



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST JULY 2004 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, D. Bolter, K.M. Derrick, N.S. Dix, C.P. Duggan, L. Gardiner, M.H. Newman, Mrs. D. Price, G.R. Price, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, A.S. Williams

Representing Community/Town Councils:

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| Aber Valley | - | Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk) |
| Argoed | - | |
| Bargoed | - | I. Hughes, Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk) |
| Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen | - | Mrs. G. Howell, Mr. D. Allinson (Clerk) |
| Blackwood | - | Mr. I. Palmer (Clerk) |
| Caerphilly | - | Mrs. M.J. Hallam, Mr. M. Evans (Clerk) |
| Darran Valley | - | C.R. Roberts, Mrs. P. Cooper (Clerk) |
| Gelligaer | - | D. Roberts, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk) |
| Llanbradach | - | G. Brown, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk) |
| Maesycwmmmer | - | Mrs. J.H. Rao |
| Nelson | - | A. Candy, Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerk) |
| New Tredegar | - | |
| Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn | - | |
| Rhymney | - | M.L. Thomas |
| Rudry | - | Mr. J.L. Matthew (Clerk) |
| Van | - | Mrs. E. Macey, J.O'Brien (Clerk) |

Together with:

C. Davies (Housing Manager), N. Gatehouse (Chief Environmental Health Officer), A. Jones (Community Safety Officer), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B.A. Barker, Mrs. A. Collins, D.J. Potter and C.P. Mann, Community Councillors J.E. Roberts, M. Maguire, P.I. Francis, J. Walbeoff and Mrs. A. Nash and D.R. Parry, D. Cooper and R.B. Williams (Clerks of Argoed, Maesycwmmmer, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that County Councillor L. Gardiner be appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

In accepting the office, Councillor Gardiner referred to the former Chairman of the Sub-Committee, Jim Criddle, who had not been re-elected to Blackwood Town Council in June. In paying tribute to the role he had undertaken, members agreed that a letter be sent to thank him for his valuable contributions at the meetings over the past years and particularly for the manner in which he chaired those meetings.

He also indicated that he would like to attend individual community/town council meetings and requested details of the respective timetables.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Community Councillor C Roberts be appointed Vice - Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

3. RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM MATTHEWS

Councillor H.A. Andrews referred to the retirement of Mr. Jim Matthews as Clerk of Rudry Community Council and Members paid tribute to the role he has undertaken on behalf of the community council and to the valuable contributions he has made at the meetings of the sub-committee.

Mr. Matthews responded to the comments made and thanked those present for their sentiments and for their support during the 30 years he had been Clerk.

4. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE AND WELL BEING CONSULTATION

Members received a presentation from Mrs. Coleen Bright (Head of Corporate Services and Planning, Local Health Board) on the process for public consultation on the draft Health Social Care and Well Being Strategy.

Mrs. C. Bright indicated that the draft document, which will seek views on the priorities and proposed actions, is in the process of being printed and will be distributed for comment in the near future. It was noted that the formal public consultation would be undertaken from July - September 2004 and the final document submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government in December 2004.

Mrs. C. Bright indicated that the key issue in producing the strategy is to ensure that all organisations are working to provide services jointly. As such the consultation process takes account of the need for engagement with the public, staff and all partners and organisations. She stressed the importance of contributing to the draft document as opinions received will influence the final document and set a common vision and joint priorities.

Mrs. Bright then responded to a series of questions and in particular to recent consultations in relation to the provision of a new hospital in the County Borough. She indicated that the consultation has now concluded and the Community Health Council will consider a report on the outcome on 29th July 2004. The Local Health Board will consider its report and recommendations on 18th August 2004 and the outline business case will be presented to the Welsh Assembly Government in October.

It was reported that the Wanless Action Plan has been approved by the Assembly and as such, the county borough has been awarded £3.75m for this financial year and £5.25m for subsequent years.

In relation to specific issues raised in respect of health care, Mrs. Bright requested details in writing in order that they can be investigated by the Local Health Board whose primary role is to purchase health care for people within the County Borough.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Bright for her informative presentation and requested that each community/town council consider the draft document and submit their comments within the given timescale.

5. **ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the policies, procedures and initiatives that the county borough and its partner agencies have adopted to tackle anti social behaviour.

Specific reference was made to the enforcement of tenancy agreements and Mr. C. Davies (Chief Housing Officer) detailed the procedures which have to be followed prior to such enforcement being undertaken. He pointed out the difficulties in obtaining possession orders and details of the evidence required by the Courts in pursuing this course of action. He gave an assurance that Officers are looking to adopt a more proactive approach and will be placing greater emphasis on anti social behaviour orders.

Reference was then made to the use of CCTV cameras and Mr. A. Jones (Community Safety Officer) indicated that resources available do not meet demand. Whilst it is not possible to ensure there is CCTV in each area, the mobile vans are used in those areas where specific problems are occurring. He also reported that the Community Safety Partnership has recently been awarded funding to employ additional staff. As such it is proposed to appoint an Anti Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, a Community Outreach Officer and Community Safety Wardens who will have a specific responsibility for dealing with anti social behaviour. This will be piloted in a specific area and its success monitored.

6. **FLY TIPPING**

Details of the report which provided an update on actions taken with regards to fly tipping were noted.

Mr. N. Gatehouse (Chief Environmental Health Officer) detailed the initiatives being undertaken and the variety of services being provided. He pointed out that Officers are currently being trained in the use of covert surveillance equipment to assist with investigative measures and referred to the requirement to review certain policy as a result of legislative changes.

Reference was made to the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group which undertook a review of the Council's actions on fly tipping and Members were pleased with progress being made on those recommendations (which were detailed in the report).

Reference was also made to the role of the Community Cleansing Team and Mr. Gatehouse reiterated that this five man team visits each community/town council area for five days every seventeen weeks with each council notified in advance and afforded the opportunity to define the team work programme.

Issues in relation to the rubbish generated by take away establishments was raised and Mr. Gatehouse referred to legislation within the Environmental Protection Act, which applies in a limited proximity to the premises. He indicated that the Public Services Manager is liaising with owners of such premises to seek their co-operation but until the existing powers are reviewed enforcement within close proximity of the premises will not be possible.

The Community/Town Council representatives wished to place on record their support for the level of service being received from the County Borough in respect of fly tipping and referred particularly to the role and success of the Cleansing Team.

6. UNAUTHORISED STATIONING/SELLING OF CARS ON THE HIGHWAY

Consideration was given to the report which detailed the actions taken by the County Borough to combat the problem of unauthorised stationing/selling of cars on highways. It was noted from the policy that action would be taken primarily where a major or persistent problem exists. Officers are now able to tell the seller that the powers insist that the car is moved immediately and upon a phone call the cars are generally removed by their owners. These new powers supersede the previous policy of attaching a warning sticker and allowing twenty-four hours to move the vehicle.

Clarification was sought as to the definition of 'obstruction' and 'dangerous' and it was agreed that an Officer from the Highways Department be invited to the next meeting to respond to the specific issues raised.

Those present were reminded that if a member of the public observes a vehicle that they consider is causing a problem they should contact the Highway Customer Care line (01495 235323) which will require an inspector to carry out an inspection and take the necessary action.

7. LOCAL BUS SERVICES IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH

It was noted that the Council provides bus services that operators cannot provide commercially (mainly evenings and Sundays) and more rural services that compliment the commercially provided bus network. The Council cannot subsidise services that impact on and have the potential to abstract from the commercial bus network. Subsidised services are operated under contract to the Council and generally awarded under competitive tendering.

Reference was made to Caerphilly's local bus strategy which notes that to ensure the continuation of a locally based bus network in all areas, additional revenue sources need to be found.

It was noted that provision may be more efficiently met in certain areas through alternative forms of transport (eg. demand responsive or community based) and the Passenger Transport Section is working with a number of organisations to introduce a pilot Community Transport Scheme for the Upper Rhymney Valley. A new accessible minibus has been ordered and is due for delivery by September. Consultation will begin shortly with Community based groups to identify demands and methods of operation. A new Community Transport Co-ordinator post is being established to oversee this project and to identify opportunities for improved mobility/accessibility for residents and have the responsibility for co-ordinating between conventional and community based transport schemes to achieve new and innovative solutions. This will include the establishment of a Community Transport Forum. If the pilot is successful, similar projects are envisaged throughout the county borough to compliment public transport services and provide a more comprehensive transport network for residents.

It was agreed to invite Mr. Huw Morgan (Passenger Transport Manager) to the next meeting to discuss progress on the trial scheme and proposals to expand such a service to other areas of the County Borough.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.