

Caerwent Community Council

Happy New Year. We hope you had a good time over the Christmas period.

The recent bad weather, that long wet period in November and the snow and hard frosts have had a severe effect on our roads, especially the ones that have not yet been repaired. Strenuous efforts have been made to remedy the situation but just filling in potholes, whilst helping for a while, never solves anything. We have to do all we can to get the more permanent repairs done quicker than planned. It doesn't help when the MoD vehicles get lost on these roads creating untold damage.

There was a concern raised recently of inadequate notices being given by MCC of planning applications. If you feel that you should have been consulted or at least made aware of an application so that you could have gone online or to the appropriate One Stop Shop to view the plans, you should in the first instance complain to the Planning Department at County Hall. However, we would be interested to hear of such incidents so that we can monitor the situation.

Many of you will have seen the local Police increasingly engaged in speed monitoring. This will increase and lead to prosecutions, so be aware. The road between Caerwent Brook and Dewstow is a particular speeding area which is being monitored.

On the matter of speed, the 30mph stretch of the A48 still causes controversy. The developer of Merton Green hopes to start work there in early Spring. Highways improvements will be carried out over the following six months if all goes according to their plans. It should all get sorted out during that period.

We will be extending our flower planting and, over a period have extended the areas that are now maintained by this Council. As more pressure is exerted on finances of the County Council due to the economic squeeze, it is felt that it is the efforts made by Community Councils that will keep standards up. The latest of these planting areas will be in Crick. We hope you enjoy the result.

MCC are carrying out a review of Public Toilets where they are not compliant to the Disability Discrimination Act and are little used. The Public Toilets in Caerwent come under this category and may be recommended for closure as a result. This Council takes the view that as it is situated at the heart of the Roman remains it should be kept open - if only for that reason. We mention this at this stage as it may well receive some publicity or press comment leading up to the Budget setting in March.

Phil Murphy
Chairman

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