

No.

## COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

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

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor S.M. Hanks (Chair); Councillor M.R. Wilson (Vice-Chair); Councillors J. Aviet, R.M. Birch, S. Campbell, C.A. Cave, N.P. Hodges, H.M. Payne, 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); K. Hatton (Dinas Powys Community Council); H. Osbourne (Llancarfan Community Council); R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council); S. Bonnar (Llanfair Community Council); P. Wilson (Llangan Community Council); M. Narusberg (Llanmaes Community Council); G. Marks (Michaelston le Pitt and Leckwith); G. Kellen (Pendoylan Community Council); S.M. Toker (St. Athan Community Council); M. Jeffreys (Substitute) (St. Donats Community Council); W. Howells (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council); I. Perry (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council); N. Parry (Sully and Lavernock Community Council), M. Harvey (Wenvoe Community Council and C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

Also present: Councillors C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, G. John (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Sport, and Wellbeing), M.G.J. Morgan, E. Penn, and E. Williams (Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health).

### 866 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”.

### 867 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillor A. Asbrey and Councillors A. Phillips (Peterston Super Ely Community Council) and A. Thomas (Welsh St. Donats Community Council).

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868 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

869 DECLARATION OF INTEREST –

Councillor S. Campbell declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 7 and 8. Councillor Campbell was a member of the cross-party internal briefing group for the Community Boundary Review who helped to produce the report put before Committee. The Councillor remained in the meeting for the item.

870 SOUTH WALES POLICE SERVICE - VERBAL UPDATE.

Inspector Mark Henderson updated the Committee on the outcomes of six recent successful police operations currently in the public domain as follows:

- The discovery and seizure of a large cannabis farm with an approximate street value of three million pounds located on Holton Road in Barry as a result of utility services investigating a recurrent electricity outage in the vicinity.
- Two individuals of Prestige Driveways remanded to custody on charges of intimidation and rouge trade.
- A reduction in anti-social behaviour in the Holton Road area of Barry caused by young people following partnership working between the Vale of Glamorgan Council, parents, and local schools. There was still more work to be undertaken on the issue but there had been a noticeable improvement.
- Community Speed Watch Groups had been re-introduced following the completion of necessary risk assessments being undertaken.
- Work was now underway in preparation for Operation Elstree related to the summertime economy. Partnership working was underway with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and British Transport to improve the key messages for holiday makers expected to enjoy the seasonal economy.
- An individual was remanded to custody for a series of dwelling burglaries in the Vale of Glamorgan area.

Following the Inspector's presentation, and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Inspector added the following points of advice:

- A recent fire in relation to a company vehicle for Iceland on Holton Road, Barry was considered to be as a result of anti-social behaviour in the same vicinity. Five car fires in the Barry area had been reported so far for 2023 but these appeared to be linked and were not thought to be random cases or an indication of an increased pattern of social behaviour.
- A response in relation to lead theft in the Cowbridge town centre and town hall area following the previous submittal of CCTV footage and licence plate information would be sought from the relevant service officers and

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subsequently reported back to Councillor John Andrew of Cowbridge Town Council.

- A number of vehicles had been seized as a part of Operation Waxby to reduce instances of lamping in the western vale. It was anticipated that instances of the crime would reduce in the coming months due to the increase in evening daylight hours.
- In response to the concerns of residents over the Llantwit Major bypass being used as a racetrack by cars and motorbikes in the late to early hours of the morning between Llandow and the Boverton lights, Police Officers would link in with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and traffic police colleagues to patrol at the times that the disruptive activity was taking place.
- Traffic Police colleagues would also be informed of the noise disruption being caused by vehicles with modified exhausts driving recklessly along the A48 and St. Georges area in the early hours of the morning.
- Similarly, speed traffic concerns would be raised with the relevant service officers in relation to vehicles travelling at excess speeds along the Llanmaes northern access road.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED - T H A T Inspector Henderson be thanked for his time and verbal update.

#### 871 SOUTH WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – VERBAL UPDATE.

The Group Manager for the South Wales Fire & Rescue Service, Mr John Treherne, presented statistical data to the Committee for the period 1st April 2021 to 7th March 2023 and in particular updates since the last meeting of the Committee in October 2022 as follows:

- **Fires** - Total fires had increased from 300 last year in 2021/22 to 358 so far in 2022/23. An increase of 58 (19%). Accidental fires accounted for 44% of fires with deliberate fires accounting for 56%. The Vale of Glamorgan had therefore experienced more deliberate fires in the current year 2022/23. Refuse fires had accounted for 119 (60%) of the 199 deliberate fires with 93 in Barry station ground. There were also 36 grass fires in the current year compared to 41 (-12%) last year and 12 road vehicle fires compared to 11(+9%) last year. The number of Accidental Dwelling Fires (ADFs) had fallen from 57 last year to 41 (-28%) so far in the current year. 23 (56%) of the fires started in the kitchen with cooking accounting for 12 (29%) of the incidents. Combustible articles too close to the heat source accounted for 11 (27%) of the incidents. In 16 (39%) of the 41 ADFs there was no alarm present. This percentage has risen from 19 (33%) of 57 last year.
- **False Alarms** - Total False Alarms had increased from 613 last year to 631 so far in 2022/23. This was an increase of 18 (+3%). There had also been an increase in Malicious calls with 31 so far in the current year compared to 14 last year.

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- **Special Service Calls** - Road traffic collisions had increased by 6 from 75 last year to 81 (+8%) so far in the current year. Most of the calls related to making the vehicle/scene safe (53,65%). Other Special Service calls had increased from 225 to 248 (+10%) so far in the current year compared to last year with Assisting other agencies (53) and Effecting entry (38) accounting for most of the calls. There have been 11 calls to assist Bariatric patients in the current year compared to 15 last year and 6 calls to suicide/attempted suicide compared to 4 last year. There had also been an increase in calls to flooding in the current year with 16 calls compared to 6 last year. 5 of the flooding calls were in December 2023.
- **Fatalities and Injuries** - There had been no fatalities during the period but there had been 1 serious injury in the current year compared to 2 last year. The serious injury in the current year involved an individual who was overcome by gas or fumes.
- **Home Fire Safety Checks** - There were 938 completed, 24 Modified HSCs, 22 refused by the occupant, 6 refused by personnel and 21 unable to contact.
- **Attacks on Crews**- There had been 3 attacks on crews in the current year compared to 1 last year. 2 of the incidents had been in the Gibbonsdown ward of Barry (April and August) with the other attack taking place in the Cadoc ward of Barry over the Halloween period in October.

Following the Group Manager's presentation, and subsequent questions from the Committee, the Manager added the following points of advice:

- There had not been a noted statistical increase by the service in relation to deliberate car fires in the Barry area. The service was currently looking into options for responding and tackling electric vehicle fires as these were harder to distinguish.
- Several of the calls responded to by the service were seasonal and therefore trends on a year-by-year basis were apparent. Comparison data for recent years would be forwarded to Councillor Keith Hatton for Dinas Powys Community Council following the meeting as requested.
- Examples of a Domestic false alarm were emergency response pull chords being activated by mistake or fire/carbon monoxide alarms being sensitive to a small electrical appliance being left on. Examples of a Commercial false alarm were malicious attempts to activate a break glass alarm point in a public building or an individual who had fallen against an alarm point in a hospital or a business undertaking works that generated heat or steam enough to activate the alarm.
- Service staff were trained to appropriately challenge calls to identify a hoax or malicious call but the service would always mobilise regardless of any concerns from the call handlers. Data on the number of hoax/malicious calls would be forwarded to Councillor Julie Aviet of the Vale of Glamorgan Council following the meeting as requested.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED - T H A T Group Manager Treherne be thanked for his time and verbal update.

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## 872 RELOCATION AND MODERNISATION OF THE LLANDOW AMENITY SITE – UPDATE –

The Recycling and Infrastructure Manager for Neighbourhood Services provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Committee by way of an update on the establishment of a new Rural Vale Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC).

The Officer apprised the Committee on the existing arrangements for the site currently located on Llandow Trading Estate (LTE) as well as data on the quantity and types of materials recycled at the current site for the 2021/22 period. The Officer also provided comparative data on the same for the Council's second HWRC situated on the Atlantic Trading Estate (ATC) in Barry which demonstrated a 77% tonnage figure for ATC and 23% LTE, as well as the number of bookings made for the 2022/23 period over both sites totaling 30,344.

The Officer then went on to apprise Committee on the necessary considerations/criteria that must be met for a new HWRC in the rural vale and advised that the Council was faced with limited site options across the area considering these. Having already advertised for expressions of interest three times previously, the only remaining option under investigation by the Council was also in the Llandow area at land to the east of the place for homes on Sutton Road. For context, the Officer also highlighted the advantages and constraints for the remaining option site.

In conclusion, by way of next steps, the Officer advised that the Council's estates department was continuing with negotiations and that any decision on a new site was still subject to various assessments and permissions being undertaken/granted as appropriate. Any future recommendations would be presented to Cabinet for consideration to meet an operational target of 2025/26 for the new HWRC.

Following the Officer's presentation and subsequent questions raised by the Committee, the Recycling, and Infrastructure Manager with the support from the Director of Environment and Housing Services added the following points of advice:

- There was no specific reason why the update PowerPoint slides were not shared in advance of the meeting and Officers would endeavour to share slides with the Committee in advance as and when necessary, going forward.
- The Council was still open to considering alternative pieces of land outside the Llandow area and no decision had been made to date on the new site location. The Sutton Road site was the only remaining option left on the Council's agenda however, the Council was still actively searching for alternative parcels of land.
- The task of locating and approving an appropriate site for waste in the rural vale was extremely challenging and the Council was yet to find an ideal site. Therefore, Officers welcomed any land suggestions that the Committee may be aware of from local landowners.

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- The option of a compulsory purchase order was available to the Council however, this was not an approach the Council was ready to take at the current time.
- Officers had considered the increase in traffic at both its HWRCs following the recent introduction of charges for the collection to dispose of garden (green) waste, especially as garden waste was the second highest form of material deposited at the sites. Therefore, any new site going forward would ideally be situated by a main road.
- Officers acknowledged the concerns of Councillor Perry in relation to fly tipping due to it being necessary for residents of the eastern vale to travel 20 minutes each way to access either the Barry recycling site or cross authority boundaries to visit the Cardiff Authority site due to the quality of the Llandow site being considered poor by residents. It was suggested by Councillor Perry that three HWRCs would be more appropriate for the Vale of Glamorgan area to cover Barry and Penarth, the Western Vale and Eastern Vale in partnership use with Cardiff.
- On the same topic of fly-tipping, Councillor Cave also expressed her concerns over the current amount of fly-tipping evident at the approach to the current Llandow HWRC and the possibility of this continuing to be the case at any new site in the Llandow area which could potentially result in debris and rubbish being brought further into the village. Officers acknowledged Councillor Cave's concerns and advised that all comments received from the Committee would be taken back to estates officers and in particular the clearing of waste on Council controlled highways around the current Llandow site.
- The online system for booking a visiting slot for both of the Council's current HWRCs had been updated in recent months however, Officers would test the functionality of finding and altering an existing booking in light of Councillor Cave's observations.

With no further comments or questions, the Committee subsequently

AGREED – T H A T the update presentation provided to Committee in respect of a Rural Vale Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) be noted.

#### Reason for decision

Having regard to the content of the presentation on the Council's current considerations and next steps in relation to the establishment of a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) for the Western Vale.

#### 873 VALE OF GLAMORGAN COMMUNITY REVIEW (REF) –

The reference from Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 was presented.

The Chief Executive and Returning Officer for the Council advised that the reference and appended Cabinet report provided context for the subsequent item on the meeting agenda in relation to the Vale of Glamorgan Community Review.

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The Committee was therefore presented with the reference to necessitate the closing of the reporting cycle for the item previously considered by Cabinet.

With no comments or questions raised, the Committee subsequently

AGREED - T H A T both the Cabinet reference and appended Cabinet report be noted.

#### Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of both the Cabinet reference and appended report to ensure all members of the Committee are aware of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Review and the process to be adopted as at the end of the 2022 calendar year.

#### 874 THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY BOUNDARY AREA REVIEW (ERO) –

The Chief Executive and Returning Officer for the Council presented the report, the purpose of which was to update the Committee on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Review which was being undertaken by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales ("the Commission") and commenced on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The first stage of the review included investigation and an initial consultation period, which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023. The Commission (also present at the meeting) was seeking consultee responses from all interested parties in respect of the current community boundaries and their views on any changes required to create communities that provided for effective and workable local government. The closing date of the initial consultation period was 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, by which time the Chief Executive and Returning Officer recommended that all comments from Town and Community Councils should be submitted.

The report set out suggestions rather than recommendations from the Vale of Glamorgan Council for consideration by the Commission. The Chief Executive and Returning Officer added that each person/stakeholder would have a unique view on their respective area based on their role within their communities and it was important to note that there were a number of stages left to conduct for the review.

In conclusion, the Chief Executive and Returning Officer apprised the Committee on the eight key considerations of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in developing the Council's response to the first stage of the review as set out in paragraph 2.8 of the report. Paragraph 2.10 onwards laid out the suggested proposals across the Vale of Glamorgan area, as discussed with the Cross-Party working group, for consideration by consultees and to facilitate more detailed consideration during the second stage of the review, subject to advice and guidance by the Commission.

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Following the Officer's presentation of the report, and subsequent comments raised by the Committee, the Chief Executive and Returning Officer added the following points of advice:

- For Town or Community Councils that were not referenced within the report this was indicative of there being no case for change.
- The Vale of Glamorgan Council was not actively setting out to reduce the number of Town and Community Councils within its area, but it had made suggestions based on the aforementioned key considerations. The suggestions within the report were reflective of potential changes to boundaries and should be viewed as simply amalgamations of Councils. If all suggestions within the report were carried forward by the Commission, then the number of Councils would decrease but the number of wards would potentially increase in the more heavily populated areas. Therefore, any future change would reflect both increases and decreases across the area.
- It was acknowledged that Town and Community Councils would have a qualified and unique view on the suggested changes and therefore every Council as well as individual community representatives were strongly encouraged to submit their views to the Commission by 28<sup>th</sup> March. The Vale of Glamorgan Council was as independent stakeholder within the review and was therefore submitting its own views to the Commission for consideration.
- There were other stages of the review yet to be undertaken but elected representatives were requested to submit comments during the initial stages to ensure that the views of individual wards were heard.
- The comments and suggestions of the Vale of Glamorgan Council were being made at a strategic level and the suggestions did not deal with detailed matters of boundary lines, other than in areas where this related to anomalous boundaries. It was expected that Town and Community Councils would make detailed comments related to their particular areas and boundaries.
- The suggestion raised by the Wenvoe Community Council Representative in relation to the creation of an additional ward under their Council was not one that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had considered previously but was presented logically.
- The Committee debate demonstrated the range of different views that the Commission would need to consider in order to inform the review.
- It was acknowledged that salaried Clerk posts could be lost should larger rural Community Councils be created however, it was already current practice that a single Clerk provide support over multiple Community Councils.

With no further comments or questions from the Committee, the Committee clarified the comments and recommendations to be included within its decisions on the report. Following this, the Vice-Chair of the Committee requested that a vote be taken for the second recommendation put before the Committee.

Out of the two recommendations put before the Committee, Recommendation (1) was carried by no dissent and following a vote by Elected Members as well as a

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show of hands from Town and Community Council Representatives (unanimously voted for in favour), Recommendation (2) was also carried as below.

AGREED –

(1) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council's draft response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales's initial consultation on the first stage of the community review be noted, along with the comments of the Committee on the suggestions raise within the report as follows:

- Llanmaes Community Council had a very distinctive rural outlook in comparison to its Llantwit Town Council neighbour. Therefore, Llanmaes Community Council was not in support of the suggestion set out in paragraph 2.16 of the report and wished to maintain its very active Community Council and subsequent community spirit.
- The preference of Llanfair Community Council was to remain as an independent Community Council and not move into the Cowbridge Town Council community boundary area as suggested in paragraph 2.29 of the report due to Cowbridge Town Council having a very different perspective on the three rural communities currently under the Community Council. Llanfair Community Council would also wish to ensure that the two wards of Llanfair and St. Hilary remain well defined in light of any future boundary changes.
- In response to the suggestion set out in paragraph 2.33 of the report, St. Donats Community Council had concerns that the St. Donats community voice would be lost should an amalgamation with the much larger Wick ward go ahead due to the uneven number of representatives across the collective wards as a result.
- Michaelston Le Pit and Leckwith Community Council strongly objected to any amalgamation with larger neighbouring Councils due to the Community Council having very specific rural needs within its community. This was in contrast to the proposals put forward by Dinas Powys Community Council as reflected in paragraphs 2.19 and 2.20 of the report.
- Wenvoe Community Council had a neutral stance on the suggestion of an amalgamation of St. Nicholas and Bonvilston with Dyffryn and St. Lythans, as set out in paragraphs 2.26 and 2.27 of the report but would welcome consultation with residents on the suggestion. The Wenvoe area had had a 60% increase in dwellings in the last four years. To ensure that the approximate 760 residents of both Brooklands Terrace and St. Lythans Park were represented, Wenvoe Community Council suggested that a new ward be created.
- Penarth Town Council endorsed the suggestions in relation to Penarth Town Council and eastern boundary of Sully and Lavernock Community Council as set out in paragraph 2.14 of the report.

(2) T H A T the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Community Boundary Area Review report be referred to Cabinet on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, along with the recommendations of the Committee for consideration as follows:

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- T H A T a new ward by the name of 'Brooklands' be established under Wenvoe Community Council to accommodate the electorate within the Brooklands Terrace and St. Lythans Park residential developments in the vicinity of Culverhouse Cross.
- T H A T the concerns expressed by Town and Community Council Representatives present at the meeting on retaining democracy at a local level to ensure that the local voice was heard and that smaller communities were well represented and retained their unique qualities be noted.
- T H A T the concern in relation to possible salary losses for Clerks of smaller Community Councils, should their Council be amalgamated with neighbouring Councils, be noted.

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the contents of the report to appraise the Community Liaison Committee on the Council's response to the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales's initial consultation on the first stage of the community review.

(2) To apprise Cabinet of the recommendations of the Committee in relation to the Vale of Glamorgan Council's draft response to the initial consultation phase of the community review to inform any additional comments or observations from Cabinet forwarded to the commission under separate cover following the 28<sup>th</sup> of March consultation deadline.