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NP15 1GA

County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 20 September 2016

Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

Central Mon Area Committee Room P3, County Hall, Usk

Wednesday, 28th September, 2016 at 10.00 am,

AGENDA

| Item No | Item | Pages |
|----------------|--|--------------|
| 1. | Apologies for absence | |
| 2. | Declarations of interest | |
| 3. | Public Open Forum | |
| 4. | To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June 2016 | 1 - 8 |
| 5. | To receive a petition regarding Toll House Traffic Lights | 9 - 10 |
| 6. | To receive a report regarding concerns surrounding vehicle speeds, Kymin Road, Wyesham | 11 - 18 |
| 7. | Community Governance Report | 19 - 26 |
| 8. | Update on Grant Applications | |
| 9. | Update on Monmouth pinch point trial | |
| 10. | To note the date and time of next meeting as Wednesday 21st December 2016 at 2.00pm | |

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

S. White
B. Strong
P. Clarke
D. Blakebrough
G. Burrows
R. Edwards
E. Hacket Pain
B. Hayward
P. Jones
V. Smith
A. Wintle

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 4

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held
at The Conference Room - County Hall, Usk on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2016 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: County Councillor S. White (Chairman)
County Councillor B. Strong (Vice Chairman)

County Councillors: E. Hackett Pain, P. Jones and A. Wintle

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deb Hill-Howells | Head of Community Led Delivery |
| Paul Keeble | Traffic and Network Manager |
| Richard Williams | Democratic Services Officer |

APOLOGIES:

Councillors D. Blakebrough, P. Clarke, R. Edwards and R. Hayward

1. Election of Chair

We elected County Councillor S. White as Chair.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

We appointed County Councillor B. Strong as Vice-Chair.

3. Declarations of interest

County Councillor P. Jones declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of an Area Committee Grant application from Raglan Village Hall, as she is a member of Raglan New Village Hall Working Party.

County Councillor B. Strong declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of Area Committee Grant applications from Gwent Best Kept Village Competition and Usk Baptist Church as he is a member of both of these committees.

County Councillor S. White declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest pursuant to the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of Area Committee Grant applications from Gwent Best Kept Village Competition and St. Thomas Community Hall as she is the church warden at St. Thomas' Church and a member of Gwent Best Kept Village Committee.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee dated 9th March 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held
at The Conference Room - County Hall, Usk on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2016 at 2.00 pm

5. Public open forum

A matter raised by a member of the public was considered under minute 6.

6. Petition - Road safety concerns at Porthycarne Street / Abergavenny Road, Usk

We were advised of the petition presented to Monmouthshire County Council requesting that the Council addresses road safety issues on Porthycarne Street / Abergavenny Road, Usk.

Before considering the report, the Chair allowed Mr. G. Perry, a volunteer of the Usk Community speed watch to address the Committee. In doing so, it was noted that the group meets once a week and monitors vehicular speeds at various times. The data collected differed to that mentioned in the officer's report.

Analysis of data shows between 00:01 hrs on 12th December 2015 and 23:59 hrs on 25th December 2015:

Total vehicles 21857

Excess speed = 54%

Average speed 31mph

54% of vehicles over 30mph

3% of vehicles over 45mph

Highest speed 65mph at 23:46hrs on 18/12/15.

V85 = 39mph

(7 DAY AVERAGE) analysis from 00:01hrs on 12/12/15 to 23:59hrs on 18/12/15.

Total vehicles 11372

Excess speed = 56%

Average speed 31mph

56% of vehicles over 30mph

3% of vehicles over 45mph

Highest speed mph at 23:46hrs on 18/12/15.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held
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V85 = 39mph

(7 DAY AVERAGE) analysis from 00:01hrs on 19/12/15 to 23:59hrs on 25/12/15.

Total vehicles 10483

Excess speed = 52%

Average speed 30mph

53% of vehicles over 30mph

3% of vehicles over 45mph

Highest speed mph at 01:16hrs on 22/12/15.

V85 = 39mph

Having received the report and the views expressed the following points were noted:

- Enforcement of the speed limit is a police matter.
- Crossing the road at this location is dangerous.
- The local Member for Llanbadoc had put a motion to Full Council in November 2015 regarding the 60 mph speed limit through rural lanes. However, no feedback had been received.
- Parked vehicles along this route tends to slow traffic down, acting as a traffic calming measure.
- Average speed is used to agree speed limits on roads. However, the police use different criteria to that used by the community speed watch.
- It was anticipated that the Police will go back to the site and undertake further speed surveys.
- The current evidence indicates that the existing speed limit is correct.
- Potential solutions include narrowing the road and erecting flashing warning signs.
- Officers would like to promote a footpath on the other side of the road via the Active Travel Bid.
- The Police will be monitoring the site shortly. Surveys will be undertaken and the information collected will be used to take appropriate action.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Central Mon Area Committee held at The Conference Room - County Hall, Usk on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2016 at 2.00 pm

- The speed watch will continue to undertake its own monitoring.

We resolved:

- (i) to note the petition and the actions taken to date, including the formation of a Speedwatch Group by local residents;
- (ii) that further speed monitoring is undertaken before consideration of potential physical traffic improvements which would also need prioritisation alongside other proposed schemes throughout Monmouthshire.
- (iii) that the Area Committee receives further feedback at a future meeting.

7. Area Committee Grant Applications

The Head of Community Led Delivery outlined the procedure for issuing capital funding to organisations that have submitted applications to the Area Committee for funding. £5000 capital funding was currently available from the 2015/16 budget.

The following applications for funding were received and considered by the Area Committee:

Gwent Best Kept Village

Applied for: £250

Reason: Towards volunteer judges' travel expenses for visiting and judging the villagers entering the competition. Also, towards the purchase of trophies and frames for the certificates for winning schools and villages.

Having discussed the application it was considered that the application did not meet the relevant criteria.

We resolved that the application be rejected and therefore, not to support this application.

Nelson Gardens Preservation Trust

Applied for: £5000

Reason: Restoring and conserving a historic (Grade II) landscape. Restore the Nelson Memorial with the seat Nelson sat on in 1802, repair historic hot wall and plant with trees and install a disabled W.C. to improve visitor facilities.

Having considered the application the Committee we resolved not to support this application.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Usk Baptist Church

Applied for: £2000

Reason: New chairs for tables already bought – from donations. Chairs that are suitable for all age groups and abilities. New floor covering - on cleanliness and safety issues.

Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £1000. Also, liaise with Morley Sims to ascertain whether there are any chairs that might be surplus to requirements that could be donated to Usk Baptist Church.

Llanishen Village Hall Management Committee

Applied for: £4800

Reason: The purchase of 100 stackable conference style chairs plus trollies for ease of storage and a further 20 plastic stackable chairs.

Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £1000. Also, liaise with Morley Sims to ascertain whether there are any chairs that might be surplus to requirements that could be donated to Llanishen Village Hall Management Committee.

Raglan Village Hall and Recreation Association

Applied for: £1068.01

Reason: To facilitate the provision of Wi-Fi in the Old Church School.

Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £1000.

County Councillor R. Edwards

Applied for: £200

Reason: To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday with a party at Llanvaply Hall on 11th June 2016.

Having considered the application we resolved not to support the application as it was a request for revenue funding.

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1st Wyesham Scout Group

Applied for: £1009.11

Reason: Gym mats, trolley and gazebo.

Having considered the application it was noted that further information was required. The Head of Community Led Delivery will write to the applicant with a view to the application being re-presented to the Autumn Area Committee meeting.

We resolved accordingly.

Usk Environmental Group

Applied for: £1000

Reason: To construct a solid path across the Owain Glyndwr Field.

Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £1000.

Pelham Hall, Penallt

Applied for: £5000

Reason: Complete redesign and refitting of the ground floor kitchen including redecorating. Minor structural work to increase storage space in the kitchen. Installing a fire escape door. Minor external drainage and paving work. Replacement of kitchen equipment and storage units. Replacement of 'blown' double glazing.

Having considered the application we resolved not to support this application.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouthshire County Council

Applied for: £2750

Reason: Work to the fire escape, re-laying of paving slabs, upgrade security and fire escape lighting.

Having considered the application, we resolved not to support this application as the majority of it appears to be maintenance and therefore not eligible.

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St. Thomas the Martyr, Overmonnow

Applied for: £1500

Reason: Kitchen equipment and furniture.

Having considered the application, we resolved to support the application in the sum of £1000.

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm

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SUBJECT: PETITION – TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT JUNCTION OF B4293 AND R46 (Junction by Troy Toll House)

MEETING: CENTRAL MONMOUTHSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE

DATE: 28th September 2016

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Mitchell Troy

1. PURPOSE:

To receive a petition titled 'Toll House Traffic Lights' and to decide what further action, if any, members would wish to take.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That members receive the petition and allow the request to be assessed and prioritised in line with other demands upon the Highways capital budget.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Recently works to address subsidence in the road at Troy corner (adjacent to the Toll House) required lights to control flows.
- 3.2 The lights were in position for several months and criticism was received about the delay to traffic.
- 3.3 However some comments were received that a benefit of the temporary traffic lights was improved access from the B4293 (Trellech road) onto R46 (Old Monmouth Road).
- 3.4 Motorists may acknowledge that for those travelling from the Trellech road (B4293) onto the Mitchell Troy road (R46) extra vigilance is required due to traffic travelling Northwards on the R46 towards Monmouth approaching the junction around a 'blind bend' in close proximity to the junction.
- 3.5 Some years ago representation resulted in some limited works being done to alter the alignment of the junction but given the overall alignment of the roads and the Toll House it is difficult to improve the junction without the acquisition of land and a major realignment of the B4293 to move the junction away from the Toll House and bend.
- 3.6 There is no accident history associated with traffic at the junction but it is acknowledged that the junction does require extra vigilance and particular care by those travelling towards Monmouth from the Trellech direction.
- 3.7 Although an accurate cost requires a detailed survey it would be reasonable to assume a budget of £80,000 to carry the necessary lighting installation, signing etc.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 Any petition received by the authority must be reported to members at a committee or possibly directly to Cabinet (or individual Cabinet member). This petition is being reported to this committee due to its local interest. The petition has been signed by 82 people (and 2 signatories have suggested that a mini roundabout should be created).
- 4.2 The Council periodically receives petitions regarding highway matters and often about road safety matters. Even if members are supportive of the issue It is often not feasible or appropriate to respond on an ad hoc basis. As such the matter should be considered and prioritised along with other budget demands and funding available (*currently officers and members are establishing a working group to consider how, amongst other things, funding and projects are best allocated in the future given competing demands*).

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None arising directly from the report but a scheme, if approved, may be estimated at £80,000.

6. CONSULTEES:

None

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

8. **SAFEGUARDING:** There are no safeguarding implications arising from this report.

9. FUTURE GENERATIONS AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report asks members to consider a petition and that the matter raised by the petition be included amongst other demands upon the highway budget. At this stage it makes no recommendation about the priority or urgency of the scheme. As such an FG and E Impact assessment is considered unnecessary at this stage.

10. AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS:

Paul Keeble, Group Engineer, Highways and Flood Management

Roger Hoggins, Head of Operations

Tel: 01633 644644

E-mail: paulkeeble@monmouthshire.gov.uk ,
rogerhoggins@monmouthshire.gov.uk

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| SUBJECT: | CONCERNS ABOUT VEHICLE SPEEDS KYMIN ROAD WYESHAM |
| MEETING: | CENTRAL MONMOUTHSHIRE AREA COMMITTEE |
| DATE: | 28nd September 2016 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | CENTRAL MONMOUTHSHIRE WARDS |

NON-PUBLICATION

(Insert appropriate non publication paragraph if necessary)

1. **PURPOSE:**

To report and update members of the Central Monmouth Area Committee following concerns raised by residents of Kymin Road, Wyesham about inappropriate vehicular speeds and their request for Monmouthshire CC to consider and install speed reduction measures.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That members note the petition and letter received and that based upon the results of the traffic surveys and officers' assessment that no further action be considered at both Kymin Road and the junction of Kymin Road with the A4136.

3. **BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES:**

The council has previously received a letter from Nick Ramsay AM enclosing a copy of a petition and letter sent to him by several residents of Kymin Road. The petition was signed by 14 residents of 9 properties situated along Kymin Road.

Kymin Road is a relatively narrow minor class highway with interspersed residential properties in a semi-rural environment. It is a cul de sac with the tourist attraction of the Naval Temple situated at its eastern end.

Following receipt of the resident's petition, a review has been undertaken and an extensive 7 day automated vehicular speeds and volume survey has been completed. In accordance with criteria in current Welsh Government guidance on setting local speed limits, a 30 mph speed limit could not be supported or considered appropriate in this semi-rural environment.

The vertical and horizontal alignments of Kymin Road in association with its narrowness also assist in naturally constraining vehicular speeds and the results of the automated speed count reaffirms this. A site visit has also been undertaken by officers following receipt of the petition.

In accordance with current Welsh government road safety guidance the mean (average) speed is now used for speed related concerns and to assess whether further road safety measures are therefore necessary or appropriate.

The mean speed recorded over a 7 day representative period at location 1 (see location plan below) was 25.79 mph. The mean speed recorded at location 2 (see location plan below) was 22.03 mph. These two loop locations were deliberately positioned on the straight sections of highway and therefore can be taken as being representative and vehicular speeds on the bends along Kymin Road can reasonably be assumed to be lower.

The National Trust have also contacted the council recently regarding Kymin Road (and its junction with the A4136) requesting that the council consider a 30 mph speed limit. As stated above, a 30 mph speed limit would not meet current setting speed limits guidance as the junction of the A4136/Kymin Road is in a rural setting and the guidance states that lower speed limits should not be promoted to address a specific location point issue e.g at a specific junction or bend etc on the highway.

In light of the conclusion of officers' investigations, it is recommend that speed reduction measures are not currently promoted along Kymin Road and that this locality is kept under review.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no resources issues at this moment in time.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

None.

7. CONSULTEES:

The local member for Wyesham
Area Committee Members

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

9. AUTHOR:

Paul Keeble – Traffic & Network Manager

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644733

E-mail: paulkeeble@monmouthshire.gov.uk



Job Number 3110-WAL
 Client Monmouthshire CC
 Project The kymin Monmouthshire
 Location N51.80747 W2.68776
 Site No. 2
 Road Kymin Road
 Start Date 20-Apr-16
 Direction Combined

Menu

2. Kymin Road - N51.80747 W2.68776

Combined

7 Day Average

Site Speed Limit (mph) **60**

| Speed Bin Percentage (mph) | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 0-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-25 | 25-30 | 30-35 | 35-40 | 40-45 | 45-50 | 50-55 |
| 3% | 11% | 33% | 34% | 15% | 3% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| 55-60 | 60-65 | 65-70 | 70-75 | 75-80 | 80-85 | 85-90 | 90-95 | 95-100 | 100+ |
| 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Average Speed | 22.03 |
| 85th Percentile Speed | 22.30 |
| Over Speed Limit (%) | 0% |

Job Number 3110-WAL
 Client Monmouthshire CC
 Project The kymin Monmouthshire
 Location N51.80995 W2.69173
 Site No. 1
 Road Kymin Road
 Start Date 20-Apr-16
 Direction Combined

Menu

1. Kymin Road - N51.80995 W2.69173

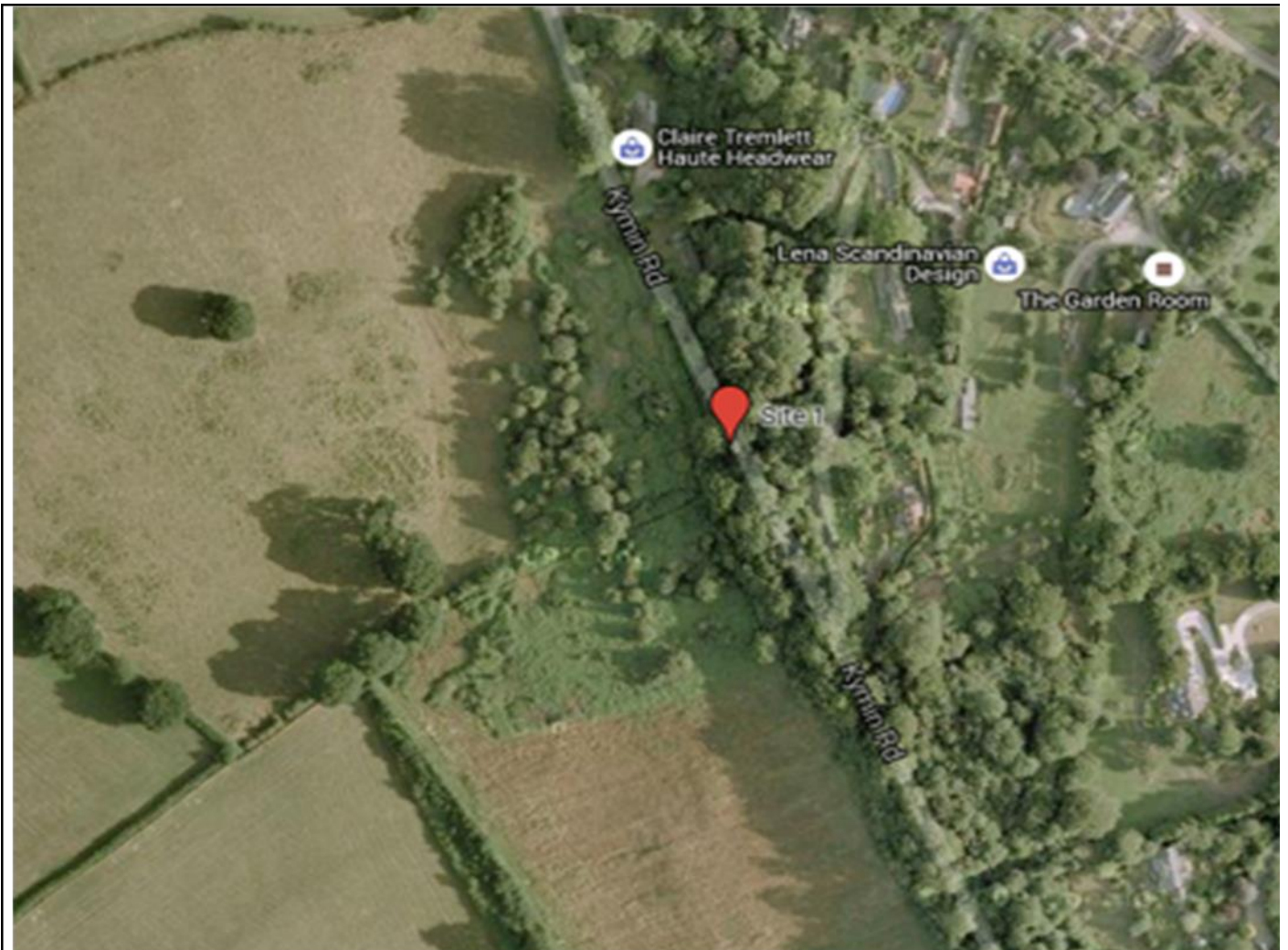
Combined

7 Day Average

Site Speed Limit (mph) **60**

| Speed Bin Percentage (mph) | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| 0-10 | 10-15 | 15-20 | 20-25 | 25-30 | 30-35 | 35-40 | 40-45 | 45-50 | 50-55 |
| 1% | 3% | 16% | 35% | 30% | 11% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 0% |
| 55-60 | 60-65 | 65-70 | 70-75 | 75-80 | 80-85 | 85-90 | 90-95 | 95-100 | 100+ |
| 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Average Speed | 25.79 |
| 85th Percentile Speed | 27.75 |
| Over Speed Limit (%) | 0% |





Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Nick Ramsay AM

National Assembly Member for Monmouth
Shadow Finance Minister

Please respond to:

Constituency Office
16 Maryport Street, Usk
Monmouthshire, NP15 1AB.

Eich cyt / Your ref:
Eir cyt / Our ref: KJ/NR/LouncsR
26th June 2015

Ffôn/Tel: 01291 674898
Nicholas.Ramsay@assembly.wales

Mr R Hoggins
Highways Department
Monmouthshire County Council
PC Box 106
Ca dicot
NP26 9AN

Re: Petition from Residents of The Kymir, Monmouth

I am enclosing a copy of a letter and petition received from residents of The Kymir, Monmouth who are clearly very concerned about the speed of traffic using the steep, single lane access to their homes.

Would it be possible to arrange for some kind of speed control to be imposed on this road to improve safety for local residents and visitors alike?

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible and thank you for your help.

Kind regards,

Nick Ramsay AM

cc: C Cllr Mrs Liz Hackett-Pain

*Grateful for any assistance,
growing concern about this. N.*

A PETITION AGAINST SPEEDING TRAFFIC
 and FOR SPEED CONTROL ON THE
Kymin Road.

Signed By Kymin RESIDENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| A.P. Lounds | 3 The Kymin |
| T.J.R. Lounds | 3 the Kymin |
| D. Lests | NO4 KYMIN |
| W.A. Hill | NO4 KYMIN |
| Stemmer | NO 4 |
| Alphon Bickard | No 6 The Kymin |
| J.M. Booker | NO 4 The Kymin |
| W.A. Hill | No 9 The Kymin |
| E. Hill | No 9 The Kymin |
| H. Hill | " " " " |
| Ch... | " " " " |
| Y. Madley & A. Madley | 3 2 -11- |
| Thomas | 1 - |
| ... | NO 2 The Kymin |

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Community Governance in Monmouthshire

“Community governance” refers to the processes for making all the decisions and plans that affect life in the community, whether made by public or private organizations or by citizens. For community governance to be effective, it must be about more than process, it also must be about getting things done in the community. And what gets done must make a difference.

This paper will also provide an update on the way that the council is changing its relationship with Community and Town Councils.

What do we mean by Community Governance?

- The way in which local communities are represented and governed at local authority level.
- It is also the mechanisms through which the involvement of other statutory and voluntary agencies, community groups and by the efforts of local people themselves are held in an organized structure that facilitates engagement.
- It is also about the way in which individuals and groups within the community are listened to and able to influence decisions that affect them.

The current picture

Community Governance in Monmouthshire is undergoing an evolution from a static model informed and directed by the Council through a series of Area Committees to a more dynamic model reflecting local needs a new ways of working more closely to the community.

| <u>Bryn Y Cwm</u> | <u>Sevenside</u> | <u>Lower Wye</u> | <u>Central Monmouthshire</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Area Committee</u> | <u>Area Committee</u> | <u>Area Committee</u> | <u>Area Committee</u> |
| <u>Programme Board</u> | <u>Programme Board</u> | | |
| <u>Community Forum</u> | | | <u>Community Forum</u> |

Current challenges

- Improving communication and dialogue at all levels within the Council.
- Speeding up decision making
- Ensuring buy in across all service departments

- Providing adequate resources to enable effective transition, e.g. investing in capital assets before transfer
- Not enough engagement in Whole Place with Community Councils and their populations.
- Area Committees, mixed responses as some support them and others suggest that they are anachronistic and create confusion.
- Capacity within local communities, Town Teams and Town / Community Councils.
- The need to extend the range and quantity of activists
- The Council needs to allocate resources to the Programme Board.
- Better flow of appropriate information.

Why change?

- Improved community engagement;
- More cohesive communities, resulting in more effective and convenient delivery of local services;
- Provide clarity as to when, where and how local people can engage in discussions and influence decisions; and
- It will also provide explicit clarification as to the responsibility for decision making in certain arenas and the accountability that flows from those decisions.

What does good [community] governance look like?

Good governance is transparent

People should be able to follow and understand the decision-making process. This means that they will be able to clearly see how and why a decision was made – what information, advice and consultation council considered, and which legislative requirements (when relevant) council followed.

Good governance follows the rule of law

This means that decisions are consistent with relevant legislation or common law and are within the powers of council. In the case of Victorian local government, relevant legislation includes the Local Government Measure and other legislation such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, and the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2015.

Good governance is responsive

Local government should always try to serve the needs of the entire community while balancing competing interests in a timely, appropriate and responsive manner.

Good governance is equitable and inclusive

A community's wellbeing results from all of its members feeling their interests have been considered by council in the decision-making process. This means that all groups, particularly the most vulnerable, should have opportunities to participate in the process.

Good governance is effective and efficient

Local government should implement decisions and follow processes that make the best use of the available people, resources and time to ensure the best possible results for their community.

Good governance is participatory

Anyone affected by or interested in a decision should have the opportunity to participate in the process for making that decision. This can happen in several ways –

- community members may be provided with information,
- asked for their opinion,
- given the opportunity to make recommendations or, in some cases,
- be part of the actual decision-making process.

What has happened to date?

This position paper represents the culmination of a period of work which now needs formal decision and implementation. That review has been in progress since March 2015 when Keith Edwards was appointed to undertake a review of Community Governance. His report was initially taken through the political processes in October 2015 (Cabinet) and then Council in December 2015. When the recommendations of the Edwards review were discussed at Council there was not a consensus as to how things should be progressed and Members took the decision to establish a Member led working group to consider the recommendations and decide upon a structure for community governance.

The member working group was cross party and established so that there was representation from across the existing four council defined areas. The members were:

- Cllr. Down;
- Cllr. Farley;
- Cllr. Edwards;
- Cllr. Higginson;
- Cllr. Prosser;
- Cllr. Webb; and
- Cllr Hobson

The first meeting was largely a discussion about the nature of democracy and what MCC elected members' expectations of community governance are. At the second meeting in June we discussed a set of specific proposals. These are included below.

We asked members to be aware of the following principles when making a decision

- Provide a forum for local councillors to engage with residents about local issues
- Give local communities a stronger and more direct voice in decision making in their local area
- Enable members to have influence over decisions that are specific to their local area
- Develop and oversee the delivery of localised plans
- Engage with representatives of town and community councils

- Harness and channel community energy to deliver improved outcomes for the local area and its communities
- Bring together partner agencies to focus on locally specific issues

It is also worth Members giving consideration to the five principles of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act:

- Integrated
- Collaborative
- Long term
- Involving
- Preventative

In particular the principles of involving and collaboration were pertinent in this instance.

Option 1 (Status Quo)

Area Committees and Programme Boards co-exist with no formal relationship but have representation.

| Positives | Negatives |
|---|--|
| Members retain local accountability/visibility | Confused responsibility for communities |
| Clear structure for council as per constitution | Disparate area committee practice |
| council representatives on Programme Boards have equal voice with community members | No clear representative lines for Programme Boards |
| | Members disenfranchised |

Option 2) Area Committees are retained as the sole structure with an increase in co-opted community members

| Positives | Negatives |
|--|---|
| Members are accountable | Scale of meeting (number of committee members) |
| Transparent co-opting arrangement | Can co-opted members vote? |
| Clear alignment to the constitution | Community representatives could be elected (C&T Council), representative or individual – how will this be determined? |
| Decision making strengthened and streamlined | Breadth of geographical cover |
| Single entry point to public | Disparity between the area committees effectiveness |
| Community voice greater than currently | |

Option 3) Area Committee with no representation from public.

As above but without formalised co-opted members / public involvement

| Positives | Negatives |
|--|--|
| Members are accountable | No community voice – how is this different from Council meetings |
| Single entry point to public | No local voice from Town & Community Councils |
| Clear alignment to the constitution | How will the local plans be delivered with no community input |
| Decision making strengthened and streamlined | Breadth of geographical cover |

Option 4) Area committee with local area focus group

| Positives | Negatives |
|---|---|
| All of positives above re. member alignment & involvement | Risk of same, regular voices and contributors |
| No complexity of vote structure | Perceptions of tokenism |
| Community participation | Risk of consultation and not engagement |
| Membership of the focus group could align to the PSB. | |

Option 5) Programme Board without Area Committee

| Positives | Negatives |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Significant local engagement | Disenfranchised members and a lack of clarity for members involved in the Programme Board |
| Local expertise and involvement | Unelected/Unaccountable community representatives |
| Place driven | Lack of clarity of vote of local member |
| | Lack of clarity regarding routes to council |

Option 6) Programme Board with limited and defined elected member representation.

3 members per programme board selected at Monmouthshire County Council AGM

| Positives | Negatives |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| As above. | Members could feel disenfranchised |
| Clear conduit to council | As above |
| | |

Option 7) Community Area Committee as per [LG Bill](#) (sections 44 – 46) - only 2 in Monmouthshire, one in the north and one in the south.

| Positives | Negatives |
|--|---|
| Inclusive of Community and Town councils | Only 2 – divided local areas |
| | Difficult to manage local issues and implementation of plans to meet local priorities due to scale. |

Conclusions of the discussion

Following a wide ranging debate there was agreement across the members present that their preferred option was Option 2 but with the additional invitation to a single representative from each of the Community or Town Councils in that area.

A key development has been the move from 4 areas as per the existing structure (Lower Wye, Severnside, Monmouth and Central Monmouthshire and Bryn Y Cwm) to five areas. This development is in keeping with a range of new policy directions such as the renewed relationship with Community and Town Councils, the division of the County for the Wellbeing Assessment and the developments around Place Based Approaches in Social Care.

This is the position that will be taken to Full Council in September 2016.

Implications of the decision and developments in the relationships with Community and Town Councils

Whilst this is not the most radical solution available it does provide a stable platform and recognises some of the key challenges that Monmouthshire has faced in the past. We now have some key actions:

- Seeking formal member agreement to the new community governance models as described above
- Beginning the formal implementation with the five new areas.
- Agreeing the staffing support for the new model including, but not limited to, the role of the Whole Place Team.

Relationships with Community and Town Councils

The nature and tone of our relationship with the 33 Community and Town Councils in Monmouthshire has been the subject of a renewed focus in the past few months. This has been informed largely by a number of low level complaints, often typified as ‘background noise’ rather than significant issues, however they tend to focus on the responsive ness of the Council (MCC) to queries and complaints.

As the consequence, operationally, there is now a single entry point for all Community and Town Councils (Members' Services Officers) and at the strategic level there are arrangements in place to begin a different type of relationship through the allocation of SLT members to each of the five areas. Community and Town Councils were made aware of these changes at an event on the 20th June and then by letter on the 4th July.

The first round of meetings will take place on the following dates:

| Area | Date | Venue | Time | Chief Officer |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------|----------------------|
| Monmouth & surrounding area | 13 th September | Monmouth Community Hub | 6.30pm – 8pm | Peter Davies |
| Chepstow & surrounding area | 14 th September | Chepstow Community Hub | 6.30pm-8pm | Will McLean |
| Caldicot & surrounding area | 21 st September | Caldicot Community Hub | 6.30pm-8pm | Kellie Beirne |
| Usk & surrounding area | 15 th September | Usk Community Hub | 7pm – 8.30pm | Sarah McGuinness |
| Abergavenny & surrounding area | 15 th September | Abergavenny Council Chamber, Town Hall | 6.30pm – 8pm | Claire Marchant |

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