

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

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

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

What plans does the Vale Council have to support young people furthest from the job market following the closure of Inspire to Achieve (I2A) and Inspire to Work (I2W) at the end of this year because of the ending of EU funding for these programmes?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE
PLACES

**REDEVELOPMENT OF ST. RICHARD GWYN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL,
BARRY**

What consideration has been given to the impact of flooding and climate change as part of the bid to redevelop St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School in Barry?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BUILDING SERVICES

PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES FOR TRAFFIC OFFENCES

In the calendar year so far, how many penalty charge notices for traffic offences have been made as a result of (a) the Civil Parking Enforcement Camera Car and (b) on-foot Enforcement Officers, and what assessment has been made of the use and effectiveness of the Enforcement Camera Car in reducing dangerous parking since its introduction?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM: COUNCILLOR DR. I.J. JOHNSON

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE PLACES

TOWN CENTRE MARKET IN BARRY

The weekly Holton Road market in Barry town centre closed in April, before the local elections. What plans does the Council have to secure the return of a regular town centre market which boosts footfall and trade for permanent shops, as well as market traders?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT FOR COUNCILS

We are aware of the financial challenges ahead driven in part by the Westminster incompetent management of the economy.

Will the Cabinet Member detail the latest position regarding the negotiations with Welsh Government concerning the financial settlement for Councils?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

ECONOMIC PRESSURES

We are warned every day about the economic pressures confronting the Vale of Glamorgan Council. How effectively are you engaging with Welsh Government?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

POSSIBLE PROPOSED CUTS

Welsh Government has indicated that support for Council services will increase by 2.4% next year. If Welsh Government fails to provide a reasonable grant what cuts do you intend to propose?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

AUDIT WALES REPORT ON POVERTY

This report says that Welsh Government allocates revenue to Councils to help alleviate poverty. What is the amount of funding involved and does it have to be applied for?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

AUDIT WALES REPORT ON POVERTY – ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY

Regarding the alleviation of poverty what funding does the Vale have at its disposal and is it fully spent?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

AUDIT WALES REPORT ON POVERTY

Will you indicate how money is allocated regarding the alleviation of poverty?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

AUDIT WALES REPORT ON POVERTY – DIGITAL EXCLUSION

The report from the Auditor General says: Digital exclusion remains a major challenge and data shows that people in poverty can find it difficult to access online services. How does the Council address this concern?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

SCHOOL FUNDING

Given the huge financial pressures facing Vale schools will you indicate what
addition financial support you will be recommending for schools this financial year?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

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FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

SCHOOL FUNDING

You will be aware that grants from Welsh Government play an essential part in assisting pupils who required additional support. Do you have an indication that Welsh Government will maintain the level of such grants?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.P. FRANKS

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

SCHOOL FUNDING

Many schools fear a deficit budget next year. What will you be doing to protect schools from having to seek redundancies?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G. BRUCE

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

FUNDING FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is seriously short of funding for the next financial year. Why then has there not been a request to the Welsh Government for further finance, when the Welsh Government has had to return £155million back to the Treasury because this money has not been allocated to Councils, Schools and the NHS in Wales?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR W.A. HENNESSY

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

INCREASE IN STAFF ABSENCES

Is there any data to explain the considerable increase in absences of 197 (1933 days lost) in July 2020 compared to that of 709 (4389 days lost) in July 2022”?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G. BRUCE

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, ARTS AND THE WELSH
LANGUAGE

RHOOSE PRIMARY SCHOOL WINDOWS

How much is it costing for each window to be refurbished at Rhoose Primary School on windows that are in very poor condition?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR R.R. THOMAS

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS WITH MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

What support does the Council give to residents with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) who require home adaptations?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR R.R. THOMAS

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, ARTS AND THE WELSH
LANGUAGE

YSGOL Y DERI EXPANSION COSTS UPDATE

Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on the costs associated with the Ysgol Y Deri expansion?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G.D.D. CARROLL

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

2022/23 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

What progress is being made on delivering the Authority's 2022/23 Capital Programme?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G.D.D. CARROLL

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

WARM SPACES SCHEME

Will the Leader please provide an update on the Council's Warm Spaces scheme?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G.D.D. CARROLL

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BUILDING
SERVICES

WEIGHT LIMIT ON LECKWITH BRIDGE

Will the Council carry out improvement works to increase the weight limit on
Leckwith Bridge?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR G.D.D. CARROLL

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BUILDING
SERVICES

DOG FOULING

What action is being taken to combat dog fouling across the Vale of Glamorgan?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.A. CAVE

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BUILDING SERVICES

RECYCLING CENTRE IN LLANDOW

In 2018 the Council reported that the current recycling centre in Llandow is: "outdated, not user friendly, has limited capacity and ongoing issues with the access road". Access is virtually impossible in a normal family car.

Could the Cabinet Member responsible for Neighbourhood Services tell us why nothing has changed?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR S.J. HAINES

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING AND TENANT
ENGAGEMENT

DEMAND FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

What is the current demand from residents in need, for council housing in the Vale and how has this need been defined?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR S.J. HAINES

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE
PLACES

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ST. ATHAN TRAIN STATION

When will the second element of the feasibility study for St. Athan train station be conducted?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR S.J. HAINES

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND BUILDING
SERVICES

DAMP AND MOULD IN COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

What action is the Authority taking to tackle damp and mould in its Council housing stock?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR N.J. WOOD

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

ORACLE CLOUD ROLLOUT COST

Will the Leader please confirm the total cost to date of the rollout of the Oracle Cloud
ICT service?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR M.J. HOOPER

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

OBLIGATIONS OF DEVELOPERS ON THE WATERFRONT, BARRY

Background:

At Full Council on the 26th September 2022, I asked a question regarding the Council's proposed solution(s) to force the consortium of developers (and their agents) on the Waterfront in Barry to fulfil their obligations with regard to road and pavement infrastructure such that they can be adopted by the Council and the provision of public open spaces as detailed in the planning permission.

Question:

Can an update be provided?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR M.J. HOOPER

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

CARDIFF CITY REGION ATTENDANCE IN FRANCE

Background:

At the Regional Cabinet Meeting for the Cardiff City Region on the 28th November a paper was tabled outlining CCR's proposed engagement in MIPIM 2023. This event is considered (by its organisers) to be the world's leading property conference. It is held over 4 days in Cannes, France in Spring 2023.

Question:

Could the Leader explain how, in the midst of a cost of living crisis, it is appropriate for CCR to be in attendance?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR M.J. HOOPER

TO: THE EXECUTIVE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE PERFORMANCE

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Background:

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is increasingly being adopted by Councils across the U.K. as an antidote to extractive corporate practices. The 'Preston Model' is considered the exemplar, where public institutions and other public infrastructure owners are combining their economic muscle for the longer-term benefit of local residents, thereby trying to avoid wealth extraction from under their feet.

Question:

What is the Council's position on developing a Community Wealth Building approach to economic development?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR M.J. HOOPER

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

KICKSTART SCHEME

Background:

The U.K. Government established the 'Kickstart' scheme to help 16-24 year olds, in receipt of Universal Credit, to get a six-month, paid, work placement. The costs of the scheme were fully funded and each job created resulted in a one-off payment of £1,500 to the employer. The scheme was a part of the U.K. Government Covid-19 response.

The jobs had to be new jobs and over 25 hours per week. The funding covered the costs of the national minimum wage and associated employer costs. The guidance from U.K. Government states:

“For each job you must help the young person become more employable. This could include:

- looking for long-term work, including career advice and setting goals
- support with curriculum vitae (CV) and interview preparations
- developing their skills in the workplace.”

The scheme has now closed.

Question:

Could the Leader please confirm:

- How many kickstart placements were created by the Council?
- How many of those placements were taken up?
- Of those roles that have come to the end of the six months, how many of these placement holders have found a role a) in the Vale of Glamorgan, or b) elsewhere?
- Is the Council providing any post-scheme, follow-up support to these individuals, and if so what is it?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR M.J. HOOPER

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

FORMER COUNCILLOR HAMPTON

Background:

On Friday 25th November, at Newport Crown Court, former Vale Councillor, and Cabinet Member, Tony Hampton was found guilty of 12 counts of indecent assault. He has been remanded in custody with sentencing due on the 19th December 2022.

Serving as a Councillor is a position of trust in a community. When a Councillor is chosen by their peers to hold higher office, that trust is unweighted by their support.

Mr. Hampton served as a Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and was also the Council's choice for the WJEC Board (a Board he also chaired for some time). His peers arguably enhanced his reputation as someone to be trusted.

The various Saville enquiries showed us that predatory sexual offenders are oftentimes protected by institutions and those who work in said institutions. The Dame Janet Smith report for the BBC was particularly enlightening. It found evidence that the culture of the institution stopped earlier reporting of the individual due to their enhanced position of power, and apparent invulnerability. This was despite there being multiple instances where individuals were aware, or had concerns about their behaviour.

Question:

Can this Council provide assurance that this institution, specifically via officers (those who remain in post and those who may have left) and via Councillors (again those who may still be in post, and those who aren't), did not knowingly protect Hampton, or, as crucially, knowingly ignore concerns about his suitability for the offices he served? Furthermore, can the Council be sure that the positions Hampton was promoted to, did not put others at risk of his predatory behaviour?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

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

COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

The Vale Council has a statutory duty to make Council documents accessible. As a Community Councillor, I have attended various workshops at the Civic Offices where I've raised the accessibility of documents and followed this up by email.

The very basics of making a document accessible are not being done at the Vale Council. For example, the Self-Assessment document is missing a document title, alternative descriptions, bounding boxes, metadata, etc. Other documents, including the Project 0 Challenge Plan, have the same accessibility failings.

I have raised the accessibility of documents at several workshops and followed up in an email in 2021.

When will the Vale Council make effort to make all PDF documents fully accessible?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING AND TENANT
ENGAGEMENT

EMPTY DWELLINGS

It is estimated that in Wales there are about 27,000 empty dwellings with 7,498 households in temporary accommodation. How many much-needed dwellings does the Vale of Glamorgan Council own that have been unoccupied for at least 1-month, 3-months; 6-months; 3-years and when did the Council owned dwelling that's been vacant longest last have a tenant occupying it?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING AND TENANT
ENGAGEMENT

HOUSING OCCUPANCY

Given the housing shortage, what will be done to ensure maximum occupancy of Council owned properties in 2023 and onwards?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

ROAD NOISE

Tackling road noise and improving soundscapes contributes to achieving all seven of the well-being goals specified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Road noise impacts the wellbeing and health of people and wildlife. Many studies have found a clear correlation between the level of road noise exposed to at home and serious illnesses as well as children's development – particularly of their memory and attentiveness.

In 2012, the Welsh Government identified specific roads in Barry, the A48 through Bonvilston and St Nicholas and the A4050 by Wenvoe as Priority Areas for action to reduce road noise. In 2017, Cardiff Road in Dinas Powys was added to the list.

There is disappointment that the health and well-being of residents in relation to Road Noise does not appear to be considered when the Vale of Glamorgan Council is making highways related decisions, including resurfacing, the setting of speed limits and road building - and developments that increase traffic volumes.

Residents have witnessed a decade of inaction when priority action was needed. Will residents see change in 2023 and their health and well-being put at the heart of decision-making?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE PLACES

SEVERED ROUTE

The Active Travel Act requires new road schemes (including road improvement schemes) to consider the needs of pedestrians and cyclists at design stage. Local authorities must continuously improve facilities and routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

The £26m straightening and flattening of Five Mile Lane apparently destroyed Whitton Lodge Roman Villa and failed to deliver infrastructure for Active Travel to Welsh Government standards. There was no opportunity for public scrutiny, as apparently the final drawings were not signed off until the day before the road opened – which is when I was finally sent them.

The Active Travel route between Walterston and Dyffryn (Walterston and Culverhouse Cross) was unlawfully severed. This was raised by several residents in the consultation for the new Active Travel Map. Nobody wants to accept responsibility for this action. Despite the erection of fences, the planting of hedges and the digging of ditches, people on foot, bicycle and horseback continue to take the direct route – and a resident has taken it upon themselves to sweep the isolated piece of road so that it is safe for the feet of horses.

Will the Vale Council now admit responsibility, and take action to reinstate the direct east-west route for people walking, cycling and horse riding?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE PLACES

A4226 ACTIVE TRAVEL PROVISION

The £26m A4226 upgrade was signed off without the required Active Travel infrastructure along its length in 2019. St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council was disappointed that the request to protect the substandard shared footway at the northern end from errant vehicles was refused.

The benefits of providing segregated and protected Active Travel infrastructure between Weycock Cross and Sycamore Cross include enabling families with young children to choose to cycle to the Amelia Trust Farm for their day out from Barry and elsewhere in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Will the Vale of Glamorgan comply with its duties under the Active Travel and return to the Welsh Government to demand the money needed to complete a safe, comfortable, fully segregated and protected Active Travel link between Sycamore Cross and Weycock Cross to Welsh Government Design Standards?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES
AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Every year residents are dismayed to discover that Public Rights of Way have been unlawfully ploughed/cropped. The Highway Authority has a statutory duty to ensure all public rights of way are always free from obstruction.

Many farmers and landowners ensure that the footpaths that cross their land are always free from obstruction and well maintained and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Will the Vale Council ensure that in 2023 all farmers are aware of the legal status of footpaths and make prompt enforcement action, when necessary, so that people can enjoy access to the countryside?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES AND REGULATORY SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES AND HOUSING

In July 2021, the Vale Council declared both a Climate Emergency and a Nature Emergency. Recent planning decisions will see tiny/small forests that provide valuable wildlife habitat at Maes y Ffynnon, Bonvilston, and off Myrtle Close, Penarth, cleared. 375 trees will be lost at the site in Penarth – birds, and other creatures are not concerned about what grade humans have awarded trees. Since the land off Myrtle Close was taken out of agricultural production, Nature has rewilded it.

We are clearing valuable trees and undergrowth as if there is no Nature Emergency, whilst planting trees and allowing wildflowers to develop at the roadside attempting reverse the decline in biodiversity that we are responsible for. Though well intentioned, there is a link between bee bricks that council is intending to include in new buildings, and the spread of bee diseases.

Building new homes to tackle our housing problem appears to be given immense weight in decision-making at the Vale Council, rather than making better use of the buildings we have.

We need nations with acute housing problems far greater than our own to protect their undeveloped spaces, their rainforest, their wildlife habitat. Some examples of housing shortages in the countries we are insisting end the clearing of rainforest are:

- Puru – 2m homes
- Brazil – 7m homes
- Congo – 4m homes
- Indonesia – 7.6m homes
- Columbia – 3.8 million households, nearly 30% of all families in Colombia, do not have adequate homes (according to Columbian Ministry of Housing estimates from 2013), and 662,146 families are homeless, or 5% of the population.

In the event of the Emergency, shouldn't we be prioritising the retention of wildlife habitat, even over housing development and looking to make better use of existing buildings and only develop sites that are not being managed by Nature?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES
AND REGULATORY SERVICES

SCHOOL WAITING AREA

A controversial new school building is to be wedged onto the former Village Field of St Nicholas. The site is beautifully fronted by a native hedge and two mature field maple trees. It is the intention of the Vale Council, despite TPO's and Conservation Area protection, to remove both trees and the hedge to provide a paved area for parents not arriving by car to wait off the road for their children each afternoon.

Is there a reasonable reason why a waiting area cannot be provided within the existing boundary of the school, where other parents will wait with their cars, preserving the existing green frontage within the St Nicholas Conservation Area?

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QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES
AND REGULATORY SERVICES

EFFICIENT USE OF LIMITED SPACE

The layout of the proposed drop-off/pick up loop and parking area at St Nicholas CIW School uses space inefficiently. An alternative arrangement was suggested at the consultation stage that preserved the current green frontage and increased the amount of greenery at the front of the school, within the Conservation Area – the proposal was ignored. Given the need to reduce our use of materials and impermeable surfaces and minimising our environmental footprint, why wasn't minimising the impermeable paved area for cars prioritised?

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QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES
AND REGULATORY SERVICES

VILLAGE GREEN

Residents of Bonvilston have enjoyed the Village Green at the back of Maes y Ffynnon for 70 years. This is a much loved and used public space. On approaching the Vale Council to own the Village Green, St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council were told that the Vale Council does not undertake Community Asset Transfers, so the Community Council could not acquire the land in this way, but if the land was surplus to requirements, it would be off-loaded, and the Community Council would be able to purchase and protect it for future generations. The Community Council confirmed a desire to purchase the land from the Vale Council in writing.

There was surprise to read in the Final Report for 8 dwellings to replace much of the green space:

The 'do nothing' approach is not especially desirable. Evidence shows that the land is not needed as public open space, and if it were left undeveloped it might become unsightly over time, particularly the area where the garages used to be. Furthermore, vacant land would not have the same positive social and economic effects as the development proposal.

Residents have evidenced that the Village Green is used and Bonvilston has an under provision of Public Open Space that will not be resolved by ongoing development. The Village Green is not "vacant land". St Nicholas with Bonvilston owns and maintains the Village Green at St Nicholas; and maintains it to a higher standard than the areas that are maintained by the Vale Council.

Good reason for refusal of development for the Village Green was given when the planning application was refused in 2021 – the development is unneighbourly.

Would the Vale Council like to apologise to St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council for suggesting that should the Community Council own and manage the Village Green at Bonvilston, "*it might become unsightly over time*"?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR I.A.N. PERRY

TO: THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR SUSTAINABLE PLACES

TIMBER

Trees across Europe and north American have struggled in the heat and drought of recent summers. Russia provides 20% of the world's timber. Ukraine's significant timber forests have been damaged by uncontrolled wildfires, some caused by the conflict itself, and huge amounts of timber will be needed to rebuild Ukraine once Putin's attacks end.

We need to fairly share our planet's scarce resources.

Will the Vale Council seek to reduce its use of timber, perhaps planting hedges rather than building timber fences?

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8:2

FROM: COUNCILLOR C.E.A. CHAMPION

TO: THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, EQUALITIES
AND REGULATORY SERVICES

PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Could the Cabinet Member responsible give an update on the proposed Local Development Plan in relation to the Town Centre Framework and engagement with communities?