



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTLLANFRAITH ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH JULY 2006 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

K.M. Derrick, C.P. Duggan, G.G. Hibbert, M.H. Newman, Mrs. D. Price. Mrs. J.A. Pritchard

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	- Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-
Bargoed	- I. Hughes, Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	- Mrs. G. Howell
Blackwood	- T. Wilkins
Caerphilly	- Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-
Gelligaer	- D. Roberts, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- J. Hanson, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Mrs. J.H. Rao
Nelson	- Mrs. P. Lapsa, Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerk)
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	-
Rudry	- Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey, J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with:

D. Price (Principal Park and Open Spaces Officer), M. Williams (Head of Public Services),
M. Rees-Williams (Chief Engineer), G. George (Committee Services Manager)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Community Councillor Mrs. June Rao was appointed Chairman for this meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Bolter, C.P. Mann and A.S. Williams, Community Councillors Mrs. M. Hallam, C. Roberts and Mrs. E.P. Prendergast, Mr. I. Palmer and Mr. D. Cooper (Clerks of Blackwood and Maesycwmmmer Community/Town Councils respectively)

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2006 were received and noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the reference to apologies for absence from Mr. A. Hoskins (Aber Valley) was incorrect and that he had been present.

5. CLEANSING OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

At the last meeting of the committee consideration was given to the report on the collection of litter, emptying of litterbins and sweeping of footpaths in parks and open spaces.

Details of the revised parks cleansing schedules as outlined in the appendix to the report were noted and it was agreed that the schedule be monitored over the next few months and its content be discussed further at the meeting in July when the Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer, Mr. D. Price, would be present.

Members welcomed Mr. Derek Price who introduced the report on Cleansing of Parks and Open Spaces and answered questions arising therefrom. He circulated details of the enhanced cleansing schedules for Parks Services for the north, south and east, Parks Services static grounds staff and the mechanical sweeping schedules for all areas.

Members thanked him for the detailed information he provided.

6. CLEANSING AND LITTER ISSUES

Details were given of the number of enforcement notices served during April, May and June 2006 (copies of these would be forwarded to individual community/town clerks). For the first three months of the financial year (April to June) 10 fixed penalty litter notices, 28 fixed penalty dog fouling notices and 17 warning letters had been issued. These were subsequently broken down into east, south, north and west areas of the county borough.

It was anticipated that a report would be submitted to Cabinet in September seeking approval to extend fixed penalty powers to Community Wardens. The Council was still awaiting confirmation from the Assembly for the introduction of powers contained in the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005.

The Cabinet report on the collection of any recyclables in the county borough had been circulated to all Members on the Sub-Committee. That report recommended areas for the introduction of weekly kerbside recycling during the second half of 2006/07 and other policy issues relating to recyclable collection.

Officers responded to questions from members on this report and to recycling and refuse collection concerns generally.

7. WEED CONTROL

Details were given of the Highways Weed Control Strategy plus supporting documentation. The Highway Weed Control programme had identified adopted areas for treatment. The programme consisted of three applications of herbicide in May, July and September. Information was given on contact numbers of Parks Services staff in the northern, southern and eastern areas of the county borough. It was agreed that this information would be circulated to all the Clerks who could inform their members accordingly.

The specific instances relating to weed control outside libraries was the subject of discussions between the Parks Services and Library Services with a view to dealing with this problem.

8. ROAD NETWORK - TREDOMEN OFFICES AND NEW HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENTS

Members had asked for an update on proposals to improve the existing road network to cater for any additional traffic arising from these new developments. Mr. M. Rees-Williams, Chief Engineer, explained that this Council was working closely with the Local Health Board on highway proposals contained within the outline planning consent and Section 106 Agreement.

There would be a number of highway improvements that would take place gradually over the next four years and possibly beyond. These would include reformatting roundabouts and slip roads and road improvements from the existing traffic lights at Maesyccwmmmer.

Many of the proposals were dependent on Assembly funding but prospects were very hopeful that when granted works would commence.

It was noted that topographical surveys are being undertaken currently to produce models for possible implementing over the next ten to fifteen years.

In reply to general concerns, it was stated that the A472 was a major element in the Council's core strategic road network. All these elements would link together to improve transport networks including train and bus services both into and out of the county borough.

9. FEASIBILITY OF USING PERMANENT CHRISTMAS TREES

A report on this matter would be considered at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.