

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROTOCOL AGREED BY COUNCIL ON
5TH MAY, 2010

QUESTION FROM: MR. D. WESTON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

MOTORCYCLES USING BUS LANES

In the penultimate Full Council meeting I raised a question concerning the Local Authority allowing motorcycles to use bus lanes around the Vale as is the case in other and neighbouring Authorities. We were advised that a meeting was to take place in December where this was to be discussed and decided upon. Would the Cabinet Member please advise on the outcome of this and will this now help to deter the practice of motorcycles weaving through traffic jams and dodging oncoming traffic?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. D. WESTON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SALARY INCREASES

The Cabinet is to be applauded by raising the salary paid to those earning the lowest amounts in the Local Authority. Could the Councillor please advise what financial assistance has been given to those departments affected by this policy? As a School Governor, I have sat through many meetings where efforts to balance an ever increasing budget challenges have been discussed. In the last meeting the increase of pay to school cleaners etc. has been discussed and has had another blow to the ability of the school to operate within budgetary constraints. Could the Cabinet Member please advise on what financial assistance will be forthcoming from the Authority or will schools and the like just be expected to absorb the cost i.e. has the Authority implemented a policy, however good the intentions, without supplying those at the coal face with the resources to implement it fairly?

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QUESTION FROM: MR K. POWER

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

SEA GULLS

I ask the Council to take seriously the impact of sea gulls nesting on roofs. The result being screaming birds from dawn until dusk and being attacked by same birds when eggs hatch. A postman being attacked, unable to deliver mail. Having suffered with health issues and repairs to a damaged roof, along with trying different deterrents, perhaps you can understand my concern knowing that they will return to a food source where people feed them.

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. B. BAILEY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

In recognising that the Vale of Glamorgan Council are able to address 'Dangerous Buildings and Structures' using their powers under the Building Act 1984, Section 77 by issuing legal notices for the owner to undertake any necessary works to remove the danger, why does the online Building Control, Buildings Register record these under Dangerous Structures as 'Informal Notices' when the Act makes no such provision for this?

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QUESTION FROM: MR L. BAILEY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

BUILDINGS ACT 1984

In respect of the Local Authority using its powers under the Buildings Act 1984, Dangerous Buildings and Structures, Section 77, if an owner contests ownership when a notice is issued, would you expect an expert boundary report to be provided as evidence to support this? For example, would solely the contention of a [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (who is not a boundary expert) representing a homeowner's interests be sufficient?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. D. CLARKE

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Following the call by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to the Welsh Government to require the plant on Woodham Road Barry to have an Environment Impact Assessment, could this Council confirm it is of the view that the project falls within Schedule 1 Paragraph 10 namely it is a "Waste disposal installation for the incineration or chemical treatment (as defined in Annex IIA to Council Directive 75/442/EEC under heading D9) of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 tonnes per day" thus making it mandatory that an EIA is made or explain for the benefit of residents why the Council either believes otherwise or why it cannot say one way or the other.

[Note: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/cover_2015_en.pdf at page 28: "The WFD uses the term 'incineration' but does not define it. Article 3(40) of the IED defines 'waste incineration plant' as 'any stationary or mobile technical unit and equipment dedicated to the thermal treatment of waste, with or without recovery of the combustion heat generated, through the incineration by oxidation of waste as well as other thermal treatment processes such as pyrolysis, gasification or plasma processes, if the substances resulting from the treatment are subsequently incinerated'." That might mean it is only the amount of waste that needs to be considered for an answer to be given?]

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QUESTION FROM: MR. L. ROBERTSON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND BUILDING SERVICES

BIOMASS INCINERATOR

Will the Council inform NRW that the Biomass incinerator as built does not conform to the 2015 planning consent (2015/00031/OUT) and suggest that NRW withdraw permissions to operate until the planning status is regularised?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. D. CLARKE

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

PUBLIC CONCERN OVER BURNING OF DIESEL

Public concern over the burning of diesel, whether in vehicles or otherwise, is growing as evidence of its health destroying impact grows. NRW told us recently that the incinerator on Woodham Road will use diesel to start up, shut down and to maintain temperature during operation. NRW has also admitted that their analysis of the emissions plume confirms that when running at less than the optimum operating temperature the plume is expected to exit the stack horizontally from where it will impact on the town, as photographs taken last March demonstrate. NRW has not said how they calculate these emissions will impact on the town. They have not even said how much diesel will be used, there seems to be no limit. Will the Vale Council enquire into precisely what amounts of diesel are likely to be used per day if this incinerator is going to supply electricity only during peak periods thereby requiring start-up and shut-down twice a day at least? Will the Vale ensure that proper investigation is made into the possible impact the plume may have on vulnerable residents who suffer the plume peaks that seem inevitable?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. M. WALLIS

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

BIOMASS INCINERATOR

Does the Council agree that Biomass incineration plant as now built does not comply with the planning consent 2015/00031/OUT, because of larger site area and details including the firewater tank significantly departing from the consented design? Is the Council empowered to therefore insist that the plant does not operate until a fresh (retrospective) planning application is submitted and approved and if not what else can it do?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. C. OCKERBY

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

BEAUTIFUL BARRY

Beautiful Barry are setting up a Refill scheme in Barry so businesses can allow residents and visitors to fill up their bottles with water at their premises. What support can the council give us with this and what date will the promised drinking water fountains be installed in parks in Barry?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. C. OCKERBY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND PLANNING

BERTH 31

At Berth 31 the wood being stored for the incinerator by JML has been at the site since February 2018 until its removal over the last couple of weeks. The permit issued by NRW stated it should be at the site for no longer than 3 months. NRW claims to be able to supervise the more complex plant that is the incinerator but the inexcusable lax approach to the relatively simple supervision of wood piles is enough to instil a significant lack of trust. Will the Vale Council make enquiries to find out why the supervision by NRW was so deficient so as to allow the wood pile to remain for 9 months more than guidelines say, so as to put the local residents at risk? Or alternatively see what can be done to ensure NRW take these matters more seriously and not be lax simply because it is Barry? Is it really acceptable for this wood to be allowed to remain at the site for this length of time with no checks being carried out by any authority?

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QUESTION FROM: MISS. T. PAULAKIS

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

PLANNING APPLICATION FROM JEML

Does the Director of Planning agree that a future dock-based planning application from JEML, who are contracted to supply waste wood-chip to the Biomass incinerator, must be considered as linked to the incinerator and bundled into the expected application for the Biomass incinerator as a whole?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. A. GREAGSBY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEARNING AND CULTURE

SINGLE SEX FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS

The Council is surely aware of the UK-wide arguments over the provision of single sex facilities in schools. Does the Council now recognise that schools in Wales are by law required to provide separate washrooms for girls and boys aged 8 and over? Will the Council advise schools to stop planning changes that fail to comply with this law and modify its Transgender Inclusion 'Toolkit' accordingly?

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QUESTION FROM: MRS. J. CHEEK

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

COMM COMM UK AND BIOMASS 2

Is the Vale working with Comm Comm UK and Biomass 2 Ltd to liaise with local residents to address their concerns regarding the environmental damage the energy plant could create, as stated on their Website? If so, how much is this consultation costing and I have seen no evidence of their claim to be establishing a relationship with local residents and businesses?