



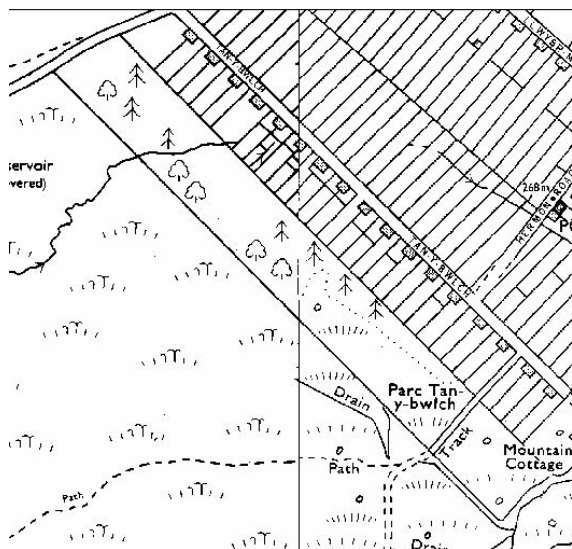
## NEWSLETTER 4 Winter 2004 - 5

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### Parc Tan y Bwlch

A General Meeting was held on the 23 November in the Memorial Hall. This meeting was called specifically to consider the future of Parc Tan y Bwlch. Twenty-six members attended and met with Bob Griffiths of Cydcoed.

Bob explained that Cydcoed can provide 100% grant assistance to create and manage community woodlands and that there are few restrictions on what is meant by a 'community woodland' but it had to benefit the community as a whole and not just a few individuals. In practice this means permitting some form of public access. The only constraint on using this source of funding for Parc Tan y Bwlch is that money can't be used for 'agricultural' land – in our case this means we may have to wait for 3 years from the end of the grazing tenancy.



Everyone agreed that leaving the woods as they are is not an option as the trees are blowing down and open access for sheep is preventing regeneration so the woods will continue to degrade. The drains are also in very poor repair and there is regular flooding of properties on Tan y Bwlch. The trees were planted as an integral part of the landscape of the village to provide shelter for the houses and not primarily for timber production. The consensus of the meeting was that the woods are highly valued by residents for the shelter provided by the trees and also as a peaceful and quiet area for recreation and play. Given that the Penrhyn Estate is looking to sell off

land in the area there is a concern that the land might pass into private ownership which could mean the community would have little or no influence on its future.

**The meeting voted on and passed unanimously the following resolution: that the area known as Parc Tan y Bwlch should be brought into community ownership and that Coetir Mynydd as representatives of the community will seek to purchase the land from the Penrhyn Estate.**

Once the land has been purchased it was agreed that the following works would be required:

- Repairs to drains
- Fencing
- Tree planting
- Public access

This last point is a cause for concern for several residents as they fear that it may compromise the security of the properties on Tan y Bwlch, disturb wildlife and increase noise and disturbance in an area valued for its peacefulness. These are all important issues but the meeting was confident that with careful planning and consultation it should be possible to provide access which will preserve as much as possible these important values.

If we wish to take advantage of Cydcoed funding we have about six months in which to prepare a project proposal. Although the proposal is not a lengthy document we have to put a figure on the amount of money we require which means preparing reasonably detailed plans of the work required. It was agreed that this process would be started by mapping the area focussing on the location and state of drains and trees. On site meetings would then be held to discuss the options and design of plantings and access points.

A meeting on site was done on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan to map the drains. The next task is to cost up repairs to the drains, stock proofing, replanting and to agree access arrangements. Once this is done an approach will be made to Cydcoed and the Penrhyn Estate.

Comments on proposals for Parc Tan y Bwlch are invited from all residents, Coetir Mynydd members and the wider community.

## Access to Parc yr Ynys



A new wooden gate has been installed from Lon Ynys into Parc yr Ynys. Many thanks to First Hydro for providing better quality access to our property. We are still deciding on the design of a simple bench but materials have been purchased using the remainder of the First Hydro grant. Later work will involve installing the bench and creating a footpath to link it to the gate. We will need volunteers to help with this in the spring when hopefully it will be a bit drier.

## Parc yr Ocar management plan

The management plan has been approved by the Forestry Commission and the contract for the Woodland Grant Scheme for Parc yr Ocar was signed in January. Work under the management plan has commenced and so far we have done the following:

- Tree safety audit (work to be done under Cydcoed funding)
- Installation of 4 cleft oak steps using windblown wood on site
- Erection of a 5 m slate fence next to the bridge at Yr Ocar

Planned work includes the erection of Coetir Mynydd notices at the main entrances to the wood.



## Dam safety

Signboards have been commissioned for the dam and the existing safety fencing. They will read 'Danger. Deep water and silt. Keep out or you will drown'. The four sign boards will be installed by the end of April.

A 5 m section of security fence has been ordered and will be installed on top of the wall alongside the dam. Once everyone is happy with the design, visual impact of the fence etc. security fencing will be installed on top of roadside wall to prevent access to the dam and reservoir from the road.

## Stock proofing Parc yr Ocar

We are preparing a proposal to stock proof Parc yr Ocar and Parc yr Ynys by restoring the traditional boundaries rather than wire fencing. The idea is to have a local walling contractor take charge of repairing the boundaries and to use this as an opportunity to provide training for an assistant, local volunteers, youth involvement and masterclasses for Coetir Mynydd members.

We have rough costings for the restoration and repair of the existing stone walls. Bob Griffiths has indicated that this would be a suitable project and we will be putting in an application for a Cydcoed grant in January.

## Annual general meeting

This was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October with 30 people in attendance. The report and accounts presented at the meeting are available on the web site <http://www.coetirmynydd.co.uk/documents>.

Current membership stands at 100 and became due on the 1<sup>st</sup> October. Please pay your £5 membership dues to Mike Yates if you haven't done so yet.

## Contacts

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