



**COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB - COMMITTEE -
21ST SEPTEMBER 2011**

**SUBJECT: ALLOTMENT PROVISION/MANAGEMENT WITHIN CAERPHILLY
COUNTY BOROUGH**

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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1. Caerphilly County Borough Council is responsible for the management of 80 allotment sites. Fifty-one of these sites are located in the former Rhymney Valley and 29 in the former Islwyn area.
 2. The allotments in the former Islwyn area are managed by the Islwyn Allotment Federation, which was established on the 1st of June 1992. The allotments within the former Rhymney Valley area are currently managed via standard tenancy agreements. A series of consultation meetings were held in 2010 to relay important information to allotment groups on impending boundary restrictions, the need for new tenancy agreements and to give consideration to a move to complete self-management. The meetings were also used to share good practice amongst associations.

The benefits of the 'Federation' system of management are: -

- Ability to control their own fees, which they retain;
 - Economies of scale in purchasing and accessing goods;
 - No on-costs for administration and supervision of works;
 - Close monitoring of water charges across the network;
 - Less time commitment from the Council resulting in financial savings;
 - Ability to access external grant-aid;
 - Ability to set / amend their own rules and regulations;
 - Ability to network with other federation sites to adopt best practice;
 - Ability to control their own destiny.
3. Further meetings were held in June 2011 and the overarching Rhymney Valley Allotment Federation has now been formed. In the short term, the Council is currently in the process of issuing new tenancy agreements to individual allotment associations and to those who have requested it, 25-year leases.
 4. The Council holds a small revenue budget for allotments and an annual grant is paid to the Islwyn Federation to assist with site improvements etc.

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