

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR K.P. MAHONEY

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

3G SPORTS PITCHES

Hundreds of 3G artificial sports pitches are being ripped up in Holland due to research highlighting fears that the soft rubber crumb used in the operation of these pitches are carcinogenic and causing certain cancers.

Given the increasing number of 3G pitches being installed in the Vale of Glamorgan area, are the Vale aware of the current controversy, taken advice on the subject, and considered using the claimed better option of coconut fibre infill pellets rather than the recycled tyre rubber crumb which appears to be at the heart of the cancer fears?

I enclose several media links to the concerns:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3426039/Artificial-football-pitches-cancer-warning-study-claims-hundreds-cases-linked.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/football/2016/10/15/why-3g-pitches-are-being-ripped-up-in-holland-over-health-fears/>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/football/1942153/cancer-warning-fears-over-artificial-pitches-sees-30-clubs-in-holland-suspended-or-closed/>

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR M.R. WILSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL WITHIN PENARTH

Will the Cabinet Member for Transport give us an update on sustainable travel within Penarth?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR M.R. WILSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES WITHIN PENARTH

Will the Cabinet Member for Parks and Open Spaces give us an update on our parks and open spaces within Penarth.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR M.R. WILSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

IMPROVEMENTS TO HOUSING STOCK WITHIN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN

Will the Cabinet Member for Housing give us an update on the improvements to housing stock within the Vale of Glamorgan since May 2012.

In particular, how many Council properties have had a new roof, new insulation, new bathrooms and as a proportion of Council housing stock in Penarth since May 2012.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.J. WILLIAMS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

SCHOOL WALKING ROUTES

It has been brought to my attention, by Dinas Powys residents, that we have assessed the single track road from the Westra in Dinas Powys to St. Richard Gwyn School as being an “available” walking route for our children. I agree with the parents that it would be wholly inappropriate to allow a child to walk along this road to school. I recall that Councillor Thomas raised a similar issue regarding children walking from Eglwys Brewis to Llantwit Major in July.

I would like to ask whether our officers are carrying out assessments fully in accordance with the “Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance” (Welsh Government 2014), or whether they have been unduly influenced by cost pressures to make recommendations that will minimise the financial impact of travel to school costs on the Council.

I would also like to question whether all school walking routes in rural areas should now be reassessed in accordance with the Welsh Government Guidance and risk assessments carried out, including quantitative data to support the assessment.

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.J. WILLIAMS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORT

ST. CYRES SCHOOL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

I attended a packed Parish Hall in Dinas Powys on Tuesday 29th November and was encouraged by the words of Andrew RT Davies AM who has pledged his support for a Barry to Cardiff by-pass and to prevent the proposed St. Cyres School housing development.

Against the wishes of the local community, Dinas Powys Community Council, and submissions to the Local Development Plan against unwanted housing from our residents, the Vale of Glamorgan Council has forged ahead with the conversion of Ardwyn School, Bryneithin Residential Home, Caerleon Road greenfield site, and Cross Common Road greenfield site housing developments.

These developments will create more clogged roads, increase pollution, especially at the Infants School, and generally make life more miserable for our hard-working, high tax-paying residents.

The biggest crime of all will be the creation of 350 more homes at the wholly inappropriate St. Cyres School site, presently an unspoilt haven of 33 acres of fields and woodland. A perfectly useable school and sound building which was turned into a ruin by thieves whilst under the 'guard' of this Authority and was then demolished without proper consultation with the local elected Members.

Is this the legacy that this Labour-Llantwit Major First coalition administration, will leave to my Community and how do these actions comply with the Well-being of Future Generations [Wales] Act 2015?

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FROM COUNCILLOR MS. R.F. PROBERT

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES

The annual Small Business Saturday held this year on 3rd December brings in to sharp focus the importance of small business to the local economy. What support does the Vale of Glamorgan Council provide for local small businesses?"

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FROM COUNCILLOR F.T. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS

With winter now upon us and this week saw such freezing conditions with temperatures falling below zero, how well prepared are we as a Council to deal with bad weather conditions?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR J. DRYSDALE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

PROGRESS IN THE CASTLELAND RENEWAL AREA

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on progress in the renewal area in Castleland, Barry.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR F.T. JOHNSON

TO THE LEADER

INNOVATIVE WAYS OF DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

As the cuts to Local Authority funding continue, what innovative ways of delivering public services is the Council currently using to avoid cutting or closing services?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. M. KELLY OWEN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

SAFETY RAILS TO STEPPED WALKWAYS IN ALEXANDRA PARK AND WINDSOR GARDENS

It is now some time since I addressed the burden of this question to the Mayor, Councillor Egan in his role as Older Persons Champion for the Authority, but on his suggestion I now address it to you, Councillor Brooks, in your Cabinet position with responsibility for Community Safety.

We are very fortunate indeed to have been bequeathed by the Windsor family the land forming the Alexandra Park and Windsor Garden, but sadly, areas of Alexandra Gardens are “No Go” areas for the older or in any way disabled residents or visitors because of the chronic lack of safety rails to stepped walkways; in particular the steps linking the upper level of the Town with the Park and Esplanade below, which is a stepped route / walkway.

I had hoped that at least a comparatively small proportion of the S106 Money available for the area would have been designated to this desperately needed purpose but talks with the officer concerned indicate that is not so.

Residents living close to the walkway I refer to in particular can confirm how much this particular pedestrian route is made use of by residents and visitors to the Town. As a Ward Councillor I can confirm that.

At the start of the icy season will you please ensure that handrails are installed as a matter of urgency where they are desperately needed and before someone is injured or worse? As a Local Authority we must surely have a heavy duty of care in these circumstances.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.J. BERTIN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

ICE CENTRAL

Overall, the general public has given excellent feedback about the Ice Central ice rink that was in Barry this year. The only real negative to come from it was that it was not on long enough.

Do you think this Council should consider put it on longer next year?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.J. BERTIN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

PAVING WORKS AT UPPER HOLTON ROAD, BARRY

This Council has recently started works on improving the pavements on the Upper Holton Road area. Local businesses have since expressed concern, including Mr. John Lewis, owner of JPL Sound, who feels this could drive shoppers away during their busiest period.

Was any consideration given in the planning stage to the Christmas period before the commencement of these works and if not why not?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR CARE LEAVERS

The Children's Commissioner has written to the Managing Director in regard to improving support for 'care leavers'. It is clear from her letter that she is expecting the Council to do more as a result of her recent extensive consultation with children and young people across Wales. How can we improve support for 'care leavers' here in the Vale?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

CORPORATE STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED CARE AND SUPPORT

Now that the Corporate Parenting Panel, the Healthy Living and Social Care Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet have endorsed the Corporate Strategy for Children Who Need Care and Support, will you ensure that the 'Action Plan' is implemented in full and as soon as possible so that we can ensure that we do our very best for our 'Looked After Children'.

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

GCSE PERFORMANCE

The latest figures for Wales show a 31% gap in GCSE performance between children on free school meals and their peers and I understand that the figures for the Vale show a similar picture. What are you doing to close this gap?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

COMMUNITIES FIRST

The Welsh Government Communities Secretary, Carl Sargeant, said recently that he was not convinced that Communities First was, and I quote, 'the most effective way to deliver for Wales'. Although the Welsh Government maintains that 'no decision has yet been made'; it is clear that the Minister has decided to phase out Communities First. What are the ramifications of this decision on the excellent projects effected by our Communities First Team and has his announcement, quite understandably, led to our excellent staff looking elsewhere for employment?

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FROM COUNCILLOR R.L. TRAHERNE

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

LOVELL PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

I understand that Lovell Partnership Limited is carrying out much of the work in regard to the 'External Insulated Render' works on Council houses. There would appear to be some dissatisfaction with the performance of this contractor from both our Housing Officers and our Council tenants. Are you satisfied with the performance of this contractor and, if not, what are you doing to remedy matters?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR R.J. BERTIN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

PISA RESULTS

What does the Cabinet Member for Education think of the latest PISA results? Do you think as teachers say that we must do better?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR MS. K.E. EDMUNDS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

ACTIVITIES AT COSMESTON LAKES AND COUNTRY PARK

I am concerned about recent claims in the press that Council proposals to broaden activity at Cosmeston Lakes and Country Park will have a negative effect on its special environmental nature.

What reassurances can the Cabinet Member provide that any activities under consideration will be fully assessed for any possible impact on the park environment or wildlife?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR MS. R.F. BIRCH

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

YSGOL Y DERI ESTYN INSPECTION

Could the Cabinet Member please provide an update on the recent Estyn inspection of Ysgol y Deri.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

COMMUNITIES FIRST

What discussions have you had with Welsh Government regarding the future of Communities First projects after the Labour Government funding for these clusters comes to an end?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

VULNERABLE PEOPLE RESETTLEMENT SCHEME

How many vulnerable migrants, including unaccompanied children, have been successfully resettled into the Vale of Glamorgan during 2016 using the Vulnerable People Resettlement Scheme or any other comparable scheme?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE LEADER OR CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND
EDUCATION

IMPACT OF BUSINESS RATES

What assessment have you made of the impact of business rate revaluations upon the Vale of Glamorgan, including how the number of businesses in (i) the Holton Road area, (ii) Barry and (iii) the Vale of Glamorgan who will see an (a) increase or (b) decrease in their rateable value?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

PUPIL REFERRAL UNIT

How many pupils were (a) referred and (b) accepted into the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) at Key stage 3 and 4 during 2016 (until the 30th November); what was the (i) average and (ii) longest amount of time between referral and a decision; and what was the (1) average and (2) longest amount of time between initial referral and starting with the PRU?

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR VISIBLE, LEISURE AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PENALTY NOTICES

How many penalty notices have been issued successfully issued by the Vale of Glamorgan Council's new private environmental enforcement team since their employment began?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

SECTION 106 FUNDING

What is the value of Section 106 funding currently held by the Vale of Glamorgan Council relating to developments in (a) Barry and (b) across the Vale of Glamorgan, and what is the value of anticipated S106 agreements which have been signed but not yet been received by the council?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR A.P. RILEY

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

RURAL BUS SERVICES

There has been no scheduled bus service in operation between Rhose and Cowbridge since 2013, when a number of routes serving the rural Vale were ended. Public transport in the rural Vale of Glamorgan is woeful, with residents who do not have access to their own car effectively cut-off from other parts of the Vale. What is the council planning to do to improve public transport for all those who wish to travel around the rural Vale?

Then there is Rhose Point. A settlement of some 1,200 people, with approved plans for hundreds more homes. And yet no bus services at all serve Rhose Point, except school transport. What action is the council prepared to take to persuade the operators of the existing X91 and 303/304 bus services to extend the service so that it includes Rhose Point in future?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

COMMERCIAL SCHEMES IN COUNTRY PARKS

Will the Cabinet Member make a statement relating to proposed commercial schemes at Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Park? I am especially interested in the plans for Wakeboarding at Cosmeston Park. Will this potentially involve the erection of large steel pylons across the lakes? However, all other relevant information would be welcome.

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE LEADER

RESHAPING SERVICES

Members will be aware that a key target of the council is to transfer services to the voluntary sector and Town and Communities. Will you detail the savings achieved this financial year relating to the reshaping Services' strategy and state what services will be transferred in the immediate future?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

HEAVY GOOD VEHICLES

You will be aware that there is considerable concern regarding the impact HGVs have on many areas of the Vale. I am especially concerned about Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys. You will be well aware of the excessive traffic levels along this road. The additional adverse effect of large lorries only add to the dangers to residents.

We have been repeatedly told that the Vale will not impose a weight restriction as such proposals will not have the support of the police, will be expensive to implement and difficult to enforce. However, residents are not satisfied with this attitude and I ask if you will re-examine the option of creating a weight restriction?

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FROM COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUILDING SERVICES, HIGHWAYS AND
TRANSPORTATION

DINAS POWYS BY-PASS

You will be aware of the great concern regarding the unacceptable levels of traffic that pour through Dinas Powys on a daily basis. Residents feel that this Council is not adequately pursuing the option of a by-pass. I am grateful for the advice and information provided by officers but feel that the Cabinet should be taking a more active role in helping to relieve the dreadful traffic conditions along Cardiff Road.

Not only is the volume of traffic excessive but on occasions vehicles are driven in an unacceptable and dangerous manner. These conditions also impact on surrounding communities and cannot assist in the development of the local economy. However, there appears to be little interest shown by this council or the Police in this unsatisfactory state of affairs.

What hope can you offer residents that matters will improve? What is your policy regarding these long standing problems?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. M. KELLY OWEN

TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND EDUCATION

PENARTH CONSERVATION AREA

Are you aware that Penarth Conservation Area is at serious and imminent risk of being lost utterly devalued and lost to present and future generations if this Authority does not accept its serious obligations to ensure that every planning approval granted enhances the architectural character and quality of this Area; this is particularly pertinent to the two outstanding houses in Bridgeman Road , Ashdean and Normandie, given their importance within the Penarth Esplanade scene (as can be seen from an iconic photograph taken from the end of Penarth Pier in 1896)