

Appendix 2: Summary and consideration of objections/support received to the advertised proposals

Consultee	General comments	Specific requests	
SOCIAL MEDIA			
M O, Twitter	Why bother with this again? Nobody wants it here and we shouldn't have to deal with the hassle of it.	No	
J E, Facebook	Preferably something that won't require me to be under house arrest like last year please	No	
B N, Twitter	I'm looking forward to it. I'd love to see some more small local road closures made common though the CBC to allow children to play safely on the street	No	
T L, Facebook	Needs far better planning than last time	No	
N P, Facebook	Looking forward to it	No	
M T, Facebook	I'm delighted this is coming back, it was exciting to watch and a little walking in the fresh air was good for us all.	No	
K B, Facebook	Great, my son loved it last year he'll be up there with his packed lunch watching them go through! Just hope the idiots who tried get through the road closures like last year stays away! Makes it unsafe for people on the bikes, spectators and the security people! Saw one of them nearly ran over by an impatient driver!	No	
K J M, Facebook	Great, totally nightmare for people last year. So many friends has issues trying to get to work	No	
S G, Facebook	Hope it's not going stop me getting to hospital as this is weekend my baby is due!!	No	
S G, Facebook	I'm not going to be under house arrest. I will drive where and when I want thank you!! last year even my mother's carers couldn't get to her	No	
G R S, Facebook	Finally an event that the council don't shut Pontygwindy road for.	No	
K L, Facebook	Can't it go to North Wales for a change	No	
R B, Facebook	Fabulous to see this back again. Giving people enough notice, to make alternative arrangements .hopefully the event will run smoothly. good luck to all.	No	
C G, Facebook	More diversion of traffic, giving people information on alternative routes ... People found it hard to access ystrad hospital due to closures... District nurses need to be given alternative routes to get to their patients Great event last year, but poor communication regarding alternative routes.	Improved communications	
D L, Facebook	Well done on paying millions making cycle paths for them to ride on roads	No	
S M, Facebook	It's unreasonable to close the roads for over 9 hours! Last year no communication and I was in a wedding that weekend. It was an absolute shambles	No	

C G, Twitter	Great event, but need more info on diversions, Out of Hours nurses and Drs need to get around, access to Ystrad hospital	Health care professionals need to be considered	
P, Twitter	Wonderful, can't wait to be trapped in our homes again with no say whatsoever	No	
J H, Facebook	Closing 2 major roads is insane	No	
H T H, Facebook	Please can you make sure the splash pad and toilets in Morgan Jones park are open for local people to walk to this year? They were only opened after the event last year and due to the road closures some people have no choice than to stay in the local area?	No	
A H, Facebook	Last year was a disaster ☹️	No	
B P, Facebook	Looks like it will take me 3 hours to get to work again.	No	
P F, Facebook	Last year was a total nightmare!!	No	
VIA EMAIL			
AG, Caerphilly Resident	I am very happy that the Velothon is coming back to/through Caerphilly for another year. As a resident, I am very happy to have roads that I would normally use, I am very happy to have these closed for a single day. The amount of money & healthy lifestyle that is promoted by this event easily outweigh the need for me to use roads for a day. I sincerely hope that Caerphilly council get behind this event & support it wherever possible.	No	
Cllr P B, Caerphilly	Because of the closure times, I would suggest that the Professionals start first as they will be through Caerffili like a shot from a gun. The amateurs to follow a half hour later. They should follow a different route through Ystrad Mynach and Nelson, to the Fiddlers elbow roundabout, and then through Cilfynedd, Pontsion Norton etc to Cardiff through the Treforrest Estate. The big holdup in Caerffili is not from the Professionals, but the slower of the amateurs the vast majority of which walked all the way to the top of Caerffili mountain which took the major amount of time.	Suggest change timings and change route	
HK, Caerphilly Resident	I am surprised, after the poor organisation of the event last year, that CCBC are allowing it to be hosted once again. I understand from the website that "lessons have been learnt following last year's event", but you do not illustrate these "lessons". It appears that this is a fait accompli, and that the event is to be held no matter what I, or others, say. Nevertheless, I wish to submit the following views	Improve stewarding (esp at St Martins Rd junction) and address littering	

	<p>about the Velothon Event:</p> <p>The road closures at the St Martin's Road junction nearest the town were manned by stewards (students) who didn't have a clue what was going on, and they were unable to answer basic questions about timings, protocol etc. with any certainty. They were also unable to manage the traffic with confidence when people needed to drive across the road which was closed. The organisers had clearly not invested time or money into good, basic training for the event.</p> <p>The rubbish strewn across the roads by the cyclists and on-lookers was not being cleaned up (not that it should have been there in the first place of course), which gave the wrong impression that it was fine to drop litter at an event backed by CCBC. The organisers should surely be responsible for meeting the costs of the clean-up after the event.</p> <p>The signs along the cycle route were not removed for weeks after the event, and the organisers should have been chased up by CCBC in order to do so.</p>	<p>problems.</p>	
<p>CH, Resident</p>	<p>Yet again, the Borough will be cut in half with us northerners finding it impossible to travel southwards without taking long diversions. How difficult will it be to visit relatives in hospital? Go shopping in Caerphilly? Use some of our country parks? And why? So non-residents can play on their bikes.</p> <p>No doubt someone will make up a figure about it boosting the local economy by £X thousand pounds but how is this calculated? As I understand it, these cyclists enter the Borough at Hafodrynys and leave at Caerphilly mountain on their way to Cardiff. Where do they stop to spend their money? What do they buy? And as I, and many others, will alter my activities on that Sunday to avoid these roadblocks then surely some local businesses will suffer from a drop in trade.</p> <p>So are these projected figures available :</p> <p>How many local jobs will this event create? How much additional revenue will local firms and services gain from that day? How much lost revenue will businesses and services suffer because of travel difficulties?</p>	<p>Financial implications of event</p>	

EN, Crumlin Resident	Can the route please consider that those residents living in Crumlin, NP11 3PJ area, Lower Viaduct terrace etc, are completely cut off from being able to leave the area as it is one way in and out only. This is not acceptable for local residents, the long road closures mean many will have to take time off work, for which I'm sure you are unlikely to compensate.	Access for residents in Crumlin, NP11 3PJ	
PB, Caerphilly Resident	<p>I wish to register a strong objection to the closure of Mountain Rd Caerphilly for the Velathon Event. Last year the road was closed for most of the day, yet for most of the day there were no cyclists to be seen! It seems that neither Caerphilly Council nor the organisers have taken any notice of the objections and complaints which were raised after last year's event.</p> <p>The residents of King Edward Ave, Princes Ave, Railway Terrace, Underwood, Danycoed, Corbett Crescent, Warren Drive and Mountain Rd are marooned in their homes for the day when, on the evidence from last year, the road does not need to be closed all day. Local businesses on Mountain Rd and Cardiff Rd were also badly affected by the closure, which resulted in loss of revenue and considerable inconvenience to staff.</p> <p>I would strongly urge the Council to consider ensuring the road is closed only when necessary - it may cause the organisers & Caerphilly Council some inconvenience to make more detailed arrangements based on the wellbeing of residents and needs of local businesses rather than a blanket road closure. A small inconvenience when compared to the major inconvenience to local residents.</p> <p>If the Council are determined to proceed with a full day's closure I'm sure you will be able to let me have the justification for such a decision.</p>	Mountain Road, Caerphilly	
SH, Caerphilly Resident	<p>This event caused absolute chaos in and around Caerphilly last year and will doubtless do the same this year. This might be acceptable as a 'one off', but it's regrettably another one of the seemingly endless events and inconvenience that the residents of central Caerphilly have to endure. The traffic flows on a Sunday are now no different to any other day and Caerphilly will be grid locked once again.</p> <p>Residents of Heol Trecastell will be land locked, as even with the bollards removed at Nantgarw Road, the grid lock means that no one can get in or out. This is a huge worry in terms of emergency access or egress.</p>	Access for residents in Heol Trecastell / Nantgarw Road	

	<p>The traffic flows and configuration in Caerphilly means that the slightest hiccup anywhere causes huge delays. The recent fiasco with the Coke Lorry at Coryton caused grid lock virtually back to Ystrad Mynach Hospital. To close main roads for such a time is quite ridiculous.</p> <p>There is a groundswell of opinion amongst Caerphilly residents that enough is enough. All should be entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their homes and personal business. I'm sure that no-one would object to a one off event such as occurs in France, Monaco, the Isle of Mann, Gateshead etc. It is the volume and regularity of such events that all seem to impact upon Crescent Road that are causing people to lose patience. I trust that there are very good arrangements in place to keep Caerphilly moving or I fear a backlash.</p> <p>It could be argued that some of the events such as the street markets do hold some attraction. In all honesty, I cannot see how anyone is going to get excited about a cyclist going past.</p>		
Ian, Resident	Don't have it causes nothing but problems	No	
BJ, Resident	<p>If the A469 is to be closed, how am I going to get to work in Cardiff and if I have to go north to go south who will pay my extra petrol bill given that Velothon are making money out of this?</p> <p>How much is Velothon contributing to the extra policing and extra council costs?</p>	No	
J C, Centre Manager Castle Court Shopping Centre	<p>Response same as last year but no doubt will gain zero sympathy.</p> <p>This event completely KILLED our businesses trade through that day, it also obstructed many shoppers and staff who could not reach hospitals and pensioners because of crazy road closures. No No No is our viewpoint. These bike road closures should NOT be on major road networks.</p>	Impact on businesses within Castle Court	
CB, Caerphilly Resident	<p>I wanted to write in support of Velothon Wales.</p> <p>I am a resident of Caerphilly, I live in Virginia Grove off Bedwas Road so will be directly affected by the race. This is a one day event that local residents have had plenty of advanced warning of. In order to try and get Caerphilly on the map and bring in more business to the area the town needs events like this.</p> <p>For one day of inconvenience and hopefully a positive impact to the town I'd like to</p>	No	

	see the proposed route remain the same.		
AT, Caerphilly Resident	<p>I can understand why cyclists want this race and the 16000 plus amateurs will have a truly amazing day whilst raising thousands for charity. What I don't understand and want explained in detail is why all roads in and out of Caerphilly will be closed for a couple of hours so a few elite riders can go up and down Caerphilly Mountain.</p> <p>If all riders used the A469 around Caerphilly with the elite rider going up one side of road and down the other as the cars do and I've seen many elite long distant runners do, there would be no need for road closures in the centre of Caerphilly. Which would please residents who already have road closures for local events eg. Big Cheese, Bonifire Night and Christmas Markets to name a few and everyone who wanted or needed to enter/leave Caerphilly could go via Trethomas, Newport, although for some including myself this would be an inconvenience.</p> <p>If the riders are so bad, fussy or you argue it not safe so that they couldn't possibly do the above, then why not let them ride up the Mountain via A469 at the top take the left turn onto Cefn Carnau Lane at the end of this turn left onto Van road then right at the roundabout turn onto the by-pass to the Pwll-y-pant roundabout. this route would I know involve closing all the roads around Caerphilly but would save road closure in the town Centre.</p> <p>If you want the pretty publicity photos with Caerphilly Castle in the background, then use the A468 close the centre of Caerphilly make hundreds of peoples lives difficult, but please don't lock down Caerphilly for a few elite rider. they could still go up and down on the same route or use Cefn Carnau Lane as I know they are going to use lanes along the route.</p> <p>To leave only one way in and out of Caerphilly is inconvenient but being told you will not be able to get in or out of Caerphilly whilst the elite race is on is far, far more than that. For a few, thousands are being forced to re-think/plan that day, some will no doubt forget and face stewards who I found last year were rude, lied and showed absolutely no compassion. Or help lines that tell you to break the law as I was told if I needed to get out during race I should park my car on other side</p>	Elite race timings	

	<p>of closure earlier in the day, when I said that would mean leaving it on a dual carriage way the person I was speaking to just repeated the same suggestion. Needless to say I did not follow this advice.</p> <p>Lastly could you tell me who has priority if there an emergency during the race should it follow the route published the racers or the emergency services e.g. would the race be halted say to let an ambulance go over the Mountain to the Heath Hospital or would they have to wait for racers to pass</p>		
TN, Resident	I found the road closure information confusing last year. I thought it would be a good idea to show maps with the roads that are open at various times.	Improve map info	
PE, Maesycwmmmer Resident	<p>Hello, firstly I am amazed that this event, that was an absolute disaster for the residents of Caerphilly County last year, is once again being allowed to be held in our county.</p> <p>Last year I applied to the organisers of the Velothon for dispensation to leave and return to my home in Main Road Maesycwmmmer. Dispensation was agreed and I was informed that the marshals in the area would be informed of this dispensation. I supplied my car registration number and was told where, and at what time I would be allowed to leave and return, also that the marshals had been informed. I left at the agreed time only to find the exit road was already coned off and the marshals did not have any information. After some argument I had to physically remove some cones in order to leave the route at the Crown roundabout and go about my business.</p> <p>On return at the agreed time of 3.00pm to the Crown roundabout as agreed, I found myself in a queue of approximately fifteen cars on one side all needing to gain access, most to just cross the roundabout. Marshals refused point blank to allow anyone to even cross the roundabout. When I informed them that I had requested and received dispensation they had no information regarding this, and still refused to allow myself or anyone else any access whatsoever.</p> <p>Among the people queuing to use the roundabout was one lady who was a carer and needed to get to her elderly patient. Also one lady who was a diabetic and needed to get home for her insulin treatment. This was explained to the young boys acting as marshals who obviously didn't care about anyone's potentially serious problems, and still refused to allow anyone to cross the the roundabout.</p>	Ensure marshals are adequately informed when local residents have been given permission to access/exit an area	

	<p>Tempers then became very frayed and the police had to be called to 'Keep the peace'. The police also refused to override the marshals stating it was outside their remit.</p> <p>The result was that dozens of cars were made to queue from 3.00pm to 5.00pm to cross the Crown roundabout. During these two hours one group of approximately six riders actually passed through, taking about three or four seconds to pass. This incident last year, is what occurred at just one point on this route, it must have been multiplied dozens of times along the route. There was demonstrably absolutely no consideration or organisation to minimise the total disruption caused to the general public.</p> <p>Whoever agrees to this closure of the main road arteries of South East Wales for eight or nine hours, does not seem to realise that this closure also prohibits vehicles even crossing this route, resulting in virtually total immobilisation of all traffic in S.E.Wales.</p> <p>This event is an infringement of the public's right to freedom of movement in S. E. Wales area and as such is probably illegal.</p>		
<p>S, Caerphilly Resident</p>	<p>I live in Hazel Grove, Parc Avenue, Caerphilly. Last year, I was able to get out and about during Velothon using the route through Crossways Business Park. However, I did get stuck in a queue of traffic of people cutting through the Business Park, thinking they could get onto Bedwas Bridge Roundabout - they didn't realise this exit was blocked. When I did eventually get through, it was quite dangerous trying to navigate into Sir Stafford Close to get to Hazel Grove because of all the cars parked there. To avoid this queue and parking, it would make sense to shut this part of road by the McDonalds roundabout and put a sign there saying it is only for residents or people going to Crossways Pub or Hotel.</p> <p>One other observation is to have stewards manning roadblocks who have local knowledge so they can give people directions - I had to help a steward out last year as he was from Birmingham and didn't know the answers to people's questions.</p> <p>I do hope this makes sense. Please let me know if you have any questions or need more information.</p>	<p>Suggestions for managing traffic Parc Avenue area Caerphilly</p> <p>Ensure stewards have local knowledge</p>	

<p>Cllr J J, Ynysddu Ward</p>	<p>Despite protest by Caerphilly Council last year the Velothon was pushed through by the Welsh Government in a gung-ho manner which gave little concern for the small communities along the route. Despite being invited to a meeting with the organisers of Velothon, as a local Councillor I felt my suggestions were nothing more than an irritation. I was told at the meeting 'you can object all you like but it is going ahead!!.</p> <p>I felt I must make a comment on the issues that my valley faced last year during the Velothon.</p> <p><u>Signage</u></p> <p>There were very large signs along the by-pass from Newport to the B4251. Because of the large amount of explanation, wording on the sign was a lot to read when driving along. Welsh was on the top. So drivers were not only faced with very lengthy information, but non-Welsh speakers had to read down to get to the English. This, whilst driving was not possible. You will see below from my first hand experience, this did cause a problem. <u>Please can we have English first signage for this year's Velothon.</u></p> <p><u>First Hand Experience of last years Velothon</u></p> <p>I live in Wyllie. The only entrance to Wyllie during the Velothon was the turning from the B4251. I drove down to Cwmfelinfach to do some Council work. I did not have to cross the by-pass so I did not expect any problems in exiting and entering Wyllie, as I would have assumed that the entrance to the B4251 at Wattsville would have been signposted sufficiently for drivers not to use this road. (I had asked for signage that said "road closed, access only" – but my request had been refused.)</p> <p>On returning to Wyllie I was caught in a one hour queue. Vehicles had entered the B4251 at Wattsville and were queued up from the Pontllanfraith roundabout thus blocking the Wyllie turnoff. The Velothon organisers were letting cars through occasionally, but in no way did this relieve the backlog.</p> <p>I got out of my car and spoke to drivers. Many of them thought there had been an accident. They had no knowledge of the Velothon. When I asked them had they read the signs I was told yes they had seen signs but could not read them. <u>See above my request for English first signage</u></p>	<p>Improve signage and access around Wyllie</p>
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	<p>Those drivers who live locally are aware that there is a way through the valley by using a lane (Pontgam Lane) which is accessed at Ynysddu and goes under the by-pass . This is narrow and with the amount of traffic that were using this through road, it was very difficult and at times was gridlocked. Two large vehicles can not pass in places. This road is sufficient for small amounts of traffic but not to take all the traffic which normally would use the B4251. If the road was closed to through traffic, only those who live in the valley and those local drivers who are aware of the Pontgam Lane would enter the valley, thus alleviating traffic.</p> <p>Last year I suggested that the signage could indicate (in English) that there was a diversion via the Abercarn by-pass and through West-end Abercarn which leads to a network of roads that can take drivers to wherever they want to go without being held up by the Velothon. This is a road which can take a larger amount of traffic and would be able to take the amount of traffic that would chose not go down the B4251 valley.</p> <p>I would summarise my request for this years Velothon as follows:</p> <p>English first signage. Sign (English first) at the turnoff from the by-pass into Wattsville ‘road closed – access only’. Diversion signs (English first) directing traffic through Westend Abercarn.</p> <p>I am happy to speak to the organisers of Velothon and also Council Highway Officers about my suggestions.</p>	
Mountain View Ranch	<p>I’m a keen cyclist and I’ve taken part in these sort of events several times such as the Dragon Ride however they have always been through largely rural areas not through densely populated areas such as the cities and towns of South Wales. The problem I have with this event is that I know the organisers are basically making very handsome profits at the expense of local businesses along the route many of whom would stand to lose several thousands in lost profit. Yes there is a small charitable element but it’s very small. If it’s a nice day we would expect to sales of around 5-7k at this time of year but people will simply not come because of the ‘perceived’ road closures even if there are alternative routes. I just don’t</p>	

	<p>buy the 'longer term economic benefits argument' at all it's just a nice catch phrase to justify this and many other things.. I'm a mathematics graduate with keen interest in economics too and I like to see the hard facts and numbers behind any such claims. I know from experience the vast majority of participants will live within drivable distance and so drive in on the day, do the event, and then drive straight home afterwards.. the cost of entry has shocked the cycling community and those that do pay it certainly won't be inclined to go and spend even more on accommodation and restaurants etc etc. If they want to run this event along a route which affects so many businesses then they need to compensate those businesses, that's the simple solution.</p>		
<p>Cllr. M P, Morgan Jones Ward</p>	<p>Whilst I will support any event of this nature within our Borough but I am strong believer that these type of events should be shared about CCBC , I accept that the back drop of the Castle comes in to play for the Winter and Summer events and that as flat as possible for the Caerphilly 10k, But this type of event can be rerouted elsewhere within the whole of the borough and shared amongst all wards as requested by members in meetings that I attend and I quote why is it always in Caerphilly with a cycle race like this you can,</p> <p>I know they all want the challenge of Caerphilly Mountain they can just bring them in from a different direction and this will take away the total road closures which caused absolute mayhem as the Sunday trade is as busy as any other day in Caerphilly Town Centre,</p> <p>Please look at the total road closers for the business that operate and the carers who need to attend or need to get around also the Stewards of the event have a good local knowledge of the area this was not the case last year as I personally witnessed some aggressive arguments of people trying to drive locations but was blocked off and the stewards could not answer them as they were not from this area,</p>	<p>Consider businesses and carers in road closures and ensure stewards have local knowledge</p>	
<p>Cllr J P, Morgan Jones Ward and Cllr S C, Caerphilly Town</p>	<p>We write to put forward our views on the route for the upcoming Velothon. These views have been formed following conversations and e mails with residents living in Virginia Grove, Bedwas Road and Heol Trecastell.</p>	<p>Ensure mitigation for Bedwas Road and Virginia Grove and Heol</p>	

<p>Council</p>	<p>In 2015 there were severe problems for residents living on Bedwas Road and Virginia Grove. Shortly before the event took place we managed to get some concessions for local residents living in Virginia Grove when short – term windows for crossing Bedwas Road were agreed. These were the only concessions achieved and although better than the initial blanket closure approach, residents still suffered with access for most of the day.</p> <p>Residents living on Bedwas Road and Virginia Grove had big problems getting to work and going about their business for the whole of the day. Having accepted the inconvenience for one year we're not prepared for residents living on Bedwas Road and Virginia Grove to suffer the same fate again this year. We don't agree the route should travel down Bedwas Road at all, but if the route does incorporate Bedwas Road then as a bare minimum we demand that one lane of traffic all the way along Bedwas Road is kept open for residents to be able access the road to go about their daily business. There can be no return to last year's events.</p> <p>From the perspective of Heol Trecasell, last year's closure of Cardiff Road had a major impact on access and egress. As traffic was diverted along Crescent road, traffic backed up past the entrance to the estate. As a consequence, there was a queue to get out of the estate and only then by peoples good will in letting vehicles out.</p> <p>Last year, I understand the bollards at the scout huts were lowered, but the grid lock meant that it was impossible to get anywhere. With over a hundred dwellings, the normal traffic flow in and out of Heol Trecastell is considerable. We'd draw your attention to contemporary working patterns where Sunday trading means that a significant number of residents (and traders) are very busy, as evidenced by the car parks of any shopping outlets. We'd ask you to consider retailers on the Gallagher Retail Park and what the impacts of last year's route meant for them. Last year we spoke to residents who work on a Sunday and they were very severely restricted.</p> <p>We're informed of the events that led to the cancellation of the Rhymney Valley Half Marathon back In 1992. The former Rhymney Valley Council took the decision to terminate the Rhymney Valley Half Marathon - one of the most</p>	<p>Trecastell</p> <p>Retailers on Gallagher Retail Park</p>
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	<p>prestigious events on the athletics calendar. In the 12 years it ran (prior to Sunday Trading) the event was well managed and without much disruption. Following the change in Sunday Trading it was impossible to do this without road closures, as the traffic on Sundays increased massively. The Council then decided to cancel the event do in large part to the changing consumer habits following Sunday Trading legislation. It therefore makes today's situation even more pressing, given the rise in population, housing, retail outlets and traffic since that time.</p> <p>In addition to the disruption, one of the big concerns is the access for emergency vehicles. Given the state of Crescent Road last year, we're concerned that ambulance or Fire vehicle vehicles could get anywhere near Heol Trecastell. Even if an ambulance were to get in, it would be difficult to get to a hospital, and that is a worry.</p> <p>In conclusion – We think with some thought, the route could easily be diverted away from the main arterial roads. We would include Bedwas Road and Crescent Road in this. We're demanding that Bedwas Road (if included in the route again) operates at least one lane of continuous traffic. This will enable access in and out for residents living in Virginia Grove and would allow Bedwas Road residents to go about their business without the mass disruption of last year. Residents living in Heol Trecastell need to be safeguarded as they continue to be hemmed in during major events. We do not believe that Cardiff Road should be used as the knock on effects are extensive. We can not see how residents won't be severely restricted if last year's route goes ahead again. We're therefore calling on officers and organisers to come forward with mitigating measures to improve access and egress for residents living in Heol Trecastell.</p>		
<p>South Wales Fire and Rescue</p>	<p>Following last year's event SWFRS continue to work with our partners in both Local Authorities and Emergency Services. A number of recommendations were identified and highlighted within the Welsh Government debrief report.</p> <p>Comprehensive contingency arrangements will be in place.</p> <p>Event organisers have co ordinated in conjunction with the Blue Light partners a</p>		

	<p>number of Emergency Local Access Points (ELAP's). The ELAPs have been pre identified to aid mobilization during the event. On Duty operational Fire Crews and Fire Control will be aware the ELAP protocol</p> <p>A joint Tactical Cell will be established, where Event Planners, Local Authorities, Emergency Services will be co located and in a position to response and react to any incidents/issues arising. SWFRS will have a Command Team within the cell.</p>		
<p>C, Caerphilly Resident</p>	<p>Hello – is it possible to get a system in place where it's possible for residents, when needed, to have permission to cross the roads that are closed during Velothon please?</p> <p>I live on Prince's Avenue and it's not possible to get there without crossing Mountain Road. I will be working 07:00 – 13:00 on the 22nd, and want to return home after finishing work.</p> <p>Last year, I had to wait in work for hours after finishing my shift as it wasn't possible to return home after 18:30. I also had to find somewhere to stay on the Saturday night, because the road was closed at 6:15 in 2015 and the organisers refused to let me cross.</p> <p>I appreciate that the road has been closed for a shorter time this year so leaving for work at 6:30 isn't a problem, but if it's possible to agree a time with the organisers to cross Mountain Road and go home? Around 13:30, or 14:00? It's only crossing the road that needs to be done, a matter of seconds!</p> <p>By the way, I only heard by chance about this consultation. I'd contacted Velothon Cymru and they mentioned it to me. How do you expect people to find out about the consultation if you don't contact them?!</p>	<p>Specific access requirements for Prince's Avenue Caerphilly</p>	
<p>MO, Ynysddu Resident</p>	<p>It's with some dismay that I understand the velothon is returning to Caerphilly for another day of shambolic mismanagement. I live in Pontgam Terrace, Ynysddu. It's a terrace of 30 houses on a country lane between Ynysddu and Gelligroes Mill, and last year people who live here were virtual prisoners all day, as the lanes on Mynyddislwyn were gridlocked by cars desperately trying to move around the blockage of the Newbridge bypass. Just take a moment to look at the attachments to understand that gridlock is the only way to describe the situation.</p> <p>I'm so glad that lessons have been learnt after last year – by God they should</p>	<p>Congestion along Pontgam Terrace</p>	

	<p>have been; but what exactly have you learnt? And just where have you advertised the coming velothon? – apart from your website that is. Because if you seriously want the residents of this borough to engage on this issue, there has been precious little publicity, and even less time for us to respond.</p>		
<p>GM, Fleur de Lis Resident</p>	<p>I would like to respond to the above consultation and object to the road closures as proposed in the consultation. My reasons for objecting to the proposal as it currently stands are set out below:</p> <p>1. <u>Complete closure of A472</u></p> <p>The closure of the A472 between 8:30 and 17:45 will have a significant impact on the ability of residents to travel around the county and to Cardiff. The closure of this key route will effectively act as a barrier, preventing traffic from reaching anywhere south of the A472 (such as Caerphilly, Cardiff and Newport), as well as north of the A472, without causing significant disruption to drivers and local residents while also placing a tremendous burden on local roads, which are not designed to cope with such traffic.</p> <p>The above point is of considerable concern to me not just as a driver likely to require access to Cardiff during this period, but also as a local resident. As a resident of Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis, the complete closure of the A472 will cause traffic travelling between Blackwood and Ystrad Mynach to be diverted along my road. We already experience high volumes of traffic travelling at high speed along this road (despite being subject to a 30mph speed limit), and this diversion will do nothing to reduce these problems.</p> <p>Furthermore, the complete closure of the A472 will make it extremely difficult to reach Cardiff without a significant diversion. With this in mind, please advise how I should access Cardiff from my home in Victoria Road while this closure is in operation?</p> <p>2. <u>Access to Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr</u></p> <p>As well as providing crucial access to Cardiff and other parts of the county, the</p>	<p>Access to and from Victoria Road, Fleur-de-lis</p>	

A472 provides the sole access to Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Leaving aside concerns as to how medical staff and emergency service vehicles should access the Hospital during the closure, how do you anticipate non-emergency patients and visitors should access the Hospital during this period?

3. The Cycle Racing on Highways Regulations 1960

You will be aware that regulation 5 of the Cycle Racing on Highways Regulations 1960 (as amended by the Cycle Racing on Highways (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2015) ("the Regulations"), provides that a race may only be authorised where a risk assessment has been undertaken. The Regulations require the risk assessment to take into account (among other things) "*a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to the health and safety of competitors, race officials, spectators and other road users arising out of the holding of the race...*" and "*details of appropriate actions that will be taken...to ensure the safe operation of the race.*"

With the above in mind, I look forward to the publication of the risk assessment prepared by the promoter of the Velothon, and in particular, their assessment as to the risks to other road users arising out of the holding of the race, and the appropriate actions they will take to mitigate those risks.

Having regard to the significant increase in traffic that is anticipated on minor residential roads, I am particularly interested in the promoters assessment of the risk to local residents as road users, and what action the promoter will be taking on these minor local roads to mitigate against the risk of injury as a result of the higher volumes of traffic.

4. An alternative?

As a public authority, the council must act reasonably and consider whether there are any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action.

In this instance, the complete closure of the A472 will cause considerable

	<p>disruption to local residents and road users in the area. The duration of the closure also seems particularly unreasonable. The closure of the A472 for such a significant amount of time appears to be driven by the promoters determination to maximise the number of competitors participating in the Velothon, and in turn, the amount of profit the promoter will make as a result. Putting the profits of a private undertaking before the safety, wellbeing and convenience of local residents flies in the face of what this council should be doing.</p> <p>I therefore suggest that the number of competitors permitted to participate in the event should be limited so as to either:</p> <p>(a) enable the roads to be closed for a shorter time period; or (b) enable one lane/one side of the carriageway of the A472 to remain open during the event.</p> <p>This will ensure that less disruption is caused to local residents, while also enabling this event to take place.</p> <p>If this isn't considered possible, I would like to know why, as well as any representations the council has made in relation to the number of participants in the Velothon.</p> <p>I look forward to these matters being taken into consideration and await a response from you on the specific queries raised above.</p> <p>Please note that although I consent to the details of my objections being shared with others, I do not consent to my name or email address being disclosed to anyone outside Caerphilly Council without my explicit consent.</p>		
<p>AP, Ynysddu Resident</p>	<p>I am emailing on behalf of AP regarding the road closures in the Blackwood/Ystrad Mynach area, she has stated that last years road closures prevented access to Pontgam Terrace and closed a number of other roads in the area consequently disrupting her rounds on the Caerphilly homecare unit due to route alterations. A number of other residents of Pontgam Terrace have</p>	<p>Pontgam Terrace Ynysddu – home carer needing to exit during the day</p>	

	complained of the same issue and would like to bring this to your attention.		
SB, Ynysddu Resident	<p>I am a concerned resident that lives on pontgam terrace ynysddu..</p> <p>I am a care worker that covers work at weekends in a carers role for caerphilly county borough council.</p> <p>Last year the road closures caused complete grid lock of cars jammed on our country lanes leading up to pontgam terrace from both directions...there was no proper traffic control to allow cars to move. ...</p> <p>So I want to voice my concerns that these issues are addressed properly this year. As I need to be able to drive to my calls in the local area.</p>	Pontgam Terrace Ynysddu, home carer needing access to clients on the day	
Wayne David, Labour MP for Caerphilly	<p>Letter following last year's event</p> <p>As the MP for Caerphilly, I am writing to express my concern about what happened last Sunday (14 June 2015) with regard to the Velothon. My office and I have received a number of complaints from constituents who have expressed legitimate concerns. Amongst the concerns are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The extremely poor organisation of the event. The organisation was in the hands of Lagardere Unlimited UK. Amongst the concerns expressed to me were the lack of prior warning of road closures, the fact that the road closures did not always mirror the publicity, the rudeness of some of the stewards to members of the public, and the stewards' lack of local knowledge which meant that local people were not being given advice about alternative routes when effected by road closures. 2. The huge inconvenience and disruption caused to residents of large parts of the borough, especially Caerphilly town. Please find attached a letter that I have received from Care Cymru which indicates how a number of their clients were adversely affected by the road closures. 3. A number of constituents found it extremely difficult to attend their place of work. I know of at least one constituent who had to sleep outside of the area on Saturday night to be able to attend work on Sunday morning. 4. The extensive road closures and disruption undoubtedly had an adverse effect on local businesses. I have been contacted by businesses in Bargoed and Caerphilly who suffered loss of trade because of the event. 5. Residents of the borough also found it difficult to access Ysbyty Ystrad 		

	<p>Fawr.</p> <p>I am sure that the Local Authority will do a careful analysis of the pluses and minuses of the event for the Borough. I suspect however that the negatives of the Velothon coming to Caerphilly Borough far outweigh the positives. 15,000 cyclists is a huge number for the area to cope with and, I am told, that next year the numbers could increase further. While I fully appreciate that the Velothon has enhanced the image of Wales to the outside world and that significant sums of money have been raised for charity, I firmly believe that it is not appropriate for the Velothon to 'disrupt' large parts of the borough every year for the next four years. I would therefore strongly urge your Authority to consider not authorising the Velothon for future years.</p> <p>Additional comments (2016)</p> <p>More specifically, I would hope that there is emphasis placed on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear and extensive advance notice of road closures and the disruption which will be caused. 2. Proper briefing and training for all stewards so that they are able to give full and courteous advice to local people on the day of the Velothon. 3. The shortest possible length of time for road closures. 4. Clear sign posting of alternative routes when roads are closed. 5. Active consideration to be given to avoiding Caerphilly town centre. There is much to be said, I would have thought, from a cycling point of view as well as from a resident's point of view to the use of the Caerphilly Bypass, i.e. the A468 around Cwrt Rawlin and Penrhos and then up Caerphilly Mountain. <p>I hope the above comments are helpful.</p>		
<p>Caerphilly Council's Town and Community Council Liaison Committee</p>	<p>On behalf of the Caerphilly Council's Town and Community Council Liaison Committee I wish to raise two points for your consideration in your planning for your event across South East Wales in 2016 :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Can the Town and Community Councils be added to your prior consultation list? The lack of consultation on the event details in 2015 was a major issue for many affected residents and businesses along the route 		

	2). Can you consider erecting temporary/portable toilet blocks/rest points along the route to prevent those partaking from using private driveways, walls and hedgerows?		
WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE			
K W, Caerphilly Town Council	<p>Further to your communication regarding this year's Velothon the Caerphilly Town Council objects to the roads around the Caerphilly Town being closed to traffic for such a long period.</p> <p>The Town Council supports events that highlight Caerphilly but to close roads for 8 to 9 hours brings undue hardship to residents.</p> <p>Would it not be possible to vary the routes for the amateur riders and either take them from Ystrad Mynach to Nelson and down through Cilfynydd and Pontypridd, or if this is not possible to take them off at the Cedar Tree roundabout and go up the bypass (A468) thereby avoiding the town centre and limiting disruption to town residents.</p>		
INTERNAL			
G B, Senior Assistant Engineer, CCBC	<p>We have met with the organisers and colleagues within ITU/ TM in 2015 to discuss this years Velothon proposal. During this meeting that all points regarding TM) conflicts / lack of stewarding (not exhaustive) and targeted areas for improvement were stressed to them for their consideration and response. As far as I am aware (GR may have further knowledge) we have not received and updated TM plan taking those proposals into account, therefore I can only assume that further meetings will be held between all stakeholders again well in advance of the event.</p> <p>As you are aware communication from the organisers is not as free-flowing as one would like.</p>		
P W, Home Care and Reablement Team	<p>Further to your request for comments regarding this year's Velothon please find below comments from the Home Care and Reablement Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will there be detailed maps showing the road closures, in particular showing access routes to Pantside (A467 – Central Ave and Woodland Drive). 	Information requested on access to Pantside, Maesycwmmer, LLanbradach and	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be access to Maesycwmmer? We have service users living there and need to arrange access for care staff. • Will there be access to Caerphilly town from Llanbradach, last year one lane of the dual carriageway between the bottom of Llanbradach and Corbetts roundabout (A469) • Will there be any access between Bedwas (A468 – Bedwas Road) and Caerphilly town? Last year this caused us the most issues as we needed to have additional staff work to cover Bedwas and Caerphilly town. 	Bedwas for Home Care	