

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 7pm at Graig Community Hall Bassaleg.

## **Clerk's Report – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011**

**(Item No 4 on the agenda)**

**Viaduct Way Adoption** – No decision is expected until around September as things have been held up with the beginning of the development at the new Parc Eglwys site. Clerk to chase again in September.

**Rhiwderin Community Centre lease** – NCC are currently reviewing their portfolios, a favourable decision is anticipated. Clerk has chased again recently, but has received no reply to date. Once a decision has been given, negotiate for as long a lease as possible in light of the amount of money needing to be spent to upgrade the building.

**Riverbank Clean-up** – Ongoing, the Environment Agency are going to advertise in Afon Village for volunteers to help with the clean-up in that area so it is assumed that the banks will be cleaned from below the weir at Bassaleg up to Afon Village. The fish pass is almost complete and the clean-up of the weir and river banks in Bassaleg are expected to be complete by mid September. Clerk will continue to monitor.

**Forge Road Parking Issue** – “No parking on grass verges” signs have been installed at the top of Forge Road as previously agreed. The Clerk met with an NCC Highways representative on 21<sup>st</sup> July to discuss the placement of planters in the ward and it was agreed that a number of planters could be placed at the bus stop to prevent parking on the verges if necessary. The representative is checking the legal aspects of this and will confirm. No response has been received to date due to the representative being on holiday.

**Tredegear Roundabout Safety Issues** – following the report from Police to NCC regarding their comments and suggestions for making improvements to the junctions on the roundabout, NCC are to review during July and August. Clerk has chased for an update.

**Overhanging Tree Branches in Orchard Close and Associated Wentworth Lane Issue** – The trees on the piece of land owned by the Council have been assessed and a report produced. The Clerk has now engaged the services of a tree surgeon to carry out the recommendations in the report which includes the trimming back of the overhanging branches into the garden on Orchard Close. It has been agreed to replace the permissive pathway sign which has been broken – Clerk is in the process of gaining the correct wording for the sign from NCC's legal department and Rights of Way officers before obtaining quotes. Also agreed was for Council to explore the possibility of putting bollards at the top and bottom of the lane to stop vehicle access. With this in mind the Clerk asked the NCC Highways representative to look at the area on 19<sup>th</sup> July who agreed to take the matter up with her department head, but was of the opinion that it should not be a problem. Again, the matter is held up due to the representative being on holiday. Clerk has also emailed NCC regarding previous promise to improve culvert at the top of the footpath, no response has been received to date, Clerk has chased again for a response.

**Planters from NCC** – The refurbishment of the planters is almost complete. A local contractor has been engaged to apply the final decoration. As mentioned above, the Clerk met with a Highways representative and agreed some locations as set out by Council. The representative approved some sites, but needs to check others. Again this is on hold as the representative is on holiday.

**‘Go Slow’ Signs for Afon Village** – The Police have carried out a survey of the area, a report has been issued and will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting. Rogerstone Community Council Clerk is to seek support from their Council to increase traffic calming on the through road of the estate.

**Scrap Lorries** – The Police are unable to help in this situation, Councillors have been stopping scrap lorries and requesting they turn down their tannoys and have been logging registration numbers of offenders, little more can be done to ease the situation. **This item will now be removed from the Clerk’s Report.**

**Rumble Strip on Forge Road** – Clerk emailed City Councillors urging them to help resolve the situation. Cllr Williams has had confirmation that they are awaiting costings to have the job completed, and hope to do so during these school holidays to lessen disruption. Clerk will monitor but chase in September if not carried out.

**Christmas Tree Quality Issue** – Assurance has been received that the defective tree will be replaced in the Autumn.

**Caerphilly Close Junction Landscaping Project** – Clerk has approached 3 NCC approved contractors to quote for completing the landscaping scheme. To date one contractor has attended site and a quote is expected within the next few days. This project is temporarily on hold – please see next item. **Clerk has received one quote for works to present to Council.**

**Graig Hall** – 3 quotes have been received, the matter is temporarily on hold as there is the possibility of outside assistance for either replacement windows for the Graig Hall or the Caerphilly Rd/Close junction project. The matter will be discussed at the meeting.

**Griffin Hedge** – Clerk is still chasing NCC Grounds Maintenance team to cut back the hedge. As no response has been forthcoming, City Councillor Williams is pursuing the matter on our behalf. **Cllr Williams has received confirmation that the hedge will be cut in the next few weeks.**

**Play Areas** – The replacement swing at Fort View/Highfield play area has been ordered and will be installed soon. Concerned residents attended the previous meeting to urge its replacement. A review of the play parks took place at the August Planning & Environmental Meeting where it was agreed that the recreational facilities for children over 5 years of age is poor. Clerk to seek funding sources to assist with updating the parks if possible **and is meeting a funding organiser belonging to a large play area equipment supplier on September 7th. Recent weekly inspections have highlighted some minor faults which the Clerk has arranged to be rectified.**

**Notice boards** – The refurbishment of all notice boards was agreed and will take place soon. An additional 2 notice boards have been ordered to service the top of Laurel Road and Viaduct Way and surrounding area. Clerk has agreed possible locations with the Highways, but is still waiting for approval as the representative is on holiday.

**Councillor Vacancy** – The vacancy has been advertised in the notice boards with a closing date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> to call for an election and the 30<sup>th</sup> for co-option. To date three candidates have put their names forward for co-option, and it is believed that no call for an election has been made so Council should be free to co-opt. These candidates and any further applications will be discussed at the meeting.

**Viaduct Way Road Layout** – Clerk has emailed NCC Highways expressing concern over the current layout of the access road along Viaduct way, supporting the local resident’s objections, and urging a site visit to review in particular, the piece of pavement jutting out on

the junction to the new development which forces traffic onto the wrong side of the road. No response has been received from NCC, but Clerk has been advised that the layout has been altered. This matter will now be taken off future Clerk's Reports.

**Adoption of Footpath Opposite Garth Terrace** – Clerk has written to NCC Rights of Way officers to request status of this footpath and to set in motion procedure to adopt if not already adopted. Clerk is waiting to discuss the matter, **her contact has been on holiday but is now off sick. Clerk will continue to attempt contact before September's meeting.**

**Footpath Opposite Friendly Fox to Pentrepoeth School** – Clerk has received confirmation that this matter is being attended to.

**Community Council Logo** – deferred to August 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Conifers at 50a Caerphilly Road** – Clerk had comments from Cllr Caston and via the CC website about overgrown conifers obstructing the public footpath between Caerphilly Road and Laurel Road. Clerk has posted a polite notice to homeowner to cut back the hedge.

**Activity at Development Adjacent to Friendly Fox** – Clerk has written to NCC Planning Dept to ensure groundworks undertaken at the site are within the bounds of the outline planning permission given and is awaiting a reply.

**Broken Styles on Footpath Near Old Alcan Site** – Clerk has written to NCC Footpaths Officer to request repair of broken styles in the fields which form our boundary with Rogerstone at the back of the site and is awaiting a reply.

**Bassaleg & Rhiwderin Directory** – Cllr Stokes has written an article for the Directory setting out Councils achievements and aims and requesting considerate parking, especially in the Laurel Road area. Article will be submitted in Nov-Dec issue and will include details of the Christmas Lighting ceremony if decided.

**Old Alcan Site** – As there seems to be movement on the site, Clerk has checked with NCC Planning Dept what permissions are in place. Currently there are no plans submitted for development but they are aware that it is being thought about. Clerk has requested that if an application is submitted that Graig be included in the planning process as such a large site will have real impact on Graig's current amenities and infrastructure. Clerk to monitor.

**St Basils Lytchgate and Brass Memorial Plaques** – The Clerk has spoken to Cannon Williams about the possibility of working together to make some restoration works to the lytchgate and the possibility of moving the brass memorial plaques inside the church. He is meeting with his Church committee in late September and will come back to the Clerk with comments and suggestions of moving forward.

Compiled 26.08.11  
Updated 31.08.11

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.