

“Exciting Times Ahead!” for a Tidy Twmp

Photos: Terry Evans

THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS of the Cymdeithas Twmbarlwm Society (CTS) are a very enthusiastic and optimistic bunch. They only have to sense the slightest inkling of what may be good news, to loudly declare to anyone who is willing to listen, that there are **“exciting times ahead for the society”!** Well, we are delighted to report that following a successful application for funding from the Welsh Government’s Tidy Towns initiative (TTI), there are indeed very exciting times ahead!

The TTI was launched in April 2008 with the aim of “supporting the people of Wales to take responsibility for the quality of their local environment so that they can contribute towards a Clean, Safe and Tidy Wales”.

During the early years, TTI was delivered through a partnership between the Welsh Government, the 22 Welsh Local Authorities, and Keep Wales Tidy (KWT). Significant funding supported a wide range of collaborative projects and activities across Wales which all served to benefit Local Environmental Quality.

Following an evaluation of the scheme in 2009, TTI was widened to allow community groups to bid for funding, in addition to local authorities and KWT. So, earlier this year CTS Trustees decided to submit an application for funding which would enable the society to undertake a number of projects during 2013-14 that would improve the environment on Twmbarlwm.

With nearly £1 million being up for grabs for community led projects, and with a maximum project value of £30,000 being set to enable as many organisations as possible to benefit from the funding, competition was intense. A total of 134 applications were received by the Welsh Government, and all were carefully considered by an independent assessment panel. 75 projects across Wales were eventually awarded funding towards a wide variety of initiatives.

So what did CTS manage to secure? The excellent news is that the WG awarded the society the grand total of £24,000 to help continue the sterling work of recent years which has sought to improve the environment on Twmbarlwm and its immediate area – a landscape which over many years has been subjected to much abuse, resulting in the significant damage that is visible today. The funding will enable the following work to be undertaken:

- To introduce new defence measures and strengthen existing fences in order to prevent the unlawful access and subsequent damage and nuisance



The Tidy Towns funding will go a long way towards stopping this sort of abuse to our beautiful landscape and help us create a tidy environment for all the community to visit and enjoy.



caused by off-road vehicles; and to effectively tackle occurrences of fly tipping.

- To improve access to the area for all legitimate users through repairing existing paths and developing new routes, and providing new seating areas.
- To install a variety of information and warning signs to reinforce the work completed to improve the defence of, and access to the area.
- To plant native tree and plant species to improve the appearance area around the car parking area.
- To purchase much needed equipment for use during the society’s litter clearance exercises.

The project has been dubbed, **“Towards a Tidy Twmp”**, and the work activities which aim to have the project completed by the end of March 2014 have been agreed. Whilst the advice of Caerphilly County Borough (with whom the society has an excellent working relationship) has been sought and gratefully received, it is anticipated that the vast majority of the proposed work will be carried out by CTS members and other volunteers, in collaboration with members of the Commoners Association. This promises to be a challenging but very rewarding time for all concerned.

We are always looking for new members interested in protecting our iconic mountain, and now is a great time to get involved. If you are interested in joining us or simply finding out more about our activities then please visit the society web-site at www.twmbarlwm.co.uk. Go on, you could be just a couple of mouse clicks away from becoming part of the exciting times that are ahead!

