

STATE OF THE AREA DEBATE 2005

Report of the State of the Area Debate held on 20th April, 2005 in the Memorial Hall, Barry.

Present:

Councillor E.T. Williams (Mayor, The Vale of Glamorgan Council)
Councillor H.J.W. James OStJ (Executive Leader, The Vale of Glamorgan Council)
Councillor G. Cox (Cabinet Member, Visible Services)
Councillor A.D. Hampton (Cabinet Member, Education and Lifelong Learning)
Councillor M. Harvey (Cabinet Member, Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure)
Councillor A.C. Williams (Cabinet Member, Social and Care Services).

Also Present: Councillor T.H. Jarvie (Cabinet Member Legal and Regulatory Services); Councillor G. Kemp (Cabinet Member Human Resources and Equalities); Councillor J. W. Thomas (Cabinet Member Housing, Building Services and Community Safety) and Councillor A.J. Williams (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member Planning and Transportation).

The Mayor welcomed all present to the Debate, which would focus on the Council's key achievements and ongoing major projects. The planned series of presentations would be followed by a question and answer session on their content. Members of the audience would also be offered the opportunity to ask general questions in an open forum before the end of the Debate. The Mayor then invited the Leader to give his opening address.

The Leader referred to the key topics which would form the basis of Cabinet Members presentations:

- Library at Barry Town Hall - Councillor Mike Harvey
- Knap Lake - Progress and Regeneration - Councillor Geoffrey Cox
- YMCA Hub - Councillor Clive Williams
- Education and Training - Councillor Tony Hampton.

The Leader referred to the great changes that had occurred within the Vale of Glamorgan Council over recent years. The Council now had a clear vision outlined in its Corporate Plan. In addition, each Service had its own Service Plan which formed the basis of the Corporate Plan. Despite many successes and positive changes the Council would continue to improve as interaction with customers increased. Modernisation of Local Government had reformed the decision-making process and Labour and Plaid Cymru Councillors had been appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny, Planning and Licensing Committees of the Council. The modernisation process was intended to lead to more open, accountable and transparent Local Government. The Council had received a favourable District Auditors annual letter as was demonstrated by the following quotes: "The overall conclusion is that the Council has continued to demonstrate considerable commitment over the last 12 months to deliver continuous service improvement and that the processes and arrangements delivered to achieve this objective are now in

place and are beginning to deliver real and meaningful improvements". "The Council has continued to exercise robust and effective management of its financial affairs". The Leader then referred to the first of four presentations on key projects and important developments for the Council.

Barry Town Hall and Library - Councillor Mike Harvey, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration referred to the presentation created by Acanthus Ferguson Mann for a public exhibition of the scheme in October 2003.

Some elements of the scheme had altered since that date as the development had been taken through the process of both planning and listed building approvals and following Cabinet approval the process of tender had been undertaken between June and December of 2004.

Since the Council's commitment to the proposal in September 2002 the scheme had proven to be extremely complicated in terms of programme content and funding. As a major project the scheme had been co-ordinated by the Council's Project Management Unit, a section comprising three managers, set up in September 2002 to run projects such as the Penarth Heights Scheme, the Central Station proposal, the innovation quarter on the Waterfront, the proposed pedestrian footbridge at Thompson Street and the Barry Town Hall and Library scheme.

The Town Hall scheme had been split into two phases and the first had been completed with impressive results. The first phase had consisted of the removal of the former fountain fronting the Town Hall, the stripping out of old services and refurbishment of this Grade II Listed Building and the external cleaning and repair of the clock tower, external stone work and the replacement of the Welsh slate roof.

The funding for this scheme was reviewed by the Council last October before a commitment of £6.7 million was approved. External funding sources had also been applied for and the scheme had achieved successful bids for European Regional Development Grant funding of £680,000, Welsh Development Agency support of £1.6 million and support from the Welsh Assembly Government of £173,000 of Transport Grant.

The Phase II main contract works officially commenced on 4th January, 2005 and this phase of the scheme, to create a refurbished Central Park, new civic square, new Wyndham Street car park, new public toilet block, refurbished Town Hall and new county public library was being carried out by Kier Weston.

The works were currently running to programme and it was envisaged that the contractors would be on site until around May 2006. At that stage, or before if the Kier programme allows, the current library would move into the new building and following completion of the fit-out programme the new Town Hall and Library would open.

Councillor Geoffrey Cox, Cabinet Member for Visible Services presented details of the Knap Lake Project and stated that the objective of the project was to drain, clean and refill the Knap Lake. There were a number of project outcomes that it was hoped to achieve by undertaking work that was last carried out in 1994 and these included

- improved water cleanliness
- reduced wild fowl numbers
- reduced risk of damage to walk way and grassed areas
- reduced risk to aviation.

Environmental consultants were to be engaged and it was intended that work would start on site in June 2005. Communication was key and the Council would seek the assistance from chosen consultants in this regard to engage the community and the relevant wildlife organisations. Project information would be clearly communicated and notices would be placed on site advising residents and visitors of proposed actions together with timescales and contact details if further information was required. The Council would also place articles in the press to allay public fears in relation to the project. The welfare of any animals was of course paramount and timing of the project would be sensitive to this fact. Birds would be removed from site appropriately if risk was posed to them by any part of the project. The Council would take the advice of appropriate experts in this regard and would also arrange for any fish to be removed as necessary and returned to the lake if possible. The duration of the works would be kept as short as possible, in particular the time for which the lake was empty. All legislative requirements including licences will be addressed by the Council's consultant.

The Knap feeder had suffered for some years from contamination from particles contained in water emanating from surrounding land. These particles damaged the ecology of the feeder and further contaminated the lake water.

The Council had recently been informed by Network Rail that they intended to install a reed bed filtration system on their land to screen water displaced into the feeder. The Council had also made funding available to install a settlement tank prior to the feeder if this was considered necessary. An initial feasibility study had been undertaken to assess water flows and particulates and further work would be undertaken by the Council if the reed bed system proved ineffective. The Council had been advised by Network Rail that the Knap Community Action Group and the Birch Grove Woodlands Group would be consulted prior to any works being undertaken.

The Council planned to paint the feeder base later in the year to discourage algae growth and also hoped to introduce a number of water based plants to the feeder unit.

On completion of the Knap Lake Project the Council would seek to improve the management of wild fowl on the site and to keep their numbers at an acceptable level. There had been a number of complaints from visitors to the

area who claimed to have felt intimidated by the current wild fowl numbers and their positions away from the lake area.

With regards to the regeneration of the former Knap Lido site there were a number of desired project outcomes, the most significant of these being the regeneration of the area. The aim was to create a useable landscaped open space in keeping with the area and sympathetic to the design of the Lido. Low impact, low maintenance plants had been used for the design and plants had been chosen to withstand the rigors of the site location. In keeping with the Lido design, two semi-circular areas had been identified for sheltered seating. These were previously the sites of the old changing facilities. The walkways would take walkers around the old pool perimeter. It was hoped that the opening up of the Lido area would create an interesting connection between the Knap Gardens, the lake area and the seafront of the Old Harbour.

The refurbishment contract was not yet complete. There had been a number of problems affecting the completion, one of which had been water pooling in the central area. This had been caused by inoperable storm flap controls on drainage pipes passing from the Lido area. Land drainage issues were in the process of being resolved by the contractor. When this work had been undertaken the planting would be completed and the walkways opened. Access would be restricted to grass area until these areas had established. The original pool fencing and all internal fencing would be removed prior to the site hand-over.

The contract allowed for a maintenance agreement with the contractor, where the contractor had to maintain the site for twelve months after the completion date. As the contract was not yet completed the maintenance agreements had not yet started. On completion of the maintenance agreement, maintenance would be the responsibility of the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division of Visible Services. The Division had already been in consultation with the Knap Community Action Group and recognised the importance of providing a high standard of maintenance in future years. Other key improvements with regard to the Knap Gardens, Lido and Sunken Gardens included

- maintenance improvements
- revised management arrangements 2005/2006
- bedding to be rationalised
- fountain to be reinstated - sunken gardens
- Walls, Benches and Shelters

The Council would always try to maintain the history of the site and had recently taken delivery of concrete bench ends which were in keeping with the original style used within the gardens. Fairly recently, repair work had been undertaken to the boundary walls utilising blocks that replicated the original used. Benches would start to be installed during 2005/06 utilising the new bench ends. The shelters within the Knap Gardens were currently safe to use, however, they required refurbishment to their original design. The Council had identified the costs of this work as being in the region of £100k

and it was hoped to receive funding for this work as part of the development agreement for the Water Edge Project. The Knap Community Action Group had been responsible for ensuring improvements in the Knap area and they provided valuable local advice to Council officers and members.

Local developers and the Vale of Glamorgan Community Safety Partnership had also assisted in the delivery of improvements within the area, one example of this was the recent Knap Terrace car park project. There had been a history of anti-social behaviour at the car park that had proved difficult to address. In particular, youth annoyance involving young car drivers was the main issue, with speeding cars and occupants playing very loud music. Whilst the Council was keen to keep the coast open to residents and visitors the problem needed to be addressed. Using funding from both Council sources and external finance from a local developer, barrier controls were introduced to the car park. The scheme was implemented following discussions with the South Wales Police, local residents group, Vale Councillors and the Barry Town Council. A gate and exit control device (alligator teeth) were installed that permitted individuals access during the day, yet prohibited entry at night. The gate was controlled by Council employees who opened and closed the on-site toilet facilities. Any cars inside the car park could exit the site yet new entrants were prevented. The barrier controls were positioned in such a way that 25 spaces were outside of the controls, allowing good access all the time to visitors and residents, yet controlling the large numbers who were causing the problem out of hours. Any day time visitor wishing to stay during the evening could do so. Whilst the scheme was still in its early stages, being implemented on 1st March, 2005 preliminary indications were that it had proved a success. The police and local residents were delighted that this difficult problem had been resolved showing that this scheme was an excellent example of partnership in operation.

Another group the Council relied on to assist in service delivery was the Birch Grove Woodland Group, which consisted of a number of volunteers dedicated to the management of the Birch Grove Woodland area. Officers proposed to recommend to Members that the Birch Grove Woodland be designated as a local nature reserve in recognition of the success of the group in managing this particular area. The Council intended to develop a strategy for the future management of the area and this would be based around community driven improvements.

Councillor Clive Williams, Cabinet Member for Community Care and Health presented a report on a significant development in Barry. By December 2005, a major new project called The Hub would be built at the Barry YMCA on Court Road, and the costs for this major development would be in total £2.255 million. The funding for the scheme was the outcome of a hugely positive partnership between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Barry YMCA. The Council was also very grateful to Dow Corning for their contribution to the development of this project.

Several years ago, the Leader of the Council, representatives of Barry YMCA and the Cabinet Member went to see an excellent example of close

partnership working. This gave all partners the idea of giving the most vulnerable clients the opportunity to be part of a vibrant inclusive community project such as The Hub. The day care services for adults with a learning disability needed a new base and a positive environment in order to give clients the opportunities they deserved. It was gratifying to note that these services would now be an essential part of The Hub development. The Hub was about developing a community focus in one of the traditional parts of Barry. The Council believed that The Hub would make an important contribution to the successful regeneration of Barry as mentioned in other presentations during the evening. The range of activities proposed at The Hub was extremely diverse and these included

- sports facilities
- coaching
- community activities linked to schools
- health and wellbeing initiatives
- social care
- community cafe
- educational services
- office bases for local charities
- youth facilities
- crèche.

The service was designed to be totally inclusive and it was hoped that the whole community would become involved and embrace this exciting concept.

It was the Council's initial funding for a feasibility study that enabled Barry YMCA to draw together plans for the bid for additional funding. The Council had demonstrated its support for The Hub project as sponsor and applicant for the local regeneration fund bid on behalf of Barry YMCA. Council officers had worked closely with Barry YMCA officers in taking forward the difficult legal and financial issues in relation to the development of the project. The Council had committed a significant element of its own Capital Funding for the development of an integrated day services facility for clients to be included in The Hub Project. The bids for funding were successful and building work commenced in January 2005. A tremendous amount of work was currently being undertaken and things were moving ahead speedily. It was intended that the Hub should be up and running by January 2006.

The Cabinet Member indicated a hope that many of those present would take the opportunity to participate in the activities at The Hub and it was believed that it would be a huge asset for the people of Barry.

Councillor Tony Hampton, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning presented some of the achievements of the education service in the Vale of Glamorgan. The presentation covered the scale of the service, the key service areas, school performance and other achievements and challenges for the future. The Directorate of Learning and Development was the largest in the Council spending almost 50% of the budget. Statistics were as follows:

- 62 schools -
 - 8 secondary
 - 48 primary
 - 3 special
 - 3 nursery
- Revenue Budget £72.9 million
- Capital Budget £6.3 million
- teaching/non teaching staff c2000
- pupils c21,000.

The Directorate of Learning and Development comprised the following four main service areas:-

School Improvement Service

This service was at the heart of all that was done in education. The aim of the service was to ensure that schools were monitored, supported and challenged to improve and enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

Strategic Management

Strategic Management arrangements were essential to the effective management of an £80 million budget. This included arrangements for distributing resources to schools through formula, planning future school place provision, dealing with admissions and managing the school buildings, development and maintenance. Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, the new Welsh Medium School was designed and built to meet the needs of Vale pupils.

Access and Inclusion

Not all pupils had an equal opportunity to participate in the education process due to health, domestic or other reasons. The Council had an obligation to provide support, facilities and resources to best meet the needs of all pupils. This was a major challenge and as the Council's success was dependent on very close working with parents, schools, special units and special schools. The Amelia Trust Farm did wonderful work on behalf of pupils and families.

Lifelong Learning

In addition to the work which took place in schools, there was clear evidence of the educational and community benefits which were generated through lifelong learning. Within the Vale this service covered libraries, the youth service and adult education.

Educational achievements for primary pupils for 2003/04 were impressive. The statistics presented demonstrated that for the four subjects of English, Welsh, Maths and Science, the two age groups in Vale primary schools were top performers in Wales in six out of eight areas. At Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 the Vale remained one of the top performers in Wales. The average point score for GCSE and A Level results within the Vale of Glamorgan demonstrated that the best results in Wales had been achieved for these

groups last year. This was a real credit to pupils, parents, teachers and schools. Councillor Hampton as Chairman of the Welsh Joint Education Committee was very pleased to be able to report these successes. Other recent achievements were as follows

- Estyn Inspection - significant improvement
- Welsh Medium Secondary School - built
- Partnership working with schools - budget forum
- School organisational plan - clear and comprehensive
- Adult education - highest enrolments in Wales
- Young peoples partnership - enhancing the voice of young people.

The Council had an excellent record of achievement but it also faced a number of major challenges. No other local authority in Wales delegated a higher percentage of their resources to schools, despite this, and the additional money which the Council had put into education in recent years, Vale schools were comparatively under resourced.

School Buildings - a number of our schools were in an unacceptable state of repair. The Council had constructed and developed an innovative funding approach and were seeking more support of the Welsh Assembly Government. A meeting with the Minister to discuss this had been set for 16th May, 2005.

National initiatives - The Council had to continue to work with schools to address the challenges created by new national initiatives. These included the establishment of ELWA, the new funding organisation for sixth forms, work force re-modelling, which would require all teachers to have 10% non contact time by September 2005 and response to a new 14 - 19 curriculum designed to enhance choice so that pupils could follow academic and vocational routes as appropriate.

The final challenge would be to ensure that the Council continued to build effective partnerships with school governors, teaching associations and other organisations. The Council had an important role to play, but the successes outlined were a credit to all involved in education provision in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vale of Glamorgan Council was grateful to teachers, support staff and Council officers for their hard work in achieving these excellent results. The Cabinet Member indicated that residents in the Vale of Glamorgan could be proud of a service, which with comparatively limited Welsh Assembly Government resources, was achieving outstanding results for young people.

The following question and answer session then ensued.

QUESTION	ANSWER
A member of Birch Grove Woodland Group asked for Council support to get the reed bed installed before the lake was re-filled.	Councillor Cox requested that Mr. Gibbon provide him with a contact name for Rail Track and the Council would then pursue giving their support to this initiative.

<p>A resident of Barry Island asked why there was only one public toilet open, which was often dirty, as the facilities at the Knap area and Romilly Park were closed?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox - compared to other local authorities the Council had tried to keep all public toilet facilities open. The Leader responded that the Council had tried to put toilets in key areas. The Knap and Barry Island toilets had been built at the same time and extensive refurbishment was necessary. Officers were currently writing reports so that full consideration could be given to this matter..</p>
<p>A resident of Barry Island indicated that they thought the facilities at Barry Island were 100% better than before but wanted a response to the fact that the toilets at Barry Island closed at 7.00 p.m. and often they were in a dirty condition. In addition, wardens had been employed to litter pick but why was it necessary for these employees to roam in pairs. It was thought that money would be better spent on public toilets throughout Barry than spending £5 million on steam trains.</p>	<p>Councillor Cox said that the toilets issue would be investigated and a response would be sent to the resident who raised the enquiry. A street care initiative across the Vale of Glamorgan addressed fly tipping, litter picking and street sweeping. At present £1.2 million was spent on the street care budget, and this money could be better utilised elsewhere. The Leader indicated that the issue of dirty toilets would be addressed immediately. With regard to the mention of the steam railway a great deal of Capital Investment had been necessary for land/track/goods depot/relocating. The Welsh Development Agency had funded this and not the Council. The Council had only paid to employ a manager to help the steam railway operate properly as most work had been undertaken by volunteers. Improvements were on the way and European Funding was also expected to assist with the future funding of this project.</p>
<p>A member Vale of Glamorgan Artists - Welcomed the developments at Barry Town Hall and Library site and the mention of an exhibition space. What would this entail?</p>	<p>Councillor Harvey - there was no specific plan for usage of the exhibition space at this stage but this could be used for functions, displays and possibly art exhibitions.</p>

<p>Could the alley gate scheme be extended to the Broad Street area?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox indicated that he would get back to the person who raised this query especially in relation to areas of wasteland that had been identified as in need of clearing. Councillor Cox referred to the alley gates projects and the great improvements that these had brought about. It was hoped that this project could be extended and full consultation would take place in all areas where this initiative could be undertaken. The Leader referred to land which had been identified as being in a poor condition and thought that this could be private land, the Council could not actually clear this but could speak to traders and owners with a view to improving the area.</p>
<p>A local environmentalist - Why is the roof of the new Town Hall and Barry Library made of slate and why weren't photoelectric cells put in the roof as it could have reduced running costs?</p>	<p>Councillor Harvey - if cheapest/best alternative this option would have been chosen. The Leader indicated that the Town Hall had a Listed Building facade and that the Council was limited in what could be achieved. Glazing was introduced to reduce costs of electricity but there was only so much that could be done in this type of building. It was felt that the best alternatives had been selected and Welsh slate had been the original material used for the building.</p>
<p>A local resident - There was a high incident of heart disease and people were encouraged to take more exercise. It was asked whether there could be more cycle ways and whether these could be incorporated into proposed new roads.</p>	<p>Councillor Harvey supported the views expressed and referred to the road across the docks which would incorporate a cycle track. The Council had a cycling strategy but it would still take time for additional cycle tracks to be introduced.</p>

<p>A member of Glamorgan Wildlife Preservation Society - how will you control the numbers of wildlife returning to the lake?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox - by reducing swans this would reduce associated wild fowl as the two usually went together. There were 120 swans on the lake at present and the Council was willing to take advice from any wildlife organisation and pass this on to the Consultant.</p>
<p>A local resident referred to cards produced by the Council and issued by Neighbourhood Watch and asked for these to be restored. Another query concerned the yellow squiggles and lines placed on footpaths and roadways as often these marks disappeared before the repairs were undertaken. Mr. Gracie Cox wanted to know why it was felt necessary to inspect and identify these defects if there was insufficient budget to address or undertake the repairs?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox referred to the increase in budget for roads and footpaths and thought that this would not be a problem in the future, as these repairs should be undertaken within a specified time. The Leader in response to the query about cards issued by Neighbourhood Watch referred Mr. Gracie Cox to the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator based at Barry Police Station and also the Community Safety Partnership operated by the Council who would be able to help with this enquiry.</p>
<p>A local resident asked what were the plans for lower Gladstone Road and the unused allotments and area adjacent as there were overflowing bins and the area was in a poor state?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox indicated that the Council had recently changed their contractor for emptying bins so this particular problem should soon be addressed. Councillor James referred to Local Government reorganisation in 1995/1996 when the Council inherited the Alps Depot in Wenvoe. Formerly the Council's work depot had been based off Gladstone Road but now it was used to house employees and equipment for the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Service. The usage of the allotment area had declined so it had been left empty to give the Council flexibility of planned future use. Glamorgan County Council had previously considered putting a road from Gladstone Road through to Barry Road and this had not materialised but there was a need to focus on this particular area again.</p>

<p>A local resident referred to the Civic Amenities site in Sully Road and said that this was a poor site, difficult to use, inaccessible with long queues, were the Council doing anything about this.</p>	<p>The Leader responded that the Council was doing something. When the site was developed it was thought that it was well designed but had since proved too small. There would be new recycling initiatives, weekly collections by the end of the year and there would be a modern civic amenity development at the Atlantic Trading Estate with more recycling in partnership with other organisations. A budget set aside included the funding for a feasibility study and the Council had strong targets for recycling and recognised the need to improve civic amenities sites.</p>
<p>A local resident - do you believe transport for special needs pupils is adequate</p>	<p>The Leader responded that if he had the name of the pupil and route involved he would investigate and get back to the Mr. Bryant.</p>
<p>A local Councillor referred to various road improvement schemes, which had been reversed by public opinion. He indicated that he thought the Council needed to engage in meaningful consultation prior to road changes and asked how much it had cost to construct/demolish these wasteful initiatives?</p>	<p>The Leader referred to the Glebe Street pedestrianised area in Penarth and indicated that this had been a temporary trial scheme. Following massive representation from traders who had produced evidence of detrimental effect on business, the scheme was withdrawn at the end of the trial period. There had been some costs incurred but it had been thought necessary to at least try this scheme on a trial basis. With regard to the development at Rhoose Point this road scheme had been paid for by developers and this had not been withdrawn, if was only that road narrowing had now been introduced to 20 mph as this was in close proximity to Rhoose School. The Leader indicated that Broad Street Traffic Lights should have been a temporary arrangement. When installed complaints were received from businesses and a one way system in Island Road had been changed in response to residents concerns. This was a good example of the Council listening to residents.</p>

	<p>Councillor Harvey indicated that in Winston Road, Barry Councillor Powell's own Ward, traffic measures had been introduced at the request of residents and this worked well.</p>
<p>Several local residents in the area referred to the Annual Meeting of the Bryn Hill Golf Club and a discussion regarding a £10 million offer made by Tesco for part of their land and club house. Mr. Cox thought that this development or any proposed development would be outside UDP and asked would the Council withstand undue pressure or sweeteners offered to the Council in order that Tesco could undertake this development?</p>	<p>The Leader indicated that he was unable to comment on this as no planning application had yet been made. The Council would only consider this issue when the planning application was submitted formally. The Leader indicated that the Unitary Development Plan had been approved by the Welsh Assembly Government. It was thought that Tesco could have spoken to the Highway Section but this had not been encouraged by any Members of the Council.</p>
<p>An O'Donnell Road resident - Since the development of housing on the Lidl's site and building of the Care Home it was indicated that roads had been used as the "rat run" and accidents had happened. It was asked whether traffic calming could be provided?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox indicated that the Highway Budget had increased and there was a need to identify where these "rat runs" had occurred. This area would be brought to the attention of the Highways Section for consideration.</p>
<p>A Port Road East resident indicated that Tesco in other areas had built without planning permission.</p>	<p>The Leader confirmed that Tesco along with any other developer would have to submit plans formally through the planning process. The Planning Department had not had any contact with Tesco although it was acknowledged that residents had genuine concerns. The Council could not pre-judge any planning application but any received would be considered in accordance with UDP guidelines. Therefore, no discussion could be held with Members at this stage.</p>
<p>Would there be increase recycling to include plastic?</p>	<p>Councillor Cox referred to proposals for later in the year to alternate recycling collections of glass/cans one week and cardboard and plastic the other.</p>

<p>What was happening with the run down park on the corner of Woodlands Road/Tynewydd Road?</p>	<p>The Leader indicated that this had been developed as a play area but not successfully as bounded by three roads. There had also been severe vandalism of the area. The development of Central Park incorporated suggestions from children in the area. As they would now be able to use Central Park it was possible that the site at the corner of Tynewydd Road/Woodland Road could be sold for development.</p>
<p>A member of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church - Mr. Burgess had written about a mature lime tree located in close proximity to the church and in a dangerous condition. Mr. Burgess asked if this could be removed and the claim outstanding for damage to the church be paid.</p>	<p>Councillor Cox indicated that he would investigate this matter but that the claim needed to be considered privately. In addition the tree would be inspected and safety concerns addressed.</p>
<p>At previous State of the Area Debates residents had identified noise pollution from trains and drivers use of horns late at night. The Council had assisted with this and residents passed on their thanks.</p>	
<p>Was there a Public Arts Strategy?</p>	<p>Public Art Strategy had not progressed as much as the Council would have liked but there would be plenty of consultation with local residents before any further developments.</p>
<p>A local resident - Fees to care home owners were not sufficient, could this be addressed please?</p>	<p>Councillor Clive Williams indicated that the new Care Act had resulted in the loss of 16 Care Homes in the Vale of Glamorgan. Whilst it was appreciated that fees did not match those paid in surrounding local authority areas this was the level of fees that the Council could afford. It was accepted that the situation with regard to Care Homes was getting worse and it was more expensive to</p>

	leave people in hospital. Further consideration of Care Home fees would take place and it was known that fees needed to be realistic in order for homes to stay open.
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The Mayor and Leader thanked everyone for attending the Debate and for taking an interest in the displays of what the Council had to offer. It was appreciated the time and trouble people had taken to attend and the Council was delighted with the response. It was hoped that all present had enjoyed the Debate and question and answer session. The Leader indicated that by holding these Debates the Council was able to hear what people had to say and identify the issues of most concern for local residents. The Council was trying its best to improve things and from the Debate would have a very good idea of the key areas to address and the way forward. Areas of concern had been identified and full consultation would take place whenever necessary to address and listen to peoples opinions. Once again thanks were given to all those who had attended.