



## COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK  
ON WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00PM

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PRESENT:

Community Councillor Miss J. Rao - Chairman

Councillors:

C. Hawker, 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	-	Mr G. James (Clerk)
Bargoed	-	H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-	D. Davies
Blackwood	-	J. Criddle
Caerphilly	-	
Darran Valley	-	T. Powell
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-	
Gelligaer	-	Ms C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	-	S. Taviner, Mr W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	-	Miss J. Rao
Nelson	-	Mrs P. Baldwin, Mrs G. Davies
New Tredegar	-	
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-	Mrs A. Nash, Mrs .H. Treherne (Clerk)
Rhymney	-	D.T. Williams
Risca East	-	Mr G. James (Clerk)
Risca Town	-	B. Hancock. Ms C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Van	-	

Together with

T. Stephens (Development Control Manager), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G. Bevan, Mrs A. Blackman, D. Bolter, C.J. Cuss, H. Davies, Mrs D. Ellis, Mrs E. Forehead, L. Gardiner, A.G. Higgs, G.J. Hughes, M.P. James and J.E. Roberts, Community Councillors M. Stretch, G. Lewis, Mrs J. Hibbert, T. Parry, D. Woodman, J. Blackburn, Mrs E. Macey and Mrs S. Hughes,

Mrs L. Tamms, Mrs S. Chick, Mr J. Hold, Mr K. Williams, Mr G. Williams, Mrs G. Thomas, Mr A. Hoskins, Mrs H. Treherne and Mr J. Dilworth (Clerks of Aber Valley, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen/Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Darran Valley/Rhymney, Maesycwmmwr, Nelson, Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn and Van Community/Town Councils respectively).

**2. MINUTES - 24TH JULY 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2013 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**3. WELSH GOVERNMENT GRANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY AND TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITES (MINUTE NO. 5)**

It was noted that to date 17 of the 18 community/town councils have agreed to accept the Welsh Government grant offer. Fourteen have decided to take up option 1 (Caerphilly County Borough to design, develop and host websites), 3 have decided to take up option 2 (community/town councils to commission and host websites) and 1 is yet to confirm its intention. Nick Rutter, the Website Editor, will be in touch with Clerks over the next few weeks in order to discuss specific requirements and progress the development of the web sites.

It was confirmed that in the event that Caerphilly County Borough Council are to develop and host websites it would utilise the £500 grant for that purpose. The county borough will train 2 nominated individuals from each community/town council as to how to maintain their website and, where required, host each of the websites, provide technical support for the Content Management System, edit content (text and photographs) if required, offer advice on future requirements, provide refresher training as required and give advice on how to promote usage of the websites and domain name registration. In order to provide this support it was confirmed that there would be an annual charge of £500.

**TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

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

**4. NANT LLESG - PROPOSAL FOR OPENCAST COAL MINING NEAR FOCHRIW**

Mr Tim Stephens (Development Control Manager) gave a presentation on the proposal for an opencast coalmining scheme at Nant Llesg in the Upper Rhymney Valley. The planning application, submitted by Miller Argent (South Wales) Ltd is to recover 6 million tonnes of coal by surface mining methods on 478 hectares of land to the west of Rhymney, north of Fochriw and south of the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road.

With the aid of a slide presentation, he outlined the phases of the work on site and advised of proposals to develop a bund to screen the development from Rhymney. Reference was also made to the removal of shafts and adits, the reduction of mine water pollution of the River Rhymney, the prevention of the silting up of Parc Cwm Darren Pond, road junction improvements at the junction of Fochriw Road/Bogey Road to improve visibility for traffic using that junction, the clean up of existing waste facility on site, the excavation of the overburden storage areas and the comprehensive restoration strategy. Mr. Stephens referred to the work that is being undertaken to introduce footpath access across the site and referred to the proposals for the maintenance of the sites on completion of the scheme and its restoration.

A query was raised in relation to the hours of operation and Mr Stephens advised that the planning application seeks the hours of operation as 7am - 7pm Monday - Friday, 7am - 2pm Saturday with no operation on Sundays and bank holidays. Queries were also raised in relation to the proposed work on the overburden, which is anticipated will take up to three years to remove, and reference was made to the extent of the works required and to the effect on the landscape for those who view the site from their properties. Mr Stephens advised that in view of the concerns raised, and those already received, he would go back to the Developer to see if they can introduce improvements on a phased basis as the scheme progresses. Reference was also made to the dust that will be generated and how this will be dealt with and it was noted that both Natural Resources Wales and Aneurin Bevan Health Board have been consulted as part of the process and that monitoring equipment will be in place. There are proposals for bowsers on site, although there is a need to determine whether this is a feasible way of dispersing dust. With regards to noise, a number of noise prevention control and mitigation methods will be employed on site to monitor operational noise.

Another issue raised was in relation to the proposed traffic light system that will give priority to lorries and it was felt that is priority should be given to general traffic. Mr. Stephens advised that he would raise these concerns with the Highways Department. An assurance was sought in terms of the remediation of the site in the event of the Company being unable to fulfil its commitments and it was noted that it was usual practice for an Authority to require some sort of restoration bond which will be negotiated as part of the planning application.

Reference was then made to the potential increase in the number of trains that will run through the valley and it was noted that at present there are four trains a day that use the line. A query was raised as to whether there would be an increase in the number of journeys, whether the number of carriages will be increased or if there will be any impact on the existing passenger transport system. Mr Stephens advised that there will be consultation with Network Rail but it will be for them to determine the frequency of journeys.

Reference was made to the legislative timescales for determining a planning application and Mr Stephens advised that on this occasion it has been extended to enable the public to have time to consider the detailed application and submit their observations. It was confirmed that an environmental impact assessment had been submitted as part of the application. It was noted that as part of the process letters have been sent to consultees and public exhibitions have been arranged in order that the communities can view the proposal in detail. Comments received as part of this process will be shared with the developers and there will be a period of negotiation before the planning application is considered in the spring 2014.

Members were pleased to note that over the next few weeks, the Council will be holding a number of exhibitions and display a selection of the plans and information submitted by Miller Argent in connection with its planning application. There will be an opportunity to view the application and to discuss the proposals with Officers who can give advice about the process to follow for those wishing to comment. All comments received will be considered to ensure that all the appropriate material planning considerations are taken into account and will be reported to the Planning Committee.

It was noted that Miller Argent has also undertaken public consultation and a Community Forum has been established to consider the key issues affecting the local communities and help the Company minimise the impact of the development. There are also details of the application on its website.

Mr Stephens was thanked for his informative presentation and for responding to issues raised by Members.

## 5. PROSIECT GWYRDD

The responses to the queries raised were tabled at the meeting and for ease of reference and reproduced within the minutes.

### Questions

What is the proposed process, the equipment and technical operating parameters (eg temperatures and pressures) to be used. Furthermore what operational controls will be installed to minimise impact on the environment in normal operation, and what is proposed for adverse conditions (such as certain weather conditions)? What operational controls and communication systems to be employed for that "what if something goes wrong?" scenario?.

These are the type of details I raised previously, bearing in mind my chemical engineering and high temperature incineration with chemical treatment of various organic and inorganic materials experiences.

### Response from David Stephens, General Manager, Virador

'The Trident Park Energy from Waste Facility is a thermal treatment process handling a maximum of 350,000 tonnes of waste per year, all waste being delivered to site by road. The Waste Reception Bunker can hold around 6 days of waste, assuming both boilers are running at their design capacity of 22.96 tonnes per hour. The vehicles are directed to the tipping hall (via the weighbridges installed on site) to the appropriate tipping bay via an automatic traffic control system, there are 9 tipping bays in total.

Waste is transferred to the boiler hoppers via two travelling overhead gantry cranes (15 tonne safe working load), a spare grab is available to ensure constant operation when maintenance is required on the crane grabs. The waste feeds from the hoppers to the Martin grate of each of the boilers, the grate is designed as oscillating 'fingers' to spread the waste evenly to obtain a homogenous burn in the furnace. The boilers are designed to ensure correct combustion to comply with the Waste Incineration Directive (and the Environmental Permit), in particular the need to achieve a minimum furnace temperature of 850 degrees Celsius with a two second residence time for emissions control.

The furnace area of each boiler has three vertical passes before the exhaust gases enter the evaporator and superheater sections of the boiler to produce superheated steam at a temperature of around 400 degrees Celsius and pressure of around 60 bar, for feeding to a single steam turbine capable of exporting 30MW of electricity to the local Distribution Network (assuming both boilers are in operation).

Urea is blown into the furnace to control NOx emissions, and lime and powdered activated carbon are injected into the exhaust gases at the baghouse filters to control emissions of particulates, HCl and SOx. Exhaust gas emissions are continuously monitored, via certified permanently installed monitoring equipment meeting the standards specified by Natural Resources Wales. Weather conditions will not adversely affect the operation of the facility, with the exception of impact on traffic gaining access to the site to deliver waste.

Operational procedures will be written to cover normal operating practices and emergency procedures written to deal with adverse conditions (e.g. breakdown of emission control/monitoring equipment, major steam leak, fire etc...)'.

During the course of the debate reference was made to the role of Natural Resources Wales in enforcing the standards that are required to be met. It was explained that Natural Resources Wales had been consultees in the planning process and it is their statutory responsibility to ensure compliance. Reference was also made to the potential tonnage to be transported to the site and it was noted that when the contract was drawn up each authority provided details of tonnage figures. Cardiff City Council acts as host authority on behalf of the authority partners.

## 6. WINTER SERVICE PLAN

Consideration was given to the report which advised that the county borough aims to provide a winter service which, as far as practicable, facilitates the safe movement of traffic and keeps to a minimum delays and accidents caused by adverse winter weather conditions. It provided an overview of the winter service plan and detailed the precautionary measures to pre-salt designated routes. Details of the weather forecast and more local observations (local road weather stations) provide both visual and technical data to determine when such pre-salting should take place. The response also aims to ensure access to essential Council premises, OAP homes, education establishments, hospitals, doctors surgeries, town centres, major bus stations and emergency services is maintained where possible.

The report advised that priority is primarily given to the 'A' and 'B' roads (the authorities core transportation network) and bus routes. The primary objective is to achieve the precautionary application of salt to these elements of the network prior to the predicted time for the onset of sub-zero road surface conditions. It also outlined the role of the gritting fleet (13 unibody vehicles) and detailed the gritting routes and salt stocks gritting routes. Members noted that the Highway Operations Group have 54 personnel available for winter operation. Under extreme weather events, the workforce is split into a shift system in order that a full 24-hour cover is maintained. During periods of snow, the clearance of town centres, doctors surgeries, school approaches and OAP complexes etc. have been undertaken by cleansing staff and grounds maintenance staff under the direction of Highway Operations staff.

It was noted that during the last period of snow, 1816 calls were received for snow/ice to be cleared off roads. This was in addition to 327 requests to have local salt bins refilled and 343 requests to have a new salt bin placed. All requests for assistance are screened as this helps in prioritising resources, grouping areas together and avoiding repetitive visits to locations. It was pointed out that during such periods of weather there will be occasions where public demands cannot be met. Whilst the county borough will endeavour to clear snow from non-priority highways as soon as possible, there will be certain circumstances when higher priorities will take precedence. Priority will primarily be given to the 'A' and 'B' routes and snow cleared from non-priority highways as soon as possible thereafter.

Regular updates, including details of the winter road treatment and salted road network are available to view on the website so that the public are aware of the procedures that are in place. During the summer, an evaluation of the previous winters service was undertaken, with all Councillors and Community/Town Councils being approached asking for any suggestions for amendments to gritting routes that they would like considered as well as new locations for grit bins. Following this consultation, and in taking into account the views expressed and those of the emergency services and key service providers, the current Winter Service Plan was recently redrafted.

During the course of the debate it was requested that it be should be published that grit in the grit bins is for use on the highway and is not for private use and agreed that this request be forwarded to the relevant Officer. A request was also made that as only the access to the footbridge from the Crescent, Trecenydd over the by pass is gritted, thought be given to gritting the whole of the footbridge as it is always slippery in periods of ice/snow and is well used by pupils who attend Hendre Infant, Hendre Junior and St Cenydd School. This would also be referred to the relevant Officer. Concerns were also raised that during inclement weather there always seems to be a problem with access to Glyn Derw, Churchill Park, Caerphilly, sheltered housing accommodation - access is via Lewis Drive, which is very steep and causes problems in gaining access to the residents in periods of inclement weather. This would also be reported.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. MR. IAN JOHNSTON - GWENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

Members were reminded that when Ian Johnston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent, arranged a seminar to explain his role and the way in which he would work with Community/Town Councillors, he had advised at that time that he would welcome the opportunity to continue to meet on a regular basis. As such a further seminar for all Community/Town Councillors has been arranged in the Chamber at Penallta House at 6pm on Tuesday 17th December 2013.

The meeting closed at 8pm