



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR

C.Hanagan
Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau
Llywodraethol
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Y Pafiliynau
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Ms J Nicholls - Senior Democratic Services Officer (01443 424098)

DYMA WŶS I CHI i gyfarfod o **PWYLLGOR CRAFFU - CYNNAL GWASANAETHAU CYHOEDDUS, CYMUNEDAU A FFYNIANT** yn cael ei gynnal yn **BRYN PICA, LLWYDCOED, ABERDARE, RHONDDA CYNON TAF, CF44 0BX** ar **DYDD IAU, 15FED TACHWEDD, 2018** am **5.00 PM**.

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democraidaidd erbyn Dydd Mawrth, 13 Tachwedd 2018 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

AGENDA

Tudalennau

1. DATGAN BUDDIANT

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gyngorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Côd Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a
2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, mae rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

2. COFNODION

ADRODDIAD CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETHAU'R PRIFFYRDD A GOFAL Y STRYDOEDD

3. GWELLA CYFLAWNIAD AILGYLCHU YN RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Trafod adroddiad sy'n nodi sefyllfa'r Cyngor ar hyn o bryd a'r gwelliannau sydd angen eu cyflawni er mwyn cwrdd â thargedau ailgylchu'r Cyngor ar gyfer y dyfodol.

13 - 18

4. Y NEWYDDION DIWEDDARAF AR Y GORCHYMYN DIOGELU MANNAU CYHOEDDUS (PSPO) (MESURAU RHEOLI CŴN)

Derbyn y newyddion diweddaraf ynglŷn â'r Gorchymyn Diogelu Mannau Cyhoeddus (Mesurau Rheoli Cŵn) yn dilyn ymateb ffurfiol y Pwyllgor Craffu i'r broses ymgynghori yn ystod ei gyfarfod ar 13 Mawrth 2017.

19 - 22

ADRODDIAD CYFARWYDDWR MATERION CYFATHREBU A PHENNAETH DROS DRO'R GWASANAETHAU LLYWODRAETHOL

5. CYNLLUN GWIRFODDOL WARDEINIAID EIRA

Derbyn yr ymateb gweithredol i argymhelliad Gweithgor y Pwyllgor Craffu - Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant a aeth ati i drafod y Rhybudd o Gynnig mewn perthynas â'r Cynllun Wardeiniaid Eira Gwirfoddol.

23 - 30

6. MATERION BRYD

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion bryd yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

Cyfarwyddwr Materion Cyfathrebu a Phennaeth Dros Dro'r Gwasanaethau Llywodraethol

Cylchreliad:-

(Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol Y Cyngorydd S Bradwick a Y Cyngorydd T Williams – Cadeirydd ac Is-gadeirydd, yn y drefn honno)

Y Cyngorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:

Y Cyngorydd M Weaver, Y Cyngorydd G Stacey, Y Cyngorydd A Chapman, Y Cyngorydd Owen-Jones, Y Cyngorydd W Treeby, Y Cyngorydd M Diamond, Y Cyngorydd M Fidler-Jones, Y Cyngorydd D Grehan, Y Cyngorydd E George,

Y Cyngorydd G Hughes, Y Cyngorydd W Owen, Y Cyngorydd S Pickering and
Y Cyngorydd E Stephens

Tudalen wag

Mae'r cofnodion hyn yn amodol ar gymeradwyaeth yng nghyfarfod priodol nesaf y Pwyllgor

These Minutes are subject to approval at the next appropriate meeting of the Committee.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, The Pavilions, Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, on Thursday, 27th of September 2018

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor S. A. Bradwick – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

A. Chapman	D. Owen-Jones
G. Stacey	S. Pickering
W. Owen	E. Stephens
E. George	M. Weaver
D. Grehan	
G. Hughes	

Officers

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

Ms N. Jones – Waste Services Strategic & Ops Officer

Mr S. Humphreys – Head of Legal, Planning & Environment

Mr J Spanswick – Parks & Countryside Manager

Mr J Bragg – Countryside & Rights of Way Officer

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

7. CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair introduced the officers in attendance and welcomed them to his committee.

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor T. Williams, W. Treeby, M. Diamond and M Fidler Jones.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED -In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on the 28th June 2018 subject to it being noted that discussions ensued around the facilities the new mobile libraries would have such as Wi-Fi, which was welcomed by Committee, and that a point of concern was raised in respect of too few visits of the Council's mobile library to some communities, which is a service highly valued by many residents.

11. MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 7 – The Chair also noted that arrangements were being made for the Director of Wales, Planning Inspectorate to attend the Council and speak to Members.

The Chair also confirmed that appropriate training would be provided to all Members of the Council to facilitate their understanding of the planning process.

Minute No. 8 –It was confirmed that a list of officer's roles and responsibilities for the Highways & Streetcare Service area would be circulated following the meeting.

Minute No. 9- The Chair confirmed that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) has now been referred to the Finance & Performance Committee.

12. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Committee received the report of the Director Public Health, Protection and Community Services, which outlined the background of the draft 'Rights of Way Improvement Plan' (ROWIP). In December 2017, Members resolved that a formal review of 'Out & About; the Rights of Way Improvement Plan' for Rhondda Cynnon Taff was necessary and that the committee would pre-scrutinise the review and feed back to Cabinet.

The Parks & Countryside Manger gave the Committee a summary of where we are and this was followed by a Power Point presentation by the Countryside & Rights of Way Officer on the draft ROWIP. The introduction to the presentation provided the legal background for preparing the plan. A summary was given of the

assessment undertaken in 2017 and Members were informed that the conclusion of the assessment was to prepare a revised plan.

The Countryside & Rights of Way Officer provided the background to the Statement of Action and identified the key themes for action under each of the six objectives.

The objectives were outlined as follows;

- Promote outdoor countryside activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation.
- Walking and cycling as transport options.
- Protect the access resource
- Improve provision for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, off road vehicles and users with mobility and sensory disabilities.
- Involving local communities and voluntary organisations in the development, promotion and use of access opportunities
- Develop a more efficient management system for statutory Rights of Way work, including the Definitive Map.

Members were informed that the consultation period closed on the 17th September 2018 and advised that the responses are still being analysed and, together with the observations of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, will inform the final plan to be presented to Cabinet by the end of the year.

In conclusion, the Countryside & Rights of Way Officer advised Members that the ROWIP will help the Council improve the network of public footpaths throughout the County Borough. He reminded Members that the plan will promote the rights of way to access outdoor activity for health, regeneration, tourism and recreation. Members were asked to make a recommendation that the draft plan is put before Cabinet so that a revised ROWIP may be approved within the specified time.

Following the presentation, the Committee discussed the information and questioned the Parks & Countryside Manger and Countryside & Rights of Way Officer.

In response to a query regarding the Penrhys Pilgrimage from Llandaff Cathedral passing through the County Borough to Penrhys, the Countryside & Rights of Way Officer advised that the Council have not been formally approached to be partners in the venture, but that the Council have assisted and will continue to assist where they can.

A Member asked if there would be a provision to improve access for horse riders even though the activity was identified as a minority concern in the 2017 assessment. Members were advised that whilst provisions would be put in place during the Plan period, the money would have to be spent where the priorities are.

A query was raised in relation to public pathways and if provisions had been made within the Plan. Members were advised that there were already provisions in place.

A Member commented that the focus seems to be on public paths rather than public parks of the County Borough. The Countryside & Rights of Way Officer advised that any open spaces can be looked at and they are looking at all access opportunities.

The Chair sought clarification as to who would be the point of contact for the public to adopt a path. Members were advised that the Adopt a Path scheme had been set up in 2012 and the process involves a simple application form submitted to the Council.

The Chair also queried by how much the Welsh Government had cut funding and what was the total budget available. The Chair was advised that funding had been cut by £37,000 this financial year, and that the total allocation received from the Welsh Government was originally around £50,000. The Parks and Countryside Manager advised members that the Countryside Section is made up of 7 officers, 2 senior rangers and 3 operatives, but that only 2 officers manage the Rights of Way function.

The Chair emphasised that education was a big factor and queried how they interact with schools in the County Borough. The Countryside & Rights of Way Officer advised that the Countryside Section undertakes small-scale initiatives, which involves going into schools and encouraging teachers and children to use the public paths to look at wildlife. They will also be there to support and advise schools.

Further discussions ensued and a Member commented that it was important that people in the County Borough were encouraged to be more active. The Member asked if there are any specific plans to encourage people to use the paths more often. The Countryside & Rights of Way Officer advised that resources are there for people to do more walking and that this would be beneficial to people in the County Borough. Members were advised that they are also working closely with leisure and tourism, and that the Council is working with neighbouring authorities to encourage more residents and visitors to use the Taff Trail. A Member spoke positively about the hard work that had been done with Ynysybwl Regeneration Partnership's paths and trails working group.

The Chair then requested that Maps are brought back so that the committee knows where all the routes are.

A Member queried whether a marketing campaign will be done to highlight the right of way areas. The Officer confirmed that there will be a rights of way promotion. The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services commented that the Council's tourism sector has been focusing on this and that they are making Maps available interactively.

A Member asked how we could get the routes more widely known to residents of Rhondda Cynnon Taff. Members were advised that social media will be a big focus for promoting the routes and a Member commented that it would be great to increase tourism in the County Borough.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to;

- Recommend the report to Cabinet subject to consideration being given to funding and the inclusion of bilingual links on social media to interactive Maps.

13. PRESENTATION FROM THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND STREETCARE SERVICES.

Following an introduction by the Director of Highways & Streetcare Services, the Committee received a presentation from the Waste Services Strategic & Ops Officer in respect of Communal Area Recycling.

It was reported that a Communal bin collection point is a place not managed by the Council but an agreed place to pick up rubbish from several properties and there are hundreds in RCT. The main concerns are lack of ownership and the inability of officers to identify culprits of contamination. They also become a magnet for fly tipping, health and safety issues and pests. Enforcement becomes almost impossible and results in a loss of recyclable material, which affects council targets. Members were shown pictures from Rhydyfelin, Trallwn, Edmonstown, Tonypany, Aberaman and Hendreforgan of community recycling areas to illustrate the issues faced by the Council.

The Director of Highways and Streetcare Services said this relates to social housing and back lanes as well as unadopted roads. Members were advised that it's one of the most emotive things that they deal with. It was noted that communal areas have become more of a problem since the 4th of June 2018 when the Council imposed the one wheelie bin or two black bag limits.

The Director proposed that Members consider establishing a working group to look at the issues and valued Members' input and local knowledge. He added that should Members' agree there would be a possibility of introducing a service level agreement with landlords, who are not showing responsibilities for the problem.

The Director advised Members that it is a major problem for all Councils and therefore it is also important that the Working Group will have input from crew members and Landlords.

The Chair commented that every Member has this problem in their ward and advised that he fully supports the proposal to set up a Working Group and he noted that RCT could be the first Council in Wales to address this and could potentially lead the way for other Councils.

A Member noted that landlords should be doing more to look after their residents and that this is a particular problem with some social housing across the County Borough

Discussions ensued and a Member commented that landlords need to provide an area to put black bags. The Director advised that in communal areas, they could look at issuing fines to some landlords if they refuse to work with the Council on this issue.

A number of concerns were raised in relation to communal waste issues facing the Council. It was agreed that there is a need to find out who the culprits are and a

Member questioned whether the use of CCTV would be appropriate. It was agreed that there should be responsibility on landlords to work with the Council on this issue.

The Director advised the committee that the Welsh Government want the Council to recycle more and the Council tackle this by making the recycling process easier and by fining residents if they do not recycle. However; it was emphasised that communal waste is different as they cannot find proof of ownership. The Director advised Members that he has spoken to Magistrates on this issue and that in terms of enforcement the Council is achieving its targets. The Director emphasised that the Council may need to target specific areas and trial different ideas and that this is something for the Working Group to look at in more detail.

It was agreed that Members of the Working Group would go out on a round with the recycling teams so that Members can see the process first hand. It was noted that if Members visit the education centre then they will get a good understanding of the issues involved.

A Member queried whether the Council were experiencing any issues with local businesses. The Director advised that the problems were mainly with fast food outlets.

Following discussion Members **RESOLVED**;

- To set up a Working Group to consider Communal Area Recycling Strategy which will target all areas including schools and businesses; and
- That Members email the Senior Democratic Services Officer if they wish to be a part of the Working Group.

14. JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS & STREETCARE SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES.

The committee received a report outlining the background information and issues for consideration in relation to the development of infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle/ ultra-low emission vehicle ownership.

In February 2018, a Notice of Motion, calling for a Scrutiny Working Group to consider options to develop Low Carbon Vehicle (LCV) infrastructure in RCT was approved by Full Council. This was necessary to enable the development of a policy, which will improve the infrastructure required to support low carbon vehicle/ultra low emission vehicle ownership in RCT.

The UK Government plans to ban the sale of petrol and diesel only combustible engine cars from 2040. The development of infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle/ ultra low emission vehicle ownership in RCT would complement the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; the Environment Act (Wales) 2016 and; the Council's commitments as a member of the UK100.

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members that officers have been undertaking research regarding LCV infrastructure

and requirements to identify the associated issues. Due to the complexity of the issues involved this has taken a number of months.

Members were advised that section four of the report provides a picture of LCV in the County Borough and provides details of the funding available. Section five provides a list of key considerations that the Working Group will need to consider. The Service Director advised that a key issue in RCT is that there is a high volume of houses with no off road parking and cables cannot run across footways and highways to plug into vehicles as they would be deemed an obstruction to the highway.

Members were advised that Wales is behind the rest of the UK in terms of infrastructure. The Working Group will be an opportunity to lead Wales in the right direction.

The Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services suggested that there is an opportunity to refer the development of infrastructure to support low carbon vehicle ownership to the Future Generations (Wales) Commissioner Office working group for it to progress the matter. The working group will work through the review utilising the new scrutiny toolkit, which will embrace the wellbeing goals and five ways of working within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act.

The Chair agreed with the proposal to refer the matter to the Future Generations (Wales) Committee but emphasised that the overall ownership will stay with the Public Service Delivery Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee and that they would have input into the work and have the opportunity to agree the outcome.

A Member queried whether the roads would need digging up to create charging points. The Director advised that this is unlikely and that in all probability vehicles will be charged at supermarkets in much the same way that we fuel up for diesel and petrol vehicles. There could be charging points in Council car parks and leisure centres and this is something that will be looked at. Members were advised that apps tend to be used to access charge points.

A Member asked how many Council employees are using Low Carbon Vehicles and queried if the Council could be doing more to support them. Members were advised that there were 145 ULEVs registered in Rhondda Cynon Taf as at the end of Quarter 1 2018. We do not have details of the number of employees with low carbon vehicles though two out of forty four vehicles leased through the Council's salary sacrifice scheme are ULEVs.

Following discussion Members **RESOLVED:-**

1. To refer the matter to the Future Generations (Wales) Commissioners Office; and
2. That the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee has input into the collaborative project and has the opportunity to agree the final outcome.

15. URGENT BUSINESS

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services presented the urgent report and asked Members to consider setting up a Working Group to deal with the Notice of Motion in respect of Community Snow Wardens, which was supported by Full Council held on the 19th September 2018.

The Director of Communications and Interim Head of Democratic Services advised Members that the matter will need to be progressed swiftly, therefore the Working Group will need to be set up immediately so that any recommendations can be implemented in advance of this winter. Members were advised to email the Senior Democratic Officer if they want to be a part of the Working Group (which it was advised would be held during the day as a better use of Officer time and to prevent any clash with the Council's Committee schedule).

A Member queried if the Council will be providing insurance for any falls or slips by volunteers. The Director advised that issues such as insurance liability and DBS checks will be looked at by the Working Group.

Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Establish a Working Group to consider the content of the Notice of Motion; and
- To receive a report from the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services at its inaugural meeting, outlining how the policy could be implemented

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

Chair
S. A. Bradwick



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th NOVEMBER 2018

CURRENT POSITION AND IMPROVING RECYCLING REPORT

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND STREETCARE SERVICES

AUTHOR: Nigel Wheeler, Director Highways & Streetcare Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Scrutiny on the current position on recycling, our current problem materials and what we need to do to improve the recycling rate to achieve future targets.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the content of the report; and
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any further matters contained in the report

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council, like all other Councils in Wales, has statutory targets to meet on recycling. Failure to meet these targets will result in significant fines for every percentage not achieved.
- 3.2 The Council has made various changes over the past few years in order improve the recycling rate and these changes have been fundamental in the Council's recycling rate improving year on year to the extent that we achieved over 64% in 2016/17.
- 3.3 In order to achieve the next significant target set at 70% by 2024/2025, the Council needs to implement some further changes as the Council has seen the recycling percentage plateau in 2017/18 despite continued awareness

campaigns on both food and dry recycling and no change to our collection system.

- 3.4 In 2016/17 the Council disposed of 35,636 tonnes of residual waste which meant that 36% of waste produced in the County Borough went to either landfill or Energy from Waste.
- 3.5 A WRAP compositional analysis in 2015, highlighted that over 70% of that residual waste is recyclable/compostable therefore if we could capture just 25% of that material, it would give us a recycling percentage of just over 71% whilst 50% would give us a figure of just under 80% which is Welsh Government's proposed new recycling target
- 3.6 The Council at present, provides a weekly twin streamed/co-mingled recycling service, food waste service, green waste collection service, an opt in AHP (Nappy) collection service and a fortnightly residual waste collection service via either a bag system (former Rhondda) or a bin system (former Cynon & Taf).
- 3.7 This service is available to all residents and through various consultation exercises over recent years, it is clear our residents like the system and hold it in high regard due to its simplicity.
- 3.8 Despite this, there are still residents who do not take part in the scheme at all or on a very limited basis and due to this we still are disposing of over 35,000t in 2016/17 through either landfill or Energy from Waste.
- 3.9 A WRAP composition analysis in 2015 highlighted that over 70% of that waste is recyclable/compostable therefore if we could capture 25% of that material, it would give us a recycling percentage of just over 71% whilst 50% would give us a figure of just under 80% which is Welsh Government's proposed new recycling target.
- 3.10 A number of Welsh Councils have already or are looking to reduce the residual waste collection frequency to three or four weekly collections, as there is clear evidence that by reducing residual collection frequency the recycling percentage increases. There is also clear evidence that by reducing the number of bags a resident can put out or by introducing a 'no side waste' policy recycling performance also increases.
- 3.11 Cabinet have always been clear that they will not reduce the frequency of residual collection less than fortnightly for two main reasons
- it penalises residents who are recycling fully; and
 - it is a clear reduction in service provision.
- 3.12 Due to the above, we recently changed the residual collection levels within the County Borough to:-
- Rhondda – was reduced from **4 bag** allowance per fortnight to **2 bags**;

- Cynon & Taf - a '**no side waste**' policy was brought in regardless of bin size, with the provision that the bin lid has to be closed.
- 3.13 In Cynon and Taf, there are mainly two bin sizes, that is 240 litre or 120 litre bin. In lieu of removing all 240l bins and replacing with new 120l bins, it was agreed that the Council continued with its policy of when a bin is requested, to only provide a 120l bin. This policy has been in place for 30 plus months and we anticipate that well over 65% of bins in use are now the 120l bins and in time the amount of 240l will gradually reduce further. The Council continues to provide support to households who for various reasons may struggle with these proposals eg households with ash waste and large families.
- 3.14 The reason for this approach is rather than a change in collection frequency which affects all residents, the change recommended ensured that there will be no adverse affect on our many residents who fully engage in the service, as the change was aimed at engaging with residents who either took no part in the recycling scheme or took part on a limited basis.
- 3.15 Over the Christmas period, there is a relaxation of the restriction, whereby in the Rhondda there is a **4 bag limit** whilst in Cynon and Taf, any resident with a 120l bin could have **one bag of side waste** whilst there will be no change to the policy for any resident with a 240l bin for the Christmas period.
- 3.16 In past years, the Council has had no powers to tackle residents not prepared to engage in the recycling scheme but in conjunction with Welsh Government and all Welsh Councils, we are now in a position under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and Clean Neighbourhoods Act (CNA) to tackle this issue.
- 3.17 The EPA Sec.46 allows a Waste Authority to specify what may/may not be placed in any specified container, by way of a notice. It is recommended that by way of a notice we inform residents that they cannot place recyclable material within their residual bin/bag.
- 3.18 If the Notice is breached, and following a warning, then a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) of £100 can be issued under Sec.47ZA of the EPA as inserted in the Clean Neighbourhoods Act.
- 3.19 The Council has since its inception always stated that enforcement is a last resort, and it is the same in this case, with the team initially raising awareness with residents on this matter and only issuing a FPN if and when all other avenues have been exhausted
- 3.20 The Council used to collect green waste on a **weekly** basis all the year round, even in the winter months when the growing season has ended. In order to improve the efficiency of the service, that between 1st November and the 1st March the service reverts to a **fortnightly** service and revert back to a **weekly** service thereafter, whilst there has been no real term financial saving, it has reduced wasted travelling time.

- 3.21 In order to raise awareness with our residents, it is important to continue to run an awareness campaign on recycling issues, we are currently working with WG on a national behavioural change campaign and a localised awareness campaign, both totally funded by WG
- 3.22 Despite all our efforts, we still have problematic areas not taking part and problematic materials which we are finding difficult to find outlets, these are in the main some plastics, and this is mainly down to China closing its doors and the market place being flooded with this material, we have been fortunate that as we have been loyal they have stayed loyal to us.
- 3.23 The other real problematic material is wood, and the wood issue has hit our recycling figure by nearly 4% so the improvement due to the side waste has had minimal impact due to the wood issue
- 3.24 The council as stated run a twin stream/co-mingled collection service with all material going through the Material Recycling Facility at Bryn Pica, we are in the process of procuring a brand new state of the art new plant which will improve both efficiency and productivity, this will result in improved recycling output and also allows us to partner with neighbouring councils and process their material.
- 3.25 Due to these problematic materials, we are still looking to develop the Eco Park at Bryn Pica, although access the funding is proving challenging. Planning permission is being sort in December and we continue to liaise with WG and other potential partners about future funding.
- 3.26 We have engaged Capita/Redstart as our design consultant, and have undertaken both an Ecological and Geotechnical Survey on the area and have further ground investigation works to be undertaken in January, once to have removed the line of trees on the land.
- 3.27 We have engaged a Energy Consultant through WG funding to work with us in identifying how we capture and utilise the green energy from the AD Plant and ensure there is enough energy on the site for all users

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 No consultation is required.

5 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment scoping exercise has been undertaken that indicates that there would be no such implications.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 6.1 There will be no significant budget implications and any funding needed can come from within existing budgets

- 6.2 Funding to support the awareness campaign is available from within existing budgets.
- 6.3 If the Council does not improve its recycling rates by 6% from the current recycling rate of 64% to 70% by 2025, Welsh Government will levy significant penalties on the Council. These penalties are significant, and if no further progress is made in terms of improving the recycling rates, the cost to the Council could be in excess of £xm.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005
Environmental Protection Act 1990

8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 8.1 The proposals in this report are consistent with the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular *“Place – creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work”*:

- *Rhondda Cynon Taf's local environment will be clean and attractive...*
- *Rhondda Cynon Taf's parks and green spaces will continue to be valued by residents...*

- 8.2 These proposals are also consistent with the Well-being Goals under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

- *A healthier Wales – a society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.*
- *A Wales of cohesive communities – attractive, viable, safe and well connected communities.*

9. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The Council has to meet its statutory recycling targets to avoid financial penalties. The fines are significant, and without some change to the current service provision, it could struggle to achieve the recycling targets. Therefore doing nothing is not really an option and as in previous changes the recommendations outlined in this report look to allow the Council to achieve those targets whilst not adversely affecting the residents already fully engaged with the service.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Comm

Tudalen wag



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th NOVEMBER 2018

UPDATE ON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER (DOG CONTROLS)

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND STREETCARE SERVICES

AUTHOR: Nigel Wheeler, Director Highway & Streetcare Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the success of Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO') implemented on the 1st October, 2017 which introduced dog controls in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee scrutinise the content of the report; and
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise in greater depth any further matters contained in the report

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Prior to the introduction of the PSPO, dog fouling was a significant concern for the Council. Despite considerable efforts to promote responsible dog ownership and to enforce the provisions of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, there remained a minority of dog owners who did not clean up after their dogs or keep them under control. Dog fouling is unpleasant and a risk to human health, particularly amongst children.
- 3.2 The PSPO allowed the Council to introduce a range of reasonable and proportionate restrictions on the use of publicly accessible land across the County Borough. This enabled the Council to better control the harmful activities of irresponsible dog owners whilst enabling responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions.



4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Dog fouling is unsightly, unpleasant and can lead to serious illness in humans such as toxocariasis. This disease can be controlled if dog faeces are disposed of immediately in a responsible manner.
- 4.2 The majority of dog owners are responsible, clean up after their dogs and keep them under control. However, the Council received many complaints each year about dog fouling in public places. In addition, many of our playing fields needed to be routinely checked for dog fouling before they can be used.

5 Facts and Figures since the introduction of the PSPO

- 5.1 Since the introduction of the PSPO, the council has issued 246 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN's)
- 5.2 The offences are broken down below
- Dog fouling 74
 - On a restricted area 159
 - Off their leads 13
- 5.3 Below is the current position in regard to payments made:
- 170 paid in full resulting in £17,000
 - Paid partially 2 resulting in £90
 - Taken to court – 34, (22 awaiting court action)
 - Cancelled 18
- 5.4 It is clearly overwhelming that public support for the PSPO despite some higher profile issues in nearby councils.
- 5.5 Below are the top 10 worst affected areas in the County Borough:
- Aberdare the Ynys – 25
 - Ystrad – 15
 - Mt Ash(Gerwnifor/Brynifor) – 12
 - Talbot Green – 10
 - Aberaman – 9
 - Aberdare Park – 9
 - Hopkinstown(Western Field) – 9
 - Clydach Vale – 8
 - Maerdy – 8



- Trealaw - 8

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In developing the proposals for the PSPO, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to ensure that:
- The Council meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duties, and
 - Due regard has been taken of the likely impact of the decision in terms of equality and discrimination.
- 6.2 The provisions of this Order did not apply to a dog trained by a registered charity to assist a person with a disability and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.
- 6.3 For the purposes of the Order, a 'disability' means a condition that qualifies as a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 and upon which a disabled person relies for assistance.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 Funding to support these requirements was available from available earmarked reserves, confirmed as part of the closure process for the 2016/17 accounts. Base budget funding has been built into 2018/19 budgets and beyond following implementation.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The PSPO introduced a range of reasonable and proportionate prohibitions and requirements on the use of publicly accessible land whilst enabling responsible dog owners to continue to exercise their dogs without undue restrictions. The PSPO was subject to a comprehensive public consultation which confirmed that there was overwhelming public support for a PSPO to introduce dog controls across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 8.2 Since its introduction the number of fines have slowed down as the first year has progressed, this is hopefully down to the irresponsible dog owners now doing what all responsible dog owners always did.





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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15th November 2018

VOLUNTARY SNOW WARDEN SCHEME

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Author: C. Hanagan, Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services - Tel: 01443 424045

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee with the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group (attached at Appendix 1) in respect of adopting a Voluntary Snow Warden Scheme, as referred to in the Notice of Motion considered by Full Council on the 19th September 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Scrutiny:

2.1 Acknowledge that the Executive considered and endorsed the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group (subject to some minor amendments) as follows:-

- That the dedicated number for Elected Members is utilised to provide Members with support and advice for all Elected Members during periods of inclement weather ;
- That a targeted campaign is undertaken to promote community self help (Communities coming together to help each other on a voluntary basis during times of extreme weather) and to encourage residents to become 'good neighbours';
- That appropriate, practical guidance and good practice in relation to community action in severe weather is shared with the residents of RCT via the Council website (GOV UK -Guidance on Community Action in Severe Weather) ¹;
- That further work is undertaken in respect of the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work undertaken in a safe manner; and

- That the Mini Ploughs are brought on site before the October Council meeting for all Members to view.

2.2 Agree that progress of these recommendations be monitored by members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee as part of its forward work programme.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Working Group, held on the 9th October 2018, following consideration of the report of the Director of Highways and Streetcare Services it was agreed that although in theory, the Working Group agreed with the ethos of the Voluntary Snow Warden scheme, they raised concerns in relation to the cost and officer time in organising and maintaining a register of wardens who would be required to be need to be trained and supported in a number of ways.

3.2 In conclusion, the Working Group formulated four recommendations based on promoting the spirit of volunteering in the community in times of severe weather conditions as well as providing clear and practical advice to the residents of RCT. It also recommended that Cabinet consider that further work is undertaken in respect of considering the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work undertaken in a safe manner.

3.3 At its meeting on the 18th October 2018, Cabinet considered the findings of the Scrutiny Working Group. The Chair of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, County Borough Councillor S. Bradwick was also in attendance to address Cabinet on the item.

3.4 Following consideration of the report, the Executive endorsed the recommendations, subject to minor amendments and the inclusion of a fifth recommendation, that the Council's mini ploughs are brought on site before the October Council meeting for all members to view.

3.5 The additional recommendation was implemented on the 24th October 2018 when all Elected Members were provided with the opportunity to view the Council's mini ploughs prior to the Full Council meeting.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The attached report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group. The Working Group formulated four recommendations which were endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting on the 18th October 2018 (subject to minor amendments and the inclusion of an additional recommendation as set out at 2.1). It will be for the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and progress going forward

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equality and diversity implications has been considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no consultation implications arising, as yet, from this report.

7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Financial and resource implications were considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements going forward will be

8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 The Notice of Motion considered and the resulting recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group linked to the Corporate Plan in respect of people and place – Promoting independence and positive lives for everyone and creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work.
- 8.2 The Notice of Motion linked with the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, helping to create a resilient Wales and a Wales of cohesive communities.



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

¹RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES AND PROSPERITY SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

VOLUNTARY SNOW WARDENS

**JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS & STREETCARE
SERVICES AND DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & INTERIM HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet with the findings of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Working Group which was established to deal with 'Voluntary Snow Wardens' following the Notice of Motion considered by Council at its meeting held on the 19th September 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the following recommendations of the Working Group:-

- 2.1 That a dedicated hotline number is set up offering support and advice for all Elected Members during periods of inclement weather ;
- 2.2 That a targeted campaign is undertaken to promote community self help (Communities coming together to help each other on a voluntary basis during times of extreme weather) and to encourage residents to become 'good neighbours';
- 2.3 That appropriate, practical guidance and good practice in relation to community action in severe weather is shared with the residents of RCT via the Council website (GOV UK -Guidance on Community Action in Severe Weather) ¹; and
- 2.4 That Cabinet is asked to consider the issue of covering the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work undertaken in a safe manner.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On the 19th September 2018, Full Council considered the following Notice of

¹ GOV UK – Guidance on Community Action in Severe Weather - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/5909/1789192.pdf

3.2 Motion to establish a voluntary snow warden scheme and stood in the names of County Borough Councillors P.Jarman, S.Rees-Owen, G.R.Davies, M.Weaver, E.Webster, D.Grehan, H.Fychan, D.Macey, A.Cox, J.Williams, K.Morgan, J.Davies, J.Cullwick, E.Stephens, L.Jones, A.Chapman and S.Evans was considered:

“That this Council, as part of its emergency planning responsibilities introduces a scheme of voluntary Snow Wardens to assist in snow clearance in the community during heavy snowfall. The snow wardens will be registered with the Council and be properly trained and equipped to undertake snow clearance in their locality.”

3.2 Following discussions it was resolved to refer the Notice of Motion to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee i.e. Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee, and that a report therefrom be reported to the Cabinet for its consideration and to a future meeting of the Council.

3.3 At the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on the 27th September 2018, following consideration of a joint urgent report of the Director of Highways & Streetcare Services and the Director of Communications & Interim Head of Democratic Services, it was agreed to establish a Scrutiny Working Group to deal with the contents of the Notice of Motion.

3.4 In order to advance the matter at the earliest opportunity the inaugural meeting of the Working Group was subsequently arranged for the 9th October 2018 with an invitation to all Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity together with the proposer and seconder of the Notice of Motion, Councillors P Jarman and S Rees-Owen respectively.

3.5 The Working Group Members consisted of County Borough Councillors S. A. Bradwick, A. Chapman, E. George, S. Rees-Owen and G. Stacey.

3.6 At its inaugural meeting the Working Group was presented with a discussion paper by the Director, Highways and Streetcare Services outlining the two options for Members to consider in the adoption of the Voluntary Snow Warden Scheme as well as examples of the types of schemes operating in other parts of the UK such as in Bristol City Council.

3.7 The first option involves recruiting unpaid volunteers from the local community to become voluntary snow wardens; they give up their spare time in periods of severe weather to clear snow under the clear direction of the County Borough Council and act as a point of contact between the local authority and the local community in primarily a co-ordination role. The Working Group learned that to carry out their role effectively, the voluntary snow wardens would need suitable training, agree to work within the arrangements set forward by the County Council and be physically fit to carry out the role. They would also need to register with the local authority.

- 3.8 Although the Working Group agreed in principle with the voluntary snow warden scheme, which they acknowledged could add value to the work already undertaken by the Council and encourage local communities to help themselves, they raised concern that the scheme could potentially become a burden to Council Officers who would need to establish the voluntary self help scheme, recruit, register and deliver training to the community volunteers and possibly organise DBS checks. The Working Group felt that the scheme had the potential to impact on the already diminished resources available to the Council to carry out its services during periods of extreme weather. The Working Group also highlighted the possible cost to the local authority in terms of providing the volunteers with the appropriate clothing and equipment to ensure they can carry out their role safely and effectively.
- 3.9 Despite the concerns raised in implementing the voluntary snow warden scheme, the Working Group was keen to demonstrate a commitment by the Council to encourage communities to come together and help each other during times of extreme weather. They explored the possibility of promoting the principle of volunteering throughout the County Borough via social media and a dedicated, targeted campaign which would advise, support and empower communities to take local action in times of severe weather. It was further agreed that in conjunction with the campaign, guidance should be issued on the Council website which would offer simple, practical advice on the types of action that can be undertaken by local communities to support each other during times of severe weather.
- 3.10 In view of the Working Group's desire to encourage local communities to take action in times of poor weather conditions; it was agreed that the issue of public liability and whether the local authority would cover the public liability aspect of insurance for voluntary work, the volunteers themselves, their property or vehicles should be properly investigated and that this could be progressed by Cabinet.
- 3.11 The Working Group also acknowledged that Elected Member involvement is crucial in linking with local communities and agreed that a dedicated Elected Member hotline, which can be accessed by all Elected Members for support, advice and up-to-date information on the local situation during periods of extreme weather, should be established.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Working Group concluded that they fully support the principle of the Voluntary Snow Warden Scheme; however the practicalities of establishing such a scheme brings with it a number of concerns such as the cost and officer time in organising and maintaining a register of wardens who would need to be trained and supported in a number of ways as well as arranging potential DBS checks.
- 4.2 The Working Group acknowledged that the current arrangements in place across Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to deal with severe weather conditions are effective and considered that the dedicated campaign

to encourage local residents to be more proactive within their communities would enhance the Council services rather than distract from them. They agreed that the promotion of 'volunteering' would capture the spirit of the voluntary snow warden scheme and bring together residents and local Members alike during times of severe weather conditions.

4.3 Ultimately, the Working Group felt that a more targeted approach to empowering local communities is required and promotion of practical advice on the Council website and via social media would provide a communication network that would assist volunteers and Elected Members direct support where it is most needed.

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Equality and diversity implications will be considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements

6. CONSUTLATION

6.1 There are no consultation implications arising, as yet, from this report.

7. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the Working Group's recommendations and any subsequent implementation arrangements

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