



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Clerk's Report

28th March 2018

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 7pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 4 on the agenda**)

**Play Areas (July '07)** – The new litter bins have been received. Cllr Fry has arranged for suitable concrete plinths to be constructed for them to sit safely on and they will be installed in due course.

**Graffiti in the ward (May '16)** - 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, but none has been removed to date.

**Parking on grass verges at bus stop on Forge Road (Jan '15)** – 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. This item is less of an issue at present as the Bassaleg Roundabout is being amended and road works are deterring the practice, but it will likely return once works are completed.

**Dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive (May '14)** - 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. Council believes no decision has been made to date, however, it was noted that workmen have been mapping utilities in the area, and it is hoped this is the beginning of the process.

**Additional lighting on Caerphilly Road and Laurel Road (Jan '14)** - 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. Head of Streetscene response says "To achieve an improvement the installation of an additional lantern at a cost of £800 (exclusive of VAT) could be fitted, provided permission can be obtained from Western Power Distribution. The council has no duty to provide this lighting so any additional costs would have to be funded by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party".

**Dirty Highway Signage (Oct '16)**- NCC recognised the need for cleansing but are no longer carrying out signage cleansing schedules due to lack of funds. This was confirmed at a meeting with the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety. Head of Streetscene response says " Cleansing/replacement will be undertaken where signs are no longer legible. Additional signs will only be considered on safety grounds".

**Adoption of footpaths (Numerous times from July '11)** - The footpath between Woodland Drive and Fort View Play area, and also the footpath between Penylan Close and Caerphilly Road are both now being reviewed by NCC with regard to whether they will be accepted as PROWs. The Clerk discovered recently that the paperwork handed in to the reception desk at the Civic Centre had been mislaid and no action had been taken at all since March 2017. The Clerk has supplied copies to NCC and details for both paths are now being considered by NCC's Legal Department.

**Overgrown footpath from Woodland Drive to Penylan Close (as above)** - This path as mentioned above is in the process of being adopted.

**Former Garthfield Cottage site fencing and footpath (Feb '15)** - 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.

**St Basil's Roundabout bollards repair (Feb '17)** - The bollards have been replaced, this item will stay on the report until the option of using boulders as a more permanent measure has been exhausted. It has also been noted that further damage to the green has occurred, probably by large delivery vehicles. Remedies are being sought.

**Cycle Path by Bassaleg School (Oct '15)** - 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. No update has

been available, but Council have included this in their response to the Active Travel Integrated Map it has been asked to comment on.

**Parking on grass verges on Laurel Road (Mar '15)** - 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 and has been reiterated by the Head of Streetscene.

**Boundary fencing along Caerphilly Road between the Rhiwderin Inn and Laurel Road Junction (Mar '15)** - 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 (Aug '12)** - The Clerk has spoken with the owner and a solution has been agreed. This has been added to the agenda for discussion at the 28th March meeting.

**Pentrepoeth Road issues (Oct '16)** - Problems on the road have been reported numerous times and suggestions for improvements have been requested, but NCC state that nothing can be done due to the road layout. Council will continue to work on helping alleviate the problems. A recent planning application has complicated this matter further and was discussed at a public meeting. Cllr Gregory met with the Senior Officer for Transport and Road Safety who agreed there were some issues which would be attended to by his department but nothing has improved to date. This was also discussed with the new Head of Streetscene but no suggestions were approved. Council has also highlighted the issues for walkers and pedestrians in its comments on the Active Travel Integrated Map it has been asked to comment on.

**Bus stop time tables (Feb '17)** - Cllr Cornelious has provided an update that the electronic timetables at bus stops should by now be operational. The Clerk has asked Cllr Cornelious to ensure that all stops, regardless of whether they have an electronic timetable or not, be provided with paper timetables, and that the maintenance needed to bus shelters be carried out.

**Section 106 funding (Jul '17)** - 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. This matter will be closely monitored, and now both City Cllrs have been asked to invite the Section 106 Officer to meet with Council and he has agreed. An email has been received confirming that to date the funds are still to be used for schools in the Graig Ward, but Council is not confident it will remain this way unless monitored carefully. The meeting has not yet been arranged, and Council is concerned that funding allocations seem to be diminishing from the figures initially reported. The Clerk has asked Cllr Williams to investigate this.

**Footpath from Berkley Close to Wentworth Lane (September '17)** - The City Cllrs are working on resolving the flooding issues on this path. It is thought that the gullies at the end of Berkley Close become blocked very easily and are unable to cope with the volume of water during heavy rainfall which leaves it spilling down over the path. Cllr Williams has confirmed that NCC has accepted responsibility and is looking to improve the gullies on Berkley Close. Council hopes for an update at the forthcoming meeting.

Compiled 23.03.18

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](mailto:clerk@graiGCC.co.uk)

Website: [www.graiGCC.co.uk](http://www.graiGCC.co.uk)

Website: [www.graiGCC.co.uk](http://www.graiGCC.co.uk)



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