



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB - COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH APRIL 2005 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Community Councillor C.R. Roberts – Vice Chairman (Presiding)

Councillors:

C.P. Duggan, M.H. Newman, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, A.S. Williams

Representing Community/Town Council:

Aber Valley	- Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	- Mrs. C. Osborne, Mr. D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bargoed	-
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-
Blackwood	-
Caerphilly	- Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Gelligaer	- D. Roberts, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- J. Hanson, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Mrs. J.H. Rao
Nelson	-
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	-
Rudry	- Mrs. B. Jones
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey, J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with:

M. Davies (Chief Executive), A. Brown (Environmental Services Manager), J. Cooper (Transportation Engineering Manager), M. Rees Williams (Chief Engineer), J. Ridgewell (Parks Development Manager), M. Williams (Public Services Manager), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, B.A. Barker, J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, K.M. Derrick, N.S. Dix, L. Gardiner, D.J. Potter, Mrs. D. Price, G.R. Price and C.P. Mann and Community Councillors J.E. Roberts, Mrs. M.J. Hallam and J. Walbeoff and Mr. J. Dilworth, Mr. A. Hoskins, Mr. D. Cooper, Mrs. D. Grownow, Mr. I. Palmer, Mrs. P. Cooper and Mr. J.P. Williams (Clerks of Bargoed/Rudry, Nelson, Maesycwmmmer, New Tredegar, Blackwood, Darran Valley and Rhymney Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2005 (min. nos. 1 – 8)(a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

3. Freedom of Information Act (minute no. 4)

A query was raised in relation to the charging policy as outlined within the minutes and it was agreed that details of the approved policy be sent to each Clerk for information.

4. Royal Horticultural Spring Show at Bute Park in Cardiff

Members were advised that the staff of Parks Services had created a 'New Horizon Garden' at the show and that the display won the coveted 'Best in Show' award and an RHS Silver-gilt Medal. It had also been recommended at that time that the Department should consider providing a display at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Members wished to place on record their congratulations to all of the staff involved in the project and wished them well should they choose to display at Chelsea Flower Show.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

5. Site for Waste Transfer Station and Materials Recycling Facility

Mr. M. Williams (Public Services Manager) confirmed that on 22nd March 2005, Cabinet had agreed to recommend that Council consider the selection (in principle) of the Trehir site for the development of a new civic amenity site, waste transfer and recyclable bulking facility subject to finalisation of detailed design, planning, timescale and cost issues. It had also proposed that further information be sought on the provision of appropriate bridge options after taking into account the engineering comments contained within this report.

Council had considered the recommendations and been advised that as there is a need to apply for planning permission, a decision at this stage would require Members of the Planning Committee to declare an interest and as such they would not be able to take part in future deliberations. However, if the planning application was considered in the first instance then the recommendations from the Cabinet could be considered by full Council with all members being able to take part. It had subsequently been agreed that the matter be deferred pending its consideration by the Planning Committee.

It was noted that copies of any future report would be sent to each Clerk for information.

6. Paddling Pools - Aber Valley And Morgan Jones Park

Mr. J. Ridgewell (Parks Development Manager) detail the current position in respect of paddling pools at both Aber Valley and Morgan Jones Park

With regards to the Morgan Jones paddling pool, he confirmed that the scheme to replace the facility with an interactive water play facility had been funded from planning gain/new initiative funding and would be ready for use in the summer. This system will increase the season from the current six-week period to being open from May until September.

Following a query on any proposed replacement of the Aber Valley paddling pool, Mr. Ridgeway outlined the estimated costs of a similar facility (£100k) and confirmed that as only £20k is allocated within the budget it is not possible to proceed during this financial year (although alternative sources of funding would be pursued if available). He confirmed that the pool would be opened in the summer on the same basis as in previous years.

7. Dog Fouling and Litter

Consideration was given to the reports in respect of dog fouling, litter and prosecutions for illicit tipping and Mr. A. Brown (Environmental Services Manager) gave an update on each issue. He confirmed that there are currently four uniformed Enforcement Officers within Environmental Health (two being permanent and two being funded through temporary arrangements) and highlighted their key role in supporting services through deterrent and educational initiatives. He indicated that the staff work closely with Public Relations in securing publicity and that Newsline and the local press regularly publish articles on enforcement activities. It was also noted that it is intended to increase the number of Officers able to undertake this duty and consideration is being given to training Community Wardens for this purpose.

With regard to litter problems generally he referred to the various initiatives being undertaken and the number of services currently being provided. He confirmed that Officers continue to visit senior schools to highlight the problems being experienced in the vicinity of the premises. The success of the Community Cleansing Team whereby the 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 was recognised.

Mr. Brown then referred to impending legislation under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environmental Act 2005 whereby a series of powers will be given to community/town councils, which will give them the ability to act on these issues if they so wish. Details of the proposed legislation, specific guidance and implementation date will be circulated once available.

Specific reference was then made to the problems of dog fouling and Mr. Brown referred to a recent incident whereby the Court found an offender guilty of committing the offence of allowing his dog to foul but the court gave him an absolute discharge with no fine awarded. During discussions on this item reference was made to the problems in park areas and to the football match within the Aber Valley, which, in view of the amount of fouling on the pitch, had had to be abandoned Mr. Ridgeway indicated that his Officers work closely with the Enforcement Officers in targeting problem areas but unfortunately his Parks Staff do not have the power of enforcement. Arrangements are being made for a dog trainer to visit parks to give lessons to those who use the areas for this purpose. It was suggested that in order to continue to publicise the offence, brief details should be sent to each Clerk for possible inclusion in their future newsletters as appropriate.

8. Highways Infrastructure

Mr. J. Cooper (Transportation Engineering Manager) and Mr. M. Rees-Williams (Chief Engineer) attended the meeting to address issues relating to the highways infrastructure and in the first instance Mr. Cooper highlighted the contents of reports which had been presented to both the Technical Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in respect of standard planning obligations and major roads improvements in the county borough

With regards to the latter, Mr. Cooper detailed the way in which major road schemes will be managed and financed in the future and highlighted new priorities for major road schemes and key highway development issues. Members were pleased to note that that Council had approved the proposed strategy as contained within the recommendations therein and, in view of the proposals for the hospital site at Ystrad Mynach, made particular reference to the studies on the A472 at Maesycwmmmer being the number one highway priority.

Reference then made to the recently approved standard planning obligation by which developers are required to contribute to the works needed to address the problems of traffic congestion (£5,000 per house in the area of consolidation (as defined in the Unitary Development Plan - Caerphilly, Bedwas, Machen and Rudry). It was accepted that traffic congestion is a growing problem in the lower parts of the Valley and that the additional housing that seems certain to be built there will make the problem worse and that unless the problem is addressed, the town centre of Caerphilly and its residential areas would suffer as traffic diverts from main roads, mainly the by-pass, to inappropriate alternative routes. It was confirmed that this sum is to address only the costs of traffic improvements and it is proposed to strategically tackle the existing problem, Mr. Cooper pointed out that whilst it is not possible to define precisely those that might be constructed with the help of the levy he anticipated that four schemes (improving the junctions of the existing Bedwas, Corbetts and St. Cenydd Road roundabouts and the construction of a south-east by-pass) would be of benefit. Some local improvements to carriageways or junctions within the urban core of Caerphilly might also be considered.

A query was raised with regards to the legality of such an obligation and Mr. Cooper indicated that it would be the subject of a Section 106 Agreement, the signing of which can be made a condition of the approval and, as such, is within the powers of the county borough to request.

9. PROPOSED HOSPITAL SITE/HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. M. Davies (Chief Executive) referred to the history of the proposals by the Health Authority to build a new hospital on the site of the council offices in Ystrad Mynach and to the extensive consultation exercise which was undertaken prior to the submission of the outline business case, which is currently under consideration with the Welsh Assembly Government. He also referred to the proposals by the county borough to provide office accommodation at Tredomen and indicated that £20m has been set aside for the project and an advertisement have been placed seeking expressions of interest at this stage. Reference was then made to the key issues that must be taken into account in order to progress both schemes (the building of the hospital on the site to be vacated, the replacement of the playing fields, Tan 15 advice/requirements (flooding issues) and associated highways issues).

Mr. Davies confirmed that as of yet, the traffic impact assessment has not been completed but confirmed that once underway its aims would be to determine the scale of the increase in the traffic problem caused by these developments and to consider how these problems can be resolved.

He referred to the importance of the hospital to the local community both in terms of its health care and economic development and confirmed a commitment to work with the Health Service and the Welsh Assembly Government to seek a resolution of the traffic and flooding issues

associated with the development.

10. COMMUNITY CENTRES CONSTITUTION - COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

Consideration was given to the report which highlighted details of the community centre management committees adopted constitution which allows for community/town councils to be represented upon the management committees of centres situated within its community ward by no more than one community councillor per centre.

During the course of the discussions clarification was sought as to whether those who receive any form of remuneration from the Management Committee (i.e. honorary payments for duties undertaken on behalf of the Management Committee or those employed by the Management Committee - paragraphs 3 (n) and 18 of the constitution refer) are eligible to be appointed. It was agreed to seek advice on this matter and inform all Clerks accordingly.

It was noted that details of the nominated representatives from the respective councils should be forwarded to Mr. Steve Hawkins, Community Centre Manager, who will liaise with the relevant Community Centre Management Committee.

The meeting closed at 5.45pm