



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Clerk's Report

28th June 2017

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 7pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 4 on the agenda**)

**Play Areas** – The SLA has been signed, some snagging issues need to be attended to but the play areas are now complete. Extra cleansing has been put in place for the improved weather.

**Graffiti in the ward** - This has been attended to, graffiti that could be removed by NCC has been completed, and NCC have advised owners of other property that has been targeted (such as private or owned by BT or NetworkRail) that they should remove the graffiti from their property. This issue will be removed from future reports on agreement with Council.

**Parking on grass verges at bus stop on Forge Road** – Parking still regularly takes place in this area which Council believes is a major health and safety risk. NCC sees this as a Policing issue, the Police say they do not have the resources to monitor, therefore the damage to the verges is being ignored.

**Dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive** - Following confirmation that the works were to go ahead with amending Bassaleg, J28 and Pont Ebbw roundabouts, the Clerk contacted NCC who indicated that they would request this item be carried out under Community Benefit. City Cllrs advised Council that they had met with NCC and the developers recently to discuss this option, but no decision had been made to date. It is hoped the developers will attend a Council meeting where Council will put this to them directly.

**Additional lighting on Caerphilly Road and Laurel Road** - Despite NCC admitting that additional lighting would be of benefit, this cannot be provided as there is no funding available. This situation is unlikely to change in the near future. Following a meeting with the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety, this is to be addressed again with the Officer in charge of Street Lighting. No response has been received to date.

**Dirty Highway Signage** - NCC recognised the need for cleansing but are no longer carrying out signage cleansing schedules due to lack of funds. This was confirmed at the recent meeting with the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety.

**Adoption of footpaths** - The footpath between Woodland Drive and Fort View Play area, and also the footpath between Penylan Close and Caerphilly Road are both now in the process of being adopted. Evidence forms have been handed out to residents to provide proof of their use which is the first stage of the process. The next step in the process is underway.

**Overgrown footpath from Woodland Drive to Penylan Close** - This path as mentioned above is in the process of being adopted. The footpaths officer who promised to clear up the path in the meantime left NCC before completing the task and his post has not been filled. It is anticipated that this will now have to wait until the adoption is complete.

**Former Garthfield Cottage site fencing and footpath** - Council felt this item should not be removed, but that the re-instatement of the ancient hedgerow that was removed when the fence was built should be pursued. City Cllrs have met with NCC Streetscene officers and report that NCC are concerned about the boundaries and possible encroachment on NCC's land but are not concerned with the steepness and stability of the banking that has been cut away. The Clerk has asked Cllr Cornelious to approach the Planning Dept as this may be a safety concern for them. The Planning Dept is addressing the issue. The Clerk has requested an update.

**St Basil's Roundabout bollards repair** - Replacement of the bollards with large boulders which will be much more robust is being progressed. It was noted that the large tree on the roundabout has been removed, presumably by NCC as it was diseased.

**Cycle Path by Bassaleg School** - NCC can now find no record of this issue even though Cllr Williams had informed Council of the proposal some time ago. The Clerk has asked Cllr Williams to investigate as Council is aware funds have been available to carry out this type of work. Clerk has asked Cllr Williams for an update.

**Parking on grass verges on Laurel Road** - NCC will not take up this issue and have only offered the Community Council to pay for bollards to be installed to alleviate the problem. The damage to the verges is being ignored. This situation is unlikely to change.

**Boundary fencing along Caerphilly Road between the Rhiwderin Inn and Laurel Road Junction -** NCC do cut the verge but only a 1 metre strip between the pavement and the boundary fence as per their schedule, NetworkRail cut back only to their fence. This leaves a strip of land that no-one will maintain.

**Coach House on Caerphilly Road in Bassaleg -** Cllr Williams reported that the owner may be amenable to placing some of the Community Council planters at the frontage to the building as a temporary measure to improve the appearance, then the Haras fencing could be removed. This is to be confirmed by Cllr Williams after he has spoken to the owner, Clerk has asked for an update.

**Pentrepoeth Road issues -** Problems on the road have been reported numerous times and suggestions for improvements have been requested, but NCC's response is "This has been the subject of local concern, but there is no scope to achieve any proportionate speed management or pedestrian improvement interventions. Both Ward Members and Community Council have been advised of this previously". Community Council Members and members of the public appeared in a recent Argus article highlighting the issues. Council will continue to work on helping alleviate the problems. A recent planning application has complicated this matter further and was discussed at a recent public meeting. Cllr Cox-Wall has involved an AM and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure regarding the issues on both Caerphilly Rd and Pentrepoeth Rd who has stated he will do what he can to help, but a recent response from him was not hopeful. Cllr Gregory met with the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety who agreed there were some issues which are being attended to by him. He has promised an update within the next few weeks. New traffic signs stating "20 is plenty" have been erected.

**Bus stop time tables -** It was reported that the electronic timetables on bus stops in the ward are inaccurate and the stops which do not have electronic timetables have had no paper timetables on them for a very long time. Cllr Cornelious has been attending to this issue and hopes are that both issues are being resolved. Cllr Tarr is surveying the stops and will pass the information to Cllr Cornelious to assist in her efforts.

Compiled 23.06.17

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 and reduce time spent at meetings discussing updates unnecessarily.

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