

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting held on 26th September, 2006.

Present: Councillor E.T. Williams (Chairman); Councillors Mrs. J.E. Charles, Mrs. V.M. Hartrey and K.R. Stockdale.

Representing Town and Community Councils: T. Stenstrom (Barry Town Council), D. Wolfe (Barry Town Council), Mrs. M.Y. Williams, MBE (Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council), C.J. Curran (Penarth Town Council), P. Graham-Woollard (Colwinston Community Council), S.A. Wilson (Ewenny Community Council), L. Price (Llancarfan Community Council), P. King (Llandough Community Council), S. Murton (Llandow Community Council), G. Thomas (Pendoylan Community Council), R. Skinner (Penllyn Community Council), S. Haines (St. Athan Community Council), M. Roach (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), S. Allen (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), S. Palmer (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council), A. Foyle (Welsh St. Donats Community Council), E. Jervis (Wenvoe Community Council), I. Moody (Wenvoe Community Council), Councillor P.J. Thomas (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Inspector M. Taylor (Police), Mr. D. Swallow (WAG) and Mrs. P. Valoosca (WAG).

335 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -

These were received from Councillors Ms. M.E. Alexander, R.J. Bertin, J. Clifford, R.F. Curtis, G. John, G.C. Kemp and Mrs. A.J. Preston, Representatives from Town and Community Councils D.M. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), K. Griffiths (St. Donats Community Council), D. Thomas (Colwinston Community Council), R. Preston (St. Brides Major Community Council), E. Hacker (Llantwit Major Town Council) and Mrs. D. Jones (Michaelston Community Council).

336 MINUTES -

AGREED - T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 19th July, 2006 be accepted as a correct record subject to it being noted that in respect of

- the informal charter item (minute No. 222) the Committee was advised that the Cabinet had, on 6th September, 2006,
RESOLVED - T H A T consideration of the merits of the introduction of an informal charter between Town/Community Councils and the Vale of Glamorgan Council be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive..
- Granting of the Freedom in the Vale of Glamorgan report (Minute No. 223) - item deferred to the next meeting to be held on 21st November, 2006.

337 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -

Councillor B. Graham-Woollard declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 5 in that he was an employee of the Welsh Assembly Government.

338 POLICE MATTERS -

Inspector Taylor advised that the police detection rate for the Vale of Glamorgan to date stood at 27% and was the highest rate within the Police Force, which averaged a 23% detection rate. In respect of recent significant crimes that had taken place he referred to a robbery at Llantwit Major railway station and a number of dwelling burglaries within the Penarth area for which arrests had been made and Crown Court trial dates were awaited.

In relation to the establishments of the PACTs he reported that during mid October, Superintendent Hayes and Miles Punter would be providing a presentation on the current position, to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Cabinet. He advised that attendance at PACT meetings had been poor and that the police were addressing the issues in particular in relation to advertising for such events. Members also raised concerns at the poor attendance at PACT meetings and Inspector Taylor advised that the team of officers involved in setting up the PACTs had stressed the importance of all parties being fully onboard if PACT meetings were to be successful.

The Councillor from Llandow informed the Committee that three PACT meetings that had taken place in Llandow and were to be encouraged, attendance had been good with enthusiastic involvement and the police were working well with the Community Council. However, he did stress that in order to ensure good collaboration representation from the Vale of Glamorgan Council would be an additional bonus and suggested that the Vale ensured that representatives of the Council attended all PACT meetings.

Inspector Taylor also advised that a campaign to recruit additional Police Community Support Officers was underway with a target achievement of 46 by April 2008.

Further issues of note were raised by Members as detailed below :-

- Eastbrook Station - the camera on the station was not functioning and the Member urged any influence that the police could impress on the Transport Police.

- Drinking on the street – Members noted that within the Vale Orders had been made for various areas in relation to illegal drinking and suggested that the Police and the Council consider other areas being added to the list for example. “the dump - Illtyd Ward”.

- Attendance at meetings - the representative from Barry Town Council advised that no police presence had been available at a recent Town Council

meeting and the Inspector agreed to refer the matter to Superintendent Hayes.

AGREED -

- (1) T H A T Inspector Taylor be thanked for his attendance at the meeting.
- (2) T H A T Cabinet consider additional areas within the Vale to be designated under the illegal drinking laws.

339 ST. ATHAN DEVELOPMENT BRIEF -

The Committee was advised that the Development Brief had been produced by Entec UK Limited for Metrix, being the developer of the proposed training academy, in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly Government, the land owners of the development site, and the Vale of Glamorgan Council as the local planning authority. Metrix was a consortium of companies that had been formed to bid to the Ministry of Defence, for delivery of parts of the Defence Training Review (DTR). The DTR project was a £14 billion Public/Private Partnership initiative by the MoD. The PPP bid to the MoD was supported by the Welsh Assembly Government as complimentary to the proposed aerospace centre of excellence at St. Athan in accordance with national government aerospace policy.

In preparation for the Development Brief a series of working groups had been established and a joint steering group consisting of Vale of Glamorgan Officers, representatives of WAG, Education and Learning Wales (ELWA) and Metrix. The Development Brief had been designed to provide a framework for the future development of the St. Athan site and to confirm the relationship with the training academy and the aerospace Wales proposals on the site, as well as to provide a basis for the consideration of any future planning applications for the site.

In accordance with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's protocol for preparing Development Brief's the St. Athan Development Brief had been formally considered by the Council's Cabinet, relevant Committees and its full Council. Following the Cabinet approval of the draft Brief a public consultation exercise had been undertaken, the results of which had been reported to the Council's Cabinet, relevant Committees and full Council in July 2006.

Mr. D. Swallow from the Welsh Assembly Government, Integrated Delivery Services Section provided the Committee with an overview of WAG's involvement with the St. Athan site. He stated the importance of the aerospace sector for Wales in view of the loss of skilled jobs within the area. In the proposals for the draft master plan it was proposed that 5000 aerospace jobs would be envisaged over a 15 year period. It was further envisaged that it would house over 2500 training places and that if the whole package was realised over 12,000 people would populate the site. The final decision on the preferred bidder for the site was due to be released in November 2006. The capital investment equated to between £12- 18 billion

and it was envisaged that the college would open in 2011. It was envisaged that the proposed sports facility would be available, not only for the personnel on the site but also available for the general public. The final decision on the bids would rest with the MoD, but the Welsh Assembly Government were positive that their bid was a good bid. Members raised concerns in relation to the road infrastructure and sought reassurances from the Welsh Assembly Government Officer. Mr. Swallow confirmed that WAG were committed to improving the road access and that commitment had previously been given by WAG to deliver a road infrastructure suitable for the needs of the area.

Members also raised concerns in relation to the fact that a number of other training agencies throughout England would close and Mr. Swallow confirmed that not all the sites would close. There were a number of issues to consider and at this stage he would not wish to speculate. Members also raised the matter of a possible extra railway station at the site and Mr. Rob Thomas from the Planning Department confirmed that no final decision on a station had yet been made.

AGREED - T H A T Mr. Swallow be thanked for attending the meeting and updating the Committee on the proposed bid for the St. Athan site.

340 SOLAR PANELS AND PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT (DEER) -

A for consideration of matter request had been received from Llandow Community Council which related to the local planning authority's interpretation of the rights of householders to erect solar panels under permitted development as defined by the Town and Country Planning Order 1995. The officer advised that paragraph C1 of Class 2 of the Order stated that developments should not be permitted by Class C if it would result in a material alteration to the shape of the dwelling house. The Welsh Assembly Government advised that consideration as to whether a standard solar panel would require planning permission was only likely to occur in sensitive circumstances such as in conservation areas. However it was noted that in most circumstances planning permission should not be required. Furthermore, the Welsh Assembly Government within TAN 8 3.15 stated that "other than in circumstances where visual impact is critically damaging to a listed building, ancient monument or a conservation area vista, proposals for appropriately designed solar thermal and PV systems should be supported, and that under 3.16 "local planning authorities should interpret the provisions of the General Permitted Development Order as constructively as possible when these systems are proposed."

The officer further reported that examples of instances where planning permission may be necessary would be when developments were in conservation areas or the proposals affected listed or important buildings. However, he further advised that the authority would seek to be positive to renewable energy sources subject to any proposals not detrimentally affecting the appearance or setting of a listed building, conservation area or any buildings of architectural merit. The representative from Llandow accepted that the interpretation of such regulations could be a "grey area" and urged

the authority to consider the guidance provided by the Brecon Beacons National Park which stated that if a solar panel were no more than 10 cms above the roof it did not require planning permission. The officer agreed to consider the guidance and report back to Committee.

AGREED - T H A T a further report be presented to the Community Liaison Committee as above.