



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE/TY
PENALLTA, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Community Councillor C. Roberts - Chairman
Councillor C.P. Mann - Vice - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, M.H. Newman, J.A. Pritchard

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	-
Argoed	- G. Lewis
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	- Ms J. Gale
Blackwood	- Mrs M. Franklin
Caerphilly	- Mrs. U. Newman, Mr. K. Williams (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	- P. Blight
Gelligaer	- Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- R. Cantelo, K.Choo Yin
Maesycwmmmer	-
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mrs. H. Treherne (Clerk)
Rhymney	- D.T. Williams
Van	- Mrs. E. Macey

Together with

T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, D.G. Carter, Mrs. K. Presley, Mrs. D. Price, J.E. Roberts, A.S. Williams and Mrs. L. Williams, Community Councillors Mrs. E. P. Prendergast, A. Angel, Miss J. Rao and D. Woodman. Also from Mrs. S. Hughes, Mr. G. James, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. S. Chick, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. G. Williams, Mr. W.M. Thompson, Mrs. G. Thomas and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Aber Valley, Argoed, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen and Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Darran Valley and Rhymney, Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer, Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. MINUTES - 25TH MAY 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2011 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

3. REVIEW OF THE CHARTER (MINUTE NO. 7)

It was confirmed that the proposed amendments to the Charter had been approved at Cabinet on 20th September 2011 and, as it has now be approved by both the community/town councils and the county borough it can be formally adopted.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WALES) MEASURE 2011 (MINUTE NO 7A)

As requested at the last meeting an invite had been extended for a representative of the Welsh Government to attend a future meeting to give a presentation on the implications for town and community councils following the Measure coming into force. Unfortunately due to other legislative commitments the Officer, Shyam Vining, from the Local Government Policy Unit (who has been present at previous meetings) is unable to commit to such a presentation until later in the year and arrangements will be made in due course. Rather than restrict the presentation to the sixteen Community Councillors who sit on the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee it has been determined that it should be opened to all Community Councillors.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

5. COMMUNITIES FIRST CONSULTATION

Ms. T. McMahon (Community Regeneration Manager) attended the meeting to discuss the proposed response to the Welsh Government's consultation on the future proposals for the Communities First programme and the proposed new structure for its delivery.

Ms. McMahon advised that the Communities First Programme has been fully integrated with the development of the Caerphilly Community Strategy. It contributes to the delivery of the priorities within health social care and well-being, living environment, regeneration, community safety and the Children and Young People's Partnership, as well as cross cutting themes such as 50+, sustainable development and equalities.

The Communities First programme is the Welsh Government's strategy for improving the living conditions and prospects for people in the most disadvantaged communities in Wales, with the current phase funded until 31st March 2012. It was introduced in 2001 with the aim of raising the capacity of disadvantaged groups, people and organisations in the most deprived communities, to develop activities and projects of communal benefit and to harness mainstream funding to deliver economic and social regeneration. There are currently 16 Communities First Partnerships covering 19 Communities First areas (13 wards and 6 sub wards) in the borough with the addition of Trecenydd and Panside in 2008.

The Welsh Government has committed to a continuation of the Communities First programme post March 2012. A consultation on the future direction of the programme commenced on the 5th July and will end in September 2011. It proposes that from April 2012 Communities First will be a community focused programme that will support the Welsh Government's anti-poverty agenda. The key features in the proposals are fewer, larger communities first areas (clusters), jointly determined geographical boundaries, local area delivery teams for each cluster and a reduced number of Grant Recipient Bodies with standard central teams (the minimum practicable). In accordance with the guidelines it is proposed that Caerphilly county

borough council should be the sole Grant Recipient Body for the programme, with a continued commitment to work with partners. Given various statements made in the consultation document, it must be anticipated that there will be some significant changes to the funding arrangements from April 2012. However, the precise financial implications have not yet been determined.

Ms. McMahon advised that whereas the current focus of the programme supports activities that deliver against child poverty, community safety, health and well being, education, skills and training, environment, jobs, business and income generation it will be replaced by three strategic outcomes, prosperous communities (economy), learning communities (education and skills) and healthier communities (health).

Members referred to the appendices to the report which detailed the proposed communities first areas within the proposed clusters and the list of lower super output areas and, while accepting that the programme retains a clear focus on the most deprived areas, queried why certain areas had been included in its content. It was explained that a steering group of Officers from across the Council has met to identify the possible areas for inclusion in the new programme using the 2008 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. This process has identified new areas for inclusion in the programme and combined with the existing areas has resulted in a significant increase in the population of each cluster. Although some changes could occur with the release of the new Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation on 31st August 2011. These areas have been grouped in line with the current Community Plan areas (Upper Rhymney Valley, Mid Valleys West, Mid Valleys East, Lower Islwyn and Caerphilly Basin).

It was explained that it is unlikely that any single cluster will be composed entirely of lower super output areas in the most deprived 10% of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. Where a community falls outside this category there will be some flexibility to consider including these areas within the programme, but strong evidence will need to be provided to justify this, especially if the area falls outside the top 20% of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Index will not be the only tool for identifying areas, other considerations such as school catchment areas, location of health services and major employment centres will form part of the decision making process. The Welsh Government has also expressed a commitment to continue support for the existing Communities First areas.

It was explained that the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, produced by the Welsh Government, is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The Index was developed as a tool to identify and understand deprivation in Wales, so that funding, policy and programmes can be effectively focussed on the most disadvantaged communities. It has three main components, the Index itself (which is a set of ranks), the ranks of the eight types of deprivation, or domains, from which the overall Index is constructed and the underlying indicators, which are directly measurable, and which are combined to create the domain ranks. The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2011 updates the Index published in 2008, without imposing methodological changes, except where data provision makes this unavoidable. It was agreed that a copy of the subsequent report prepared from the 2011 data would be forwarded to each clerk when it is available.

Ms. McMahon explained that deprivation is a wider concept than poverty - poverty is usually considered to be a lack of money, whereas deprivation includes a lack of the opportunities and resources to which someone might expect to have access to (e.g. good health, protection from crime, a clean and safe environment). Multiple deprivation refers to the different types of deprivation that might occur and there are eight types of deprivation (or domains) included in the Index (employment, income, education, health, community safety, geographical access to services, housing and physical environment). Due to the nature of the area based data from which the Index is constructed, it is not possible to determine whether individuals are multiply deprived, or if different individuals are suffering different types of deprivation. The Index is produced as a set of ranks, with a rank of 1 assigned to the most deprived area. Ranks are a relative system of measurement, we can know which areas are more (or less) deprived than others, but not by how much. The ranks of the Index are calculated for each of the lower layer

super output areas. Unfortunately, the index cannot be used to monitor change over time, say how much more deprived one area is than another or aggregate to different geographies by taking an average of the ranks of the lower layer super output areas which make up that geography.

Reference was then made to the proposed staff structure to facilitate delivery of the programme (through a central team and area delivery team) and Ms. McMahon advised that as the current staff structure has always been based on an area cross partner team of Officers with particular specialities it is considered that significant changes are unnecessary to ensure the needs of the new programme are met and as such, it will be managed with the existing staff resource, although the resource will need to be aligned to the new strategic objectives of the revised programme.

In closing Ms. McMahon advised that the Cabinet report (which had been circulated) is to be used as a basis for consultation with partners and the community and she would be prepared to arrange a seminar in order to discuss the content of the document and the proposed response of the county borough in detail.

Tina was thanked for her informative presentation and for responding to questions and issues raised during the course of the debate. Those present welcomed the opportunity for a seminar to discuss the content of the document.

6. COLLABORATION ON WASTE DISPOSAL

Members were advised that there has been no progress with Prosiect Gwyrdd since the last occasion this was considered by the Sub-Committee. There are still 3 bidders - Veolia at Bowlease Common, Llanwern, Newport, Viridor at Trident Park, Cardiff and Covanta at Brig Y Cwm, Merthyr Tydfil.

The Invitation to Submit Detailed Solutions stage closed on 8th August 2011 and the submissions are currently being evaluated. A decision on the submissions is likely to be made in the winter (December 2011) with the result that the three will then become two. Those will be asked to submit to final tenders (the Call for Final Tenders stage) and competitive dialogue will then be closed. The Project will then select its preferred bidder in the summer of 2012.

The application by Covanta for an Energy from Waste Facility at Brig Y Cwm was submitted to the Infrastructure Planning Commission, which is responsible for the determination of the application, because the scheme is deemed to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project within the definitions of the Planning Act 2008.

Local Authorities in whose areas applications for such projects are submitted are invited by the Infrastructure Planning Commission to produce a Local Impact Report. The Commission must have regard to the report in deciding applications. Officers presented the report to the Planning Committee on 7th September 2011 and the Committee resolved to accept it. A copy of that report has been sent to the Commission. The Commission will continue to examine the application in accordance with the statutory process and the timetable which they have set. The examination process is scheduled to run until February 2012.

7. ALLOTMENT PROVISION/MANAGEMENT WITHIN CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH

Members were advised that the county borough 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. The allotments in the former Islwyn area are managed by the Islwyn Allotment Federation, which was established in June 1992. Until recently the allotments within the former Rhymney Valley area were currently managed via standard tenancy agreements.

It was noted that 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 and as such, in June 2011 the Rhymney Valley Allotment Federation was established. 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. As such there are now two federations, the Islwyn Allotment Federation and Rhymney Valley Allotment Federation.

The report detailed the benefits of the Federation system of management (ability to control 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 and ability to control their own destiny).

8. REPRESENTATION ON STANDARDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that due to other commitments both Community Councillor I. Racz and P. Blight have had to stand down from the Standards Committee

It was agreed that Community Councillor Gillian Davies be appointed to the Standards Committee and that Community Councillor Candido Choo Yin be appointed as a substitute member in the interim.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm