

Rhigos County Councillors' report- 11/09/2023

Police matters:

- In August, took part in a walkabout with PCSO Chelsea in different areas of Rhigos. No police issues to report on that day.
- Haven't received an update on the illegal gathering from the end of August. There was a high police presence in the area near to Zip World, with road closures in place each side of the mountain. We are meeting with police leadership this week.

Heads of Valleys Roadworks:

- Following the change of road layout between Rhigos roundabout and Trewaun, residents expressed concerns with the lack of signage directing drivers to towns/villages and with the need to improve lighting on the road at night. We contacted Future Valleys and had this response- "As a standard practice, the traffic management team review the area now that it is functional." We have contacted again requesting the issues be addressed.
- Shared multiple road closures and temporary traffic lights notifications.

Other roadworks:

- National Grid have had 3 way lights on the junction of 13th Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate for cabling works programmed to finish on the 10th of September. When finished, the gas will be worked on at the same location for a few days to carry out a gas connection using two way lights.

Streetcare:

- Requested overgrowth be cut back and moss cleared on the lane off Heol Pendarren.
- Requested extra litter and dog fouling bins at a few locations.
- The Council has been asked to remove wooden pallets which have been promoting a business.
- Many streets were missed on the first Friday of the new black bin collection days. We contacted the Council and were told that collections were not allowed to continue past their set time. Collections continued into weekend.

Highways:

- Requested the Council to look into putting more grit bins out in preparation for winter months.

Flooding and drainage:

- Chased up with RCT about blocked drainage, and we have been assured that the work will be done in getting them cleared.

Footpaths:

- Residents have asked about the re-instatement of a footpath from Rhigos Road over a stile to a nearby pond. Was told it used to be public but now has barbed wire preventing access, Council has been asked to comment.

Parish Road:

- Reported multiple cases of flytipping along the road.

- We were sent a map of land ownership surrounding Parish Road, passed on to Community Councillors. The Welsh Government has purchased land previously owned by Celtic Energy, we have e-mailed the Welsh Government asking if plans for the road will change.

- Contacted RCT and NPT councils with the same query. An RCT officer responded that after the work at the Selar Site was finished, the road was planned to be reinstated to a similar condition as it was prior to mining operations. RCT Council's position is that the road should stick with that arrangement. Only a small length of the road is within RCT, NPT have the decision-making powers for the majority of the road.

- Passed on concerns with the red gate being left unsecured.

New bus timetable:

- We have requested the new copies of the bus timetable be placed at stops. Numbers 7 and 8 have amalgamated, now the Number 8 serves Penderyn and Rhigos.

- We have expressed concerns with the unreliability of our buses- with a high number of cancellations and long waits.

- The reduced fare has stopped this month.

Small local groups:

- We would like to encourage residents to support the local groups we have in our villages. There are great groups that benefit from grant funding, but also those that rely solely on the contributions from residents. If you have ideas or suggestions, we are sure that our local groups would appreciate them! With Christmas fast approaching, the planning of events has begun.

Public consultations:

- Residents can now have their say on a draft Aberdare Town Strategy, which includes proposed areas for future investment. Closes September 18th.

<https://lets-talk.rctcbc.gov.uk/let-s-talk-aberdare-town-centre-strategy>

School essentials grant:

- Children whose families are on lower incomes and qualify for certain benefits can apply for a grant of:

- £125 per learner
- £200 for learners entering year 7 (to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school)

Council:

- We were concerned to learn from workers that the night mobile home care service across RCT was to be cut. Plaid Cymru councillors presented an urgent notice of motion so that full council could receive a statement from the Chief Executive. The decision to cut the service was delegated to an officer which meant it was not subject to councillor scrutiny consultation with residents, staff and unions, or call-in by councillors. This is no way to do business, as elected members we should not be “hiding” behind council officers.

Questions to September Council:

Councillor Adam Owain Rogers- “It is important for us all to encourage our residents to use public transport. Unfortunately, our bus services are not the most reliable.

How is the Council addressing the issues of cancellations, long waits and the knock-on effect of overcrowding on our buses?”

Councillor Karen Morgan- “Should passenger trains be reinstated to Hirwaun and Rhigos, where would the stations for both villages be located?”