

## **CAERWENT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

May we start this letter by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and hope that you all had a good Christmas.

Can we clear up what appears to have been a mis-understanding. In a recent newsletter we commented on the fact that there had been complaints about inadequate traffic marshalling in relation to the highly successful Bonfire night event at the Coach and Horses. This has been interpreted to state that the Community Council was somehow going to prevent the event from taking place in future. It is a matter for the Pub as to whether or not they wish to hold the event again. This Council has never stated anything else. We hope that this is now clear.

By the time of publication, weather permitting, the Caerwent enhancement scheme should have got underway. Every opportunity to incorporate into the scheme the very helpful suggestions that came forward at the public consultation has been taken. This is to provide pavements where possible, improve drainage, slow down traffic and generally improve the area.

Dog walkers will have noticed the three new waste bins situated in Lawrence Crescent, Green Lane and Eastgate. Please use them. We hope to have two more in due course on the Ash Tree Road/ Merton Green area.

At a recent evening in the Caerwent village hall the MOD put on its annual curry night for local groups in the Caerwent and Shirenewton areas. This was well attended as usual and the occasion was used by the Colonel in charge to give everyone an update as he saw it, on the siting regarding Wormtech. The presentation caused considerable alarm and, accordingly the Environment Agency has put out a statement which is quoted below. We hope this clarifies the situation.

“On the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012 the Environment Agency suspended the permit for Wormtech Limited. The operator was stopped from receiving further waste at the site. This action was taken due to the risk of large quantities of food and green waste being handled, processed and stored on inappropriate infrastructure which could cause pollution to sensitive ground waters. Wormtech Limited abandoned the site in August 2012, leaving approximately 20,000 tonnes of waste in various stages of the composting process. The waste abandoned was food waste and compost at varying stages of decomposition. All wastes are

biodegradable (apart from some plastic within the wastes) and no hazardous wastes are present.

The Environment Agency has been closely monitoring the site and through our actions (including tankering leachates off site for treatment) no actual pollution has occurred. As no further wastes are being brought to site, the risks to ground waste will decrease as the wastes degrade. However, our immediate concern has been that nutrient rich run off will enter rivers and streams. This can cause oxygen depletion that can cause harm to fish. Recent sampling has shown the concentration of these pollutants has decreased as expected but regular monitoring will continue. The Environment Agency will continue to tanker leachate away from high risk areas as and when necessary to ensure no harm is caused to the Castroggi Brook which runs to the west of the site. To date, there has been no impact outside of the MOD training area.

Salmonella and elevated e-coli has been identified within the main leachate lagoon on the site. The Environment Health Department and Public Health Wales have been informed. They have both said that they are satisfied that there is no wider public health risk. The risks for both human and animal health are for those who come into direct contact with the lagoon runoff only. As a precaution, the MOD have fenced off some of the training area to prevent sheep grazing and to restrict access by military personnel during training. The source of the salmonella is likely to be from untreated and partially treated food wastes that are stored within some of the buildings. Over all, this makes up a small percentage of the total waste onsite.

We have been informed that Wormtech Ltd is now in the hands of the Official Receiver and will therefore play no further part in the management of the site. The Environment Agency, MCC and MOD are all working together to find a way for the food wastes to be removed offsite as soon as practicable. The majority of waste onsite is compost that is stored in large heaps outdoors. Sampling and analysis of these heaps has tested negative for salmonella. We are working together on a longer term plan for the outgoing management of these materials and the future of the site".

Philip Murphy  
CHAIRMAN

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

**2012/00746 Myrtle Cottage, Carrow Hill, St Brides Netherwent**

First Floor Extension to Extend Existing Bedrooms and Provide Additional Bathrooms, Internal Alterations at Ground Floor with Bifold Doors Incorporated

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**2012/00815 New House, Five Lanes**

Two Storey Side Extension to Form Kitchen, Family Room, Two Bedrooms and En – Suite, Single Storey Extension to Form Shower/WC, Lobby and Utility Room, Front and Rear Storm Porches, Various Internal and External Improvements, Detached Double Garage

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**2012/00990 Plot 17, Merton Green**

Replan of Plot from an Emerson housetype (4 bed) to a Moorcroft housetype (5 bed) and associated works

*This Council recommends **Approval***

**2012/00578 The Northgate Inn, Caerwent**

Change of Use from Public House to Residential with B & B. Erection of Single Storey Garage and a Front Stone Boundary Wall

*This Council recommends **Approval***

Garage should be in same material as wall, ie stone.

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