



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY 2012 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT:

Community Councillor C. Roberts - Chairman

Councillors:

Mrs. G. Bevan, C.J. Cuss, H. Davies, L. Gardiner, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, A. Lewis, J. Pritchard, J.A. Pritchard

Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services - Councillor D.V. Poole

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	-
Argoed	-
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	- D. Davies, E. Davies
Blackwood	- J. Criddle
Caerphilly	- Mrs. J. Hibbert, Mr. K. Williams (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-
Gelligaer	- Mrs. T. Patty, Ms. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- K. Choo Yin, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Miss. J. Rao
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-
Rhymney	- D.T. Williams, Mrs. H. Williams
Van	-

Together with

H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Blackman, D. Bolter, Mrs. D. Ellis, Ms. E. Forehead, M.P. James, J.E. Roberts, Community Councillors Mrs. A. Nash, M. Stretch and D. Woodman, Mrs. S. Hughes, Mr. G. James, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. S. Chick, Mr. J. Hold, Mrs. H. Treherne, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs. G. Thomas, Mr. J. Dilworth and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Aber Valley, Argoed, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen and Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Darran Valley and Rhymney, Maesycwmmmer, Van and Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor L. Gardiner was appointed Chairman of the Community Council Liaison Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

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

4. MINUTES - 22ND FEBRUARY 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2012 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

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

5. Provision of Grit Bins

A query had been raised with regards to the price of the purchase of grit bins and it was confirmed that the quotation for installing a grit bin, which covers the purchase, taking it to the approved site and the installation of the stocked bin is £400 (Officers have been able to maintain the purchase and installation cost for the last 4-5 years in spite of rising fuel, labour and salt prices - although, this is due to be reviewed in the near future). Currently within the county borough there are approximately 750 grit bins and a further 330 requests have been assessed and prioritised over outstanding requests. Due to an extremely limited budget approximately 20 new bins are installed per annum, in line with the prioritised list.

Should a community/town council wish to purchase a grit bin the site selected would need to be assessed (in accordance with agreed criteria) to determine whether it is deemed suitable. It was confirmed that if the Officer consents to the location other than the initial cost there would be no additional restocking costs. A community/town council can procure its own bins and salt supplies - however, if it were in a location that was not sanctioned then the Council would not be responsible for subsequent refills and may have to remove the bin if it is causing a hindrance or obstruction.

6. Dog Fouling Prosecutions and Dog Fouling Bins

It was reported that 59 fixed penalty notices were issued for dog fouling in 2011/12 with 7 prosecutions in the same period. Prosecutions are published in Newline and there is a page dedicated to such detail on the Council web site. More recently an article appeared in the South Wales Echo advising of a successful prosecution.

Dependant on size and where/how they can be fitted they are between £260 and £400.

Emptying bins are undertaken as part of the normal cleansing regime with the frequency being dependant on usage (anything from daily in town centres to weekly at more remote locations).

A query was raised as to how this is enforced and it was reported that the Public Protection Division has authorised a team of Enforcement Officer, Dog Wardens and Community Safety

Wardens to issue fixed penalty notices. All Officers have received appropriate training to ensure consistency of approach. Enforcement work is either as a result of information being provided or as a result of general patrols. Those present were advised to contact that department if they have evidence of areas where dogs are allowed to defecate in order that the area can be targeted.

7. Update on Prosiect Gwyrdd

It was reported that Project Gwyrdd is now approaching the final phase of the procurement process. Final tenders are due to be received from the 2 final bidders over the next 2-3 months (these bidders are Veolia Environmental Services offering a waste to energy solution at Llanwern, Newport and Viridor Waste Management offering a waste to energy solution at Trident Park, Cardiff). Both bidders remain committed to the process and the documentation that they have submitted to date demonstrates that the project is likely to receive 2 very competitive bids. Once the final tenders have been received they will be evaluated and the preferred bidder will be announced early in 2013. Following the preferred bidder announcement the procurement will move to financial close and contract signing with the commencement of the service scheduled for 2016.

During the course of the debate reference was made to an article that has appeared in the South Wales Echo which advised that Viridor Waste Management, Cardiff has been invited to stop construction of the project as the company have not complied with the pre implementation conditions attached the planning permission. It was not clear from the article which of the conditions had not been complied with. Reference was also made to the decision taken by Newport City Council to refuse the application of Veolia Environmental Services to develop a facility at Llanwern Newport.

8. Open Cast Mining - Nant Llesg, Fochriw

In response to a query as to the stance the Council will take in relation to the proposals for open cast mining at Nant Llesg, Fochriw it was noted that it is not possible to comment at this stage. The application has not yet been received and once it has been there will be a full consultation exercise.

9. Enforcement of Parking Restrictions

Details had been requested as to whether the county borough are considering taking over the responsibility for the enforcement of parking restrictions and Members were advised that there are no proposals to take over the responsibility at this time.

With regards to a query in relation to traffic problems in Caerphilly Town Centre it was noted that as the parking relates to on street parking only, this is entirely a matter for Gwent Police. The Council has no powers with regard to enforcement therefore this matter should be directed to them.

It was reported that as of 1st April 2012 Gwent Police dis-established all Traffic Wardens and this function is now primarily undertaken by Police Community Support Officers. Gwent Police had increased the number of PCSOs and consider that they had sufficient resources to fulfill their duties with regard to enforcement. Any concerns the town and community councils have with regard to enforcement should be directed to Gwent Police.

It was requested that representatives of Gwent Police be invited to a future meeting to discuss this matter.

During the course of the debate reference was made to concerns expressed by the residents of Heol Fawr, Nelson (in the vicinity of Greenacres) which had resulted in the installation of and subsequent removal of residents only parking signs (the residents having had parking permits issued in June). It was agreed that enquires would be made and the Member advised accordingly.

10. Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

It was noted that arrangements are now in hand for representatives 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. As previously agreed rather than restrict the presentation to the sixteen Community Councillors who sit on the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee it will be opened to all Community Councillors.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11. Code of Conduct Training Session

It was noted that there were 37 present at the Code of Conduct training held on 14th June 2012 with 13 of the community/town councils represented. There would be a further session arranged for those who were not able to attend although it was recognised that some have received the training from One Voice Wales in order to familiarise themselves with their obligations under the Code of Conduct.

12. New Compact Agreement 2013 - 2017

Reference was made to the requirement to review the existing Compact and to the request that a community council representative be part of a Working Group who will be drafting a new Compact Agreement to run from April 2013 to March 2017. The old agreement will be reviewed and the new one prepared, and will closely relate to activities around the new Single Integrated Plan for community planning, which is coming into effect from April 2013.

It was agreed that Community Councillor H. Llewellyn be nominated to undertake this role.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.