

CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Residents of Shirefield have quite rightly been getting hot under the collar lately about the state of the lane. It was bad enough before the cold snap but the prolonged period of ice has caused considerable extra damage. It is true that all roads in the area suffered but that one more than most. MCC have been carrying out more substantial repairs on local roads of late but due to the fact that it is in the Budget for a considerable amount of upgrading decided to only fill the holes on this occasion. We are sorry that the expectation was for a better job. However, considerable pressure has been put on Highways to try to ensure that the work envisaged is carried out as soon as possible after April 1st.

There has been some confusion over the sewage issue at Eastgate in Caerwent. Clearly the situation there is unacceptable with there being raw sewage in the field and the danger of leakage into water courses. Engineers from Welsh Water have stated that the whole pipeline across the field has to be replaced and funding is now in place for this from April 1st. They have undertaken to ensure that this pipe is replaced to coincide with the upgrading of the storage and pumping facility near Centurians Court which is to be funded by Barratts as a condition arising out of the Merton Green development. The Environmental Health Officers at MCC are aware of the leakage problem and will take separate action over that. In the meantime we will keep up the pressure on Welsh Water to do the work without delay.

On the subject of Merton Green, the name "Castlemead" continues to be controversial with questions being asked why this name was chosen. It turns out that it was chosen by Barratts staff and is a regular practice for them. There are no powers that can be used to get it changed unless they choose to do so. However, we will try to get them to recognize that it is inappropriate. There is also the size of the sign which is an issue and has been referred to MCC planning enforcement.

MCC has recognized representations made over the possibility that the public toilets in Caerwent be closed due to them being underused and not compliant with the Disabilities Discrimination Act. Our view was that they are important to tourists visiting the Roman remains. There are, of course toilets in the Westgate Barns site but these are locked when the facility is closed. Cadw are to be approached with a view to more community usage of the Barns, possibly for a community coffee shop. We will keep you informed regarding progress on this.

Phil Murphy, Chairman

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Planning Application Considered by the Community Council:

2010/00019 Extension to Include Changing and Shower Facilities together with All Weather Canopy, Village Hall, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval