

## COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#)

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

Representing Town and Community Councils: Councillors Mtrs. S. Hodges (Barry Town Council), J. Andrew (Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council), G. Thomas (Llantwit Major town Council), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), S. Griffiths (Dinas Powys Community Council), H. Baker (Ewenny Community Council), Dr. A. Rees (Llancarfan Community Council), R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council), S. Bonnar (Llanfair Community Council), D. Reed (Llangan Community Council); G. Smith (Llanmaes Community Council), S. Howells (Penllyn Community Council), Mrs. A. Barnaby (St. Athan Community Council), G. Halliwell (St. Donats Community Council), W. Howells (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas Community Council), D. Oliver (Wenvoe Community and Council) and C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Councillors L. Burnett, Mrs. J.E. Charles, P.G. King and E. Williams.

### 380 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman referred to a number of housekeeping issues including advising those present that the meeting would be recorded for uploading via the internet and archived for future viewing.

### 381 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor Ms. R.M. Birch (Vice-Chairman), Councillors A.C. Parker, L.O. Rowlands and M.R. Wilson (Vale of Glamorgan Council) and Community Councillors G. Marks (Michaelston le Pitt with Leckwith) and G. Thomas (Pendoylan).

### 382 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

## 383 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Councillor A.R, Robertson declared an interest on Agenda Item 6: Request for Consideration from St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council – Obstruction of Footways by Vegetation in that he was also a Member of the Dinas Powys Community Council but had a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote on Town Council matters.

## 384 POLICE MATTERS –

Chief Inspector Anthony Williams provided the Committee with an update on policing matters in the Vale of Glamorgan (VoG) since Wales formally moved into Alert Level 4 on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 as a result of the ongoing national pandemic:

- The manifestation of so-called lockdown fatigue and some societal changes in attitude towards the pandemic had resulted in reports of house parties, gatherings and unnecessary travel to the coastline in Vale of Glamorgan;
- The only reduction in crime evident related to offences associated with the night-time economy due to the closure of public houses as part of the Level 4 restrictions. Christmas and New Year in 2020 was certainly very different from previous years in terms of demand and planning and while there were some gatherings in private dwellings across the Vale, they were not to the level anticipated;
- Since the installation of Alert Level 4 restrictions, officers in the Vale of Glamorgan had attended over 2500 incidents of all types, with approximately 500 directly related to COVID concerns or breaches of regulations. (This equated to approximately 20% of all incidents attended);
- There was an ongoing operation that consisted of bespoke patrols and road policing using legislation to stop check vehicles, electronic signage and mobile CCTV at key locations, PSPO enforcement and VOG Parking enforcement. In partnership with Council colleagues, the operation was supplemented by a clear communication strategy on Social Media and traditional media which was designed to influence decision making around travelling to VoG coastline and parks for exercise.

Following the Chief Inspector's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Chief Inspector advised the following:

- Feedback received from the Committee regarding the increase in parking issues in the residential areas surrounding Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, as a result of vehicle stop controls at the entrance to the park, would be factored into the relevant policing strategy going forward;
- Additional funding had been received following the move to tier 4 restrictions to support both the national pandemic response and regular response police work and would continue for the foreseeable future;
- Mobile CCTV, signage and engagement with Licensees continued to be implemented to reduce footfall at the Cardiff Bay/Penarth Barrage area;

- Using the usual engagement processes and vagrant legislation available to the service, efforts would be made to further investigate individuals begging in the Barry Town area whom were not resident to the Vale of Glamorgan and claiming to be homeless;
- Dog theft crime was prevalent in the Vale of Glamorgan and therefore of increasing concern to the service. Feedback from the Committee regarding the information collated by the 'Dogs of Dinas' website was appreciated and would be taken forward following the meeting.

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

### 385 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS –

Mr Christian Hadfield, Operations Manager for the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, provided the Committee with an update on significant Fire & Rescue matters within the Vale of Glamorgan since the last meeting of the Committee in October 2020 on the following topics:

- Despite Covid-19, levels of staff sickness within the service remained manageable;
- Fire call out figures were low for December 2020 and this was a trend continuing in to 2021;
- Road Collision incident levels also remained low;
- Heavy rain falls during the Christmas period (23rd & 24th December) resulted in high level flooding/in land water rescue incidents and 40% of all calls to the service for the period were related to flooding in the Dinas, Rhose, Wenvoe and Sully areas.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Operations Manager advised the following:

- Since 2017, the service had significantly upscaled provision to respond to instances of flooding and/or in land rescue but the challenge of moving surplus water from an incident site remained key to the response efforts. Feedback received from the Committee regarding the lack of pumping used in response to calls in the Highbridge Close area of Sully would be looked in to further following the meeting and response teams briefed accordingly;
- A meeting between Dinas Powys Community Council and the service had already been scheduled to discuss incidents of flooding in the Dinas Powys area over the Christmas period. Incident reports could be requested individually by persons of standing, i.e Community Councillors, via the Fire & Rescue Data Protection Team based in the Llantrisant Head Quarters.

AGREED –

(1) T H A T Mr Hadfield be thanked for his time and presentation.

(2) T H A T the Committee's sincere thanks be passed on to the Service for its significant response efforts in tackling instances of flooding and in-land rescues during the 2020 Christmas period.

### 386 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION FROM ST. NICHOLAS AND BONVILSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – OBSTRUCTION OF FOOTWAYS BY VEGETATION –

The Operational Manager for Engineering apprised the Committee on the Council's duty under sections 41 and 154 of the Highways Act in responding to obstructions of roads and/or footways and set out the Council's response process as follows:

**Step 1** – Letter sent from the Council to the relevant Landowner requesting that the obstruction be dealt with within 14 days;

**Step 2** – If no response was received to the first letter then a second letter would be sent requesting a response within another 14-day period;

**Step 3** – If no response was received to the first or second letter then a 'letter before action' would be sent to the Landowner advising that the Council would arrange for the obstruction to be removed in 7 days following which proceedings would be started to recover costs from the Landowner.

The Operational Manager also advised that regular highways inspections were made at either 1, 3 or 6 month intervals depending on the degree of pedestrian footfall as well as ongoing ad hoc inspections through-out the year. There could sometimes be delays in identifying and/or reaching the relevant Landowner in the first instance.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Operations Manager advised the following:

- Members could raise any concerns and/or report obstructions directly to himself (Mike Clogg), the Neighbourhood Manager for Highway Maintenance (Nathan Thomas) and/or the relevant Vale of Glamorgan Elected Ward Member;
- The Council was unable to enforce the length to which Landowners cut obstructive vegetation, but efforts were ongoing to educate Landowners on their responsibilities towards public highways and footpaths;
- Consideration would be given going forward to providing regular reminders/advice to known Landowners to minimise the need for Town & Community Council's to raise repetitive reports;
- Advice provided via the Council's public website would be reviewed considering examples of best practice and marketing materials of other Local Authorities as highlighted by Committee Members during the meeting;
- With regards to clearing areas of rail track, making contact with Rail Track Owners was often more difficult than reaching Domestic Landowners due to their business/company status and processes but the Council would continue efforts to make contact until the obstruction(s) was cleared.

AGREED - T H A T the Officer be thanked for his report.

### 387 VALE CENSUS 2021 –

Mr Michael Mulcahy, the Census Engagement Manager for the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend Area provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee on the upcoming national census 2021 and addressed the following topics:

- Why the census was important;
- Data Protection;
- What was new in comparison to the 2011 census;
- A digital-first census;
- Helping those who can't or won't respond online;
- Key project dates/ timeline;
- The Local Authority Partnership Plan (LAPP);
- Hard to reach groups in the Vale of Glamorgan;
- How Local Government Individuals can help.

As well as the PowerPoint slides, Mr Mulcahy also provided a Council Handbook to members as part of the agenda papers.

Following the presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, Mr Mulcahy advised the following:

- The Office for National Statistics (ONS) could place a £1000.00 fine on individuals whom refuse to complete the census questionnaire however, there were several other stages of engagement that would be attempted beforehand;
- Scotland and Northern Ireland conducted their own independent census;
- With the increase in data crime, data breaches were a valid concern however, ONS was confident that all data would be secure;
- For any individual who would be concerned about completing the census for fear of being identifiable at an address, advice would be given that ONS would not share data with third parties;
- As well as the primary online method, a paper copy of the census questionnaire would also be available on request and/or via the post after the 21st March.

AGREED – T H A T Mr Mulcahy be thanked for his presentation.

### 388 REVIEW OF STATUES, MONUMENTS, STREET NAMES AND BUILDING NAMES (REF) -

The reference from Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2020 was presented to the Committee which set out Cabinet's approval to instigate the next phase of work to review statues, monuments, street names and building names within the Vale of

Glamorgan to ensure they were representative of local people's values and those of a modern, inclusive Council.

The Head of Policy & Business Transformation advised that the report before the Committee had also been shared directly with Town & Community Councils in December 2020 for comment and that a Panel would be convened shortly to consider any first round representations submitted and to pass recommendations on to Cabinet as necessary. The Council would also be undertaking a social media campaign to seek the views of the general public.

Following the presentation and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Officer advised the following:

- Welsh Language and Culture would be a part of the Panel's considerations and would fall under the remit of the Equalities Champion Member of the Panel;
- As well as the Panel Members themselves, the Panel may also wish to seek representations from outside experts prior to finalising their recommendations to Cabinet;
- The Panel would be prepared to listen to all perspectives and comments raised by members of the public which would undoubtedly be varied given the nature of the subject.

In conclusion, Cllr Lis Burnett (Cabinet Member), acknowledged the importance of representations from Town & Community Councils being received by the Panel to support the Panel in meeting its objectives whilst considering such a complex and community wide issue.

AGREED – T H A T the Cabinet Reference and appended Report be noted.

### 389 DRAFT VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN (IMPROVEMENT PLAN PART 1) 2021-22 (MD) –

The Head of Policy & Business Transformation presented the report, the purpose of which was to enable the Committee to consider the draft Annual Delivery Plan (ADP) (Improvement Plan Part 1) 2021-22 as part of the formal consultation process.

The Officer described the ADP as the Council's road map over the next twelve months, to take steps towards achieving the Council's four well-being objectives and confirmed that the consultation process had been underway since before the new year. Some representations had already been received from Town & Community Councils.

All representations received during the consultation period would be collated into a further report to Cabinet and finally to Full Council for ratification. The plan would then come in to effect from April 2021.

Following the Officer's presentation, the Committee raised the following comments:

- The Plan was very aspirational with a lack of measures and timelines to quantify success;
- A Strategic Plan, covering a longer period, should be aspirational however an Annual Plan should be far more direct and focused with S.M.A.R.T style performance measures;
- Considering the current national pandemic, it was prudent to consider home working hubs as part of the plan once lockdown restrictions were lifted to boost local high street economy and promote sustainable travel;
- There was a lack of reference to the installation of solar panels on new commercial building developments;
- Town & Community Councils had a vast amount of local knowledge that could benefit future project planning as part of the ADP so greater effort was needed to liaise with Town & Community Councillors at the early stages of idea development.

Following the Committee's comments, the Officer advised the following:

- Measures and timelines were added to the ADP where possible. This was considerably easier to do when the action was monitored and undertaken by a single Council department/team. Single overarching corporate actions were referenced in all relevant individual service plans and would be combined to measure the overall success of the corporate action;
- Performance measures were also set out in more detail within the relevant service plans that accompany the ADP;
- Consideration was already underway to explore remote working spaces to provide a comfortable space for individuals and/or small businesses to work outside of their main base and the Committee's comment would be passed on to the Council's Planning & Regeneration Team following the meeting;
- Green infrastructure, solar energy and the Council's climate change commitment were already referenced within the ADP however, the renewables theme would also be referenced within the relevant service plans going forward following the Committee's feedback;
- Town and Community Councillors were acknowledged as an excellent source of information and this was the rationale for engaging with all Town and Community Councils at an early stage of the ADP's development.

AGREED – T H A T the draft Annual Delivery Plan 2021-22 be noted.

#### Reason for decision

To ensure that the Committee had the opportunity to consider the draft Annual Delivery Plan and provide feedback as part of the programme of consultation.