

CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

At the start of the meeting the Council congratulated the Playing Fields Committee on the very successful Show in August.

Louise Mees, Regional Inspector of Ancient Monuments, (south east Wales), CADW was invited to the meeting and discussed the following:

The tenant of land north of Caerwent House had been contacted regarding the treatment and removal of thistles/docks and confirmed that the docks had been treated at the Motte (the Tump). She was also concerned about weed growth and areas not being grazed sympathetically by Mon CC on land south of Great House Farm.

Ms Mees advised that the trees in the CADW garden next to the church in Caerwent will be trimmed in order to bring in more light as requested by the Community Council. She noted damaged stone work at the verge surrounding the Roman wall and opposite the urton Homes.

On discussing the future use of the 'Time Team' field and possible excavations, Ms Mees advised that the field is scheduled, that CADW is the consenting authority and any excavation would be extremely expensive. CADW aim to leave certain areas untouched so that they are preserved from any development and indeed protected from archaeology. They would however always consider any archaeology requests which are put forward. She considered that the Community Council's garden idea is extremely appropriate as it would conserve the archaeology. She also agreed that raised beds would be appropriate and a picnic area would be ideal.

The Chairman queried the future of the Old School now that it is up for sale and especially what it is being marketed as. She agreed to raise this with the CADW Property Department.

The Chairman raised the issue of the Poor Wood, queried whose name was on the deeds prior to the Admiralty and why it wasn't offered back to the Community Council. He cited the Critchell

Down test case, ie. that the site should be offered back to the original owners. Ms Mees advised that Solicitors are currently looking into this.

The Chairman queried the opening hours of the Cadw toilets – Ms Mees stated that they are open 8 – 5 but not 24 hours. The Chairman advised that we are currently looking into disability compliancy at the Council owned toilets in Caerwent. Councillor Murphy suggested that a notice to the effect that “facilities for the disabled are available at the Westgate Barns between the hours of” be considered. Ms Mees agreed to check the legal position re this suggestion.

Other points of interest – there have been concerns regarding Laburnum Steps in Llanfair Discoed and the stone wall alongside the stream – C Cllr Murphy has convinced Mon CC to accept responsibility and undertake all repairs. Whilst talking about Llanfair, many congratulations to residents on winning Best Kept Village, Best Kept Pub and Best Kept Churchyard in their category this year - your efforts have been rewarded.

In recent years village halls have been unable to gain grants because in many cases they are not the leaseholders. C Cllr Murphy advised that Mon CC is considering this issue and are likely to draw up a policy of handing ownership of village halls to Community Councils, which would help solve many of the problems. In order to give some support to the Playing Fields Association, this Council has resolved to pay for repairs to play equipment on the playing field and take on the management of it until 1.4.14, when it will be reviewed.

There has been much discussion and correspondence concerning the village green lately and the Council has decided to approach a solicitor to get clarification on the Council's responsibility regarding the village green.

Brian Counsell
Vice Chair