

FAO Eifion Evans CEO CCC

Thank you for your letter dated 19/02/22 received by e-mail 23/02/23 in response to our email of 14/12/22. Normally it would not have been necessary to escalate the issue to yourself; however, under the circumstances there was no other option. Since funding by the WG was granted for the feasibility study in March 2022, our County Councillor, G W Evans had been requesting information re. progress, etc. Eventually, at the end of November 2022, he was informed that very little progress had been made.

Concerns regarding pedestrian safety along Moelifor Terrace in Llanrhystud have been raised with CCC since the 1980's. Since that time the issue has become increasingly more acute. Both CCC and LCC have a duty of care to our residents, which we take very seriously. To that end we will endeavour to work with CCC in order to mitigate any possible serious incidents. Hopefully, this can be achieved as quickly as possible. Llanrhystud residents need reassurance that their concerns are now being addressed, particularly as in our view the initial proposal fits exactly the criteria set out by the Welsh Government's "Safe Routes in Communities Scheme".

We would take issue with your comment that projects can take years to complete. Complex projects might well require protracted separate phases and the associated increased funding. However, this is a small project, straightforward in nature and would provide a simple solution to the hitherto longstanding issue. We would also take issue regarding your comments that the community council and other stakeholders don't appreciate the process involved in projects such as this, which is rather patronising. Intelligent people understand the process associated with project management. What is not understood is the timescales CCC seems to work to, coupled with what appears to be "silo" operations and a complete lack of communication and engagement.

Whilst your response addressed a few of the points raised, we still require responses to the following:

1. Why has it taken 8 months to elicit responses for information/progress requests from our Cllr G W Evans?
2. Why was the original grant information application package, as presented to CCC from ourselves, changed to a "Feasibility Study", thus effectively discarding the preparation work which had been carried out? (We would also re-request a copy of the "Feasibility Study" application).
3. Why was, by your own admission, only limited progress made in the first 10 months?
4. As para 6 of your letter suggests that CCC intend applying for the next phase of grant funding once the feasibility study is completed in March 2023, a further year for the project will have been unnecessarily wasted as the closing date for 2023/2024 grant funding was the 27th January 2023. If this is the case, it is totally unacceptable, as it would mean that the overall project will be delayed a minimum of 2 years!!

Can we therefore have your agreement in respect of the following:

1. That the nominated CCC person responsible for the project will liaise/communicate & respond to reasonable requests for information from our County Councillor, LCC and Llanrhystud residents.
2. That CCC will in future adhere to its published "Engagement and Participation Policy".
3. That CCC will urgently re-prioritise its timescale for the delivery of this project and share this accordingly.
4. That a joint meeting with the project team and members of the LCC/TSG be set up soonest.

FYI a background information sheet recording the unsatisfactory sequence of events so far is attached.

Whilst all the information previously requested is still required and is now even more urgent. If we can assist in any way to recover lost time we would provide every support possible including supporting the application to WG for a grant application extension beyond 27/1/23, if CCC have not already obtained one.

We look forward to your early response.

Chairman/Clerk on behalf of Llanrhystud CC