



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE – 18TH NOVEMBER 2020

BRIEFING NOTE: MATTERS RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

1. CCTV COVERAGE

Full details of CCTV coverage are available in the [CCTV Review 2020](#) (a pdf copy has been forwarded to all Clerks).

2. WINTER MAINTENANCE PLAN

Full details are available in the Caerphilly County Borough Council [Winter Maintenance Plan](#) 2020/21 (a pdf copy has been forwarded to all Clerks).

3. WASTE FACILITIES/PLANTS POLLUTION LEVELS, ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT DURING COVID.

The enforcement and monitoring of waste facilities/plants is the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales they have advised that: -

“Our staff have continued to regulate throughout the Covid-19 period in order to protect people and the environment and ensure a level playing field for compliant business. We have been able to adapt our regulatory approach to carry out our duties remotely where it was not safe to attend in person. We increased the amount of fieldwork and site visits as restrictions eased and when deemed safe for our staff and customers to do so. We continue to work in line with current Welsh Government advice whilst carrying out our regulatory and enforcement responses.”

The Natural Resources Wales Website has the following information available on their Home Page: -

Temporary working practices

We have some temporary working practices in place to ensure our services carry on with as little disruption as possible.

Most of our staff are working from home. However, our key workers and essential workers are still carrying out their critical work.

This includes visiting sites and collecting data during significant environmental incidents. And dealing with issues of that are of the highest environmental and public risk.

We are continuously reviewing the situation and committed to delivering safe services, prioritising the health and safety of our staff, their families and the wider community.

While we are adapting to different ways of working and supporting our staff with this, we are mindful that service capacity may be affected. Teams are currently working to get in touch with their stakeholders to let them know about any changes that may affect them.

We will update this page with news on how our services have been affected and post updates on our [Facebook page](#) and our [Twitter account](#).

Environmental regulations

We expect businesses and individuals to continue to comply with environmental regulations and their permit conditions. This includes developing contingency plans and putting appropriate measures in place to ensure that all reasonable actions are taken to foresee and mitigate any potential issues.

If a regulated business or individual is facing problems complying with their permit conditions as a direct result of the exceptional circumstances we currently face, then they should:

- inform us of the issues and how they are being managed as early as possible
- prioritise compliance with those permit conditions that directly protect the environment
- take all practicable alternative measures to prevent and minimise any harm to the environment or risks to public health
- keep clear and comprehensive records of the decision made and actions taken

If regulated business and individuals follow these guidelines, we will take a proportionate and reasonable approach to how we assess compliance during this public health emergency. We will work with operators to find the best solutions to safeguarding the environment and helping businesses adapt in these challenging circumstances.

We will continue to check and assess compliance in a number of ways including phone calls, focused visits to priority sites and using a range of alternative methods for gathering intelligence.

We have published temporary regulatory decisions to help deal with issues arising directly from the coronavirus pandemic.

4. PART-NIGHT LIGHTING/STREET LIGHTING

The following information is provided in relation to the position of part-night lighting: -

In 2018, Caerphilly County Borough Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet endorsed a programme to implement LED installation and part night lighting between the hours of midnight and 5.30am, to all lighting, except at junctions and in major town centres.

Prior to implementation there was widespread communication and continuous updates have been provided in relation to the programme of works including a street lighting web page.

Meetings have taken place with Gwent Police to discuss any concerns they have noted with any levels of increased crime etc. in the areas where part night lighting

has already been introduced. Gwent Police confirmed that they had not noted any change in increased patterns of crime as a result of the part night lighting introduction. They further confirmed that they would continually monitor the situation and provide information to Caerphilly CBC Officers if there appeared to be any significant change.

Ongoing dialogue with Heddlu Gwent Police indicates although it is a perceived increase in crime rather than actual and together with the review of local crime data this reflects the national findings that levels of crime have not altered during the period of the street lighting switch off.

The part-night light initiative was to convert 22,698 columns to part night lighting between midnight and 5.30am. To the end of September 15,390 columns have been converted (69%) around the borough and the remainder are scheduled to be completed prior to December 2020. Further, 84% of the LED conversion programme has also been completed.

There have been 227 complaints regarding the installation of LED's and part-night lighting since the commencement of the programme between April 2019 and August 2020. Of these complaints only 96 were in relation to part night lighting. The complaints are predominantly centred around access to properties and security of properties and vehicles parked on the highway.

There has been three compliments received for the initiative relating to carbon reduction and that it will positively contribute to improving dark skies.

CARBON REDUCTION ACHIEVED

The Authority has declared a climate emergency and Community Councils have also looked to make this commitment and this initiative goes a long way to supporting the desire to become carbon neutral. The programme of works is planned to be complete by December 2020 which is well ahead of schedule. This will allow the authority to benefit from both carbon and financial savings a lot earlier than initially anticipated.

Expected CO₂ reduction following the adoption of LED street lighting is 2094 Tonnes, with an additional expected reduction 742 Tonnes from the introduction of part night lighting.

INVESTMENT

To date 93% (£3,900,000.00) of the SALIX funding has been invoiced with 69% (15390) of our streetlights now fitted with part night photocells and 84% (14019) of the LED lantern changes have been completed.

DIMMING

In order to dim the street lighting, each lantern must be instructed to do so. Remote monitoring systems allow for the unlimited control of the street lighting equipment from a central point via a computer. No energy or carbon dioxide savings would result directly from the installation of remote monitoring but would be dependent on the control settings selected.

In 2010 and in consultation with our Energy officers, Highways Network Management began to expand its use of a central management system as this equipment was previously being installed as a requirement placed onto new housing developments. At this time LED streetlights were costly and unreliable and discharge lamps were still the mainstay of standard street lighting equipment. Over the next 4 years as technology became better established and Central Government funding became available, CCBC energy saving initiatives consisted of 2000 electronic ballast changes to Son discharge lamps with CMS, 2000 electronic ballast changes with Cosmopolis discharge lamps with CMS, 800 LED lanterns with CMS and 7400 LED gear tray conversions to replace Son discharge lamps (these could not be dimmed).

Therefore, including new housing sites, only 5500 street lights within the borough currently have CMS. All new lanterns under the 2019 LED lantern replacement scheme are futureproofed to accept the installation of CMS and all lanterns wattages were selected as the lowest acceptable whilst adhering to the lighting requirements of BS5489:2013.

Therefore, and in order to dim street lighting throughout the Borough, 7400 LED gear-trays require replacement with lanterns suitable for dimming at a cost of **£1,636,806.00** together with the installation of CMS onto the remaining 22,311 lanterns at **£1,336,428.00**

Dimming of 17300 lanterns wattages between 00.00 and 05.30 by 50% (excluding those at safety critical conflict areas (4989) and on the inter urban routes (4941) will require extra funding of **£165,000.00** in annual charges and CO₂ emissions rise by 79 Tonnes.

Capital investment, ongoing charges and reduced environmental benefits rule out dimming as a cost-effective option.