



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH OCTOBER 2005 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs. E.A. Aldworth, C.P. Duggan, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, A.S. Williams.

Councillor H.A. Andrews was present for part of the meeting.

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-	J.E. Roberts
Argoed	-	Mr. D.R. Parry (Clerk)
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	-	Mrs. G. Howell, Mr. D. Allinson (Clerk)
Blackwood	-	A. Wilkins, Mr. I Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	-	M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-	C.R. Roberts
Gelligaer	-	D. Roberts, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Nelson	-	Mrs. A. Blackman, A. Hoskins (Clerk)
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	-	Mrs. A. Nash, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Van	-	Mrs. E. Macey, J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with:

T. Stephens (Development Control Manager), G. George (Committee Services Manager)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L. Gardiner, Community Councillors Mrs. C. Osborne, I. Hughes, Mrs. M. Hallam, J. Hanson and D. Woodman and Messrs J. Humphreys, J. Dilworth, D. Cooper and G. Williams (Clerks of Aber Valley, Bargoed and Rudry, Maesycwmmmer and Darran Valley Community/Town Councils respectively)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Community Councillor C. Roberts was appointed Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor L. Gardiner was appointed Vice Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-committee held on 20th July 2005 were agreed as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING

4. Community Centre Constitution (minute no. 3)

The information on the employment of persons by a Management Committee was noted. On the matter of substitute members to attend management meetings it was reported that this was an acceptable arrangement and the constitution would be amended (clause 6) to cover this.

The meeting was also reminded of the need to nominate a member to serve on the various Community Centre Management Committees if they had not already done so.

5. Japanese Knotweed (minute no. 4)

It was noted that an Invasive Plant Species Officer had been appointed and would attend the next meeting to explain his duties and role.

6. Alcohol Consumption in Public Places (minute no. 5)

It was agreed that details of CCTV camera locations would be circulated to all members of the liaison committee as useful information on tackling this problem.

7. Satellite Dishes on Flats (minute no. 9)

The report on this subject, which had been prepared by officers from the Council's housing department, would be circulated to all members.

8. CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ALUN THOMAS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Chief Superintendent Alun Thomas, the new divisional Commander of 'C' Division. He was accompanied by Inspector Alan Webber. He explained the force's position and performance indicators in relation to neighbourhood policing and community safety. The Community Safety Partnership had set a target of 6% crime reduction and he gave details of how the force was measuring up against these targets. Overall performance was good but continuous improvement was essential. The force were now more focused towards providing a responsive quality service. It was starting to have an impact at a local level and the force was working with other agencies on tackling crime. Neighbourhood officers were all in place and this with the CANDO initiative were all working well. He then responded to individual members questions about ward issues, sickness records, response times and anti social behaviour.

Arising out of this presentation Councillor H.A. Andrews gave an update of the position on police force restructuring and the options that were under consideration by the Home Secretary.

9. SITING OF G3 AERIALS/ MASTS FOR MOBILE PHONES

The Chairman welcomed Tim Stephens, Development Control Manager, to discuss this issue. He explained that there were three types of masts including aerials, which did not require planning consents. Those under 15 metres in height did not require planning permission but there was a notification process and the Council had 56 days to respond.

Masts above 15 metres needed planning permission and were not constrained by the 56 days period. The authority usually took into account, in determining these applications, siting, appearance and perceived health considerations.

The council had a policy of consulting all residents within 250 meters of a proposed mast, and all schools or colleges within 300 meters of a proposed mast. The council policy was based on Welsh Assembly guidelines. Emissions below a certain level as specified in these guidelines were not necessarily a planning consideration. A Code of Best Practice had been issued by the Assembly. However, there appeared little scope for agreement between the public and phone company's views on health problems.

10. RIGHTS OF WAY

Members noted the report on rights of way and the council's role and responsibilities. The council was currently preparing its rights of way plan. It was agreed to make a request from this meeting for the council to arrange a workshop to discuss issues relating to rights of way. The meeting was of the view that the workshop should consider using Youth Offending teams to undertake footpath maintenance and the requests for diversion and stopping up of footpaths because of anti social behaviour.

11. DECORATIVE CHRISTMAS LIGHTING 2005

The report set out the current financial position for Christmas lighting schemes throughout the county borough. Funding for 2005 will be allocated against existing schemes to be used for the repair or replacement of existing equipment erection and dismantling. It was agreed to circulate a breakdown of the budget to all Town and Community Councils.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.
