

CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Phil Murphy handed over the Chairmanship of the Council to me at our AGM in May. On behalf of all the Council and residents I would like to thank Phil for all the hard work he has done for this Council and feel confident to take over knowing that he will still be available to assist me over the next 12 months.

Due to a mistake the Council information was duplicated from April so my first contribution is a mixture of Phil's last newsletter and an update from May.

It is pleasing to receive so many positive comments about the Caerwent Enhancement Scheme. It is true that a few issues have arisen which need to be ironed out and, hopefully by the time this Newsletter comes out, the work will have been done. A number of people have queried the height of the "bumps" at each entrance to the village. These would cause excessive noise if they were higher and they are more to create a boundary than to physically slow traffic as the electronic 20 mph signs will be placed next to them.

This month's Police report warned, again, about daytime thefts from vehicles. Please do not leave your vehicle in the street, or indeed at home with items of value clearly in view. There will also be speed gun activity in the area. A new addition to enforcement in the area is the appointment of an Officer who will deal with dog fouling. To that end four more bins have been installed, three of which are in Caerwent and one in Llanfair Discoed. All the bins (now 7 in Caerwent) are regularly emptied by contractors so please use them.

On Saturday 1st June the police are cycle marking in the Coach & Horses car park between 12 and 2:30pm. Hopefully you will receive this newsletter before the 1st and can take your bikes along.

We now have clarification regarding the reserved car parking spaces in the Merton Green/Ash Tree Road area. There have been problems at the flats in Ash Tree Road where people are using bays that have been allocated to other people. These bays have been conveyed to the allocated residents who can if they wish install posts with locks to ensure that unauthorised use does not take place as long as there is no impact on the highway. Anyone who is thinking of doing this would be advised to get advice from MCC Highways before carrying out the work.

Our attempt to re-instate the two village pumps in Caerwent through grant applications has failed but we are looking to see if we could fund one pump in a different way. We believe that the two original water troughs are somewhere in the village, perhaps whoever has them would consider returning one of them to save on the cost of buying a replacement.

Residents in Llanfair Discoed will be pleased to note that the signage recording their winning the “Best Kept Village” competition in 2012 is now in place.

We have had some responses to our request for residents’ views on the public toilets in Caerwent. This Council feels that they should remain open as the village is a tourist area and the West Gate site is only open occasionally. We have requested a report on the work that is needed there with a view to the continuing provision but would still be grateful for any views on the subject.

There are several issues with St Brides Road and a meeting has taken place with one of the Highways Engineers to try to find a way of resolving them. Water is clearly the main problem with the brook regularly overflowing with regular damage being caused to the road surface. However, there are also signs of potential collapse of the banks. Works will be carried out over the summer period.

David Hedley
CHAIRMAN

The following planning applications have been considered by the Community Council:

2013/00185 Rose Cottage, Llanfair Discoed

Installation of Three Sealed Cesspits

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

There is a better alternative with a partial relocation of the Cesspits to make more even flow of surface drainage and to comply with the normal Building Regulations. A soil contamination survey is required.

2013/00222 Springfield House, Well Lane, Llanfair Discoed

Change of Use of the Existing Residential Property from C3 (Dwelling) to C2 (Nursing Home)

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Concern that a change of use will lead to the floodgates being opened for future escalation. Sewerage concerns. Highways issues – concern over pressure on a single track no through road. There is no bus stop or bus service in the village as indicated on the planning application.

2013/00293 11 Vernon Grove, Caerwent

Conversion of One Integral Garage into Reception Rooms. Replace Existing Garage Door with Double Glazed Bay Window to Match Existing. All New Brick Work to Match Existing.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2013/00259 Wentwood Inn, A48

Conversion of Redundant Former Restaurant with Staff Living Accommodation Into Five Houses with Detached Car Ports

*This Council recommends **Refusal***

Building materials not in keeping with surrounding area.

Query if the Environment Agency need to access the sewerage system. At present water is apparently pumped from the septic tank up into Lower Rodge Wood. Query if it will cope with five dwellings or have any affect on the underground water table. Query the presence of the petrol tanks.

2013/00285 1 Woodland Valley, Caerwent

Demolition of Existing Single Storey Rear Extension. Erect New Two Storey Side Extension, Single Storey Rear Extension, Front Porch, Realignment of Boundary Fences, Enlargement of Existing Rear Window.

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Materials used should match existing cottage.

2013/00228 3 Trewen, Caerwent

One & Two Storey Front, Side & Rear Extension for Garage, Hallway, Cloakroom, Utility Room and Kitchen on Ground Floor with Two En-Suite Bedrooms & Dressing Room on First Floor

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2013/00305 Brookside, Well Lane, Llanfair Discoed

Second Storey Extension

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2013/00185 Rose Cottage, Installation of 3 Sealed Cesspits (amendment)

To Amend the Locations of the Sealed Cesspits

*This Council recommends **Approval***

2013/00186 Westgate Barn, Caerwent

Modification or Removal of Condition

*This Council recommends **Approval***

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