

## CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

#### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 7.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

Community Councillor J.B. Criddle - Chairman  
Councillor C.P. Mann - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, H.A. Andrews, Mrs. A. Collins, M.H. Newman, J.E. Newnham, H. Price

Representing Community/Town Councils:-

Aber Valley	-	Mr J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-	A.S. Williams, Mr D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H.M. Farrant
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	
Blackwood	-	J.B. Criddle
Caerphilly	-	Mrs M.J. Hallam, Mr M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C.R. Roberts, Mrs P. Cooper (Clerk)
Gelligaer	-	Mrs A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mrs A. Reed, Mr W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Mr D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	-	
New Tredegar	-	
Penyrheol, Treceynydd & Energlyn	-	Mrs A. Nash, Mr R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	-	
Rudry	-	Mr J.L. Matthews (Clerk)
Van	-	Mrs. E. Macey

Together with

M. Williams (Public Services Manager), J. Ridgewell (Business Manager - Development Parks), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

#### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. C. Forehead, Mrs. M.E. Hughes, D.J. Potter and Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, Community Councillors J.R. Roberts, Mrs M.R. Richards, Mrs J. Rao, Mrs M. Hill and H. Williams and Mr J. Dilworth, Mr I. Palmer, Mrs D. Gronow and Mr J. O'Brien (Clerks of Bargoed, Blackwood, New Tredegar and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

#### 1. MINUTES - 18TH JUNE 2003

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2003 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **2. Gwent Police - Police Community Support Officers (minute no. 6)**

Reference was made to the introduction of 30 Police Community Support Officers within the division and it was felt that they have been well received within the community and that their presence on the street was an essential part in assisting to reduce crime.

It was reported that in view of the success of the scheme, fifty Officers are to be allocated for the whole of Gwent. It was understood however these are to be appointed proportionally across the force area and as such the existing thirty in this division would be reduced to twenty-three. It was agreed to write to the Chief Superintendent seeking confirmation of the allocation of Police Community Support Officers to this division, expressing concerns in the event that the existing number is to be reduced and seeking information as to where this reduction is envisaged.

### **3. Christmas Decorative Lighting (minute no 14)**

It was reported that the applications have been considered and notification of award of grant will be sent in the next few days. It was pointed out that most of the community councils who had applied have been awarded £700 although there were those who had been allocated additional sums.

### **4. Caerphilly County Borough Waste Forum (minute no.15)**

It was noted that in view of transport difficulties, Community Councillor Mrs A. Nash would not be able to attend the meetings of the Forum. As such, it had been agreed at the pre-meeting of the community/town council representatives that Community Councillor J.B. Criddle should be appointed to sit on the Forum.

## **TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the community/town councils.

### **5. SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES**

Mr Mark Williams, Public Services Manager, attended the meeting and detailed initiatives introduced by the county borough to reduce waste and promote sustainable waste management.

He highlighted key issues from his within his report and made reference to the progress made on each of the following initiatives:-

- (a) **kerbside collection of dry recyclables** – at present 48,000 properties take part in this scheme – arrangements are in hand to extend this scheme to other areas (subject to accessibility). Concerns were raised at the current participation rates which vary from 25% to 79% (dependant on area) and Mr Williams highlighted the incentive schemes which will be introduced to encourage householders to participate in the kerbside green-box recycling scheme. It was suggested that whilst this information will be included in various publications it could also be included in community/town council newsletters and Mr Williams agreed to provide relevant information for use;

- (b) **kerbside collection of green waste** – the success of the kerbside collection of green waste from approximately 70,000 properties in the borough was commended;
- (c) **collection of tree/hedge cuttings** - the success of the tree/hedge cutting collection service to date has ensured that it will continue to operate during 2004/05 – the feasibility of using the compost produced in municipal landscaping schemes is being examined;
- (d) **home composting** - 8,000 bins have been sold to date, two new designs of the original compost converter will be available to the public towards the end of the year at a subsidised rate;
- (e) **community furniture enterprise** - collection, refurbishment and delivery service for re-usable furniture and electrical appliances for deprived residents throughout the borough;
- (f) **commercial recycling scheme** - currently cardboard, glass and cans are collected from 640, 100 and 57 businesses respectively;
- (g) **the Real Nappy Service** – company which collects, launders and delivers re-usable nappies;
- (h) **mini recycling centre** - there are currently twenty-nine mini recycling centres that offer a range of recycling facilities to recycle glass, newsprint, magazines, cans and clothes;
- (i) **recycling at civic amenity sites** – five sites currently offer a wide range of recycling facilities;
- (j) **waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)** - strategy to collect a broad range of consumer and commercial equipment to meet WEEE directives;
- (k) **education initiatives** – details of the comprehensive waste management programme and community work. It was reported that a schools reward scheme is due to commence in January 2004 whereby all schools in the county borough will be provided with bins to recycle a range of materials with collections on a monthly basis. An annual participation incentive for each school plus a £100 reward per material per term for schools that achieve the highest average tonnage per pupil of each material collected will be awarded;
- (l) **educational literature** – production of educational documents. Specific reference was made to the educational schools recycling pack that has been produced to accompany the recycling talks. The pack contains information on all aspects of recycling and waste management with activities for the school to participate in. it can also be used by teaching staff throughout the year as they deliver the national curriculum.

Mr Williams then made reference to the preparation of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy which will be prepared in accordance with Welsh Assembly Government guidelines. It will detail all of the current waste management functions of the Authority, partnership working, future objectives and how change is to be effected.

In noting that the county borough is also acting as the lead authority in South East Wales in the production of a Regional Waste Management Strategy and that lengthy community consultations are currently underway to establish the opinions on waste management held by the public, guidance was sought on the detail of the information required to respond to the consultation document (which had been sent to each community/town council). Mr Williams indicated that he would ensure that further details are sent as soon as possible to assist with the completion of the questionnaire.

Reference was then made to the use of landfill tax credits in funding certain schemes and a query was raised as to whether the community/town councils/individual community groups are able eligible to benefit. Mr Williams explained that with effect from 1st April 2003 the funding formula has been changed with two thirds allocated to the UK devolved administrations (WAG in Wales) for direct allocation to strategic projects and the remaining one third available for compliant community projects. He indicated that he would be preparing a report for presentation to Cabinet and that he would make a copy available for the sub-committee in due course.

## **6. WEEKEND CLEANSING OF PARKS AREAS**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the clearance of litter from parks during the weekends and Mr. Ridgewell, Business Manager - Development Parks, highlighted the key issues contained therein. It was noted that play areas located in the community and outside main parks are cleansed operating a frequency in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (weekday cleansing to ground areas and bins). Play areas located inside the main parks are litter picked and have their bins cleansed daily (weekdays) in accordance with the Grounds Maintenance Contract specification. This same weekday cleansing is undertaken in a number of the larger parks using the same Grounds Maintenance staff. During the summer period (April to early September) these same parks and play areas receive a follow up litter cleansing exercise covering 7 days of each week. This follow up cleansing is undertaken by staff operating the ranger service at main park locations.

Mr. Ridgewell indicated that as a result of recent spend on youth provision, approximately 40 new sites (skateboard areas, multi use games areas, youth shelters, play equipment and kick walls) have been evaluated and included in the cleansing programme operated by cleansing staff and parks staff for weekly cleansing.

With regards to the weekend cleansing of parks, concerns were expressed that apart from the cleansing undertaken by the parks ranger at selective locations, currently no regular cleansing activities take place. Mr Ridgewell pointed out that Officers are currently seeking to establish further grounds maintenance savings from leisure contract funds to try and commence a limited cleansing programme in heavily used parks, play areas and youth sites this winter. In addition growth bids are being drawn up to fund the additional cleansing requirements to existing and new areas with a view to providing a seven-day twelve-month service.

It was accepted that litter problems are being caused by the public and felt that they should be reminded of the nuisance it causes and that it is an offence to drop litter. It was pointed out that this is regularly reported within Newline and, in order to further highlight the problem, the community/town councils were requested to consider the inclusion of an item within the newsletter they circulate within the community.

## **7. PADDLING POOLS – SENGHENYDD/MORGAN JONES PARK**

Mr. Ridgewell attended the meeting to explain the reasons for the delay in the opening of the pools and referred to the problems encountered regarding staff recruitment. He pointed out that in view of the number of people who took advantage of the free swimming for children initiative and the need to provide enhanced levels of pool supervision, there were no persons at the leisure centre who could be used to staff the paddling pools. Legislation requires a total compliment of five staff for the both pools and as insufficient applications had been received for the few weeks work interviews had not been progressed at that stage. Once a full complement had been reached, the interviews had been undertaken on 13th August 2003 and the pool opened the following day and subsequently closed on 31st August 2003.

It was felt by the representatives that sufficient planning had gone into the arrangements for the opening of the pool but that the advertisement for staff had not been published early enough and, as a result, the facilities could not be opened on the due date. It was requested that the recruitment should be undertaken earlier for 2004 to ensure that they can be opened on scheduled.

Mr. Ridgewell indicated that responsibility for staff recruitment and training will fall to the Leisure Service (in particular Caerphilly Leisure Centre) and that the staff will be employed as relief staff throughout the year and will be trained to manage the paddling pools specifically. As such, this should not occur in future years.

## **8. DRAFT TIMETABLE FOR ELECTIONS**

Details of proposed timetables in the event that the elections are either in May or June 2003 were noted. It was stressed that until the date of the election has been announced it will not be possible to provide detailed information and that the report was for guidance purposes only. It was also confirmed that it is not possible to provide apportioned estimated election costs at this stage but pointed out that as in previous years, community/town councils will be permitted to stage their payments over a period of four years.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.