

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL AGREED BY COUNCIL ON  
5<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010

QUESTION FROM: MR. D. WESTON

TO: THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE AND  
RESOURCES

**APPROPRIATE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TO FULL COUNCIL**

Can you please advise who, in the full Council meeting, is responsible to ensure that when a question is asked, that question is appropriately answered? Even if the person who asks a question and may not agree with an answer, does the person asking the question have a right to demand that the question is answered fairly and in terminology that is appropriate to the person asking the question and wider attendees? What action should be taken by a person who asks a question, and subsequently feels that the question has not been answered, but waffled over, and to whom and how should that person raise the issue?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. J. BROWN

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

**UPDATE ON THE SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT SITE AT BARRY WATERFRONT**

It has been almost a year since bids closed on the southern development site in Barry which is advocated primarily for commercial/leisure uses. Can the Member give us an update on progress?

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**NELL'S POINT LAND**

Does the Council plan to market the Nells Point land again for tourism/leisure uses after previous positive interest from companies such as Warners?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. D. WESTON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND  
TRANSPORT

**MOTORCYCLES USING BUS LANES**

Would the Council considering following the example set by neighbouring and other Local Authorities and allow motorcycles to use bus lanes and sign post them accordingly.

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QUESTION FROM: MR. A. FARQUHARSON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

**CREATIVE RURAL COMMUNITIES**

Since 2004, the Vale of Glamorgan Council's 'Creative Rural Communities' scheme has been seeking to support and assist rural communities with regeneration, projects, and ideas that will create long term social and economic benefits for the Vale of Glamorgan. Indeed, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning is quoted on the Welsh Government website (article dated 31st May 2018) as saying: "We are delighted to see new initiatives being developed in the rural Vale to help bring people together giving them opportunities to meet new people, play a stronger role in their community and address social isolation." However on 7th June 2018 a Vale of Glamorgan Officer submitted a response to the Welsh Government's consultation on the School Organisational Code stating the following: "In terms of the inclusion of a school within the Vale of Glamorgan area, namely Llancafarn Primary School, the authority would not consider the school as strictly rural in nature. The school is not remote compared to other authority schools in Wales". Furthermore: "The size of a school should also be a factor in classifying whether a school is rural or not. Rural schools are likely to be small in nature." Llancafarn Primary School is currently the only School that the Vale of Glamorgan has listed as 'rural' by the Welsh Government. Please could the Council Member for Regeneration and Planning explain how the above comments to the Welsh Government support the Council's idea to 'address social isolation' and support rural communities? Please could you also explain the Council's definition of a 'rural community'?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. C. OCKERBY

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**CAR PARKING CHARGING**

With the council looking to maximise revenue through parking charges across the Vale, it is ludicrous that in Barry you have chosen not to charge your own workers. Why would you choose to lose out on potentially £182000 of valuable revenue across a year through not charging your own workers at the Civic Offices when you are happy to charge other workers in the Vale to park? Please explain your double standards of charging your school teachers, library staff and other workers in the town, some of whom are voluntary, but not your own workers at the Civic Offices, Alps or Docks Offices? Calculations available if needed!

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QUESTION FROM: MR. S. PARRY

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**RURAL SCHOOLS**

Do the Council believe that they are fortunate to have a designated rural school in the Vale of Glamorgan, and do they support the Welsh Government rural schools policy?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. P. FELL

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**RURAL SCHOOLS**

Do the Council believe a school still qualifies as rural if it is sited in a semi-urban  
area?



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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. VALENCIA

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**PROTECTING RURAL SCHOOLS**

The Welsh Government is committed to protecting rural schools because of the evidence of their value which has emerged from other countries such as Finland. Is the Council now willing to take up an offer from the local community to work alongside it to develop the Vale's only rural school in a way that could gain national recognition?

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QUESTION FROM: DR. R. FARQUHARSON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND  
TRANSPORT

**TRAVELLING FOR SCHOOLS**

The proposal sells the idea of nursery provision as a benefit over Llancarfan Primary School in its current location, however the Consultation Report states that 'transport would not be provided to a nursery and for breakfast and after school requirements.' As a young professional who works in Cardiff, where my commute often takes an hour in rush hour traffic, travelling 5 miles in each direction to access the wrap around care or nursery provision (as outlined in these proposals) is not workable for myself and many other families in the rural vale. Can you please reassure working families in the rural vale that they will not be forced to sell their properties or leave their jobs in order for their children to access the educational provision outlined by this proposal?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. B. LOVELUCK-EDWARDS

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**CLOSURE OF LLANCARFAN SCHOOL**

Please could the Council explain why the current proposal to close the Llancafarn School site is deemed suitable and necessary when the previous administration's proposal to close the School did not progress? would the council be prepared to share this previous proposal to understand the thinking behind this proposal?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. J. BETTLEY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

**CLOSURE OF RURAL SCHOOLS**

If the proposal to "transfer" Llancarfan primary school to a new site on the edge of a Rhoose housing estate proceeds does the Council anticipate it will have one or nil schools classified as rural at the next assessment and if nil, how does it expect to manage the severe political and legal fall out it will face having extinguished a rural school?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. LOCK

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND  
TRANSPORT

**CONSULTATION ON CAR PARKING CHARGES**

As already pointed out to both scrutiny meetings the calculations for the civic offices forecast is completely inaccurate. It states there are 140 spaces at the civic offices with 14 in use at the time of the survey and this is presented as 35% and calculations are then based on this figure. I checked with a ten year old and 14 spaces out of 140 is 10% not 35%. Even with the stated annual forecast of £875 with a cost of £7,500pa, why on earth are we consulting on charges for a car park that will not turn a profit?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. LOCK

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND  
TRANSPORT

**CAR PARKING STRATEGY**

Since the cabinet decided to ignore recommendations from two scrutiny meetings about the parking strategy, how can you assure the public that their views and survey responses will be properly respected and considered and that this proposal is not already predetermined and just going through the legal motions? Will the results of the survey be properly published?

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TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**FIXED PENALTY NOTICES**

A recent press article states that Bristol issues about 1000 FPN per month and most of these are for cigarette butts being dropped. During our recent beach clean ups, the number of discarded cigarette ends was staggering. Why are the vale failing to learn from this example? At £50 a ticket, with just 10 tickets a day would raise £500, resulting in £167,000pa

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TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
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**WEBCASTING**

It has been mentioned that new webcasting equipment is being purchased to improve the live streaming of council meetings. With this investment can you confirm that more council meetings will be live-streamed such as the five scrutiny committees and cabinet meetings?



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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. LOCK

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND LEISURE  
CULTURE

**CHANGING FACILITIES AT LEISURE CENTRES**

Does the council admit that at a time when it is looking to save £17million over 3 years that having to spend £1.7million on new changing facilities at Barry and Penarth Leisure centres is highlighting a complete failure of any maintenance program for these facilities?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. LOCK

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
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**FOLLOW UP TO QUESTIONS**

Why are council members given follow up questions but members of the public are not given the same courtesy? How is this not discrimination?

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TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM**

Could you please tell me how many times the draft parking consultation drop in's have been mentioned on your Facebook page up until Sept 11 (time of writing this question) and why is a popular and free marketing platform not being used more effectively?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. D. CLARKE

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS**

And there is no way I will be saying this as it is Question time is perceived as a mere sop to the public; something that fails to achieve anything due to the apparent intention to ensure answers are of a political, non-committal nature. The public believes that the lack of a follow up question or comment is because the Council knows that every follow up question or comment will be the same and something along the lines of 'please answer the question'. Is it beyond the wit of Council to devise something better so that members of the public who try to take part in our democratic process do not then go away wondering why they bothered. It is more important to involve the public in the process than to make sure life is easier for councillors and officers by reducing the involvement of the electorate. On the assumption the Council is able to come up with a more satisfactory system the question is 'will you do so and will you do it soon?'

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QUESTION FROM: MR. K. STOCKDALE

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR PERFORMANCE  
AND RESOURCES

**DELEGATIONS TO OFFICERS**

“Council will be aware of the growing concern in our town of the need for a more healthy environment. Residents understand how it is possible for council decisions to have a serious impact on, for example, the quality of the air we breathe. This is a global concern as people and governments come to understand the decisions that have been made in the past and how those decisions impact greatly on the health of those living in the vicinity and reduces significantly their expectation of a healthy lifespan. The Council has an important duty to do what it can to promote good health for present residents and future generations. Council delegates a number of decision-making chores to officers who are meant to know better than councillors. When matters are delegated to officers it seems that the oversight is greatly reduced as decisions of officers can be nodded through with minimum information being made available to councillors. The information might be wrong, it might be deficient, it might even be correct on occasions. The point is that where decisions have a potential for significant impact on our air quality the level of oversight the public expects is that much higher so that delegation is inappropriate in those cases. We believe we have seen a manipulation of the information made available to the public recently so that it is difficult for the public to comment on an application that worries many. Relying on councillors to call in such matters is too random. Will this Council as a matter of urgency revisit its process of delegation to officers to ensure that all applications with a potential to be of significant health concern are never dealt with under delegated powers and that steps are taken to ensure the portal is properly populated with documents to allow the public to make informed comments? “