



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk's Report

27th June 2012

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 27th June 2012 at 7pm at Graig Community Hall Bassaleg.

(Item No 5 on the agenda)

Viaduct Way Issues – NCC have advised that Bellway Homes still have not completed remedial works for the adoption to take place but have indicated a commitment to doing so. No date for completion has been given for adoption as it is dependent upon the developer to complete the works beforehand. Clerk will continue to request updates on a quarterly basis.

Rhiwderin Community Centre Lease – The latest communication from NCC looks very promising and it is hoped that a contract is being drawn up at this time. The Council has engaged a solicitor to act on their behalf.

Laurel Road Parking Issue – The new notice board has been decorated and is in full use. NCC has indicated that no funding is available to create parking spaces at this time. Due to the current workload, the Clerk has not yet been in touch with the residents who agreed to act as representatives in trying to find a solution to the parking problems, but will do so ASAP. Council is to go ahead with plans to place wooden bollards on the green which houses the new notice board and post box.

Junction 28 Tredegar Roundabout Safety Issues – No update has been obtained on this issue, Clerk is continuing to chase.

Overhanging Tree Branches in Orchard Close and Associated Wentworth Lane Issue – Permission has been given to erect bollards to ensure this lane is for pedestrian access only and has authorised the manufacture of the bollards to be erected soon

Speed Reduction for Afon Village & Laurel Road – Council have received an email from NCC stating that to reduce the speed to 20 mph along these roads would be too costly and surveys completed do not highlight the areas as having sufficient problems to warrant the reduction. Clerk has written to request that the issue be re-visited should money become available and Council will review again in August.

Rumble Strip on Forge Road – NCC confirmed they have requested funding for this from Welsh Government. If successful, the replacement is hoped to take place in July/August, but is not certain until extra funding is obtained.

Caerphilly Close Junction Landscaping Project – This project is temporarily on hold. NCC has confirmed that no budget is available to widen the junction. Council is to review current needs and decide on a priority list of works to be undertaken throughout the ward. This project will be added to the list which will be prioritised with a view to need and available funds.

Graig Hall – The blinds contractor has been chosen and new blinds are being manufactured.

Play Areas – Cllrs C Williams, Whitfield, Gregory and the Clerk are working on funding streams found by Cllr Whitfield and are still hopeful Caerphilly Groundworks may be able to assist in finding yet more funding avenues to explore.

Adoption of Footpath Opposite Garth Terrace & Highfield Lane – Clerk has received the necessary paperwork back from residents who kindly helped gather evidence forms and will move forward with the process week commencing 23rd April. No forms have yet been received for the path opposite Garth Terrace, but as the Highfield Lane adoption is more pressing, Clerk will concentrate on this path first and return to work on the Garth Terrace path once things are properly underway.

St Basils Lytchgate and Brass Memorial Plaques – As the church considers repairs to its boundary wall a priority, this issue will remain on hold for the foreseeable future.

Caerphilly Road Issues – The Clerk has logged all the outstanding issues with the contact centre and are listed separately. This heading will be removed from future reports and individual items reported under their own headings.

Community Council Website – The website is being updated regularly with miscellaneous information and copies of Council documents.

Footpath and area behind the Tredegar Arms and St Basil's Church & Church Wall –Greene King has ignored repeated requests for confirmation of ownership of the area behind the fencing at the rear of the Tredegar Arms pub and the boundary wall which is in need of repair. Council are aware that some remedial clean-up work has taken place and will continue to monitor.

Gate Erection at Highfield Lane encroaching on footpath – The formal adoption of the lane is underway (please see item above on adoption of footpaths)

Road Markings in Rhiwderin – Clerk has written to NCC Highways to request that the road markings in the village on Harlech Drive/Tredegar Street be reinstated due to amount of traffic unfamiliar to the area visiting the TaylorWimpey site. Although this has not been an issue to date as local traffic know the road layouts, it could pose a potential problem and cause accidents to motorists unfamiliar with the area. Clerk has been asked to highlight which road markings are of particular concern, but no action has been taken to date.

Former Garthfield Cottage Development – Clerk has reported that the verge and pavement between Caerphilly Close and Road has been left in a poor state which is being dealt with by NCC engineers. Cllr Gregory has been able to have the flower planters moved to the area where the dropped kerb from Caerphilly Road gave vehicular access onto Caerphilly Close to prevent motorists carrying out the dangerous practice of using this as a short cut.

Afon Village Issues – Council were made aware that there are litter and safety issues in Afon Village train station and litter issues close to both Morrison's and McDonalds. Cllr Cornelious is to liaise with the bus companies dropping off schoolchildren in the station car park and former Cllr Powell has spoken with an Arriva Trains representative who is dealing with the litter and other various issues in the station car park. Cllr Cornelious is attempting to have NCC assist with the maintenance of the train station and surrounding area. She is also dealing with the litter in the bankings close to the supermarket and fast food outlet.

Fencing along woodland path on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that the fencing on the woodland path through the trees on Caerphilly Road opposite the vehicle speed traffic indicator has partially collapsed and is a health and safety issue. No response has been received to date.

Trees needing attention in Caerphilly Road – the Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that the trees in the same area as the vehicle speed indicator on both sides of Caerphilly Road need attention. The Contact Centre has given a resolution date of 24th October to investigate and assess. Clerk to monitor.

Bankings on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that the bankings from the Foss-y-fran junction to the Friendly Fox Pub need attention, in particular there are loose branches, stones and rubbish that needs removing. The area has been problematic for a long time. Rain washes mud and sometimes some quite large boulders from the bankings onto the pavement. This is part of the safe routes to school, but is regularly dangerous for children to use due to the pavement becoming slippery or littered with stones and boulders which force pedestrians to the edge of the pavement or even into the road. No response has been given to date.

Additional Street Lighting on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that there is a patch of Caerphilly Road just above the vehicle speed indicator that is very dark and would benefit from an extra street light for safety reasons. A response was received that although NCC agree that the area would benefit from extra lighting, presently no funding is available nor likely to be in the near future

Drainage on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has sent a request via the Contact Centre that the drains along Caerphilly Road be cleaned; many of them are blocked with debris and are failing to drain away water adequately. The main area of concern is from the Pentrepoeth Road junction travelling towards Caerphilly, to the Caerphilly Close junction in Rhiwderin. No response has been given to date.

Vehicle speed indicator on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has written to the Contact Centre to request that the indicator be moved from its present position to closer to the Ruperra pub as that seems to be the area where traffic was travelling above the speed limit, and also of another indicator to be placed just prior to the bend opposite the Ruperra pub as there is also an issue with speeding traffic travelling towards Newport. NCC states that they would not consider moving the indicator from its present position as it is meant to encourage traffic to monitor their speed on the approach to the pelican crossing by the Friendly Fox pub. Also that there are no funds available to introduce more indicators to the village nor likely to be in the near future.

Bryn Hedd and footpath from Bryn Hedd to Caerphilly Close clean up – Clerk reported to the Contact Centre that Bryn Hedd and associated footpath onto Caerphilly Close is in need of a clean-up. No response received to date.

Road safety issues at The Griffin – Clerk reported to the Contact Centre that in light of children's safety, either a pedestrian crossing or a keep clear area should be made on the Griffin to allow schoolchildren to cross this road safely. This road is a safe route to school, but is well used as a short-cut to the A48 and Cardiff and is especially busy during the time children travel to school. A reply was received noting that NCC believed the area to be no worse than when it was assessed during the Safe Routes to School campaign some years ago, so is not deemed necessary. Also that there was no funding available to make any changes, nor is there likely to be in the foreseeable future.

Grosvenor Road underpass – Following a complaint from a local resident, the Clerk requested that Network Rail carry out repairs to the underpass as some wall capping stones were loose and brambles encroached into the walkway. Network Rail agreed to investigate and repair and maintain as necessary by the beginning of July. Clerk to monitor.

Speed humps on Pentrepoeth Road – Following a request to a Cllr from a local resident, the Clerk wrote to the Contact Centre to request NCC consider introducing speed humps to reduce the speed of traffic along Pentrepoeth Road. NCC response was that there was no funding for this request, or likely to be in the near future.

Improved signage for Pentrepoeth School – Clerk wrote to the Contact Centre to request that improved signage be installed for Pentrepoeth School as there have been occasions where visitors and emergency vehicles have had problems locating the entrance to the school. No response has been received to date.

Grit bin on Caerphilly Road – Clerk has requested via the Contact Centre that a new grit bin be provided on Caerphilly Road close to the Friendly Fox as the bin is broken and too small for current needs especially as the new development at the former Garthfield Cottage site is being constructed with a steep drive. No response has been received to date.

Missing road markings in Afon Village – At the request of a former Cllr, Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that there are a number of road markings in Afon Village which are very worn and in need of re-marking. Clerk to supply full details for investigation.

Hedgerow along The Griffin – Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that the hedgerow along The Griffin which forms part of the boundary for the allotment site is overgrown and is forcing pedestrians into the road. No response to date.

Bankings trimming on Caerphilly Close – Clerk has reported to the Contact Centre that the bankings opposite the Friendly Fox pub between the last house on Caerphilly Close and the new development of the former Garthfield Cottage site (including the steps up to Pentrepoeth School) need trimming as they are overgrown and forcing pedestrians onto the road. No response received to date.

Compiled 22.06.12

Please note: The contents of this report have been compiled by the Clerk and are subject to change as and when new information is received. This report has **not** been approved by the Community Council before publication as meeting minutes would be, and is intended only as a useful tool to give information on the current status of ongoing issues to reduce time spent at meetings discussing updates unnecessarily.