

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF A MATTER BY THE COMMITTEE

Date: 20-09-2020

Name of Town/Community Council:

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council;  
Dinas Powys Community Council;  
St Georges with St Brides Community Council

It is requested that the Community Liaison Committee consider the following matter. (N.B. Items that are site specific should be referred to the appropriate Council department):

Obstruction of footways by vegetation

Reason(s) for request:

Footways are obstructed every year. The **Highways Act** (1980) is not being enforced, and the **Equality Act** seems forgotten. Section 154 of the Highways Act states that cut-back is required where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a highway or any other road or footway to which the public has access so as to endanger or obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians.

The Vale Council is the Highway Authority as defined under the Highways Act (1980) and therefore has a **statutory duty** to ensure that the highway, comprising of roads and footways, is kept safe and free from obstruction.

Within our communities we have people with impaired mobility and/or vision.

As part of their rehab, many victims of strokes are prescribed walking as part of their rehab – learning to walk again. When footways are obstructed, victims are deterred or prevented from doing their rehab exercise. The Vale of Glamorgan has a duty to protect and enhance the **health and well-being** of all residents.

Residents have complained about vegetation obstructing footways for years with no resolution, no improvement – in many cases, when the annual cut comes around, the trimming is insufficient to clear the footway.

Residents would like a full explanation as to why the Vale Council is struggling to carry out its statutory duty and failing to do enforcement on reported issues.

Examples from Bonvilston that show a hedge that has not been cut back off the footway for at least a decade. These images were taken in September 2020 – the obstruction was reported in July 2019 and subsequent complaints have been unsuccessful in addressing this problem. A resident close by is confined to a wheelchair, and it is not possible for them to use this footway due to the obstructing vegetation. People with no disAbility have to walk on the grass.

People riding mobility scooter, guided by a dog, or pushing a pram should be able to use this footway. It's unacceptable that they can't.

There are many similar problems across the Vale of Glamorgan.



PLEASE RETURN TO: Room 9  
Democratic and Scrutiny Services  
Directorate of Resources  
The Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Civic Offices  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

FOR COUNCIL USE ONLY:

Date Received ..... 28/09/20 at 13:02 .....

Subject Matter ..... Obstruction of footways by vegetation .....

Copy of request passed to Director(s)/Officer(s): 28/09/20 at 15:43.

Director of Environment & Housing Services

Copy to Chairman/Vice Chairman

YES  NO

FOR COMMITTEE AGENDA

YES  NO

If yes: ~~Report~~  Presentation

If no please state reason:

Verbal.

Managing Director's comments ..... Operational Manager for .....  
..... Engineering and Neighbourhood Manager for .....  
..... Highway Maintenance to attend 26<sup>th</sup> January .....  
..... Committee Meeting to provide verbal update .....

Date of written response to Town/Community Council ..... 28/09/20 at 16:40 .....