



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY 5TH MARCH 2014 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Mrs A. Blackman, D. Bolter, C. J. Cuss, H. Davies, C. Hawker, A.G. Higgs, Ms P. Leonard, A. Lewis, J.A. Pritchard

Community/Town Council Representatives:

Aber Valley	-
Argoed	- G. Lewis, Mr G. James (Clerk)
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-
Blackwood	-
Caerphilly	- Mr. K. Williams (Clerk)
Darran Valley	-
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-
Gelligaer	-
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	- S. Taviner, B. Hancock
Van	- Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)

Together with:

T. White (Waste Strategy and Operations Manager), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

1. CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, Councillor C. Cuss was moved to the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G. Bevan, Mrs E. Forehead, L. Gardiner, G.J. Hughes, M.P. James, J. Pritchard, J.E. Roberts, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services Councillor D. V. Poole, Community Councillors D. Davies, J. Criddle, Mrs J. Hibbert, T. Powell, T. Parry, D. Woodman, J. Blackburn and Mrs E. Macey,

Mrs. S. Hughes, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. S. Chick, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. G. Williams, Ms. C. Mortimer, Mrs. G. Thomas and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Aber Valley, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen/Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Blackwood, Darran Valley/Rhymney, Gelligaer/Risca Town, Maesycwmmmer and Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

3. MINUTES - 20TH NOVEMBER 2013

Subject to it being noted that Mrs H. Treherne had been present at the meeting (and was recorded as being both present and absent), the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2013 (min. nos. 1 - 7 on page nos. 1 - 6) (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

4. Welsh Government Grant for the Development of Community and Town Council Websites (minute no. 3)

It was noted that all of the eighteen community/town councils have agreed to accept the Welsh Government Grant offer. Fifteen have decided to take up option 1 (Caerphilly County Borough Council to design, develop and assist) and three have decided to take up option 2 (to make their own arrangements to commission and host a website). Mr N Rutter (Website Editor) has been liaising with the respective Clerks to progress their website.

5. Nant Llesg - Proposals for Opencast Coal Mining Near Fochriw (minute no. 6)

Clarification was sought as to whether a restoration bond is to be negotiated as part of the planning application and it was agreed that this be taken up with the Development Control Manager. Reference was also made to the potential increase in the number of trains that will run through the valley and, in noting from the minutes that there would be consultation with Network Rail but it will be for them to determine the frequency of journeys, it was agreed that an update be sought from the Officer.

6. Prosiect Gwyrdd (minute no 5)

Members welcomed the detailed response that had been received from the General Manager (which had been included in the minute).

7. Winter Service Plan (minute no. 6)

It was noted that the requests made when discussing the winter service plan had been forwarded to the relevant Officer and responses had been received as follows:-

1. It was requested that it should be published that grit in the grit bins is for use on the highway and is not for private use.

This has been included on the web page where it advises that inappropriate usage can be reported in confidence.

2. A request was also made that as only the access to the footbridge from the Crescent, Trecenydd over the by pass is currently 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.

The Inspector has been requested to hand salt the areas as required.

3. Concerns were raised that during periods of 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.

Lewis Drive forms part of the gritting route and the location has been added onto the prioritised grit bin list for future consideration. If further attention during adverse conditions, Officers will endeavour to assist.

8. Mr. Ian Johnston - Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner (minute no. 7)

Reference was made to the seminar arranged by Mr. Johnston and to the fact that there were not many community/town councillors in attendance. It was noted that Mr. Johnson has also attended meetings of the individual community/town councils and as such, this could be a contributory factor.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following item raised by the Community/Town Councils.

9. RUBBISH/RECYCLE BINS COLLECTION

Mr Tony White (Waste Strategy and Operation Manager) attended to discuss rubbish and recycle bin collections. He advised of the frequency of the collection of household waste from the kerbside (weekly collection of food waste, garden waste and recycling and fortnightly collection of general waste) and of the schedule for those collections (details of which are available on the website). Reference was made to the facilities that are available:-

Food waste - use of the small 5 litre kitchen caddy to store food waste before emptying into the larger 23 litre caddy for outside storage and collection - this is emptied weekly.

Green or black bins - day to day rubbish that cannot be recycled or composted - these bins are emptied fortnightly.

Brown bins (or recycling boxes) - use for all recyclable materials - these bins are emptied weekly.

Green sacks - Used for garden waste and collected weekly with food waste.

A query was raised in relation to rear lane collection and Mr White advised that a Task and Finish Group was set up by the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee to review the collection policy for recyclable waste which included health and safety requirements for rear lane collections. The Group carried out a number of site visits to observe refuse collection vehicles negotiating rear lanes and established a rear lane assessment criteria which determined that the collection of recyclable waste from rear lanes would require the Council to ensure that it complies with health and safety requirements in order to protect its employees and the public. Examples of vehicles using rear lanes that had been evidence by the Task and Finish Group were distributed at the meeting.

Mr White advised that it is necessary to understand and acknowledge the safety issues involved in the waste collection service and be aware of the hazards and potential risks involved in collection in individual lanes and there is a need to consider the safety of all collection requirements at a particular location. He referred to the need to balance the needs of residents with any increased risks which may be faced by employees during their work,

consider how this may impact on pedestrians in the vicinity of the collections and to ensure that employees are not exposed to unacceptable/additional risks.

It was queried as to whether smaller vehicles could be procured to undertake rear lane collections and feed into the larger lorries and Mr. White explained that the costs associated with a smaller vehicle would not make it a viable option. Similarly, in view of the amount of handling required, it has been determined that a van or flat bed option would not be suitable for this purpose. The Council has 26 tonne vehicles for the collection of recyclable waste from the front of properties and, in the majority of rear lanes, use 22 tonne or 24 tonne vehicles to collect general refuse. The larger vehicle can collect up to 8 tonnes of recyclable waste and in contrast a smaller vehicle (3.5 tonne) can collect under 1 tonne of waste. In order to collect the same amount of waste as the larger vehicle the Council would have to employ up to 6 crews and vehicles. There would also be additional fuel, maintenance and time needed for the collection of waste with this option.

Mr White advised that no collection system is without risk and the current collection process has proved effective since its introduction and while risk is controlled (but not entirely eliminated) for one collection system it goes without saying that if you increase the number of vehicles then you must be increasing the risk.

Concerns were expressed that since the introduction of weekly recycling and food waste collection, any additional side waste that will not fit into a refuse bin with the lid closed flat is not collected. Mr White explained that if a person chooses not to use a bin they can use black bags instead, however only a maximum of three bags will be collected per fortnight which is the equivalent of what will fit into a 240 litre wheeled bin. It was also queried as to whether there are proposals to reduce the size of the wheelie bins provided and Mr White advised that there are no current plans to make such changes. With regards to commercial premises, it was noted that the business is liable for a charge for the collection and disposal of such waste.

A query was also raised in relation to a missed collection and it was explained that if the Department is notified then arrangements would be made for it to be collected. Similarly, if a bin has been lost, stolen or damaged or a person has recently moved into a property where there is no bin, a new one can be requested (or repairs undertaken to a damaged bin where feasible).

With regards to bulky waste collections such as an old bed, furniture or electrical/gas appliances there are a number of collection services available (some free of charge). Those items that are in reusable condition will be collected by the Community Furniture Enterprise. There are six household waste recycling centres throughout the county borough. These are supervised facilities where residents can dispose of a variety of household waste, including bulky items such as furniture, tyres, timber, fridges and green garden waste. There are also 22 mini recycling sites located throughout the borough, these are unsupervised facilities for the disposal and recycling of glass, paper, plastic, metal and clothes.

In closing Mr. White advised that good progress has been made towards achieving sustainable waste management and the county borough is one of the top five authorities in Wales, albeit that there is still work to be done in order to continue to meet the targets from the EC and Welsh Government.

Mr. White was thanked for his informative presentation and for responding to the questions and issues raised by members during the course of the debate.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was requested that both the Interim Chief Executive and Acting Director of Corporate Services be invited to a future meeting to discuss the implications of The Williams Report and the medium term financial plan consultation process respectively.

The meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.