Cllr Susan Jones – report for May 2025

This month has restarted the Gowerton Summer of Fun 2025.  We have been successful in getting a Lottery Funded Grant to organise events throughout the Summer and Autumn.  The first event commentated VE Day by holding a vintage tea in St. John's Church Hall.  It was well supported by the village with over 70 people attending.  Thank you to the volunteers for organising, serving, and clearing away on the day.  The comments after the event were very positive and I think we can say it was a successful day.

We had a concern when the flag was removed from the triangle in the centre of the village which would make the VE Day Flag difficult to display.  I would like to thank Ben, Dean, Rob and Alex for their support to ensure that we could display the commemorative flag.

I attended the Inauguration of our new Lord Mayor Councillor Cheryl Philpott and the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Penny Matthew’s at the Guildhall.  This service is an important process for our city to be represented on all occasions throughout the next year.  The two Councillors meet many people who volunteer and provide services to enhance the well-being of all residents.  The Charities that are chosen benefit from additional funding.  The Lord Mayor is attending a celebration in our Church on Friday the 6th of June.  Tickets available from Mrs Joan Lewis MBE.

The Appeal against the Fairwood Terrace Development has been sent and we hope that the Inspectorate in Wales support the village in their concern about the excessive traffic.  Thanks to so many people who sent their objections which we hope will register the depth of feeling about this development.  My thanks also to Carl Jones for his diligent investigation and research into the objections to Fairwood Terrace. Also, thanks to all the residents who took time to send in their objections to the Inspectorate.

It was a pleasure to attend the Confirmation Service at St. John's Church where 10 people young and not so young entered the family of the Church.  The Bishop took part in the service and afterwards we all took part in the Bring and Share in the Church Hall.  It was heartening to see so many being confirmed.

I attended a meeting in Gowerton Rugby Club to discuss the parking problems of Fairwood Terrace.  All representatives from the rugby, bowls, cricket, golf range, and Penllegaer Estate were in attendance and hopefully a solution will be achieved for the benefit of all.

The Art Class, the Glyn Vivian and the Primary School are involved with the project to update the Mining Disaster Memorial Garden which is in the carpark of the Church Hall.  I helped to encourage the Children from Gowerton Primary School to complete some of the mosaic on the display board.  The children were amazing and so enthusiastic it was a pleasure to be part of this.

I have meet with residents and a housing officer regarding trees that need managing in Clos Morgan Owen.  The ownership of the land has now been established, and we await a positive outcome for residents.  I have also requested that the walkway at the back of the houses be cleared and cleaned.

The Commercial Hotel is under new management, and I would like to wish Lee all the best and a big thank you for his support over many years.  The village will miss him and the support for many activities he has allowed e.g. Father Christmas Parade; the many Markets held in the grounds for the Summer of Fun.

The Family Activity Day was held on Sunday the 25th of May and the weather was dry but windy.  It was supported by many families from around the area.  The Children were introduced to many animals and thanks to Animal Encounters it was a great session for all children.  We were entertained by Gowerton Comprehensive School and Waunarlwydd Choir who both were excellent with a varied programme of songs.  Air Assault were also in attendance and the children battled to be the last one standing.  A big thank you to the Fire Service and the Police for being with us and supporting the event.  Looking forward to The Songs of Praise on the 5th of July in Gowerton Comprehensive School.  All the Churches and Chapels of the area have been invited.

I attended a visit to the Fforestfach Adult Training Centre which allowed Councillors from Adult Services Scrutiny Panel to see the excellent service provided.  This gives an insight on the provision of a day service for adults with learning disabilities and a thanks to the Staff for their warm welcome.

I attended the information session on the new Skate Park being established on the Elba which was held in Gowerton School.  Different options were displayed and those who attended expressed their preferences which were noted.  Looking forward to this new Skate Area being completed by Summer 2026.

Councillors from Gorseinon, Loughor, Waunarlwydd and Gowerton are working in partnership with P.C. Laura Anthony (School liaison Officer). To fund trips for Comprehensive age school children over the Summer holidays. We will have further details regarding this project soon.

Councillor Jenkins ,a Highway Officer , and I meet with resident of Elba Street with concerns of the junction and the difficulty in entering and leaving the area safely.  The Highway Officer will assess the situation and fed back the findings.  We also meet with residents of Caemansel lane who also had concerns on the type of traffic accessing the lane and the speed of the vehicles.  The road surface and the cutting back of the hedges were also a concern.

Bryn Close residents are having difficulty in accessing Gorwydd Rd and I have asked the Highway section to look at this situation.  Crossing Gorwydd Rd to catch buses to Swansea has also been hi-lighted for Highways to assess.

Bryn Close has also been without street lights for a number of weeks and National Grid are trying to address this situation.

During the month I have dealt with many individual problems and many have been resolved.  I am holding my monthly surgery at Gowerton Library on Saturday the 7th of June from 11.00 am to 12 noon.  All welcome.