



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk's Report

26th July 2017

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 26th July 2017 at 6.30pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 5 on the agenda**)

Play Areas – The fencing at Rhiwderin play area needs to be replaced and will be attended to shortly. Larger litter bins are being considered for the play areas.

Graffiti in the ward - This item will not be removed until the graffiti on property owned by other agencies has been removed. NCC has advised them of their responsibilities.

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. The Clerk has again been in touch with the NCC officer in charge of this issue, who has advised that until another feasibility report has been received, NCC cannot move this issue forward. The report is expected to be received shortly.

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. Cllr Cornelious has agreed to address this with NCC again and ask for NCC's structural engineer to look at the banking.

St Basil's Roundabout bollards repair - Replacement of the bollards with large boulders which will be much more robust is being progressed. Cllr Sayer hopes to have this completed within the next few weeks.

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. Cllr Williams has not provided an update, but it is hoped this can be incorporated into NCC's Active Travel Plan being assessed.

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 again 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 had promised an update within the next few weeks some time ago but no response has been received. New traffic signs stating "20 is plenty" have been erected and seem to be helping. Council are to meet with the new Head of Streetscene shortly and this will be discussed.

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 has surveyed the stops and passed on a report to Cllr Cornelious who is using it to lobby NCC to have the issue attended to.

Section 106 funding - Cllr Smart obtained information regarding the section 106 funding that will become available on commencement of house building on the Former Tredegar Golf Club site. Cllr Williams has been asked to look into where the S106 money for education will be spent as Council feels Bassaleg High School is in much need of urgent repair. Also, it has been reported that some funding will go to flood prevention in Tredegar Park which Council disagrees with.

Compiled 21.07.17

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.

Clerk to the Council: Sian Davies

Email: clerk@graiGCC.co.uk

Website: www.graiGCC.co.uk

Website: www.graiGCC.co.uk



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