

## **CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Thank you to everyone who attended the presentation by MCC Highways Officers of their proposals to close School Lane in Caerwent. Readers will recall that in last month's Newsletter we set out the criteria that led to the proposals. To sum up briefly there is a concern by Highways Officers that School Lane will be used increasingly as a quick route especially for traffic leaving the Merton Green development at the Llanvair Road end who wish to go to Caldicot. This would have the effect of creating very undesirable pressure on the section of Caerwent between the Church and the Coach & Horses. In addition the "Pelican Crossing" on the A48 at the Western end directs pedestrian movement along the lane. There is also the problem of numerous minor accidents which one day could become more serious.

The response from those who filled the comments form was very useful and in particular drew attention to other concerns that already exist on the main East West route through the village which might be made worse by the proposals. These responses are currently being evaluated by MCC and a decision will subsequently be made by the Cabinet Member for Highways on the way forward.

The Council debated the situation and decided to recommend that the road be closed off at the A48, thus creating a cul-de-sac. However, we also insisted that a full assessment be made of the current and anticipated conditions in the area and in the wider area and also that plans be drawn up to tackle these problems to help relieve the problems both current and future. We understand that the Cabinet Member is in favour of that approach and we will let residents know in future Newsletters how the appraisal is progressing.

Those of you who have septic tanks should be aware of the requirements to register them with the Environment Agency. These regulations relate to systems which discharge, so does not require people with sealed units (less pits) to register. However, for the avoidance of doubt please contact the Environment Agency or check their website.

It was always the case that the Community Police Officer gave an update on reported incidents at each of our meetings. Unfortunately since the personnel have changed, this is no longer happening. We take the view that it is important that we receive this information so that we can alert Residents regarding occurrences in the area. We are trying to get these briefings re-instated.

May we take this opportunity to thank the Coach and Horses for their Bonfire Night event. It was very generous to put on such a wonderful evening. However, should they decide to repeat the event next year a few minor problems will have to be addressed regarding car parking which we're sure will not take too much to sort out.

There was a very good attendance at the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. Each year the attendance increases and it was good to see so many young people there.

Philip Murphy  
CHAIRMAN