

No.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 14th July 2022.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor S.M. Hanks (Chair); Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vice-Chair); Councillors A. Asbrey, J. Aviet, R.M. Birch, S. Campbell, C.A. Cave, S.J. Haines, N.P. Hodges, J. Lynch-Wilson and S.D. Perkes.

Representing Town and Community Councils: Councillors S. Hodges (Barry Town Council), J. Andrew (Cowbridge Town Council), G. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), B. Morris (Colwinston Community Council), Dr. A. Rees (Llancarfan Community Council), D. Reed (Llangan Community Council – Substitute), M. Narusberg (Llanmaes Community Council), G. Marks (Michaelston le Pit and Leckwith Community Council), G. Kellen (Pendoylan Community Council), S.M. Toker (St. Athan Community Council), W. Howells (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council), N. Parry (Sully and Lavernock Community Council) and C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Councillors I. Buckley, C.P. Franks, C. Iannucci, G. John, C. Stallard and E. Williams.

169 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

170 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors H.M. Payne (Vale of Glamorgan Council) K. Hatton (Dinas Powys Community Council), R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council and S. Rich (Llangan Community Council).

171 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

No.

172 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

173 INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE –

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer provided an introductory PowerPoint presentation to the Committee setting out the following topics:

- Membership,
- Terms of Reference,
- Voting rights,
- Charter between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Community and Town Councils,
- Access to Information,
- Agenda Items, and
- The Requests for Consideration Process.

With no comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the PowerPoint presentation offering an introduction to the Committee be noted.

174 POLICE MATTERS –

Inspector McDean provided a brief verbal update to the Committee on response calls for the Vale of Glamorgan area in relation to Anti-social behaviour, primarily neighbour annoyance, youth annoyance and motor vehicle crime.

Operation Elstree would come into effect, as was the case for 2021, on weekends from the beginning of the academic summer holidays. This would allocate extra Police resources to the whole coastal area to help to mitigate incidences of anti-social behaviour. Officers would be enforcing Public Safety Protection Orders; as part of a zero-tolerance approach to alcohol consumption at coastal areas during the summer, in response to an elevated level of youth annoyance incidents involving alcohol last year. This would be a message widely publicised on social media both within the Vale of Glamorgan and surrounding areas for potential visitors.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had been made aware of recent incidences of young people jumping into the water at Penarth Beach, Cosmeston Lakes Country Park, and Rhoose Point, and that this was obviously a serious issue which could easily lead to emergency incidents. They stressed the need to emphasise to the public the serious danger posed by these activities, and the need to urge the community, particularly young people, against doing it.

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In response, Inspector McDean informed the Committee that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had met with the RNLI and Coastguard in the previous week to discuss water safety education events that would be held across the Vale of Glamorgan over the summer as part of Operation Elstree. This would be in addition to water safety sessions being delivered to pupils in schools by School Liaison Officers at the end of the school term, and water safety education taking place currently through Vale of Glamorgan leisure facilities. Police patrols would also occur around all coastal areas with water safety as a focus.

Following further questions raised by the Committee, the Inspector added the following advice:

- A forthcoming Emergency Services Day would be held on 19th August at Penarth Clifftops. The event would be a family fun day offering the opportunity for the public and the Committee alike to engage with the various emergency services, and with the Penarth Neighbourhood Policing Team.
- The 'Cuppa with a Copper' Police drop-in surgery service continued to be available whereby members of the public could ask questions and raise issues of concern with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and Neighbourhood Beat Managers from the local Police force.
- PCSOs should attend each 'Cuppa with a Copper' session and the local Neighbourhood Policing Team had been granted a recent uplift of PCSO numbers. Inspector McDean agreed to raise the attendance issue raised by Councillor Franks (Dinas Powys) with the relevant Team Sergeant to ensure PCSOs were in attendance, as the Police Force would like to encourage face-to-face engagement now that Covid-19 restrictions had been lifted.
- A list of PCSO contact information would be shared with the Committee to facilitate communication following the meeting. The 101 Service could also be contacted by email if necessary. Email addresses would also be forwarded to members of the Committee.
- The relevant officer for the Barry Town area would be provided with details of the next Barry Town Meeting to ensure their attendance.
- The 999-emergency response service was appropriate to be used whenever there was a crime in progress, and that the relevant PCSO could also be contacted on their service contact number.
- Additional funding for mitigating motor vehicle and dwelling burglary crimes would be allocated to the Castleand and Buttrills wards of Barry, in response to the relevant reporting levels in the areas.
- In the interests of public safety, Officers responding to a 999 call in service vehicles could only travel at a maximum of fifteen miles per hour above the registered speed limit with the use of lights and/or sirens, and therefore travelling in excess of said speeds was illegal/contrary to current legislation.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Inspector McDean be thanked for his time and verbal update.

No.

175 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – LLANGAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL –
INFORMATION IN CRIME REPORTS REPORTED BY THE POLICE TO
COMMUNITY COUNCILS –

On behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan area, a request for consideration was submitted by Llangan Community Council requesting a review of information in crime reports reported by the Police to community councils.

Inspector McDean advised that the service completely agreed that the contacts it had with local councillors needed to be meaningful and provide the detail that allowed them to respond to their constituents effectively. As the Service embarked on the new Neighbourhood Policing model Chief Inspector Wade had arranged a meeting for all the Cardiff and Vale Neighbourhood Inspectors and the contacts the Service had with its KINS formed a significant part of the agenda. Chief Inspector Wade had expressed a need to reach out again to all the Councillors within the Vale of Glamorgan sectors to ensure that the Service met regularly and that an agreement was reached around frequency of contact and information sharing. Of course, the Service had to strike a balance between providing adequate information and statistics that allowed Town and Community Councils to be briefed effectively to update constituents and meet the Service's obligations under Data Protection. Moving forward, the Service was confident that communication between all parties and the information that was provided would meet the needs of the Town and Community Councils.

Following the Inspector's response, the Committee added the following comments:

- To receive crime and policing information on trends, priorities and key issues arising in the Vale of Glamorgan area, summarised in a report to the Committee, as opposed to the raw crime data communicated at present would be more beneficial.
- It was difficult accessing up to date crime information using the South Wales Police website which made effective communication between PCSOs and Councillors very difficult.
- A consistent approach to how crime data was presented to Councillors at Town and Community Councils across the Vale of Glamorgan should be adopted. Adding a section on The Vale of Glamorgan Council's website regarding PCSO information could help to mitigate the issues with accuracy of content on the South Wales Police website.
- Councillors were being asked to attend low level crime incidents, particularly in the evening, where neither the 101 Non-Emergency Service or PCSOs could be reached to request their attendance.

Inspector McDean thanked the Committee for its comments and further advised that:

- Trends and key issues would be incorporated into future reporting to the Committee, to make it more reader-friendly and illustrative of the ongoing situation with regards to crime in the area.
- In the absence of a Community Council, members of the public could access crime statistics and/or local policing information on the UK Crime Statistics

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website. Police teams could aim to produce a monthly report summarizing activity in each ward, for communication to Elected Members and Town and Community Councillors on request. The Chair advised that a separate discussion would be arranged with Councillor Campbell (Rhoose) following the meeting.

- Information on the South Wales Police website needed to be updated and relevant, current information had been sent to the Police's Corporate Services, but this was taking some time to be actioned.
- It was acknowledged that a section on local PCSOs within the Vale of Glamorgan's website could be helpful. The service would require a request setting out the type and presentation form of statistics to ensure a uniform approach of reporting going forward.
- PCSOs should be on duty in the evening until midnight, and there were two PCSO teams in Barry covering the evening period. This meant that PCSOs would be contactable and able to respond to incidents reported when the 101 Non-Emergency Service was not contactable. The issue, as raised by Councillor Aviet (Barry) would be reported back to the relevant policing teams to ensure Councillors and the public had the relevant and current contact information for PCSOs.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T a summary of the comments of the Committee, as set out in the minute above, be provided in writing to Inspector McDean following the meeting.

(2) T H A T the contact information for the Neighbourhood Inspectors and PCSOs for the Vale of Glamorgan area be shared with all Vale of Glamorgan Elected Members and Town and Community Council Clerks following the meeting.

Reasons for recommendations

(1) To ensure that the concerns of the Committee in relation to police officer attendance, data sharing and police officer contact information available to both Vale of Glamorgan Elected Members and Town and Community Councils be raised with the service via Inspector McDean for future improvement.

(2) To encourage a more efficient sharing of statistical data, local knowledge and crime reporting between Councillors and Police officers.

176 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE MATTERS –

Mr Hadfield advised that statistics for the Vale of Glamorgan area were stable and therefore there was nothing of significance to note, however, a more detailed presentation would be provided at the October committee meeting.

No.

With no comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Mr. Hadfield be thanked for his time and verbal update.

177 SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PUBLIC SERVICE CREW ATTACKS: SCALE AND RESPONSE –

Mr Hadfield provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee, the purpose of which was to set out assault statistics available on emergency workers across the South Wales area as a whole. The statistics demonstrated that more than 1,360 assaults were committed in the six-month period from 1st January 2021 – 30th June 2021 for the region.

Mr Hadfield added that the Service took a zero-tolerance approach to attacks on its staff and that the period in the run up to bonfire night each year typically related to 50% of all attacks.

Mr Hadfield was pleased to report that the specific figures for the Vale of Glamorgan area were very small and related mostly to instances of verbal abuse or objects being thrown. The Fire Service continued to work with its partners to bring offenders to justice.

Councillor J. Aviet asked whether members of the public who intended to have public bonfires around 5th November and had received permission for this granted by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, could access fire safety training with the Fire Service prior to 5th November, with the aim of encouraging those who choose to hold public bonfires to do so safely.

Mr. Hadfield advised that the Fire Service had a zero-tolerance approach to illegal public bonfires but that the Service did have a Community Safety Partnership Team to talk to community leads about the making of bonfires in the lead up to 5th November. Mr Hadfield advised that plans for any training would need to be discussed in the Service internally, and therefore agreed to make contact with Councillor Aviet following the meeting

Councillor I. Buckley asked whether Fire Service crews continued to use ‘Spit Kits’ to aid prosecution of perpetrators who spit at Fire Service crews, and whether these had led to any success with prosecution. To this, Mr. Hadfield advised that the ‘Spit Kits’ were introduced approximately ten years ago, as a deterrent to combat attacks, by taking a DNA sample to match with suspects’ DNA. Mr. Hadfield advised that he would need to compile the data on prosecutions using this method in order to advise the Committee on success rates at a future meeting.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Mr. Hadfield be thanked for his informative presentation on Public Service Crew Attacks for the South Wales Area.

178 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD, VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE AND THE STRONG COMMUNITIES GRANT FUND EVALUATION PANEL (CX) –

The Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer presented the report, the purpose of which was to seek appointments as follows:

- a representative of Town and Community Councils to join the Public Services Board (PSB) in line with statutory guidance for the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015,
- a representative to sit on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee; and
- a representative from a Town Council as well as a representative from a Community Council to be a member of the Strong Communities Fund Evaluation Panel.

With no comments or questions regarding the context of the report the Chair requested nominations for each appointment and conducted a recorded vote in relation to the representative of Town and Community Councils to join the Public Services Board (PSB) as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nomination 1: Councillor Shirley Hodges (Barry Town Council) Moved by: Councillor Nic Hodges Seconded by: Councillor Julie Aviet | Nomination 2: Councillor Michael Cuddy (Penarth Town Council) Moved by: Self Seconded by: Councillor Mark Wilson |
| (6) | (4) |
| Councillor A. Asbrey | Councillor R.M. Birch |
| Councillor J. Aviet | Councillor J. Lynch-Wilson |
| Councillor S. Campbell | Councillor S.D. Perkes |
| Councillor N.P. Hodges | Councillor M.R. Wilson |
| Councillor S.M. Hanks | |
| Councillor C.A. Cave | |
| N.B. Councillor S. Haines had left the meeting prior to the vote taking place. Councillor H. Payne was not present for the meeting. Councillor R. Thomas was not present for the meeting. | |
| (7) | (8) |
| Barry Town Council *Self | Penarth Town Council *Self |
| Colwinston Community Council | Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council |
| Llanmaes Community Council | Llancarfan Community Council |
| Pendoylan Community Council | Llangan Community Council |
| St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council | St. Athan Community Council |
| Sully and Lavernock Community Council | St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council |
| Michaelston le Pit with Leckwith Community Council | Wick Community Council |
| | Llantwit Major Town Council |
| (13) | (12) |

No.

All other nominations were uncontested.

With no comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED –

(1) T H A T Councillor Shirley Hodges (Barry Town Council) be appointed as the Town and Community Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Council Public Services Board (PSB) for a period of two years, up to July 2024.

(2) T H A T Councillor Conway Hawkins (Wick Community Council) be appointed as the Town and Community Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Council Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee up to the 2027 Local Government elections.

(3) T H A T Councillor Michael Cuddy (Penarth Town Council) be appointed as the Town Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Strong Communities Grant Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2027 Local Government elections.

(4) T H A T Councillor David Reed (Llangan Community Council) be appointed as the Community Council Representative on the Vale of Glamorgan Strong Communities Grant Fund Evaluation Panel up to the 2027 Local Government elections.

Reasons for Recommendations

(1) To enable a representative from the Community Liaison Committee to be appointed to the PSB 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 provide a valuable link between the Community Liaison Committee and the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee.

(3&4) To enable Town and Community Councils to have involvement in the evaluation of bids to the Council's Strong Communities Grant Fund.

179 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – ST. NICHOLAS WITH BONVILSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL – S106 MONEY –

On behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan area, a request for consideration was submitted by St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council in relation to Section 106 (S106) allocations.

The issue raised by the Community Council was: *“S106 money is primarily directed at “affordable housing”/more housing, with little left for infrastructure or facilities”.*

The reason stated for the request was: *“With the LDP being reviewed, this is a good time for consideration on what S106 is used for - and there are many, many*

No.

complaints from residents of the Vale of Glamorgan that new development is not bringing the required infrastructure or facilities”.

In response, the Vale of Glamorgan Senior Planner advised that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had been extremely successful securing high levels of affordable housing, in addition to receiving Section 106 financial contributions, to support infrastructure and facilities to mitigate the impacts of major new developments. On 31st March 2022, the Council had £18,738,499.06 in the main Section 106 account, with large sums for education facilities, sustainable transport, public open space, off-site highway works, affordable housing, community facilities and public art.

However, it was accepted that it may not always be possible for developers to satisfy the Local Development Plan (LDP) requirements for affordable housing and planning obligations. This was predominantly due to individual site constraints and viability issues, and this was identified in Policy MD4 and supporting paragraphs 7.29-7.31.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed that an LDP review should provide the opportunity to undertake a review of development viability to ensure the most appropriate policy approach was taken by the Council to maximise affordable housing delivery, in addition to community infrastructure and facilities, and to consider any potential new policies in respect of green infrastructure and climate change.

Councillor Perry (St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council) queried whether there was a timescale for 1,205 new homes per year to be built to meet demand as per the report. Councillor Perry also highlighted that rural communities in particular were in need of additional facilities and improvements such as safer roads, but that there appeared to be no funding to support these.

To these points the Vale of Glamorgan Senior Planner advised that there was a 5-year timescale suggested for the building of the 1,205 new homes, based on data for the past 2 years. With regards to the Bonvilston development, the development's Planning Application detailed why the development was deemed acceptable and viable.

The Senior Planner, in relation to Councillor Perry's comment on needs for additional facilities in rural communities, drew members' attention to paragraph 1.3 in the report which set out the Community Infrastructure Regulations legislation which put a statutory obligation on the Vale of Glamorgan Council to ensure that any obligations were fair and reasonably related in scale to a development. The Vale of Glamorgan's policies would not allow for legal justification of more extensive improvements in relation to the number of dwellings in the respective developments in St. Nicholas and Bonvilston.

Councillor Cuddy (Penarth Town Council) queried how the community would be involved, engaged, and consulted with in the process of creating the forthcoming replacement Local Development Plan, including Strategic Viability Assessments. To this query, the Senior Planner advised that information on viability was largely in the public domain unless there was a strong case for commercial sensitivity, and that viability issues on individual sites were now available through the Planning Register.

No.

The first stage of the replacement Local Development Plan process was the preparation of a Delivery Agreement which had now taken place and been consulted on. The Delivery Agreement contained a timetable for preparing the replacement Local Development Plan, as well as a Community Involvement Scheme. The Community Involvement Scheme set out how, when and who would be engaged with during the process, including the community and statutory consultees, and this was reported to Full Council and approved by the Welsh Government on 4th May 2022. The document was available publicly on the Vale of Glamorgan Council website.

Councillor Perry asked whether a previously proposed Community Infrastructure Levy would come into place in the future. In response, the Senior Planner advised that work on a potential Community Infrastructure Levy had been placed into abeyance while the Welsh Government undertook a review, following it becoming a devolved issue. Potential changes were anticipated from Welsh Government, as had recently been the case in England. The Senior Planner also raised their view that the current Section 106 process was working well for the Vale of Glamorgan area, in part because unlike a Community Infrastructure Levy, it was not charged at a rigid rate per square meter, and this allowed for negotiation on charges. They also highlighted the issue that funds raised through a Community Infrastructure Levy in a certain part of the Vale of Glamorgan would not necessarily be spent in the same locality, but rather could be spent in any part of the Local Authority area.

Councillor Cuddy queried whether Strategic Viability Assessment information would be published. The Senior Planner and Principal Planner advised that as per Welsh Government guidance their intention was that this would in large be published going forward, and that where a developer insisted on confidentiality of certain information, this would be discounted from the consideration of their planning application.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the content of the comprehensive Officer report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

In response to the Request for Consideration raised on behalf of the Committee by St. Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council.

180 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION – LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL – TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS –

On behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan area, a request for consideration was submitted by Llantwit Major Town Council in relation to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) Planning Applications.

The reason for the request was as follows:

“The Town Council have been frustrated that they are unable to comment on TPO Planning Applications within their town. Over the last few years there have been a high percentage of trees felled within the conservation area of the town.”

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With reference to the Town Councils Well Being objectives re the environment and conservation we feel this is an area that as a local council we should be able to address.

The Town Council have grave concerns re the number of trees felled not only within our town but within the whole of the Vale and request discussion at the Community Liaison Committee as to how this can be addressed and managed in the future."

The Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control advised that so far in 2022, the Council had received thirty-six applications for works to or removal of TPO Trees, four of which were in Llantwit Major. Two of the thirty-six had been refused (either in their entirety or in part) and two had been withdrawn. The remainder had either been approved or were awaiting determination.

The Town and Country Planning Act and Tree Regulations did not require consultation with neighbouring properties, Local Members and Town/Community Councils for applications to carry out works to TPO trees. Applications by the Council to carry out work to TPO trees on Council owned land were to be advertised on site for 21 days, however, that publicity requirement did not exist for other TPO applications. Received TPO applications were published on the Council's website and the search fields could be used to search by application type and area. Any comments received would be considered as part of the assessment of the proposal.

The Local Planning Authority required applications for works to TPO trees to be accompanied by a statement of reasons for the proposed work and a report by a tree professional (arboriculturist) or other suitably qualified person. If an application was not accompanied by a justification, that was likely to result in the refusal of the application. Similarly, if the justification cited was not acceptable (e.g. regular maintenance such as collecting dropped leaves) then the application would be refused.

Examples of acceptable justifications for works to trees (in principle) may be the works were necessary in the interests of the health of the tree, the tree was evidenced to be causing damage to property, the tree posed a risk to safety. If the application was justified and acceptable, the Local Planning Authority required re-planting at a ratio of two trees per one lost. If there was insufficient space within a site to plant these trees, the Council could accept a financial contribution to pay for trees to be planted on Council land near to the site.

Following the Officer's response to the request, Councillor G. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), asked whether Llantwit Major Town Council could be notified of works to remove trees within its area, rather than needing to search for such information on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's website. The Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control agreed to investigate this as a possibility, and to contact Llantwit Major Town Council directly with a response. However, they advised that this could create additional processes that the department could have difficulty finding the capacity to action when priority needed to be given to other notification and consultation required by statutory guidelines. The decisions to remove trees, unlike other planning decisions, tended to be largely objective, with

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limited room for opinion, hence the use of tree professionals and the non-requirement for consultation, but that Councillors could make comments on each case, and these would be considered.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the content of the comprehensive Officer report be noted.

Reason for recommendation

In response to the Request for Consideration raised on behalf of the Committee by Llantwit Major Town Council.