

Meeting of Crucorney Community Council held on the 19 November 2019

**PRESENT** Clrs R Morgan, T Morgan, Keates, Davies, Rippin, Woodier, Phillips, Bentley, Catley, Morgan-Evans and Cty Clr D Jones. Three members of the public were also present. Clr R Morgan chaired the meeting.

**APOLOGIES** Clr Evans and CSO Mason

### **CLINICAL FUTURES: THE FUTURE TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTHCARE IN GWENT**

Crucorney Community Councillor, R. Morgan-Evans (Assistant Programme Director at the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board) gave a presentation re the future of healthcare in Gwent which included information on the new University Hospital at Llanfrechfa, the future use of Nevill Hall Hospital and The Royal Gwent etc. A question and answer session followed during which councillors and members of the public probed certain details and made their views known.

Key features of the presentation were as follows:

**1. Background to why the changes are happening** - as a population in Gwent we are getting older, less well with more people moving into the area. We have a number of challenges, therefore, including staff shortages.

**2. The Transformation** - the Clinical Futures programme is the Health Board's mechanism by which it intends to transform services in Gwent. The build of the Grange University Hospital at Llanfrechfa is just one part of this wider transformation.

**3. The Grange University Hospital** - £350m build funded by the Welsh Government. This will be the specialist and critical care centre for Gwent and only the sickest/most injured patients will have to come here. This is on track and due to open in Spring 2021.

### **STATUTORY PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION –LAND TO THE SOUTH WEST OF WERN GIFFORD**

The pre-consultation document from LRM Planning, Cardiff advising of the application from P & P Builders to build 20 affordable housing units on the land south west of Wern Gifford had been received by CCC, County Clr Jones and Residents of Wern Gifford closest to the proposed development.

There was a lively debate with questions asked and points raised by councillors and members of the public. It was decided that CCC would respond in writing to LRM Planning, MCC Planning Department, Monmouthshire Housing Association and Welsh Water-Dwr Cymru re points raised at this meeting. Local residents were also encouraged to report their views individually to LRM et al.

Various matters were pointed out and the main items are summarised as follows:

1. Concerns were expressed as to what exactly Welsh Water's stance on the palpably inadequate sewerage system in the area was at the present time, especially as recent and proposed new building was adding to the strain on the inadequate sewerage system which they were in charge of. In recent years, Welsh Water had admitted in writing that the system is **hydraulically overloaded**. A Welsh Water officer had also admitted in a telephone conversation a number of years ago that the organisation preferred to deal with sewage problems on an ad hoc basis as and when problems occurred rather than upgrade the system.
2. Concerns re surface water drainage also needed clarification.
3. An explanation was needed as to why the original LDP decision to build 15 units had been increased to 20, bearing in mind that another 7 social housing units were being built on two previously consented developments at Pen y Dre and Twr Mihangel.
4. A detailed explanation was needed as to the difference between **'neutral' properties** and **'allocated' properties** and the explanation should be linked to what provision there would be for **local people**, especially as in February 2019 a survey into the local demand for social housing carried out by the Rural Housing Enabler for Monmouthshire County Council had suggested that a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 18 social housing units were needed.
5. Monmouthshire County Council's LDP's avowed preference for mixed housing and not entirely social housing developments also needed clarification.
6. Clarification was also needed re further possible developments in the next LDP re the remaining land in Sun Meadow across and down to the Grosmont Road.
7. Great concerns were expressed re the environmental impact of increased traffic flow through Wern Gifford both during any building

process and later extra 'normal' traffic flow especially as it passed the local primary school.

8. CCC had it on good authority that there will never be any increase in the capacity of the local primary school or in any extra accommodation. The result of further development bringing with it extra children would mean, therefore, that children would have to be transported into Abergavenny. It needs to be asked whether any discussion of the latter situation has been discussed in any pre-planning process.
9. Some infrastructure details supplied by LRM are incorrect re bus services (every 2 hours not hourly) and accommodation in the village as the only hotel closed some time ago.
10. There is some confusion re a proposed path linking the proposed new development with the A465.
11. The site layout plan shows a disused area of land with the C2 flood plain. A question was raised as to the proposals for this area.
12. Many Wern Gifford residents had not been directly consulted re this development, with only those nearest to it receiving notifications. Given the impact of the increased traffic flow into the estate and its effect especially on local primary school children, it is vital that **all residents** of Wern Gifford be informed.
13. Local residents would also like to know who the owners of the development land were.

## **FURTHER COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

The CSO, Sara Mason, had sent her report as follows:

Relevant telephone calls were: 18/10 Window smashed in Grosmont; 26/10 4 calls re flooding in Pandy; 28-31/10 Vehicles blocking pavement in Llanvihangel Crucorney; 28/10 2 vehicles racing on the A465; 1/11 Someone knocking door/in garden in Llanvihangel Crucorney; 13/11 Fuel spillage on A465 at Llangua and 15/11 tree fallen on power line in Fforest Coalpit.

Neighbourhood news and ward updates for previous meeting: 1) Re illuminated Speed Matrix signs, both SWTRA and GOSAFE are analysing speed data to see if the road qualifies for a speed matrix sign. If positive, SWTRA will make an application to the Welsh Government. 2) CSO Mason has been working with the local primary school, learning about rural crime. Booklets designed by the children are available from the school or Sara. 3) Sara has spoken to the Skirrid Inn, the Skirrid Garage, local residents and

regular visitors and has also done a leaflet drop re obstructing the pavement in at the top of the Skirrid Pitch, highlighting the issue. So far, there has been a positive response. 4) A tool marking event would take place at Pandy Hall on the 23 November and 8 December from 10 am to 12 noon.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Current A/C: £400 as at 5 November Reserve A/C £10,672.83 (As at 5 November).

The cheque for £1250 to Pandy HMC had now been presented but the cheque for £500 to Cwmyoy Hall (issued on the 20/8) had still not been presented. Further cheques for £1250 (2<sup>nd</sup> payment to Pandy HMC for 2019/2020) and £60 to Merlin Waste were signed on the night.

Councillors were informed that Wales Audit had charged £250.65 for the 2018-2019 Financial Year for the External Audit. In addition, the Internal Audit had cost £50 so the overall total for both was £300.65 for auditing CCC's accounts.

Councillors decided to accept Anthony Davies' quotation of £1796 to finish off the play area by providing top soil and turf (to replace the gravelled part) to blend in to the existing area. The cost of skips was included in this price.

The Council's healthy financial situation continued and councillors were informed that the Clerk was again investigating the payment of any outstanding 106 monies to CCC.

Councillors were reminded that an upgrade to the heating at Pandy Hall was still being considered as well as the replacement of basketball panels at the local school.

Consideration of a biodiversity policy was still ongoing and CCC was awaiting a template from the Clerk to Abergavenny Town Council to help in this matter. The possibility of expenditure in this area should also be kept in mind.

## **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The **MINUTES** of the previous meeting were read and approved as a true and accurate record.

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. Draft lease and Star Legal. Work in progress.

2. Re bus timetables. It seemed that there was little likelihood of bus timetables being updated for bus stops in the area. It seemed that Stagecoach assumed that customers could find the relevant information online.
3. Wi-Fi had now been installed in the Hall but was not yet 'up and running'. Cllr Bentley reported that PlusNet would not accept an annual payment so the matter had been referred back to the Hall Management Committee to negotiate a monthly payment.
4. There had been no further news from BBNP re the enforcement order for the field near the Pandy Inn.
5. There was still no final date for the double yellow lines at the top of the Skirrid Pitch. (See also the CSO's Report above.) Apparently, MCC was waiting for 'the end of formalities' before sanctioning the lines.
6. There was no further information re the refurbishment of the Hall's toilets.
7. The additional table for the committee room was still awaited.
8. The Chair thanked councillors for attending the Remembrance Day Service. Clr Richard Morgan-Evans was especially thanked for his debut reading of the lesson.
9. No further details had been received re the recent car rally especially with regard to the marshalling of the same.
10. It was decided to hold the Annual Xmas meal at the Kilpeck Inn. The Chair would arrange details including time and menu choices. Members of the public should note that councillors pay for their own meals at this event.

## **REPORTS**

1. Cwmyoy Hall. There was no report.
2. Primary School. The first AGM of the federated schools had now been held in Llanvihangel Crucorney Primary School and various committees and posts had been assigned.
3. Pandy HMC. A meeting would be held on the 26 November re the grant application for the refurbishment of toilets etc. at the Hall. A 'Memorandum of Understanding' outlining the future liaison between HMC and CEG re the solar panels on the Hall was being produced by Belinda Davies.

4. CEG. The *Woodland Group*. Work groups continue at 2 per month. An increased rate of thinning of the ash trees in Court Wood was envisaged over the next 3-5 years. *Litter picking* continued apace and it had been noticed that more illegal black bags had been thrown over hedges probably running parallel with MCC's new, more stringent rules, recently put in place. The *Climate Action Group* continued to meet. Dates for *forthcoming events* had also been published on CEG's website.

## **PLANNING**

1. BBNP 19/17695 FUK Great Blaenawe Farm. No objections providing that the huts were not conspicuous in the landscape.
2. BBNP 19/18207 /CON Middle Gaer. No objections.
3. BBNP 19/17980/FUL Cap Glas Court No objections.

## **PLANNING DECISION NOTICES**

1. BBNP 19/17784/FUL Daren Ganol. Permission. Noted.

## **PLANNING UPDATES**

1. BBNP 19/17829 Old Carpenter's Shop, Trewyn. Withdrawn. Noted.

**OBITUARIES** None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Emails sent to councillors were as follows: OVW 15/10; Understanding Welsh Places 15/10; IRP Draft Report 16/10; Planning consultations 16/10; Welsh government Advice re Environment Act 23/10; Community Network Event 23/10; Emergency Road Closure 23/10 ;OVW Bulletin 23/10; Beyond Cities 23/10; Reusable recycling bags 23/10; Decision re Daren Ganol 24/10 Stagecoach timetables 24/10; Xmas meal 27/10; Local health news 31/110; Hardwick planned closure 1/11; Statutory pre-application consultation 4/11 ; Weekly register 4/11; Newsletter weekly bulletin 6/11; SE Wales HAUC 6/11; Great Blaenawe Farm 6/11; Monmouthshire Countryside Access Improvement Plan 7/11; Enforcement lists 7/11; Middle Gaer 8/11; Cap Glas Court 8/11; Old Carpenter's Shop-withdrawal 9/11; Weekly register 11/11; Biodiversity for action 11/11.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINEES**

1. There had been recent reports re river banks in the area being washed away with a consequent threat to roads in some locations. Cllr Keates had bypassed MCC and had written direct to the NRW. After a short discussion, he also agreed to write to the Area Engineer at Monmouth CC Highways Department.
2. It was reported that a tree was growing out of the bridge at Pont Rhys Powell.
3. Post boxes had now been replaced at Fforest Coalpit and Llanvihangel Crucorney (near the Old Station).
4. Cllr Davies reported signs left by Openreach workers on the backroad leading to the A465 from the Old Station were very distracting to motorists.
5. Cllr D Jones reported that an action group was trying to get the railway station at Pontrilas re-opened. Any person supporting this effort was encouraged to write in to the relevant authority.
6. The Chair and Clerk had accompanied a representative from Blackwood Fire Group around Pandy Hall on the 13 November whilst he made a fire risk assessment. He pointed out a few items which needed to be addressed and would write a formal report to this effect as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m. Date of next meeting: 17 December 2019

***S G Cooper (Clerk)***