

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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

QUESTION FROM: DR. H. DAVIES

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND BUILDING SERVICES

GYPSY AND TRAVELLERS POLICY

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has debated the Gypsy and Travellers Policy for over three years, with very little or no progress. The travellers' site at the bottom of Llangan is half vacated. What developments are anticipated with this policy in 2020?

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QUESTION FROM: MR. J. EVANS

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND
TRANSPORT

WELSH WATER EMERGENCY ROAD WORKS

In recent years I have had occasion to complain to the Council regarding how Welsh Water carry out emergency works on highways in and around Dinas Powys with little or no apparent consideration of their impact on the local community. In October 2018 I raised concerns regarding 24 hour temporary traffic lights on Leckwith Hill when no work was taking place by Welsh Water contractors. On 7th January, 2020 I contacted the Council to complain about the closure of Penyturnpike Road by Welsh Water not as a result of roadworks but apparently to facilitate the movement of water tankers to maintain water supply, an action which caused major congestion in Dinas Powys and beyond over a 24 hour plus period.

In relation to the Leckwith Hill incident, the Council accepted that Welsh Water's contracting and management arrangements were of some concern and did not help in programming or completing works in a timely manner. Via the Council's Managing Director I had an extremely helpful response from the Council's Engineering Operational Manager which concluded with the following – the Council is waiting for a detailed investigation by Welsh Water to explain fully their actions and management of this particular situation – any utility company can legally enter a highway for emergency works but must then notify the Council within 2 hours of doing so. The Council cannot prevent such action but will work with the utility company to minimise impact as far as reasonably practicable – the utility company complied with the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 for emergency works and therefore followed procedures, albeit we have concerns over their contracting and management arrangements which will be raised with Welsh Water and at regional coordination meetings with all utilities – the Council will be serving a Section 65 notice for inadequate traffic management of the works.

My first question is:

- (i) Were all the above actions promised by Council officers taken and what were the outcomes?
- (ii) If the actions were not taken in full or part why not?

My other questions relate to the closure of Penyturnpike Road for a period in excess of 24 hours on 7th and 8th January, 2020.

- (iii) What precisely was the issue that caused Welsh Water to close the road?

Question No. 2 cont

- (iv) Did Welsh Water full comply with the relevant legislation referred to above in their closure?
- (v) How was the closure monitored by the Council?
- (vi) Was the site inspected by Council officers?
- (vii) If so at what level of seniority?
- (viii) If not why not?
- (ix) Are you satisfied that the only option open to Welsh Water and subsequently to the Council was road closure?
- (x) What other options were considered and why were they discounted?
- (xi) What attempts were made to inform residents along Penyturnpike Road in particular and the public generally as to what was occurring?
- (xii) What information if any was placed on the Council's website?
- (xiii) Were you as responsible Cabinet Member apprised as to what was happening?
- (xiv) If so, what action did you take?
- (xv) If not why not?
- (xvi) Are you satisfied that the Council took all the action it could have to minimise the chaotic consequences of the road closure, particularly having regard to the following – the road was not directly affected so it would appear by the emergency – the water tankers used by Welsh Water were big but no bigger than the many construction and other vehicles that regularly use the road – between 7 and 10am when my son attempted to use the road and I used the road ignoring the signs there was very little activity other than a number of tankers parked up off the road in the lay-by – minimal activity overnight and certainly in the early morning of the 8th January after which the road was reopened at 9am?