

## **MATTERS ARISING UPDATE – December 2012**

### **Merton Green**

Councillor Cousins to report.

### **School Lane & Caerwent Village Traffic Enhancement Scheme**

Chairman to report.

### **Circular Walk**

Councillor Counsell will be meeting with the Leisure Manager in January.

### **Caerwent Playing Fields Trees**

Tree works will be completed w/c 10<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Trees, Westwood/Rodge Farms**

On 19<sup>th</sup> November provisional Tree Preservation Orders were made on 6 oak trees. These will be confirmed in six months provided there are no objections.

### **Time Team Field**

Still awaiting lease from MCC. Councillor Evans to report on proposal put by Caerwent Historic Trust.

### **Cwrt Morgan Adoption**

Councillor Evans to report.

### **War Memorial Names**

Clerk requested that one more name be added to the Memorial.

### **Provision of Allotments**

Reply from Estates MCC that unfortunately they have not been able to locate any suitable sites for possible allotments in the Caerwent Area. They will continue to keep a look out for potential sites on council land in the area. The MoD had been informed that following a meeting with Gwent Orchards we are no longer pursuing the site off the A48. Col Howard-Gash had agreed to investigate any other possible sites.

### **Provision of Dog Friendly Stiles**

Reply from Countryside Manager, MCC:

“I have managed to review this

with Ruth and I apologise that this issue has not been dealt with by us as it should have been. Unfortunately we have not been as clear as we should have been about the likely timescales we can deal with enforcement issues, given the backlog of such issues and the policy/legal framework. The Council's established access policy would be to seek to get agreement to install gates, rather than dog friendly stiles. We can require replacement stiles, but we have no powers to enforce a change to gates or to require a dog friendly solution.

We are now assessing all rights of way issues under the council's new approved rights of way prioritisation scheme. The issue has been prioritised with 98 points. This scheme is applied to issues recorded on our system by equating the highest score to the highest priority, as many tasks are then implemented as resources allow, starting with the highest scores, but subject to; any practical considerations affecting implementation, the ability to work in key community areas, where there are clusters of issues, where most public benefit can be gained, or where other opportunities exist to enhance the network.

The prioritisation system is based upon a list of 7 criteria which are assigned a weighting and given a range of scores. Combined these scores give the final total prioritisation score which falls between 11 and 254 points, the criteria used are as follows: Health, Safety and Effect, Route usage, Route status (footpath, bridleway, etc.), Maintenance/Enforcement type, Accessibility (to those with disabilities), Promotion (National trail, Regional trail, etc.) and Discretionary points.

As your e-mail of 4 October said your Council was now planning to install the stiles I am not clear whether you have secured agreement with the landowner to do this? It is not for us to "approve" such an arrangement with the landowner as the responsibility for furniture is the landowner's but you must have their agreement and we would encourage you to follow our construction guidance for access structures, which I can provide if you wish. Care must also be taken to ensure they are installed on the correct legal line of the path and we can assist in identifying this if you wish.

If you have not had agreement from the landowner let me know and we will consider how to proceed, but due to the relative low prioritisation of the issue this will not be an immediate response, unless there are any further reasons to add to its priority which we are not aware of"

### **Dog Waste Bins**

Three new bins installed – eastgate noticeboard verge, Green Lane and Lawrence Crescent.

### **Proposed re-instatement of Village Pumps**

Information received from Sense of Roots Officer that the deadline for the grant scheme is 4 pm on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. This information has been passed onto Councillor Counsell and Mrs M Williams.

### **Wormtech**

Col Howard-Gash had given a slide presentation on the state of the Wormtech site at the recent community group supper.

### **Best Kept Village Signage, Llanfair Discoed**

Councillor Vosloo to report.

### **Excavation Works, Village Green Area**

Reply from Cadw advising that the gardens of Myrtle Cottage, Cross Cottage and Roadside Cottage are excluded from the scheduled area so works to them do not require consent from Cadw. However, although not all of it is covered by statutory protection all of Caerwent is potentially archaeologically significant. As such the archaeological supervision of the works to Cross Cottage was a condition of planning permission from MCC rather than scheduled monument consent from Cadw.

Their understanding is that the works in front of Myrtle Cottage would have been regarded as permitted development and so not require planning permission meaning that there were no controls in place requiring any archaeological watching brief. They believe this is unfortunate as the archaeology in Caerwent is typically not that far below the surface, but with regard to the works by Welsh Water we may wish to note that all the utilities companies do receive regular digital mapping data from Cadw so there should be no risk of them carrying out works within the scheduled area without the proper consent.

Map enclosed provided by Caerwent Historic Trust.

### **MoD Railway Line**

Councillor Counsell to report.

### **Wentwood Reservoir**

Clerk contacted Welsh Water but no response as yet. For your information when we raised the question of lowering the reservoir previously this was the response:

“The reservoir is currently leased to an angling club who maintain the area surrounding it. The water level in the reservoir is maintained at approximately one metre below capacity to assist with flood prevention, however, as water is no longer abstracted from the Castroggi in order to maintain the water level in the reservoir, reducing the level of the reservoir further would not provide any further flood protection as it would not reduce flows in the river”.