

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 23RD JANUARY 2002 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Community Councillor C.R. Roberts - Chairman
Councillor C.P. Mann - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, J.Bevan, P.J. Bevan, D. Bolter, P.D. Ford, Mrs M.E. Hughes,
M.H. Newman, J.E. Newnham, D.J. Potter, H. Price, Mrs J.A. Pritchard

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	Mr J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-	A.S. Williams. Mr D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H.M. Farrant, Mrs H. Harris (Clerk)
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	Mr W.G. Woodroffe (Clerk)
Blackwood	-	Mr I. Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	-	Mrs P. Newman, Mr M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C.R. Roberts, Mrs P. Cooper (Clerk)
Gelligaer	-	Mrs M.R. Richards, Mrs A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mrs E.A. Reed, Mr W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mr D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	-	B. Miles
New Tredegar	-	W. Gabb
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	Mrs A. Nash, Mr R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	-	Mrs M. Betts
Rudry	-	Mr J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	-	

Together with:

A. Brown (Environmental Health Manager), C. Burns (Head for Policy and Central Services),
H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Collins, I.G. Franklin and R. Woodyatt, Community Councillors J.E. Roberts, J.B. Criddle, Mrs J.H. Rao and G. Llewellyn and Mr A. Hoskins, Mr W.T. Powell and J. O'Brien (Clerks of Nelson, New Tredegar and Van Community Councils respectively).

1. **MINUTES - 19TH SEPTEMBER 2001**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2001 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the community/town councils and to the respective reports of Officers.

2. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

In noting that Cabinet had set aside £20,000 to support local Christmas lighting schemes, it was reported that each community/town council that had applied had been allocated £250. Larger sums had been granted to schemes at Risca, Deri Square and Crosskeys but the latter two had been unable to proceed because of the requirement of larger capital investments. Those sums will be retained until such time that the schemes can proceed.

The Head of Policy and Central Services indicated that he would provide further details in a report to the next meeting.

The representatives expressed concern at the late notification of the scheme and the limited timescale in which to submit an application. They requested that in the event that finances are to be made available for 2002 they be advised at the earliest opportunity.

Specific reference was made to the variance in costs in converting lighting columns to accept RCD equipment and it was agreed that a report detailing the different costings be presented to the next meeting.

The representatives wished to place on record their appreciation to all staff in the Street Lighting Department for their continuous assistance in this matter.

3. ASSESSMENT OF TRAFFIC CALMING REQUESTS

Details of the report which outlined the potential schemes awaiting assessment, those already assessed and those schemes already prioritised using the approved assessment criteria were noted.

It was accepted that there is a limited budget to carry out works of this nature and suggested that when the Highways Department are considering resurfacing works on sections of road that have been identified as requiring traffic calming measures, they should be undertaken at that stage. It was also suggested that traffic calming schemes should also be incorporated in any new development.

It was agreed to forward these views to the Highways Department.

4. QUEENS GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

It was reported that Cabinet have agreed to recommend that Council undertake no direct action to celebrate the Golden Jubilee but be helpful to those who wish to celebrate in their own locality by providing easy access to street closure information, ensuring that any application was dealt with promptly.

In noting that certain community/town councils are taking initiatives in their own areas the representatives felt that the Council should support and assist local communities in some way, possibly from a budget set aside for this purpose.

It was agreed that this view would be reported to Council on 24th January 2002 when the item is being considered.

5. JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Details of the various knotweed contracts were noted and it was requested that further information be provided on the success of the schemes.

Specific reference was made to the scheme in Hanbury Road Car Park, Bargoed and clarification was sought as to whether one or three sprays would be undertaken. It was agreed to seek the information and respond to the Clerk accordingly.

6. ABANDONED TROLLEYS

Details of the legislative powers to deal with abandoned shopping trolleys were outlined and it was noted that those powers can only be used after the scheme has been adopted by resolution of the local authority. To date Caerphilly County Borough Council has not resolved to adopt the provisions.

It was proposed that where abandoned trolleys are encountered, the operators be contacted and requested to collect the trolleys and take appropriate action to prevent recurrence.

Specific reference was made to the problems in Caerphilly and the Environmental Health Manager indicated that he would visit the stores in question and raise the issue with the respective Managers.

The role of the Environment Agency was raised and it was agreed to seek details of its policy on the matter.

Reference was also made to articles which have appeared in both the Daily Mail and South Wales Echo on the subject and it was requested that a copy be forwarded to the Environmental Services Manager.

7. ANTI LITTER CAMPAIGN

Consideration was given to the report which gave an update on how problems of litter are being tackled particularly in relation to school children.

Proposals to produce an advisory/briefing note for all secondary school heads which will include issues relating to cause/effect, the costs of cleansing after pupils and the resultant knock-on effect on the cleansing service generally were outlined. Each secondary school will be highlighted with details of LEAMS (Local Government Audit and Management Scheme) score of locality before and after lunch and costs of cleaning after lunch. There will also be tips/advice points and an input from the Environmental Health Manger in respect of enforcement. After circulation of the briefing to the secondary heads, the situation at each school will be monitored and where there is no change the head will be visited and enforcement targeted against pupils accordingly.

The Environmental Health Manager indicated that he would be meeting representatives of the Education Department to discuss the best way to progress the proposal.

8. ANIMAL TRESPASS

It was noted that for the last 12 months the service has been severely affected by the foot and mouth restrictions. However, a report is being prepared which will include proposals for reviewing the service, increasing impounding fees and suggesting a systematic approach to fencing issues. Any suggestions received from community/town councils will be incorporated within that document.

It was noted that Officers, the Animal Trespass Team and the Police have met with representatives for Rhymney Community Council to discuss the ongoing problems in that area. Certain of the proposals suggested at that time have been implemented within existing budgets but others that require the agreement of Council are being progressed. Officers are seeking legal advice on options for prosecution and will continue to press the National Assembly, its Members and Parliamentary Members for additional and clearer powers.

9. CHARTER WITH COMMUNITY/TOWN COUNCILS

Consideration was given to the report and the revised charter appended thereto and it was agreed that subject to the inclusion of traffic orders in section 3 (consultation on specific subjects), the amended charter be approved. It was noted that in order to formalise the arrangements, the amended Charter must also be adopted by the County Borough.

Members wished to place on record their appreciation to the Clerks and Officers involved in the review.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.