

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 1997 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Fitzgerald - Vice-Chairman (Presiding)

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, A.I. Evans, Mrs. C. Forehead, K. Forehead, Mrs. E.M. Gore, L. Lewis,
C.P. Mann, M.H. Newman, Mrs. M.J.Thomas

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	
Argoed	-	Mrs. H. Rowlands, Mr J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, W.G. Woodroffe (Clerk)
Blackwood	-	Mrs. M. Veater, Mr. I. Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	-	Mrs. M. Hallam, Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C. Roberts
Gelligaer	-	T.J.B. Jarrett, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mr. D. Watkins (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mrs. J. Rao, Mrs. J. Neville, Mrs. S. Phillips (Clerk)
Nelson	-	
New Tredegar	-	
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	
Rhymney	-	
Rudry	-	Dr. N.V. Williams (Clerk)
Van	-	J.E. Newnham, Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with:

Head of Policy and Central Services, Chief Environmental Health Officer, Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Crime Reduction Officer, Senior Solicitor, Research Officer, Senior Committee Services Officer.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, Mrs. A. Blackman, P. Ford, G. Jones, H.J.B. Rogers and R. Woodyatt, Community Councillors Mrs. M. Bradley and Mrs. D. Price, G. Brown, T.J. Perry and Messrs. J. Humphreys, A. Hoskins, G. James, R. Williams and J. Matthews and Mrs. H. Harris, Mrs. P. Cooper and Mrs. S. Phillips (Clerks of Aber Valley, Nelson, New Tredegar, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn, Bargoed, Darran Valley and Maesycwmmmer Community/Town Councils respectively).

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 18th June 1997 were received and noted.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

Kerbside Collection of Recyclables within Caerphilly County Borough

Details of proposals to introduce a kerbside recycling project on a phased basis within the county borough were noted. It was confirmed that the success of the project will be linked with education and publicity and that the participation rates and tonnage's collected will be closely monitored in order that any additional publicity required in specific areas can be undertaken as necessary.

Substance Misuse Strategy

The strategy of the Local Advisory Team established as a result of the Welsh Office publication 'Forward Together: A Strategy to Combat Drug and Alcohol Misuse in Wales' was noted.

It was confirmed that a local strategy 'Tackling Substance Misuse in Caerphilly County Borough' had been prepared and will be sent to each Community/Town Council for comment in due course.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the Town and Community Councils Liaison Committee.

Byelaws - Prohibiting Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor in Designated Places.

The current position in respect of the introduction of the byelaws prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic liquor in designated places was noted. It was confirmed that the Public Protection Committee had originally identified four areas for its trial introduction - Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly and Risca and had recently added the Castle Court Shopping Centre Caerphilly and Abertridwr Square to those areas identified.

The matter now requires the formal consent of Council and once that approval is forthcoming, a formal notice of the making of the byelaw must be given and a copy sent to the Home Office for ratification.

Disappointment was expressed that the byelaws were only being introduced in specific areas but it was confirmed that the other areas identified would be considered for inclusion in the future after assessing the measures effectiveness.

Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996

It was confirmed that the Order which identifies the areas where it will be an offence for a person not to clean up after their dog has now been ratified and will come into force on 1st October 1997. Details of the publicity exercise and proposed enforcement of the byelaw were discussed and the

need to achieve an effective implementation of the powers was emphasised.

Lane Markings at Roundabouts

The general principles of lane markings at roundabouts were noted. It was reported that the decision to introduce roadmarkings is determined on an individual basis to balance traffic flow, capacity and safety. Reference was made to the Highway Code which indicates that for traffic going straight ahead at a roundabout, drivers may select either the inside or the outside lanes. Specific reference was made to the roundabouts at Pwllpant (which has recently been marked) and Ystrad Mynach (which has no markings) and the representatives requested that situation at both roundabouts continue to be monitored and the policy regarding marking at roundabouts be reviewed as necessary.

Grass Cutting of Parks and Open Spaces/Litter Cleansing in Parks

Members were appraised of the existing frequency of grass cutting and the new specification which is to be introduced to harmonise grounds maintenance (12 times per season with an additional 2 cuts available if required). Reference was made to the length of the grass in certain areas during the summer and the inherent problems when it was eventually cut with the loose grass not being removed and to the problems on football pitches which in some instances had led to games having to be postponed. It was requested that consideration be given to cutting the pitches at the beginning of the season.

It was confirmed that as a result of economies within the leisure budget two cuts had been removed. This coupled with the unusual weather conditions had led to the problems being experienced in certain areas in the borough.

It was confirmed that although litter and debris are removed from the grassed areas as part of the grass cutting operation, general litter collection is undertaken by the Highways DLO and is the responsibility of the Environmental Services Department. It was noted that litter collection is undertaken in most parks on the five weekdays and in specified parks also on the weekend by the Cleansing DSO. The question of whether an area comes within the street cleansing contract or the grounds maintenance contract was raised and it was agreed that specific areas which required clarification could be brought to the attention of the Community Council Liaison Officer.

Weed Control Programme

It was recognised that inadequate highway weed control in the past had resulted in the significant weed problem which now exists in the borough. As a result of this situation, a specialist contractor was appointed to undertake a weed spraying programme during the summer. As a result of monitoring, a programme of re-treatment has been undertaken in those areas where spraying has not been successful.

Concern was expressed that the dead weeds were not being removed and it was reported that additional work to manually remove dead vegetation and woody growth had been organised although it was subject to budget restrictions.

Reference was made to the significant problems with Japanese knotweed and the possibility of seeking environmental funding to tackle the problem was discussed. It was agreed to request the Public Protection Committee to examine this matter and to report further on any plans the Council may have to eradicate the problem.

Pavement Programme - Slabs/Kerb Stones affected by Weeds and Trees

Details of uneven slabs on the pavement at Pleasant View, Maescwmmmer were reported and it was agreed that the matter would be reported on behalf of the Community Council.

Cleansing of Rear Lanes

The approved code of practice issued in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (part IV), the subsequent zoning of geographical areas and the minimum inspection and cleansing frequencies for each of those zones were noted. It was confirmed that the new specification had been written following a public consultation exercise.

It was reported that the scheme needs to be proactive rather than reactive and , as such, work is being undertaken in schools and in the community to change public attitudes in relation to the depositing of litter.

The question of which area comes within each zone was raised and it was agreed that specific areas which required clarification should be brought to the attention of the Community Council Liaison Officer for identification.

Sources of Sponsorship to Raise Finance

Details of the work that the Council undertakes with a view to attracting additional funding from external sources was outlined. Reference was made to bids to central government, the Welsh Office, the European Commission, the Lottery and work with both the public and private sector. An important element of the efforts to attract more external funding involves increasing awareness of the different sources of funding available and as result, a directory is in the process of being produced which will identify the funding available for various types of initiative.

Reference was made to the agreed strategy for joint working with the voluntary sector and community groups whereby Officers offer assistance to the organisation in preparing their bids. It was reported that a lottery funding grant of £200,000 had recently been awarded to GAVO to encourage the establishment of local voluntary sector groups.

The question of using sponsorship in other areas such as on bus shelters, vehicles and stationery was raised and it was noted recently an initiative with Halifax Plc had led to sponsorship for Neighbourhood Watch Signs and that other avenues would be explored.