



**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT DUFFRYN HOUSE, DUFFRYN BUSINESS PARK,  
YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 18TH OCTOBER 2006 AT 7.00 PM**

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PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Chairman  
Community Councillor C. Roberts - Vice - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, N.S. Dix, C.P. Duggan, L. Gardiner, G.G. Hibbert, M.H. Newman,  
Mrs. D. Price, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard

Representing Community/Town Councils:

Aber Valley	-
Argoed	- Mrs. J. Sweet, Mr. G. James (Clerk)
Bargoed	- Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Bedwas, Trethomas & Machen	- Mrs. G. Howell, Mr. D. Allinson (Clerk)
Blackwood	- A. Wilkins, Mr. I. Palmer (Clerk)
Caerphilly	- Mr. M. Evans (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Gelligaer	- D. Roberts, Mrs. A. Davies (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mrs. E.A. Reed, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Mr. D. Cooper (Clerk)
Nelson	- Mrs. P. Lapsa
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd & Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mr. R.B. Williams (Clerk)
Rhymney	- Mr. J.P. Williams (Clerk)
Rudry	- Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey

Together with

L. Evans (Highways Infrastructure Manager), S. Mason (Principal Officer Community Education), P. Hotchkiss (Registration/Licensing Officer), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, K.M. Derrick, G.R. Price, C.P. Mann and A.S. Williams, Community Councillors Mrs. E. P. Prendergast, I. Hughes, Mrs. M.J. Hallam, Mrs. J.H. Rao, R. Pugh and Mr. J.S. Humphreys, Mr G. Williams, Mr. A. Hoskins and Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerks of Aber Valley, Darran Valley, Nelson and Van Community Councils respectively).

**1. MINUTES - 19TH JULY 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2006 (min. nos. 1 - 9 on page nos. 1 - 3)(a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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

**3. FEASIBILITY OF USING PERMANENT CHRISTMAS TREES**

Mr. L. Evans (Highways Infrastructure Manager) attended to respond to a query raised with regards to the possibility of permanent Christmas Trees being provided on appropriate sites in community/town council areas for lighting and decorating each year.

Mr. Evans referred to a number of criteria which would need to be taken into account when determining such an application and made specific reference to its siting (private/council owned land), its distance from the highways to enable the lighting tower wagon access to dress the tree, the height of the tree suggested and most importantly to its accessibility to a low voltage electricity power source (at an average installation cost of £4,000).

It was noted that such trees have been successfully provided in certain areas including Argoed and Llanbradach (who funded the costs of the junction box) and that as part of a Communities First Village Scheme in Gelligaer, a junction box is to be provided which will enable the community council to annually dress the tree which is provided at that location.

It was confirmed that at present all those community/town councils who currently have trees supplied make arrangements through Parks Services and that they are ordered, delivered sited and removed by that Department. Reference was made to the costs in providing a tree on an annual basis and as to whether a permanent tree would be more cost effective. Mr. Evans reiterated that a number of issues would need to be taken into consideration should such an application be submitted.

Mr. Evans then announced that the community/town councils which undertake festive lighting works this year will be allocated a sum of £750.00 (except for Nelson who, due to the engineering works and the need to alter the electrical circuits, will be allocated £1,500) and that formal notification will be sent in due course.

**4. CAERPHILLY YOUTH SERVICES**

Mr. Steve Mason (Principal Officer Community Education) attended to give an update on the Caerphilly Youth Service and in the first instance referred to the report presented to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee which gave a general overview (a copy had been sent to each member).

Mr. Mason detailed the scope and nature of the service and indicated that it has expanded over the years and has created many benefits for young people in the county borough. He acknowledged that consideration needs to be given to the further development of the service.

Reference was made to the scope and nature of the service provided through a network of thirty-four youth centres (purpose built, on school sites, in community centres etc) detached and outreach work, mobile provision, youth information and a series of centrally organised activities (sporting, arts events etc) and the outdoor education provision provided in partnership with the Caerphilly Adventure Group and the Ynys Hywel Centre. Details of the hours provided at each of the thirty-four locations as outlined in the appendix to the report were noted.

Specific reference was made to difficulties which have arisen in Maesycwmmmer and to the recent demolition of the terrapin demountable building. Mr. Mason indicated that the building had been demolished as it did not meet health and safety requirements and was beyond repair and that discussions are ongoing with the adjoining school to determine whether it will be possible to continue the provision at that location.

Reference was then made to the closure of the Basement at Nelson and it was noted that a mobile bus would visit the area to ensure that youth provision continues in that area.

In noting the hours that some of the youth centres operate, a query was raised as to why some areas have more hours/evening than others. Mr Mason indicated that this is mainly due to historic reasons and the provision inherited on reorganisation. He pointed out that requests and frequently made to extend the number of youth centres and opening hours and to make provision at other specific periods of the year (e.g. summer holidays) but that the finance required is not available to achieve this.

A query was then raised as to whether, in view of responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act, if a respective community/town council were able to meet the required funding through partnership arrangements, addition hours/nights could be provided. Mr. Mason indicated that he would provide information in relation to the costings for part time youth workers as a guide to potential costs should community/town councils wish to consider funding an enhanced youth provision.

## **5. IMPACT OF LICENSING ACT 2003**

Mr. P.A. Hotchkiss (Registration and Licensing Officer) attended the meeting to clarify the process of consultation as detailed within the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 (such as retail sale of alcohol, supply of alcohol in a club, provisions of regulated entertainment and the provision of late night refreshments) and in the first instance reiterated that the Act does not recognise community/town councils as 'responsible authorities' and, as such, there is no requirement that they be consulted on any applications received. He pointed out that several organisations had made representations to seek to amend this part of the act but that no changes had subsequently been made.

It was clarified that under the Act, the applicant is required to serve notice of the application on statutory bodies and to advise 'interested parties' via a notice in a local paper that is distributed within the local community and to display a notice on the premises detailing the application. It is at that stage that the community/town councils would have the opportunity to submit their views to the local authority. Those parties which make submission would then be invited to the hearing in order that they can formally make submissions to the Sub-Committee which is determining the application. It was pointed out however that interested parties are able to nominate someone to speak on their behalf and noted that a representative of the community/town council could be nominated to undertake this role.

It was reiterated that applications are considered by the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee (comprising of three county borough members) and pointed out that there is a right of appeal by any party present to the Magistrates Court within 21 days and that it is open to any relevant authority and interested party to bring this matter before the Committee for a review should the hours and conditions not be complied with.

Mr. Hotchkiss indicated that anyone who holds a licence can apply for an amendment/variation and that each time it would be treated as a fresh application and be required to follow the agreed process. Representations must be made within twenty-eight days of the application being lodged and interested parties will be advised of the meeting and invited to attend at that time if they so wish. With regards to temporary events notices only the Police are consulted and up to 12 can be applied for within a calendar year.

A question was then raised with regards to the sale of alcohol to those underage and Mr. Hotchkiss indicated that the Trading Standards Department undertake test purchasing and take the necessary action against those who may fail to comply. He referred to the role of the Licensing Forum and the creation of the 'Drinkwise' scheme for responsible licensed premises and it was noted that the scheme recognises good management practice within the licensed trade and offers accreditation to premises that follow the Code of Good Practice. Every licensed premise in the Borough has been individually circulated with the details of the scheme and advertised in the Licensing Forum Newsletter and by way of a press release.

## **6. IMPROVEMENT TO THE RAILWAY SYSTEM IN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH**

Consideration was given to the report which highlighted the role of the South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) in leading the development of rail services in South East Wales and detailed proposed improvements to the railway system within the country borough.

It was noted that the Rhymney Line is currently experiencing the highest growth on the Valley Lines network and will receive a significant proportion of the funding available. The proposed phases in developing and implement the works needed to permit the increase of the train service frequency, lengthening existing station platforms on the railway line between Rhymney and Penarth (in order to address the current capacity constraints on certain journeys), and alterations to the track and signalling to facilitate a doubling of the train frequency between Rhymney and Bargoed were noted.

Members were pleased to note proposals to reopen the Ebbw Valley Railway line and to ongoing works with an hourly passenger service provided from six stations services from Ebbw Vale to Cardiff in summer 2007 (a later phase will introduce an hourly service from Ebbw Vale to Newport). It was noted that since the preparation of the report a petition has been received requesting the provision of a station at Crumlin.

An issue was raised in relation to the expansion of the park and ride facilities at various locations and it was pointed out that the success of the scheme has meant that they are often oversubscribed and no space can be found when required. It was suggested that consideration should be given to providing further additional spaces as necessary.

Mr. Hotchkiss referred to the role of the taxi trade in assisting to identify new locations for taxi ranks as an integral part of the transport network and noted that it is intended that where possible ranks will be located as closely as possible to existing stations and bus stops and that over the next few weeks there is to be a meeting with various agencies to take forward such proposals.

## **8. IMPACT OF THE SIRHOWY ENTERPRISE WAY ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA**

Details contained within Property Newslines and Our Window of Opportunity (copies had been circulated to each member) were noted. It was confirmed that at every opportunity both Oakdale Business Park and Blackwood Town Centre are being promoted and the physical link created by the Sirhowy Enterprise Way between the business park and Blackwood is now a feature in all marketing activities.

With regard to the impact the Sirhowy Enterprise Way has made on the development of the area, it was noted that no statistical evidence is available but that the road has major significance for the development of the Oakdale Business Park. A report is to be prepared in terms of impact of traffic conditions in and around Blackwood and the Sirhowy Enterprise Way and would be distributed once it is available.

On viewing the details contained within the two documents, it was pointed out that on the respective maps, not all of the county borough is represented and that certain areas (the Darran Valley and parts of the Sirhowy Valley) have been omitted.

### **A CHARTER FOR COMMUNITY TOWN COUNCILS**

It was agreed that in light of the recent developments on consultation a review of the Charter should be undertaken and Anne Davies, Jack Humphreys and Malcolm Evans were nominated to undertake this role on behalf of the community/town councils with the respective Officers.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.