



2/5/2014.

Ref : RCTCBC. C.I.L. & its Modifications

Dear Mr Staddon,

You will note from my input, absolutely no contact has been made to me as Local Member, on any issues relating to C.I.L., and its progress thus far, and in particular The Modification which will result in denying my Ward, infrastructure so badly needed to take on any further development.

I have received a communication from The Clerk of Tonyrefail Community Council [TCC][statutory consultee] that she likewise, had no idea that Tonyrefail was to be placed out of Zone 3 and into Zone 2. Therby resulting in a virtual 50% reduction of levy due to us.

I have explored the journey of C.I.L. from its beginnings within RCTCBC. RCT Planning and Regeneration, presented a report to The Cabinet, setting out how C.I.L. would operate. Within the Cabinet Decision Notice, a 3 page document, the approval is clear and distinct as to how C.I.L. would proceed, if indeed RCTCBC was to adopt such a process. It states in Para 3, pg 2 :-

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION BEING MADE.

“ The requirement to the Community Infrastructure Levy is to be subject of a consultation and examination process similar to that of the Local Development Plan.”

The RCTCBC Local Plan library is still on RCT website. It is clear, from day 1 of searching out application sites, Local Members were involved.

Also at The LDP Visioning, in 2006, down to a multitude of LDP Forum Groups plus many others, all with Local Members on these panels. All minuted, for Public viewing & Scrutiny.

The LDP process finished up with an Informal Members Consultation, this formulated to ensure every Member was aware of what was happening in his/her Ward. On examination you will actually see that Candidate Sites were being brought forward by Members. Some of these Candidate Sites, were originally on the constrained list, yet changed over last minute, to The Draft LDP Document, again coincidentally, all in Tonyrefail. This resulted in an extra over allocation of 500 dwellings.

You will also see evidenced and minuted, a team of RCT Planning and Regeneration visited Tonyrefail Community Council to give a full explanation of the significance of The New LDP.

There was none provided for TCC, for This C.I.L. process.

Examination of The C.I.L. process bares no resemblance whatsoever to the process that was undertaken for The LDP within RCTCBC.

You will have read my input regarding information I am still not being allowed to see, by RCT Planning and Regeneration, ie the information as to who took part in these meetings with Officers to establish the reports of C.I.L.

It is clear to me as a layman, that The C.I.L. regulations demand full transparency, and I have had to resort to F.O.I. requests to obtain information as to who took part in the process? : this is not in the spirit of The CIL Act, re Localism.

This lack of Scrutiny is at odds with what has taken place at Merthyr and Caerphilly. I have spoken to Local Members there, and they were provided with information at every stage of their C.I.L.

This lack of Scrutiny not only bothers me, but The Wales Audit Office likewise are concerned about the lack of Scrutiny by RCTCBC in their obligations required under The Wales Improvement Plan[WIP]. This set out within a recent report, and of which RCT will now have to change its Scrutiny practise. Also at every Scrutiny Meeting, the relevant Cabinet Member will, in the future, have to attend.

I stress this is not a generic response by The WAO made to every Local Authority in Wales, it is specific to RCTCBC.

This publishing of Improvement Objectives annually is not a new requirement. It is a requirement of The Local Government(Wales) Measure(2009), which states in part....."anything that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for local citizens and communities".

Clearly this relate,s to C.I.L., as it appears Merthyr and Caerphilly have adhered to it.

I submit this late information, as clearly in the meeting scheduled for 7th May, time will be at a premium for any input.

I would also ask you to please accept my apologies over its lateness.

Yours Sincerely.

Cllr. Paul Wasley. Tonyrefail Ward.