

No.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 28th January, 2020.

Present: Councillor Mrs. S.M. Hanks (Chairman); Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, G.D.D. Carroll, Mrs. C.A. Cave, N.P. Hodges, Mrs. S.D. Perkes, A.R. Robertson and M.R. Wilson.

Representing Town and Community Councils: Councillors S. Hodges (Barry Town Council), J. Wallis (Cowbridge Town Council), G. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), S. Griffiths (Dinas Powys Community Council), H. Baker (Ewenny Community Council), A. Rees (Llancarfan Community Council), P.A. Carreyett (Llandough Community Council), R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council), J. Teague (Llanfair Community Council), G. Smith (Llanmaes Community Council), , D. Moody-Jones (Peterston-Super-Ely Community Council), A. Barnaby (St. Athan Community Council), G. Halliwell (St. Donats Community Council), J. Powell (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council), C. Tatt (Sully and Lavernock Community Council), C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council)

634 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Ms. R.M. Birch (Vice-Chairman), R.A. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan Council), D. Reed (Llangan Community Council) and C. Howells (Penllyn Community Council).

635 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

636 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

637 POLICE MATTERS –

Chief Inspector Anthony Williams provided the Committee with an update on Police matters in the Vale of Glamorgan as outlined below.

Violent Crime and Policing Response

Following the murder of a 17-year-old male late in August 2019, Barry officers had been co-ordinating a local operation specifically to tackle knife crime and gang related activity in the area. The operation was multi layered with education and

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awareness among young people complementing enforcement activity. Officers from the Force's Sceptre teams which had been set up to tackle the scourge of knife crime in Cardiff and Swansea, had supported Vale of Glamorgan staff in facilitating a significant uplift in intelligence led stop and search activity that had resulted in a notable increase in policing presence on the streets of Barry. This robust and traditional policing response had been supplemented with awareness raising among young people. Neighbourhood Policing and Schools Officers had been delivering educational sessions and workshops with Fearless.Org in schools, colleges and youth clubs across the Vale of Glamorgan. The sessions were designed to inform and educate young people about the very real dangers of knife crime and County-Lines activity including violence, grooming and exploitation. Fearless.org also provided an outlet for anonymous reporting of information and intelligence regarding these destructive crimes.

Diversions activities for young people were also a key factor in the co-operative approach and several partnership meetings had been held with a view to securing funding to facilitate events such as music workshops and boxing and martial arts sessions with the theme being "Gloves in the Ring, Knives in the bin".

The efforts of all involved had manifested in a significant reduction in knife related incidents across Barry and the wider Vale and would remain a key focus for Police, partners and third sector colleagues as the challenges surrounding these pernicious crimes remained.

The scale of the challenge was illustrated in the fatal stabbing of a 23-year-old male on 16th December 2019 on Holton Road in Barry. The victim and perpetrator involved were not teenagers nor connected to gang related activity, however the tragic loss of life demonstrated that enhanced enforcement alone, while necessary, was not the most effective solution. Education and engagement with the wider community by all partners was fundamental to a sustainable reduction in knife crime and the fear of violence and would remain a key focus in the Vale in 2020 and beyond.

Drugs in the Vale

Activity targeting the distribution of Class A drugs in the Vale of Glamorgan had been prioritised following events in August with over a dozen intelligence led warrants obtained under Misuse of Drugs legislation being executed. Members of the Organised Crime Unit had arrested multiple offenders in the Barry and Penarth areas and seized thousands of pounds worth of controlled drugs destined for consumption on the streets of the Vale of Glamorgan. Each of these offenders was awaiting transit through the criminal justice system as the teams remained busy identifying further offenders into 2020 and beyond.

On Wednesday 11th December, 2019 two Barry based drug dealers were sentenced to 17½ and 5½ years respectively for their roles in an organised drugs ring that flooded the South Wales valleys with crack cocaine and heroin. One of the Barry males was the criminal head of the gang and £64,000 worth of Class A drugs and over £12,000 in cash were seized in the operation that saw multiple participants

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jailed over a 12 month period with the two Vale residents' convictions finally putting an end to the illicit operation. Whilst intelligence suggested there were no County Lines currently operating within the Vale of Glamorgan, police and partners remained vigilant to the threat of organised gangs and the associated violence and misery that ensued. Proactive enforcement would continue throughout 2020 in Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Early Action Together

The Early Action Together programme was now firmly embedded in the Vale of Glamorgan with a seconded PCSO co-located with Local Authority colleagues in Children's Services. Working alongside the Early Help Team, the opportunity for early screening and identification of needs had already manifested in successful partnership interventions for a number of young people. With Gladstone Primary in Barry being named the first Trauma and Mental Health informed School in Wales, officers had taken the opportunity to visit and establish how the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) programme could supplement the nationally recognised excellence of the school in the cultivation of positive emotional health and well-being among local young people.

A mobile application (APP) providing the ability to make immediate referrals to the Early Help Team was still under development, however an IT solution should be available early in 2020. This would provide officers with a mechanism that allowed the team to provide bespoke support to families at the earliest opportunity where a more formal referral via Public Protection Notice was not necessarily required or proportionate. The APP in no way replaced this existing critical process but allowed for immediate access to services where the level of risk was not identified as significant.

Connectivity between the ACEs programme and local Policing teams was steadily improving and the Early Action Together PCSO was in frequent dialogue with the four Vale of Glamorgan neighbourhood teams where information and intelligence was shared. This two way exchange again allowed for bespoke support for families where needed but also access to partnership data that enhanced their problem solving capacity. The PCSO also attended the Problem Solving Group where issues were escalated for wider discussion where appropriate.

The Local Delivery Group had been meeting regularly for six months and was co-chaired by the local Chief Inspector and Children's Services Manager with attendance from a number of invested agencies. The group continued to make strides and much of the activity in the Vale was identified as good practice on the national stage and had been shared with other police forces across England and Wales.

Loose Horses and Animal Welfare Concerns

Along with colleagues in VOG Shared Regulatory Services, Safer Vale and RSPCA, officers from the rural Vale and Bridgend had been working for months to tackle the issue of fly grazing and animal cruelty in both county boroughs. South Wales Police

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were acutely aware of the impact of these issues on communities and consequently 240 horses were recently removed from Vale of Glamorgan properties. The Police were working with partners to explore appropriate criminal justice options in response to the perpetrator's persistent disregard for animal welfare and the communities of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Forthcoming Events

“EU – exit” – From a Policing perspective, there had obviously been a significant amount of operational planning for the imminent exit from the European Union. In addition, on a localised level Neighbourhood Policing Teams had been proactively engaging with minority groups across the Vale of Glamorgan as part of their efforts to gauge any community tensions or concerns in the build up to 31st January. There had been no overt adverse concerns raised thus far which was reassuring nor a significant increase in reported hate crimes in the community, which again was pleasing although the Police continued to be vigilant in this area and would continue this approach up to and beyond Friday's formal commencement of departure.

Six Nations Rugby – The annual Six Nations tournament began on Saturday, 1st February, 2020 with Wales hosting Italy in the opening fixture. Without question, while the whole country got behind the team, demand on Policing and indeed all emergency services inevitably increased significantly and consequently additional policing resources would be deployed, particularly in the night time economy in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major for the below matches:

Saturday 1st Feb Wales v Italy KO 2:15pm
Saturday 8th Feb Ireland v Wales KO 2:15pm
Saturday 22nd Feb Wales v France KO 4:45pm
Saturday 7th March England v Wales KO 4:45pm
Saturday 14th March Wales v Scotland KO 2:15pm

Supplementing the above would be a campaign to raise awareness about the potential consequences of excessive consumption of alcohol in the highly charged atmosphere of the tournament as part of the “Know the Score” campaign with licensing visits, posters and social media all being used to reinforce the message of “drink less, enjoy more” across the Vale of Glamorgan.

After the Six Nations has concluded the Police would then be looking forward to a plethora of events over the summer including the Cowbridge Food Festival, The Vale of Glamorgan Show, GlastonBarry, Cadstock, Isle of Fire, The Barry 10k among many others, not to mention the European Football Championships involving Wales which would inevitably be a very busy period.

Following the Chief Inspector's verbal update, the Representative for St. Athan Community Council wished to begin questioning by requesting that the Community Council receive a regular Policing Update Report if a Police Officer was unable to attend community meetings in person, to which, the Chief Inspector kindly requested that the representative email him directly with the future Community Council meeting

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dates so that he may arrange an officer to attend and apologised for the lack of attendance to date.

A Member of the Committee then referred to a recent conversation he had had with a Ward Constituent whereby the individual suspected that an intruder had been at the back of their property and asked for advice on how to move forward with the Constituent's concerns. As a secondary point, the Member also referred to the parking issues surrounding Llandough Hospital and the recent flurry of cars parking in dangerous locations such as pavements or close to highway junctions and enquired whether it would be possible to co-ordinate an enforcement spot check exercise as a deterrent. In response to the Member's first point, the Chief Inspector kindly asked that the Member contact him with further details of the incident and address so that he may take it forward with relevant officers. Regarding the Member's second point, the Chief Inspector acknowledged that parking was a historical issue around the hospital area advising that the force had recently received an increase in staff resources within the Llandough area which in turn would support future enforcement exercises, details of which the Chief Inspector advised he would be happy to email to the Member following the meeting.

The Representative for Penarth Town Council then apprised the Committee of instances whereby a Police Sergeant had attended Penarth Town Council meetings following a spike in anti-social behaviour in the area and therefore requested whether there could also be more visible patrols in Penarth Town Centre as a deterrent for said behaviour. The Chief Inspector advised that antisocial behaviour was an issue across the Vale of Glamorgan and agreed that officer visibility was an important deterrent and that he would liaise with Police Officer Rice regarding the Representative's request as well as ensuring that engagement also take place with local businesses.

With regards to the update provided by the Chief Inspector regarding loose horses and animal welfare concerns, a Member wished to enquire where the horses were currently being cared for, to which the Inspector advised that it was necessary for some of the horses to be transferred to veterinary care following health concerns and although he could confirm that the horses were no longer with their original owner, he would need to enquire as to their exact whereabouts following the meeting.

A Member then wished to raise a point regarding closed circuit television (CCTV) being used in the Penarth area as a crime deterrent and queried whether the service was deemed effective and as a supplementary point, whether the police shared concerns over facial recognition software being used incorrectly. The Chief Inspector understood the Member's concerns on behalf of Penarth residents and, as an advocate of CCTV advised that the service was a very successful tool for deterring crime and in particular instances of retail crime and he would therefore not wish to lose the service. However, the Inspector added that the quality of the camera equipment used did impact the quality of footage collected and that he was in continued talks with the Police and Crime Commissioner with regards to funding and implementing CCTV services across the Vale of Glamorgan.

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On the topic of neighbourhood disputes, a Member asked whether the Police Force wished to become involved in cases before or after situations escalated and/or only if the Council had exhausted all its mediation methods beforehand. To which, the Chief Inspector advised that the Police would always advocate being involved in disputes at an early a stage as possible and that statistics on the same matter evidenced the fact that officers were able to report incidents of neighbourly disputes at a much earlier stage, however in terms of reaching a resolution, it depended on the circumstances of each case and neighbourly disputes were historically very difficult to resolve due to both parties being passionate and emotionally involved in the case due to it involving their homes.

In referring to the topic of young people carrying weapons in the South Wales region a Member asked whether the Chief Inspector was aware of the relevant percentage of young people and whether the educational programmes that the Inspector touched upon in his presentation were successful. The Chief Inspector advised that the Police Force always focused its resources on education and awareness rather than conducting spot checks of young people as education had a greater impact on a young persons' safety and the Force did not wish to glamorise weapons through advertisement. For reassurance, the Inspector advised that the recent murders in the Barry area were not accurately depicted within the local press and despite an increase in spot checks taking place, there had been no obvious increase in the number of weapons found. Therefore, the amount of weapon crime in the Vale of Glamorgan was very minimal and the Inspector offered to source the statistics for the South Wales region as a whole following the meeting.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Chief Inspector Williams be thanked for his comprehensive presentation.

638 PRESENTATION: FIRE SERVICE STATISTICS FOR THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN FIRE SERVICE AREA –

The new Group Manager for the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Mr. Christian Hadfield, began by introducing himself to the Committee and advised that his role was responsible for 11 stations across both the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend areas accommodating 300 plus staff and that he had proudly held the position for the last 18 months.

The Officer then referred to the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Quarter 1 to Quarter 3 comparison data, as tabled for Members at the meeting, which documented that the Service efforts towards its prevention and education strategy had led to the reduction of incidents of fires and contributed towards environmental awareness and sustainability. In particular, the education strategy had a number of initiatives that worked towards reducing both accidental and deliberate fires, as well as preventing the number of road traffic collisions and water related incidents.

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The South Wales Fire and Rescue Service had been engaging and delivering the Education Strategy for over 15 years; with a successful drop in calls in the South Wales area from 24,000 to 6,500 per annum which equated to a significant reduction in carbon and other pollutants, from the fires themselves and the number of times South Wales Fire appliances were on the road to attend such incidents.

The Group Manager then advised that since the last update presentation provided to the Committee in 2017, there had been a lot of changes made to the four stations within the Vale of Glamorgan area, namely Penarth, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major and Barry and the resources housed at each station.

In conclusion, the Officer drew Committee Members' attention to the following statistics:

- There were 69 road traffic collisions attended in 2019/20 compared to 70 in 2018/19;
- There were 127 deliberate fires attended in 2019/20 compared with 149 in 2018/19. This was a decrease of 15% and the figure was the lowest in Wales except for Monmouthshire; and
- There were 16 deliberate vehicle fires attended in 2019/20 compared with 9 in 2018/19. This was an increase of 78%.

Following the Group Manager's presentation, the Representative for Llantwit Major Town Council wished to gain further insight on the fact raised by the Officer that the Llantwit Major station housed a terrorism response unit, to which, the Group Manager advised that all South Wales Fire and Rescue Service crews had training regarding instances of terrorism, however the crew in Llantwit Major had specialist equipment and knowledge to handle an attack and in particular to safely recover casualties.

A Member then referred to the fact that the tabled statistical data set out that there had been one attack on South Wales Fire and Rescue Service crews in 2019/20 compared to zero attacks in 2018/19 and queried whether a conviction was made following the incident, to which the Group Manager advised that the term "attack" corresponded to either verbal or physical abuse and that the instance in question involved verbal abuse however, he was pleased to add that the number of instances were extremely small.

The Representative for St. Athan Community Council enquired as to whether there had been any issues highlighted with regards to building cladding and the associated fire risk since the Grenfell Tower disaster of 2017. For reassurance, the Group Manager advised that back in 2017 the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service surveyed the entire Vale of Glamorgan area and established that the area did not have any buildings with the same type of cladding used as that on Grenfell Tower, however the survey had established the need for the Service to continue working with commercial properties in the Vale of Glamorgan business which was ongoing.

A Member referred to a recent arson attack on a community building in the Barry area and queried whether efforts were being made to educate pupils in nearby

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schools as a deterrent. The Group Manager thanked the Member for her question and advised that the Service continued to provide educational sessions in various types of educational settings and that the educational message would develop based on the key issues in the area at any given time. For example, the issue of grass fires was frequently addressed within schools.

A Member drew attention to the information that there had been 456 false alarms attended in 2019/20 compared to 413 in 2018/19 and that this was an increase of 10% and shared his surprise at the high number of instances, following which the Group Manager added that the statistic provided related to domestic fires only and not that of local businesses. However, both domestic and commercial educational work was still being undertaken with an emphasis with on replacing fire safety devices as the biggest cost incurred for the Service was staff time spent on false calls rather than conducting valuable training exercises.

On the same topic of domestic fires, a Member raised concern about the 44 accidental dwelling fires attended in 2019/20 compared with 31 in 2018/19 which was an increase of 42% and asked for further information. The Group Manager advised that following every domestic fire the Service made a point of learning from each individual case and therefore it was clear that a range of recurrent issues were linked to the cause of domestic fires such as instances of domestic abuse, hoarding and general mental health issues. Subsequently, the Group Manager offered to bring a presentation to a future Committee meeting regarding the recurrent causes for domestic fires in the Vale of Glamorgan.

As a final point, a Member referred to the fact that the Rhoose and Llandow areas of the Vale of Glamorgan housed both an airport and industrial estate sites and therefore queried whether the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service crews had specialist trained due to the particular risks in their area, to which the Group Manager confirmed that the Member's understanding was correct and that the Service as a whole had a technical plan to respond to identified risks within the region and therefore staff were trained on an ongoing basis for the specific risks.

AGREED – T H A T Group Manager, Mr. Hadfield, be thanked for his comprehensive presentation and that a PowerPoint presentation on the recurrent causes of domestic fires in the Vale of Glamorgan be presented to the Committee at a future meeting.

639 PRESENTATION: OVERVIEW OF THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S PLANNING PROCESS –

The Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee with content under the following headings:

- The key areas of work that the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Planning Department undertook;
- The hierarchy of staff and their relevant contact information;
- Information regarding the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Planning Committee;
- The Development Plan in relation to decision making;

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- The Local Development Plan Strategy and key policies;
- Planning for community infrastructure;
- Planning obligations to regulate the use of land or require payments to be made;
- Securing community infrastructure;
- Consultation on planning applications;
- Material considerations in decision making;
- Reviewing decisions; and
- Methods for gaining information and contacting the Planning Department.

In addition to the PowerPoint slides, the Officer advised that any correspondence received from the Council's Planning Department would have the contact details for the relevant case officer if individuals wished to discuss the case and that she would be happy to authorise an extension to the 21 day Town and Community Council (TCC) consultation period if the Town or Community Council deemed it necessary and that this could be arranged by contacting the relevant case officer. The Officer also noted that an Appeals report was presented to the Council's Planning Committee on a monthly basis which set out the response of Planning Inspectors to the Council's decisions which the Department used to identify any key issues or patterns in decision making. As a final point, the Officer advised that many members of the Planning Department staff were Vale of Glamorgan residents and were therefore invested in building communities within the Vale of Glamorgan.

A Member drew the Committee's attention to a TCC within the Vale of Glamorgan that was looking to produce a Place Plan and asked for further advice with regard to the process, to which the Officer advised that a Place Plan was a process that needed to be developed by the TCC and that the Council's Planning Department could support the TCC as a critical friend and eventually adopt into the Council's Local Development Plan if successful. The main consideration at the time of developing the Place Plan would be to consider the needs of the area in the long term future.

A TCC Representative then sought advice as to the level of consideration the Council's Planning Department would give to transport links when approving an application. In response, the Officer advised that transport links that were under contract were authorised by Welsh Government and the Council's Planning Department would look at highways connections as part of the planning assessment process, however each planning application location would need to be assessed on its own merits and could vary considerably with some being very sustainable and others more remote. All major planning applications would be subject to transport assessments and if any particular junction issues were identified then these would be dealt with if it was within the Planning Department's remit to do so. Section 106 funding could also be utilised to alleviate any traffic congestion subject to the feasibility of Section 106 funding.

A Member in referring to a recently approved planning application for a domestic dwelling extension was aware of further complaints being raised and queried whether the issue could be passed on to the Planning Department after an application had been approved, to which the Officer advised that she would be

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happy to receive information regarding past planning applications on behalf of the Member.

With regard to implementing the Welsh Government's new National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plan, a Member asked how it would impact the Vale of Glamorgan in particular. In response, the Officer advised that the National Development Framework was a national framework and therefore it did not drill down into the specifics around the Vale of Glamorgan area. Despite 8 out of 10 of the South East Wales Authorities agreeing to proceed with the Strategic Development Plan, Cardiff and Newport Authorities have not agreed it to date because they are considering the governance implications off the pending Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill, which proposes new Corporate Joint Committees to have responsibility for strategic planning. However, the Vale of Glamorgan Council would need to take account of the National Development Framework and Strategic Development Plan (if there is one) in any future plan making and decision making in the Vale of Glamorgan but would play a major part in preparing the latter as part of the region.

The Representative for Peterston-Super-Ely Community Council referred to the fact that his Community Council had not been consulted as part of the pre-planning process on recent applications. The Officer also expressed her surprise at the Community Council not being consulted as it was standard practice for all TCCs to be approached as a pre-planning consultee. This is done by developers directly as part of the PAC process and not by the Council. There is no obligation on the developer to engage with the Local Planning Authority through the PAC process. The Officer advised the representative to check with the relevant Clerk for evidence of the Community Council having been consulted and added that any comments received from TCCs at the pre-planning stage would not prejudice the TCC's position at the final application stage.

The Sully and Lavernock Community Council Representative referring to the section of the Officer's presentation regarding the planning of community infrastructure asked which transport improvements were planned and whether TCCs would be able to apply for relevant Section 106 funding in their local areas. The Officer began her response by reiterating that there were a number of community infrastructure proposals already set out in the Council's Local Development Plan and that some of the proposals had already taken place. With regards to Section 106 funding, the Council had been successful in raising millions of pounds from developers of which transport links had benefitted such as bus stops and cycle paths. Therefore, the Officer recommended that TCCs contact the Council's Section 106 Officer, Charlotte Raine (previously Pugh) to obtain information relevant to their local areas. In conclusion, the Officer added that final decisions on community infrastructure were a Vale of Glamorgan Council decision so it would be prudent for TCC representatives to contact their Vale of Glamorgan Ward Councillors.

The Representative for St. Athan Community Council then added that following the recent increase in housing development in the St. Athan area, residents were now being informed that their children would need to travel to schools in the Barry area and increasing concerns were being raised over access to local doctor surgeries. As

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a supplementary point, the Representative also mentioned that the Officer's presentation did not touch on the Local Development Board Well-being Plan. In response, the Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control advised that she was unable to provide a response on behalf of the Council's Education Department or indeed that of the University Health Board and therefore requested that TCCs contact the Council's Education Department directly to ascertain its response to demand in the St. Athan area. With regards to GP surgeries, the Officer advised that the Planning Department did share their development information with the Health Board on a regular basis so that the Health Board could plan available services, however the Planning Department did not have responsibility for providing such services.

In response, the TCC Representative then queried if the Council's Education Department was consulted on the Local Development Plan and the Officer confirmed that the Council's Education Department was consulted all the way through the development process of the Local Development Plan. The Officer also added that she was unable to include every aspect and / or policy within her overview PowerPoint presentation provided at the meeting however, wished to reassure Members that the Council's Planning Department was always very mindful of the Well-being Plan in its work.

The Representative for Barry Town Council in addressing the matter of conservation areas advised that different levels of protection had been recently highlighted to her for different areas within the Vale of Glamorgan and enquired as to how the Town Council could obtain a higher protection status for a particular area in the future. The Officer acknowledged that there is 1 'Article 4' conservation area in Penarth where certain permitted development rights (e.g. replacement windows, demolition of boundary walls etc) had been removed thus having additional protection compared to other conservation areas within the Vale of Glamorgan but apologised for not being able to advise any further on the Representatives query, however did advise that the Town Council would need to lobby the Local Authority in order to achieve an 'Article 4' conservation status for a particular area and that achieving such status would involve a lot of staff resources that is not currently within our work programme.

With regard to taking enforcement action, the Representative for Llanmaes Community Council asked the officer how long a TCC would have to wait if enforcement action had not been complied with as the Community Council had found it difficult to get an update on the status of previously actioned enforcement cases. In response, the Officer wished to begin by apologising for any delay in response to the Community Council, however the enforcement section of the Planning Department had been under significant strain due to staffing issues, however the section was now at full complement. In addition, the Officer stated Vale of Glamorgan Council had experienced an unprecedented hike in enforcement cases in recent months, mainly due to issues around larger developers within the area and the department was prosecuting at a high rate which was an effective deterrent. In conclusion, the Officer requested that the Community Council email her directly with the specific case so that she may provide an update to them in more detail following the meeting.

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In response to the Representative for St. Donats Community Council asking whether the Council had the authority to ban large developers from developing elsewhere in the Vale of Glamorgan following enforcement action, the Officer advised that at the current time the Council did not have the authority to do so.

A Member subsequently queried whether it would be possible for the Council to take a bond from larger developments prior to developments starting in order to ensure that drains and road surfaces were to an acceptable standard and the Officer advised that, unfortunately, she was not qualified to advise on what were Highways matters, however she was aware that developers were not currently obliged to make roads ready for public adoption as part of the development, however Welsh Government were currently doing a review on the topic.

As the Chairman of the Council's Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee a Member raised a query over enforcement seeking what advice the Council was currently giving to individuals raising retrospective planning applications and how said individuals were educated on any policy changes. Also, as a supplementary point, noted that if fees were increased for advice on receiving planning applications for small domestic properties, then the Council was at risk of individuals not seeking formal planning applications altogether. In response, the Officer advised that the Council had recently updated its Planning Department web pages which made the website easier for members of the public to navigate. With regards to fees for pre-planning applications, the fee system was currently a statutory system and was only £25 for small domestic applications which was a cost significantly less for the Applicant than that incurred by the Council and therefore it was not deemed that the cost was a deterrent to individuals making a planning application. The Officer went on to advise that there was currently a consultation underway with regards to increasing the fees by 25% and Welsh Government were consulting with Planning Departments on a new cost recovery and charges scheme, however this was only in the consultation stages.

In addition, the Member added that if individuals sought to apply for retrospective planning approval, then the Council should have a strong stance on that particular scenario and the Officer confirmed that the Member's point had been raised previously with Welsh Government and that the option of a penalty for said individuals had been discussed but not yet made statutory.

In conclusion, the Representative for St. Athan Community Council enquired after the official opening date for the new road structure being built in relation to the Vale Business Park, to which the Officer advised that to her knowledge the road in question had a number of snagging issues which meant that it failed its safety audit and therefore it was imperative that the Council insist that the issues were rectified before it formally adopted the road, however, she believed that adoption was imminent but this would need to be confirmed by the Council's Highways Department.

AGREED – T H A T the Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control be thanked for her informative presentation and for her frank and detailed responses to queries raised.

640 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS CHARTER UPDATE (MD) –

The Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report which provided Members of the Committee with an update on the process for adopting the new Charter between Town and Community Councils and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and a response in relation to the recommendation raised at the last Committee meeting regarding Planning Committee site visits.

Following approval of the revised Charter by the Committee and subsequently Cabinet on 4th November 2019, all Town and Community Councils (TCCs) had been forwarded a copy of the document for formal adoption.

At the last meeting of the Committee on 8th October, 2019, Councillor D. Reed from Llangan, a member of the Working Group, advised that during the Group's discussions on the Charter a suggestion that TCCs be given the opportunity to speak at site visits had been discussed, however this had not been agreed as site visits were arranged for Vale of Glamorgan Council Elected Members to view the sites with no discussion on applications taking place.

The Committee had subsequently requested that the background in relation to this process be presented to the next meeting.

Following consultation with the Operational Manager for Planning & Building Services it was noted that representatives of TCCs were entitled to attend meetings of the Planning Committee to hear proceedings. Representations could be made in writing or directly to any Councillor before the meeting, and there was also a provision for public speaking at the meeting itself subject to prior registration. There was no legal obligation to allow public speaking at Planning Committee but in the interest of openness and transparency the Vale of Glamorgan Council had introduced this provision which was working well.

Where an application was to be considered by the Planning Committee, a written report was produced which was available for inspection four working days before the date of the meeting. Additional representations could also be received after the report was written up to midday the day before the meeting.

Site visits were often held on the day of the Planning Committee meeting and TCCs were invited to attend to observe. It was important to note that a site visit was not a formal or public meeting and the purpose of the site visit was to allow Members of the Planning Committee (i.e. the decision makers) to view development proposals in context prior to a decision being made at the Planning Committee. Members were advised at the site visit not to discuss the merits of the application as the time to do so was at the Planning Committee when all Members were present and after any additional representations had been made to the Committee.

Any Member of the public, TCC representatives or agents / applicants were advised not to address the Members at the site visit as not all Members of the Committee

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would be present, this should be done as part of the formal Committee process. The Planning Officer present would usually act as a 'go between' with the public and Members if anyone present wanted Members to view a particular part of the site or surroundings this could be facilitated via the officer present.

Allowing public speaking at the site visit would be counterproductive to open and fair decision making, as it would only enable the Members at the site visit to hear these views and there were often less than half the Committee Members present at site visits. Having had an opportunity to speak at site visits would discourage individuals registering to speak at the Committee itself. It would also not be recorded and the Council could be exposed to legal challenge if the merits of the application were seen to be discussed and considered outside of the formal Planning Committee meeting where the decision was properly made.

As a supplementary point, the Officer advised Members that officers were currently updating the Guide to Public Speaking at Planning Committee which would subsequently be presented to the Planning Committee before the end of the current Municipal year.

Following which, the Representative for St. Athan Community Council enquired whether the allocated speaking time afforded to TCC representatives would be extended. In response, the Officer advised that the three-minute speaking time per representative had not been extended and following research this was consistent with Other Local Authorities processes. Ultimately, it was noted that it would be for the Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Planning Committee to consider with the new Public Speaking Guide being presented to Full Council for approval.

In conclusion, the Officer also advised that a further meeting of the Charter Working Group would be scheduled prior to the next meeting of the Committee on 31st March 2020 when the Committee would be presented with an Action Plan for the Charter for the Committee's approval.

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the contents of the report in relation to the Charter between Town and Community Councils and the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the response to the recommendation made previously for more information regarding planning site visits be noted.

Reason for decision

To provide Committee with an update regarding approval and adoption of the Charter and a response regarding the recommendations relating to the planning site visits.

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641 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD, RESHAPING SERVICES TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR PROJECT TEAM, VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE AND THE STRONG COMMUNITIES FUND EVALUATION PANEL (MD) –

The report sought nominations for appointments of the above representatives.

The covering report provided further information relating to the roles, including the commitment required from representatives and arrangements for the various meetings in order to enable the Committee to consider nominations further.

Following discussion at the meeting, both the Representatives from the Town and Community Councils and Vale of Glamorgan Elected Members subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T Councillor M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council) be reappointed as the representative from the Community Liaison Committee to sit on the Public Services Board up to the next Local Government elections.

(2) T H A T Councillor D. Reed (Llangan Community Council) be reappointed as the representative on the Community Liaison Committee to sit on the Council's Reshaping Services Programme Town and Community Councils and Voluntary Sector Project Team up to the next Local Government elections.

(3) T H A T Councillor A. Barnaby (St. Athan Community Council) be reappointed as the Community Liaison Committee representative to sit on the Council's Voluntary Sector joint Liaison Committee up to the next Local Government elections.

(4) T H A T Ms. E. Forbes (Clerk to Barry Town Council) and Councillor R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council) be appointed as the Community Liaison Committee representative from a Town Council and a Community Council respectively to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel up to the next Local Government elections.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To enable a representative from the Community Liaison Committee to be appointed to the Public Services Board to ensure effective engagement with Town and Community Councils and adhere to the Statutory Guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

(2) To ensure effective engagement between Town and Community Councils and the Reshaping Services Programme.

(3) To provide a link between the two Committees relating to the Reshaping Services Programme.

No.

(4) To enable Town and Community Councils to have involvement in the evaluation of bids to the Council's Strong Communities Fund Grant.