



# GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Clerk's Report

25th October 2017

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 25th October at 7pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 4 on the agenda**)

**Play Areas (July '07)** – The fencing at Rhiwderin play area has been completed. Council have agreed to purchase a number of litter bins, it has been confirmed that the bins in the play areas can be replaced with larger, covered in more suitable bins.

**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 the recent 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. This is a long process and likely to take up to 2 years to complete.

**Overgrown footpath from Woodland Drive to Penylan Close (as above)** - 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. A recent request to NCC to clear rubble on the path has been refused as the path is not yet officially 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. 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 is aware that an inspection of the banking has taken place recently and no issues of safety were highlighted.

**St Basil's Roundabout bollards repair (Feb '17)** - NCC refused to allow boulders to be used on the roundabout, this is being contested by Council. It was agreed that in the meantime the wooden bollards will be re-instated, this has been completed.

**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 recently reiterated by the Head of Streetscene in his response.

**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)** - Cllr Williams reported that any outstanding issues with the building should be resolved very soon, eliminating the need for the Haras fencing to remain.

**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 recent 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 and his response will be discussed at the meeting. 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)** - It is hoped Cllr Cornelious will be able to provide an update at the meeting. Head of Streetscene says in his response that this is the responsibility of the bus contractors.

**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. Cllr Williams has been told that future spending is confidential but not guaranteed to be spent in the ward. Cllr Williams has been asked to invite the Section 106 Officer to meet with Council..

**Footpath From Woodland Drive to Garth Close (Sept 2017)** - Cllr Whitfield reported at the August meeting that the steps on the aforementioned footpath were in a bad state of repair and needed attention. The Clerk investigated, and the footpath is an adopted PROW. A request for maintenance for the steps and footpath has been lodged with NCC. An update has been requested.

Compiled 21.10.17

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.

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