

CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year and hope you had a good Christmas.

Concern was expressed by a member of the public last month about dogs running without adequate control on Gray Hill. We have been asked to point out that regulations in that area are for dogs to be kept on a lead. Whilst many dogs may well be perfectly under control off the lead, there are some who invade properties and attack other animals.

Regretfully we are still not getting any Police reports at our meetings and thus are unable to inform residents of crime patterns etc in the area as we have done in the past. We continue to make representations to Gwent Police to try to remedy the situation.

As predicted in last month's newsletter, the Cabinet Member for Highways did decide to defer his decision on the possible closure of School Lane in Caerwent. He took the view, after carefully considering all the public responses to the proposal, that unless a full traffic impact survey takes place he is unwilling to make the order. We understand that the survey will take in the whole area and consider the impact on both the east and west entrances to the village and the interaction with the road to Caldicot. We further understand that all aspects of traffic control will be considered in the survey and will be extended to consider pedestrian safety.

The Old Gym in Lawrence Crescent is getting close to being sold to this Council. Legal matters are now more or less concluded and so plans can be drawn up to improve the fabric of the property and consider the facilities there. In the meantime some sound proofing will be carried out to try to remove some of the problems faced by local residents. The bulk of the money to carry out the renovations will come from the community contribution from the developer of Merton Green which will be paid to MCC after the completion of 85% of the site.

On the subject of community facilities, the Village Hall Committee are making progress with the provision of better bollards in the car park with a view to removing the problem of "activities" in the evenings. It has also been requested that they look too at measures to reduce noise where appropriate.

Several months ago we informed residents of MCC's intention to start to reduce the power consumption of street lighting. Several villages in the area have been a pilot for "dimming" (Mathern for example) and no complaints have been received. Accordingly that method and selective switch off (between midnight and 5am) will also be trailed.

Last year we took on the responsibility for the public toilets and increased our precept (the levy on Council Tax payers) to cover the additional expenditure. We have set the precept for next year (2012/13) without any increase. This is in line with the intention of MCC to freeze Council Tax although we understand that there could be a slight increase in the Police precept.

Philip Murphy
CHAIRMAN

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

2011/01016 Convert 1 of 2 Garages to Extra Room Replacing Garage Door with Window, Plot 95, The Dolkins, Ash Tree Road, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

2011/00953 Demolition of Existing Building & Rebuilding of Previous Building on Same Site, Westgate Barn, Caerwent

This Council recommends Approval

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