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Date: 22nd April 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

At the meeting of the **Cabinet** held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Wednesday, 29th April, 2015** at **2.00 pm** the attached additional information which was not available when the agenda went to print was tabled at the meeting.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	Pages
8 Velothon Wales 2015 - Proposed Road Closures.	1 - 12

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs C. Forehead, D.T. Hardacre, K. James, Mrs B. A. Jones, G. Jones, R. Passmore, D.V. Poole, K.V. Reynolds, T.J. Williams and R. Woodyatt,

And Appropriate Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



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Appendix 2b: Additional consultation responses received to the advertised proposals.

Response	Received from	Date Received	Reply/Recommendation
<p>I wish to lodge my objections to the road closures on Sunday 14 June 2015. I feel that Caerphilly County Borough Council have yet again decided to stop Christians going to their place of worship without any consultation whatsoever with the Caerphilly Council of Churches. This will mean that two Sundays running people will be unable to travel throughout Caerphilly Town because on Sunday 21 June we have the roads closed for the Caerphilly 10K run. The majority of people worshipping in churches are elderly and have to be taken to their chosen church by car and on both Sundays this will not be possible. A great deal of these people will have social interaction removed from them and hence they will be alone and unable to speak with friends.</p> <p>In addition it is obvious that Caerphilly County Borough Council have not even discussed this with the likes of Caerphilly Town Council because on the 12/13 & 14 of June the Annual Caerphilly Flower Festival is taking place and this is now supported by Caerphilly Town Council after Caerphilly County Borough Council withdrew funding two years ago. A number of churches and organisations within the town undertake a great deal of work to make this event a success with people travelling from Cardiff, Newport and further afield to view the displays. The road closures will surely mean the open top bus will be unable to travel between the displays and therefore reducing the number of visitors to be able to view the displays on the Sunday. Informing people at the beginning of April of a fait accompli for ten weeks later is not acceptable. Yet again Caerphilly County Borough Council</p>	<p>Resident of Caerphilly</p>	<p>21/04/2015</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether further accommodations can be made.</p> <p>All Town and Community Councils have been consulted and the Town Council has expressed their concerns directly to the Council.</p>

Page 1

<p>believe it is right for them to determine what can and cannot happen within the area.</p> <p>I look forward to a response to this objection, however I will not hold my breath.</p>			
<p>Thank you for including me, as representative of the British Horse Society in your consultation. I apologise for the delay in responding, I have been waiting the hope of getting more information from the Velothon Customer Service helpline - but with no success so far.</p> <p>Hopefully, this event is going to bring a great deal of good publicity and, potentially, more business to the County Borough.</p> <p>As the Regional Access and Bridleways Officer for the BHS in Wales I represent the horse riders in the area.</p> <p>The BHS ACCIDENT WEBSITE http://www.horseaccidents.org.uk/ shows that by far the greatest number of accidents/incidents involving ridden horses are Road Traffic Accidents and most of these occur on minor roads and country lanes.</p> <p>There are many riding horses kept at livery in the Caerphilly Mountain area (between 100 and 200) and many more in the Rudry and Bedwas area, all of which are likely to be affected by drivers looking for alternative routes to those roads which will be closed for the Velothon.</p> <p>The owners/riders of these horses/ponies are most likely to ride at weekends because they are at work or in school during the week - and the bridleways and other routes that are used by these horses are usually only accessible from the local roads.</p> <p>I feel that plenty of advance warning should be given about the use of alternative routes by motorists who find that the Mountain Road B4263 and the A469 ARE CLOSED - and</p>	<p>Equestrian Group</p>	<p>21/04/2015</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether further accommodations can be made and to contact the group to provide the details requested..</p>

advice given that they should use alternatives such as Nantgarw Road and the A470 rather than allowing them to drive up the bypass road and then having to turn off along Waunwaelod Way or Blackbrook Road because the road ahead is closed. Unfortunately neither of these lanes currently have any reduced speed limit on them and vehicles already drive along them far too fast for the conditions on these very narrow and twisting country lanes. Warning signs should also be placed on the lanes themselves for the day (or preferably even longer) stating that drivers should be prepared that they may meet horse riders, walkers and leisure cyclists on these roads. There should also be SLOW signs. It would also be good if some speed restrictions could be imposed. The most dangerous section of Waunwaelod Way is where drivers coming too fast downhill from the mountain, come to the blind bend at the bottom and if they meet anything coming towards them there is danger of a collision - or, if they try to take avoiding action, the vehicle ends up crashing through the hedge.

As a resident of Waunwaelod Way, I am also concerned that many motorists who will want to go to the mountain to watch the Velothon will also want to park their cars as close as possible and, as has happened in the past, they will park along Waunwaelod Way, blocking entrances to properties and making the road so narrow that it will be impossible for two vehicles to pass anywhere along the road or to turn when they decide to go home.

I am also concerned about the 'elite' race in the afternoon which states 'that it will use additional loops of Caerphilly Mountain which will involve wider road closures I have phoned the Velothon Customer helpline several times but there was never anyone there who could help. I have left my phone number 3 times with the promise that 'someone would get back to me' but no-one ever has. Neither have they responded to the e.mail I sent them.

I would be grateful therefore if you could give me information

<p>about the additional road closures so that I can pass on this information to the riders and the residents of the areas that it will affect.</p> <p>I understand that our local bridleways group SAFE has already offered help in putting up signage and I am sure that other riders and yard owners from the area would do the same if you can give me the details to pass on to them.</p> <p>Many thanks for involving me in this consultation. It is very useful. Any other help and advice you can give will also be welcome.</p>			
<p>I wish to comment on the fact that the date of the Welsh Velathon and the subsequent road closures will cause significant problems for anyone wishing to attend the annual Flower Festival in Caerphilly. The festival is mainly based in the churches and many people will need transport to visit on the Sunday but will be prevented from doing so because of the road closures. Volunteers at the venues will also be affected by the closures. The Flower Festival date was chosen some months ago. Surely the date of the Velathon would have been known for some considerable time too. How is it then that such a clash occurred? Did the relevant councillors not know the date of the Velathon?</p> <p>The Caerphilly Churches are therefore subject to road closures on two consecutive Sunday's which causes problems for people who are not able to walk into Caerphilly town because of age or some physical problem.</p> <p>It is a sad reflection on communications that these clashes continue to occur on Sunday's. I realise it inconveniences less people than on Saturday, but the fact that clashes continue to happen is very disappointing.</p> <p>Van Road United Reformed Church, Caerphilly.</p>	<p>Caerphilly Church representative</p>	<p>21/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether further accommodations can be made.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the extensive closure of roads and also the duration of such closures for the velothon. This will affect</p>	<p>Member of the public</p>	<p>21/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

<p>many farms and livery yards where horses are kept. If you own a bicycle and you are not using it, then it can be put in the garage and forgotten about. If you own a horse you have to be able to visit it regularly in order to feed it, check it over, possibly administer treatments, exercise, and do all the other tasks necessary for the proper care of the horse. Few are lucky enough to have full livery where there is somebody at hand to care for them. The velothon is effectively making horses prisoners in their place of abode for a full day. What happens if a horse sustains an injury or an illness that requires the prompt attendance of a vet? A horse with a broken leg in a field? An animal with life-threatening colic? Are we to suppose that the velothon will be held up so that a vet can attend? I think not! Has anybody in Caerphilly County Borough Council or WAG actually sat down and thought about all the implications of this huge ego trip?</p> <p>I was one of many who had the pleasure of watching the cyclists pass the Caerphilly snack bar twice during the Tour of Britain, for which local roads were closed for a short while, with minimal disruption. Events which encourage people to be outdoors and active, whatever the sport, are to be applauded, but not when welfare is at stake and not without thought for others.</p>			<p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether further accommodations can be made.</p>
<p>I am a resident on Commercial Rd Ynysddu, I fully support this event and the need to close the A472. This is an opportunity to put the area on the map and a chance for local business to make some money. The road closure is a small inconvenience for 1 day only, there are shops in both valleys we won't starve! I appreciate that some people who have caring responsibilities may find it difficult, so to help those who don't need to travel why don't we go watch the event, and spend some money in a local business.</p>	<p>Resident of Ynysddu</p>	<p>22/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>I am very opposed to the idea of closing the road to traffic through Maesycwmmmer for 9 hrs to accommodate this event, as this will mean that I will have no access to and from my</p>	<p>Resident of Maesycwmmmer</p>	<p>22/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted. In order to facilitate a safe event, full road</p>

<p>property, and as a resident this will cause major disruption and inconvenience, as the main road is the only way residents and visitors are able to access residents homes. The road closures for this 9 hour timescale, will cause gridlock in many of the surrounding areas that are to be involved with many vehicles using unsuitable roads even assuming that the increased traffic manages to find its way around a long diversion route.</p>			<p>closures are necessary. However, the event organiser has offered some mitigation to maintain restricted access that will be kept open for as long as possible during the event.</p>
<p>I thoroughly support the proposed road closures for the Velathon. I think that this is a fantastic opportunity to promote Caerphilly by having over 15,000 amateur and professional cyclists cycle through our awesome countryside.</p> <p>We should be really proud that they have chosen our area as part of the route. We should fully engage and participate with this amazing event (it's the first time I can remember something like this happening) and really sell what we have to offer as great location to visit and experience.</p> <p>At the end of the day, it is just one day of disruption to road users. We should be encouraging a far more sustainable lifestyle such as using cycling as a means of transportation and hopefully enthusing young people in our communities to think about all the incredible benefits riding a bike has to offer.</p> <p>I hope that this feedback is of some use. I would be more than happy to provide additional feedback if needed</p>	<p>Member of the public</p>	<p>22/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>I am the minister of Mount Pleasant Evangelical Church, which is situated on Main Road, Maesycwmmmer.</p> <p>I received communication today indicating that the A472 through Maesycwmmmer is to be closed to traffic on Sunday 14th of June.</p>	<p>Church Minister, Maesycwmmmer</p>	<p>22/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. However, the event organiser has offered some mitigation to maintain restricted access that will be kept open for as long as possible during the event.</p>

<p>Every Sunday at 10.15am and 5.45pm approximately forty members of the congregation use this road to access the chapel and park on the service road that fronts the chapel. Needless to say the proposed road closure will significantly disrupt our gathering for public worship.</p> <p>I should be grateful if you might indicate how church members travelling Maesycwmmmer from Caerphilly and Pontllanfraith may access the village on that date, and whether the service road to the front of the chapel will be accessible for car parking.</p>			<p>The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether further accommodations can be made and to contact the church to discuss their concerns.</p>
<p>...we were advised that this event would be taking place on June 15th and that road closures would affect the A472 through Maesycwmmmer.</p> <p>Living on Gellideg Heights it is immediately obvious that residents will effectively be 'locked in' by these closures, as the only access to and from Gellideg Heights, and associated residences accessed via Gellideg Lane, is via the A472.</p> <p>Question 1 - Why are we only finding this out now, when according to the organisers, they have been working with the Authority for some 'considerable' time?</p> <p>Question 2 - What arrangements are being made to provide vehicular access for those people who have to use their Cars on Sunday 15th, e.g. to go to their place of work?</p> <p>Question 3 - How has this route been approved by the Welsh Government, the Local Authority, and South Wales Police, without even advising residents that it is taking place?</p> <p>The organisers correctly comment that all this information is on their website, but if you don't know that the event, or its website, exists, that is not a lot of help.</p>	<p>Resident of Maesycwmmmer</p>	<p>23/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. However, the event organiser has offered some mitigation to maintain restricted access for Gellideg Heights that will be kept open during the event.</p> <p>Q1: A detailed press release was issued by the event organisers as soon as they had certainty that they could arrange and manage a safe event. There have been prior communications including the invitation for participants.</p> <p>Q2: The event organiser is to meet with the local community to explain this but can be contacted directly via their customer care line.</p> <p>Q3. An indicative route was identified by the Event Organisers in March 2015 but the detailed route was only finalised by them in April 2015.</p>

<p>As I will be unable to attend the hastily organised Public Consultation Meeting, I would appreciate it if you would register the above questions, and provide me with some kind of timely response.</p>			
<p>As long as people are made aware of the road closures beforehand. It's OK because it's being held on a Sunday so not as much traffic as a week day. It is good publicity for the Borough. It is good because it is promoting sports and cyclists to the area.</p>	<p>Youth Forum Members</p>	<p>23/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>
<p>....members were extremely concerned about the road closure in Caerphilly Town for the Velothon on Sunday 14th June 2015. They believe too much importance has been placed on the event at the expense of local residents, many of whom are elderly and infirm. In addition, some residents work on Sunday and will now find it difficult to get to work. Whilst I appreciate this event was organised by Welsh Government and it is probably too late to do anything this year, my members have asked for their views to be know. In future, they have asked to be consulted well in advance of future events so that proper consideration can be given to the affect they have on the local community.</p>	<p>Caerphilly Town Council</p>	<p>24/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary.</p>
<p>I have to work on Sunday 14th June which involves me driving out of my street, (Maesycwmmmer) at around 16:30. can you explain how I can do this with the main road closed? I will be travelling towards Newbridge & Usk.</p>	<p>Resident of Maesycwmmmer</p>	<p>24/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. However, the event organiser has offered some mitigation to maintain restricted access that will be kept open for as long as possible during the event.</p> <p>The event organiser is to meet with the local community to explain this, or can be contacted via their customer care line.</p>
<p>I spoke with one of the event organisers yesterday to explain that I will need road access from the Virginia Grove estate</p>	<p>Resident of Caerphilly</p>	<p>24/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p>

<p>through Bedwas Road at approximately 10am Sunday 14th June due to needing to travel to Exeter to catch a flight for a 2 week holiday. The organiser assured me that plans would be arranged to allow access and I am currently awaiting further details.</p> <p>I will comment that the organisation of this event is causing mass distress to residents and I am unsure as to why the velothon has to come through that particular busy road. I am also disappointed that residents were notified at such short notice, less than 24 hours! of the meeting held yesterday at the entrance to the estate and the flyers were so rushed that contact numbers printed were incorrect.</p> <p>I would appreciate my comments being passed on to the Cabinet Members.</p>			<p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to check whether appropriate accommodations will be in place.</p>
<p>I am the owner of a Petrol Filling Station situated just below the traffic lights at Hafordrynys on the A467. I understand that the 1 mile stretch of the road from here to the roundabout at Newbridge will need to be closed when the riders come through in the morning and again in the afternoon.</p> <p>You have said that some roads will need to be closed for 8-9 hours, although this is a small link in the race route it is a major link for traffic from south of Newbridge heading towards Brynmawr etc. I believe if this section of road were to be closed for long periods it would cause major disruption and have a severe effect on our business.</p> <p>Please can you inform me of the exact road closure times for this section of road.</p>	Local Business	26/04/15	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to make contact with the local business to discuss their concerns and issues.</p>
<p>I would like to register our concerns over the road closure for this event.</p> <p>We are in favour of such events and the benefits they can bring. However we have been told that the road through Maesycwmmmer is to be closed all day from 8am to 5pm..</p>	Resident of Maesycwmmmer	26/04/15	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. However, the event organiser has offered some mitigation to maintain restricted access that will be kept open for as long as possible during the event.</p>

<p>We have major concerns over this. Why is this to be closed all day? What about carers etc how are they going to get to people in need, people who work on Sunday's do they have to leave home before 8am and not return until after 5pm regardless of working hours.</p> <p>My daughter is getting married on a Sunday and I am sure there are many people who have also family commitments on this day which have been booked for a long time, its ok to say its not until June but weddings etc have been booked long in advance.</p> <p>We live in a close just off the above road and there is no way out . I think you will find people will live with the road being closed for a few hours but all day is a big ask. I feel the Velothons organisers have adopted a rather selfish attitude and not considered the residents at all and how this impacts on them</p>			<p>The event organiser is to meet with the local community to explain this, or can be contacted via their customer care line.</p>
<p>I run Sunnybank Equestrian Centre and an outdoor pursuits centre Battlefield Live Caerphilly.</p> <p>I have already got bookings for Saturday the 14th June for outdoor pursuits and we have a show jumping competition scheduled for 14th June.</p> <p>We are located on Rudry Rd in Rudry and the road closure will dramatically affect My business on that day.</p> <p>With the scheduled road closure being proposed, there is absolutely no way of accessing Sunnybank.</p> <p>I would like to be kept informed of all developments. I also would like to be told when the road intends closing for the run that also takes place in June as last year, we were not informed at all and again our clients could not get to us and we were unable to run.</p> <p>We cannot afford to be closed on a Sunday as this is our busiest day and certainly not twice in one month . I will be</p>	<p>Local Business</p>	<p>27/04/15</p>	<p>Comments noted.</p> <p>In order to facilitate a safe event, full road closures are necessary. The issues will be raised with the event organiser to contact the local business to discuss their concerns and issues. The event organiser will confirm the planned duration of the road closures. The roads are expected to be re-opened by 10am for this section of the route.</p> <p>Any claims for financial loss must be submitted to the event organiser for consideration.</p>

unable to meet my financial obligations if this is the case. We lost approx £1500 last time the run was held and we simply cannot sustain these types of losses. Who do we claim compensation from?

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