month there will be a Community Safety Event to highlight issues about general safety and wellbeing. The North Wales Police Mobile CCTV unit will join, Surestart, Neighbourhood Watch, Trading Standards, Message in a Bottle and Response at The Opportunity Centre. The Fire Service will be demonstrating the effect of chip pan fires and there will also be a self-defense taster session. For more information please ring Natasha Williams on 01978 813915.

“Wot about us??”

Plas Madoc Communities First would like to thank the management and staff of the Leisure Centre for their help and co-operation during the recent music and video project. Over the half term 30 young people took part in a project to compose a pop song and film a video. The project went very well and featured on BBC1 Wales and MFM. Well done to everyone involved.

Christmas

Has anyone got any suggestions for Christmas? Ideas so far have been: Santa's Grotto held at the Opportunity Centre and a disco later on. Entertainment followed by bingo and a quiz for everyone. Karaoke, talent contest, the list goes on and on. Please let us know what you think as Christmas draws nearer.

Arts & Crafts

Plas Madoc Communities First has been approached by residents wanting to set up an Arts and Crafts group for adults. This group could get involved in all kinds of different art, from painting and sketching to pottery and wood carving. It would also be possible to arrange trips to art galleries to view exhibitions. Please give Andrew

Harradine a ring on 01978 813917 or pop into The Opportunity Centre if you are interested.

Dates for your Diary

Cllr Paul Blackwell Surgery –Tuesday 16th November and every third Tuesday thereafter, The Opportunity Centre

Community Safety Day – Saturday 20th November, The Opportunity Centre

Environment Sub Group - Meeting Mon 22nd November

Community Safety Group Meeting – Thursday 2nd December

BBC1 Wales

Well Done! It was fantastic to see all the youngsters on TV singing their own song. You never know it may reach number one! Well done to Andrew Harradine (Plas Madoc Communities First Development Officer) for putting it together, he worked extremely hard in obtaining funding from The Prince's Trust - Cymru. Thank you to Denise Chadwick from the Plas Madoc Leisure Centre for allowing filming to take place there. It is especially nice because the Plas Madoc youth had a message to get across which they did, in fine voice. The Prince's Trust - Cymru offered financial support that brought about the making of the song and the Welsh Assembly Government has assisted with the video production costs.

FAT Club

Please come along on Thursday. Christmas is nearing and we know what happens to our will power then. Ideas on low fat recipes will be welcomed. Prizes will be given for the tastiest.

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Councillor's Surgery

The elected member for Plas Madoc Paul Blackwell will be holding a surgery on the 16th November and every third Tuesday thereafter at the Opportunity Centre at 6.30 – 7.30pm, if you have any matters that you would like to discuss with him please call in.

OAP Group

Due to unforeseen circumstance the entertainment evening booked for the 17th November has had to be cancelled. We apologise for the short notice and hope that no-one has been inconvenienced.

Bodlyn & Bran

Calling all residents of Bodlyn and Bran. You will recently have received a questionnaire through the post about a project to close alley ways off in your part of the estate. The project has been suggested by Bodlyn & Bran Residents Action group but nothing can go ahead without the views of everyone living in the area. It is really important that you complete and return the questionnaire, by following the instructions on the form.

Audio Tape Newsletters

RNIB has now delivered the audio tape versions of Plas Madoc Communities First brochures and leaflets, if you know of anyone with a visual impairment who would benefit from being able to listen to the information about their community, then please get in touch with Natasha Williams on 01978 813915.

FREE Light Bulbs

There are still hundreds of light bulbs available to residents of Plas Madoc. The energy efficient light bulbs last for 12 years and would cost you £17 in the shops. If you live on the estate and receive any form of state benefit – JSA, Income Support, etc. then you can have a free box of bulbs. Please contact the office on 01978 813910 for more information.

Dates for your Diary

Cllr Paul Blackwell Surgery –Tuesday 16th November, The Opportunity Centre at 6.30 – 7.30pm

Community Safety Day – Saturday 20th November, The Opportunity Centre 11:00 – 2:00pm

Environment Sub Group - Meeting Mon 22nd November

Community Safety Group Meeting – Thursday 2nd December

Residents of Plas Madoc

As I am sure you all know the bridge leading on to Plas Madoc is heavily vandalized. The bridge is a focal point, an entrance to **YOUR** estate, rather than mindless graffiti we need to see a nicely painted bridge which welcomes you into Plas Madoc. We believe it is important for you as a community to work together in improving Plas Madoc; this may be by providing your skills or ideas into improving the bridge. Maybe you feel resident's art work should be painted on the bridge rather than it just being plain. If you are interested in helping please contact our Environment Officer Jenny Biesty on 01978 813910.

The Brook

A meeting was held on the 4th November with Plas Madoc Youth Forum and representatives from the council, Keep Wales Tidy and The Environment Agency. The aim of the meeting was to discuss possibilities in improving the brook on Plas Madoc. As a result of this meeting we are trying to recruit Volunteers to help do a one off clean up of the brook: the help would be greatly appreciated and would show support for the Youth Forums work. If you are interested in getting involved or have any questions regarding the brook please contact Jenny on 01978 813910.

Community Garden

We are interested in developing a much needed community garden on Plas Madoc using one of the demolished sites, the aim of the project would be to create a garden for the community designed and built by the community. If you have any ideas for the project or are interested in helping please contact Jenny on 01978 813910.

Boccia Tournament

Rhosymedre Primary school will be competing in an inter-school Boccia tournament which will be held at Plas Madoc leisure centre on Tuesday 23rd November between 9.30am – 12.30pm

FAT Club (Fitter and Trimmer)

We have finally got together a group of professionals to support this group. Each week (Thursdays at 6.30pm) there will be someone offering expert advice. Starting this Thursday there will be a **Health Promotions Adviser**, a 30 minute beginner's exercise to music session, and a weigh in. Each week thereafter will include advisers on **Sports Development, Dietician, School Nurse, District Nurse, Self Defence Instructor**, Surestart will advise on **Stress Management and smoking**. Healthy cooking classes will be held offering advice on how to prepare nutritional low-fat food. Please come along and bring your friends, it will be great fun.

Safety Group

We need your help with this group. We have the local police on board, the fire service, Plas Madoc estate manager; the community warden will be joining the group and youth workers. All of these people will be looking to you, the community, for solutions offering improving safety measures and reducing crime on the estate. The safety groups work very well in other areas where the community is having their say. Please come along to the event we are holding on Saturday and we will be happy to explain a little more. Suggestions so far have included, better lighting, more CCTV cameras, more policing, telephone kiosks, I am sure there are suggestions that would

help to make Plas Madoc a safer place, from lollipop lady to better roads For further information phone 01978 813910..

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Calling all residents of Bodlyn and Bran. You will recently have received a questionnaire through the post about a project to close alley ways off in your part of the estate. The project has been suggested by Bodlyn & Bran Residents Action group but nothing can go ahead without the views of everyone living in the area. It is really important that you complete and return the questionnaire, by following the instructions on the form. Do not worry if it is past the deadline date, we are still collecting them.

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Dates for your Diary

Environment Sub Group - Meeting Mon 22nd November

Community Safety Group Meeting – Thursday 2nd December

Councillor Paul Blackwell's Surgery – Tuesday 7th December

Community Garden

Following successful tree and bulb planting projects by pupils of Rhosymedre Primary School with support from Groundwork, we are interested in developing a much needed community garden on Plas Madoc using one of the demolished sites. The aim of the project would be to create a garden for the community designed and built by the community. If you have any ideas for the project or are interested in helping please contact Jenny on 01978 813910.

BBC Webpage

Plas Madoc is the first estate in North East Wales to have its own mini website – The website currently contains pictures of events that have taken place, art work from local children and song and lyrics put together by young people from Plas Madoc. There is also a comments section so you can add any views or suggestions. You can access the site by going to www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northeast/sites/plasmadoc. Alys Lewis from Wrexham BBC will be at the Opportunity Centre tomorrow at 3:30pm to give a talk about the Plas Madoc website and take ideas about what you would like to see on it. Everyone is welcome to come along. We will also be taking names down of those people who would be interested in a tour of the BBC Studios in Wrexham. If you have any ideas but are unable to make it on the day you can contact Natasha on 01978 813915

Angling

Following the success of the fishing trips over the summer and then the October half term, Plas Madoc Communities First is now looking to support the young people involved by forming an angling club for the estate. Plans so far include fly tying classes over the winter and fishing matches run with the Maelor Angling Association. We need some adults to come forward and volunteer a bit of time to help the youngsters run this club, for the benefit of anyone on the estate that might be interested. If you are keen to help please contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917.

Community Safety Day

Thanks to everyone who came along to support the Community Safety Day last week. It was certainly an interesting event with two fire engines on show and an explosive demonstration of a chip pan fire from the Fire Brigade. Plas Madoc Communities First appreciates the support from the Fire Service, North Wales Police, Trading Standards, Surestart, Response and Neighbourhood Watch, all of whom are keen to help residents of the estate improve their safety. Hopefully more residents will come through the door next time and benefit from free safety equipment and simple advice that can really make a difference.

FREE Light Bulbs

There are still loads of light bulbs available to residents of Plas Madoc. The energy efficient light bulbs last for 12 years and would cost you £17 in the shops. Please contact the office on 01978 813910 for more information.

F.A.T Club (Fitter and Trimmer)

This will be postponed until the New Year, when it will be back bigger and brighter than ever, with a new experienced slimming club leader. There will be further details in the next few weeks.

Christmas

Santa will be making a personal appearance in Plas Madoc in December, watch this space for more information.

Dates for your Diary – all events are at The Opportunity Centre, Hampden Way

BBC Website Session –Wednesday 1st December at 3:30pm

Community Safety Group Meeting – Thursday 2nd December at 2pm

60 Plus Group Committee Meeting – Monday 6th December at 1.30pm

Councillor Paul Blackwell's Surgery – Tuesday 7th December at 6:30pm

Plas Madoc Youth Club

Plas Madoc Communities First are looking for volunteers of all ages to help renovate and set-up the new youth club. Lots of work needs to be carried out and it is a good chance to get involved with your community. Young people are particularly wanted as it will be your club! Giving you the chance to have a say on how your club is decorated and run. If you have any particular DIY skills or simply want to be involved, please contact Lee Marsh at the Opportunity Centre on 01978 813910

Dance Class

Busy Bodies runs two dance classes per week at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre. The classes are a great way to exercise and have some fun! All are welcome. 6-11 year old class is held Tuesdays at 3.40pm – 4.30pm and 12-16 year class on Wednesdays 7.00pm – 8.00pm. for further details contact Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on 01978 821600

BBC Where I Live

Following last week's announcement about the Plas Madoc mini-site on the BBC webpage, over 20 people attended an information session at The Opportunity. Alys Lewis of the BBC gave a tour around the Plas Madoc pages and showed the potential for putting a wide range of information on the world wide web. We are particularly interested in anyone who has old photos of the estate, so we can build up a history of Plas Madoc. Please get in touch with Natasha Williams on 01978 813915 if you would like to know more.

Roller Skating Success

Congratulations to Josh Bathers aged 10 and Jake Barnes, 11 who have been picked to represent Team North Wales in Roller Hockey. The boys attended a recent trial and impressed the coaches enough to make the team. Well done lads!! Josh and Jake will need sponsorship if they are to attend all of their matches. So if anyone out there can help the boys follow their dream and play roller hockey around the country then please get in touch with Andrew Harradine on 01978 813817.

Fly Tying

The Maelor Angling Association will be running fly-tying classes after Christmas. Plas Madoc Communities First has purchased 10 sets of equipment for residents of the estate to use. More details will follow soon.

Community Safety

The Plas Madoc Community Safety Group met last week to discuss issues of safety around the estate. The fence in Peris has nearly been completed, which is good news. The fence was requested by residents following an incident involving a speeding car. The area should now be more secure for residents. If there are any other issues around the estate that you think the Group should know about please contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917.

Dates for your Diary – all events are at the Opportunity Centre, Hampden Way

Councillor Paul Blackwell's Surgery – Tuesday 7th December at 6:30pm

Plas Madoc Youth Club

We are hoping to open the Youth Club early in the New Year. There is a lot of work to be done in the old 'Visage' building to get it ready. Plas Madoc Communities First would like to invite anyone aged 8 – 25 years old to tell us how you want the building to look. This is your chance to design the colour scheme of YOUR building. Please send all your ideas to Lee Marsh who can be contacted on 01978 813918.

Ysgolion Rhosymedre

Congratulations to the following pupils Ryan Berry, Chris Jenkins, Lucy Thomas and Max Owen-Jones these children have been selected as 'Artists of the Week', following a visit by the whole school to the John Charles Exhibition. They have been invited for a photo call at the Museum today. All the trophies are back in school and are being painted; they will eventually be displayed in The Opportunity Centre.

Are you interested in becoming a school governor? Would you like to help develop the school further? Any parents that are interested please contact Roz Harrison on 01978 823040.

Wot About Us Video Project

The videos have been produced and will be delivered to all those involved in the project this week. The song is available to listen to on the internet by logging into the BBC's Plas Madoc website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/northeast/sites/plasmadoc>. The video will also soon be on the MFM webpage. Ysgol Rhiwabon will be showing the video to pupils during their final assembly before Christmas.

Community Safety

The recent Community Safety Group meeting went very well. In the New Year the group will be looking specifically at the quality of footpaths and street lighting on the Estate. If you have any comments about these topics then please let us know so your information can be shared with the meeting. Contact Andrew Harradine on 01978 813917.

Visit to BBC Wales Community Studio

There has been a great response to the offer of a tour around the Community Studio at the BBC based in the Wrexham Library. There are still some places available for this trip, so if you are interested in trying out as a weather forecaster or news presenter then give Natasha Williams a call on 01978 813915. Transport is provided.

Plas Madoc Communities First

The staff at Communities First would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved with us over the last 12 months. January will be an exciting time, particularly with the opening of the new youth centre, and we look forward to more improvements in 2005.

Plas Madoc Communities First will close on Friday 17th December and re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2005.

Thank you

A big thank you to the children of Rhosymedre Infants School for the lovely pictures and stories that they sent following their trip to the Cinderella pantomime in Llandudno paid for by Plas Madoc Communities First
“The pictures were brilliant, we will put them up on display in The Opportunity Centre for everyone to see” said Miriam Beard, Co-ordinator of Communities First.

Plas Madoc Gardening Group

Communities First is hoping to get the gardening group up and running again in the new year, we would like to hear from previous members and anyone else who would be interested in joining, one of the projects that the gardening group will be involved in is a proposed community garden in Plas Madoc, for further details please contact Jenny on 01978 813910

The Brook

A clean up of the brook is being organized in the new year, if anyone would be interested in volunteering to help please contact Jenny on 01978 813910

Environment Group

The environment officer Jenny would like to start an environment group to tackle environmental issues on the estate, if anyone is interested please contact her on 01978 813910 or call into the Opportunity Centre.

Fly Tying

The Maelor Angling Association will be running fly-tying classes after Christmas. The sessions start on Tuesday 11th January and continue every Tuesday until the end of April between 5:45pm and 6:45pm at the Leisure Centre. Last week the launch event saw youngsters practicing casting in the swimming pool whilst it was closed for refurbishment. Plas Madoc Communities First has purchased 10 sets of equipment for residents of the estate to use.

Fitter and Trimmer Club

The Club's first meeting will be held on Thursday 13th January, please come along and shed those few extra pounds gained over Christmas. For further information contact Andrea on 01978 813916

The Communities First Office will be closed from Friday 17th December until Tuesday 4th January 2005. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone in Plas Madoc!!

Emergency Numbers

Here are some contact numbers you may find useful over the Christmas holiday
Council Emergency Repairs – 292500
Duty Social Worker – (office hours) 267000(out of hours) 264358
Wrexham Maelor Hospital – 291100
Cefn Mawr Police Station – 290222 ext 5401

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Fitter and Trimmer Club

The Club's first meeting will be held on Thursday 13th January, there will be advice from an experienced slimming club leader, in future meetings there will be guest speakers on a variety of topics regarding leading a healthy lifestyle, there will be monthly prizes for the person making the best progress. Please come along and shed those few extra pounds gained over Christmas. For further information contact Andrea on 01978 813916

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Council Emergency Repairs – 292500

Duty Social Worker – (office hours) 267000 (out of hours) 264358

Police – 290222 Cefn Mawr police station ex 5401