



Yscir Community



# Yscir Community Council NEWSLETTER 2021

Clerk:  
Mike Westhorpe  
01874 623774  
clerk@yscir.net

[www.yscir.net](http://www.yscir.net)

[www.facebook.com/yscircommunity](https://www.facebook.com/yscircommunity)

## *From our Chair, Jane Price*

I hope that you and you loved ones are making the best you can of these difficult times. We have had to post this newsletter to you because if we hand delivered it we would be breaking the law. Throughout the pandemic Yscir Community Council has continued to meet via Zoom video conferencing and would like to consult you on two matters.

Firstly the Council is very concerned about the proposal to close Cradoc School for the reasons set out below. If you share these concerns I urge you to let Powys County Council know how you feel.

Secondly, we have been discussing the provision of defibrillators in our area, and would **really like to know what you think**, in order to help us decide how to take this forward. Again, see below.

Stay safe and if you think there is anything the Council could be doing to help in the current circumstances, please contact me, any of the other councillors, or the clerk.

## *Proposed Closure of Cradoc School*



SAVE AND REBUILD  
**CRADOC SCHOOL**

Under threat of closure  
after generations educating and  
connecting our rural community

facebook.com/RebuildCradoc  
@RebuildCradoc

Yscir Community Council strongly opposes the proposed closure of Cradoc School. In the first instance, Powys County Council's plan is to amalgamate Mount Street Infants School, Mount Street Junior School and Cradoc C.P. School from September 2022 (Phase 1), with a move to a new school in Brecon from September 2024, at the earliest (Phase 2). **We have the following concerns about Phase 1:**

- a) It cannot improve educational outcomes for the children of Cradoc to go from one head teacher to a headteacher who can only give one third of their time to Cradoc School;
- b) this situation could become permanent with pupils losing learning opportunities and their education suffering.

### **We have the following concerns about Phase 2:**

- a) the loss of local wrap around care from 7.45am to 6pm. This could affect people's livelihoods with one parent having to leave work to provide care. It would also reduce learning opportunities for young children;
- b) the loss of the school site for a safe area for children to play - there is nowhere else locally;
- c) the loss of opportunities for the community to meet around activities based at the school would have a negative impact on people's mental health and wellbeing;
- d) the increase in home to school transport time, particularly for young children;
- e) the loss of community identity provided by the school with Cradoc becoming just a dormitory hamlet, and the concern of yet another rural school being closed;
- f) the increased pollution and traffic disruption to Brecon town with more vehicles travelling at the same time;
- g) a 360 pupil school would probably not be big enough with housing growth in Brecon.

Should the school close, it is of great concern that Powys County Council could sell the site for housing development. As well as the loss of the only area for children to play, the lack of existing parking for residents and the narrow roads to and from Cradoc make this a very bad idea, and unsafe.

Instead Yscir Community Council strongly supports building a new school in Cradoc to ensure that this great school continues to flourish. If you are at all concerned about Cradoc School closing, the consultation closes on 15th April. We encourage everyone to comment on this because your voice needs to be heard.

Please write to PCC Transforming Education Team, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG, email [school.consultation@powys.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultation@powys.gov.uk) or complete the online consultation response form at [powys.gov.uk](https://powys.gov.uk) (search for current consultations). Please send a copy to [Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales), and [cllr.phyl.davies@powys.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.phyl.davies@powys.gov.uk).

## Another defibrillator for Yscir Community?

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high-energy, electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest in order to restore a normal heartbeat. After calling 999 and doing CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), using an AED (automated external defibrillator) is the best way to increase the chances of someone surviving a heart attack. However, for an AED to be effective it needs to be applied quickly.

A person's chance of survival decreases by around 10% with every minute that defibrillation is delayed. Therefore AEDs need to be close to where they might be used.

Apart from the newly installed device at Ty Torlan in Aberbrân (provided by a donation), there is an AED at Cradoc Golf Club, but there are very few properties within a ten minute return trip time from the latter. In light of this Yscir Community Council (YCC) is considering converting the old telephone box in Cradoc to house an AED.

YCC is seeking grants and sponsorship for the capital cost of the AED, for which we have received costings of around £1,000, plus the cost of an weatherproof housing. There would also be an ongoing maintenance cost particularly for battery and pad replacement, which would be around £100 per year. This would be paid for from the Council Tax.

**Do you think siting an AED in the Cradoc old telephone box is a good idea?**

**Are there any other areas of our community that you feel would benefit from an AED?**

**Do you have any ideas how we might fundraise to support the initial capital cost?**

**Would you or your business be interested in sponsoring either this or additional AEDs?**

**Would you be willing to pay a slightly higher Council Tax (say £1-2 per year) to help YCC pay and maintain another AED?**



Please make your views known to a councillor (see the website <http://www.yscir.net/community-council/councillors/>) or contact the Clerk, Mike Westhorpe, on 01874 623774 or at [clerk@yscir.net](mailto:clerk@yscir.net).



## Courier fraud: conning people out of PINs, credit card details and savings

In most cases of courier fraud, a fraudster phones their victim and claims to be from their bank, the police or other law enforcement authority. They then con the victim into revealing their PIN and credit or debit card details. Sadly, the most common victims of courier fraud are the elderly.

### Examples of courier fraud

A scammer calls you, claiming to be from your bank, or a police officer. They tell you either that:

- a fraudulent payment has been spotted on your card that needs sorting out;
- someone has been arrested using your details and cards.

You may be asked to call your bank using the phone number on the back of your card. This convinces you that the call is genuine. But the scammer has kept the line open at their end, so when you make the call, you're unknowingly connected straight back to them or their friends. They'll either ask you for your PIN or ask you to key it into your phone. No bank or other legitimate service will ever ask you for your PIN. The scammer then sends a courier or taxi to pick up the card from your home. Even the driver may not know they're being used as part of the scam. Once the scammer has both your card and PIN they can spend your money.

**The latest variation** is where the scammer contacts you and says your bank account has been taken over and you need to transfer all the funds into a 'safe account'. Of course, the new account is operated by the scammers, who then steal the funds.

**Remember:** The police, or your bank, will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. They will also never ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN. Do not click on links or attachments in unexpected or suspicious texts or emails. Confirm requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly.

**Report scams to Dyfed Powys Police at:**

<https://www.dyfed-powys.police.uk/en/contact-us/report-an-incident/>

