



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk's Report

27th August 2014

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 27th August 2014 at 7pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 4 on the agenda**)

1. Play Areas – Council are lobbying NCC for diverting Section 106 monies and looking into other potential funding streams. Following discussions with NCC it is hoped that Section 106 money will be available to return a play area to Rhiwderin and upgrade the other play areas in Fort View and at the Graig Community Centre. This is dependent on NCC, and the Community Council is doing all it can to move progress on the issue. Recent changes at NCC has put a different City Cllr in charge, who is in the process of familiarising himself with the issues. To date no response to email enquiries have been received, but Cllr Cornelious is confident that the issue should be resolved soon.

2. Adoption of Footpath Opposite Garth Terrace & Highfield Lane – Clerk working with NCC for formal adoption. NCC's Countryside Warden has been asked to look at the area at the top of Highfield Lane with a view to having it cleared of vegetation which is making the footpath difficult to use. The Clerk has been advised that the matter is being looked into and work is anticipated to take place soon.

3. Footpath between Friendly Fox and Pentrepoeth School - Ongoing. Improvements have been made to prevent access to the former Garthfield Cottage development from the path and gaps in the fencing have been plugged. Following a visit from an NCC officer, further improvements will be made but the area is still quite untidy. The officer hopes that when the natural vegetation takes over the verges as before, the area will look much improved and will naturally screen the patched up fencing to the development. This item will be removed from future reports but monitoring will continue.

4. Static Speed Camera on Caerphilly Road - Following an update from Inspector Biggs, it was confirmed that the mobile speed camera does attend the area at varying times of the day and evening. A static speed camera would only be installed if the area met the current criteria which it presently does not. Council is continuing to lobby. The Police have provided the dates of attendance for the mobile camera from January - May 2014 but this shows times only. Following his attendance at the last meeting, Inspector Hayes agreed to provide more data for the above period of time.

5. Yellow lines near St Basil's shops - A request has been made that the single yellow lines in the area of the shops also be extended to the one traffic island which to date has not been marked up to improve parking availability for residents using the shopping area. NCC have agreed this should be carried out and it is hoped they will be installed very soon. To date the Clerk is not aware that this work has been carried out and has chased for an update. No response has been received since the last request on 25.07.14.

6. Lighting on footbridge over A467 - Both Clerk and Cllr Whitfield wrote to NCC's Arboricultural Officer requesting trees be cut back to improve the street lighting at the bridge and for a defective lamp to be replaced. This issue is still ongoing. Cllr Whitfield is still trying to get this issue resolved satisfactorily.

7. Trees on open space at top of Laurel Road - It has been confirmed by the NCC's Tree Officer that damage to the roots of the trees has occurred, and he has forwarded recommendations to the Community Council. Cllr Cornelious has agreed to discuss the report with the officer, the Community Council feel the responsibility lays with the City Council as the trees are next to the highway. No update is available to date.

8. Parking on grass verges at Highfield Road - After concerns were expressed regarding vehicles parking on the grass verges, the Clerk wrote to NCH in an attempt to prevent the issue. NCH were unable to help as they are also experiencing similar problems elsewhere. This was also discussed with the Police who has confirmed that during the past months fixed penalties have been issued to the offending vehicle owners but this has not prevented the problem from recurring. Cllr Cornelious has discussed the issue with NCC who are in the process of taking some action.

9. Re-siting of notice board to Park View - The Community Council has asked permission to re-site the community notice board currently situated at St Basil's Church to the eastbound bus stop at Park View. Permission was granted under the proviso that NCC carry out the work. Council has received and approved the quote from NCC and the Clerk has authorised for the work to go ahead as soon as NCC are able.

10. Dedicated Right Turn Into Laurel Drive - Following the near completion of the former Bassaleg Church Hall development on Caerphilly Road, the Clerk has checked on the progress of the installation of the proposed dedicated right turn into Laurel Drive for westbound traffic. NCC have confirmed that the developer is obligated to dedicate an area within the development for highway purposes to allow space for a dedicated lane to be installed to alleviate traffic congestion on Caerphilly Road. This is now being progressed as the development is near completion. Further updates are expected in due course. Clerk to chase periodically and this item will remain on the report until concluded. Chased on 25.07.14 but no response to date.

12. Bassaleg Post Office - Following the Post Office owners attending a Council meeting, the Council agreed to help all it could by advertising the issues faced by the owners. Recent comments from the owners are very positive, support from local residents has been excellent and they hope the future of the Post Office can be secured. Continued support from local residents is key to its success and the owners pass on their grateful thanks to all. This item will remain on this report to keep Council and residents updated in the short term.

13. Dog Fouling - Following the attendance of NCC's Community Safety Warden at Council's 16th July meeting, Council were told that anyone witnessing someone not picking up dog mess after their pet can report the incident to NCC. Following a written statement by the observer, the Warden would contact the perpetrator and issue a fixed penalty fine of £75. Photographic evidence is acceptable to identify those breaking the law. Other steps are also being taken to clean up the ward. A 'bag it and bin it' zone has been set up in the area around Caerphilly Road, and patrols taken place around the open green.

Compiled 21.08.14

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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