



GRAIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Clerk's Report

31st January 2018

Additional information to the agenda for the meeting being held on Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 6.30pm at Graig Community Centre, Bassaleg (**Item No 5 on the agenda**)

Play Areas (July '07) – 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. The specifications for the bins has been agreed and the order is about to be placed..

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 3rd 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. The Clerk has asked for a progress report and as the NCC Officer responsible has changed and it is possible the paperwork has been mislaid, it seems there is no progress to date. The Clerk is investigating.

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

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) - 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 bollards has occurred, probably by a large vehicle.

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 soon, eliminating the need for the Haras fencing to remain. The Clerk has written to the owner to ask when it is likely that the fencing can be removed.

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 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 been tasked with ensuring each bus stop in the ward is supplied with a paper timetable, regardless of whether or not it has a working electronic timetable. This is still being addressed, no progress to date.

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.

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. He hopes to bring an update to 31st Jan meeting.

Compiled 25.01.18

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.

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