

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016 - 2017

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
10th JANUARY 2017**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING
OFFICER**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2	
COMPLAINT BY A MEMBER UNDER THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL PROTOCOL – STANDARD OF CONDUCT EXPECTED BY MEMBERS	

**Author: Mr. Andy Wilkins – Head of Legal – Corporate & Democratic
Services**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To enable the Committee to consider a complaint by a Member that another Member has failed to comply with the Local Protocol – Standard of Conduct Expected by Members.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members adopt the procedure outlined in paragraph 3.9 of this report as to the conduct of the meeting; and
- 2.2 Consider whether or not the Member who is the subject of the allegation has failed to comply with the Local Protocol – Standards of Conduct expected by Members and, if there is basis to the allegation, whether or not that Member should be reprimanded.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 12th January 2011 Council approved the Local Protocol – Standard of Conduct Expected by Members (the 'Protocol'), a copy of which is annexed at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.2 A complaint has been made under the Protocol by County Borough Councillor G. Davies against County Borough Councillor A. Morgan.
- 3.3 The complaint relates to the contents of a letter written by Councillor Morgan to the Secretary of the Treherbert Labour Party concerning the repositioning of bus stops & bridge proposals in Tynewydd. The basis of Councillor Davies' complaint is set out in his letter annexed to the report (together with its original attachments) at Appendix 2 to this

report. Councillor Davies in his letter confirms he wishes to pursue the complaint against Councillor Morgan before the Standards Committee.

- 3.4 In this letter Councillor Davies requests the Committee consider whether there has been a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the Members' Code of Conduct. Following receipt of his letter Councillor Davies has been advised that if he wished to pursue a complaint under the Members' Code of Conduct he would need to lodge a complaint with the Public Services Ombudsman For Wales.
- 3.5 Members therefore need only be concerned with the complaint made under the Protocol. In his letter Councillor Davies has confirmed which parts of the Protocol he alleges Councillor Morgan has breached namely:

Paragraph 2.1 - Public Behaviour

Members shall:

- (a) Show respect to each other;
- (b) Not make personal abusive comments about each other; and
- (e) Not publish or spread any false information about each other.

- 3.6 Councillor Morgan's response to the complaint made by Councillor Davies is annexed at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 3.7 Consequently, as requested by Councillor Davies his complaint has now come before this Committee for consideration and determination. Both Councillors have been invited to attend the Committee hearing.
- 3.8 Councillor Davies has indicated that he will be calling a witness and Councillor Morgan has confirmed that he will not be calling any witnesses.
- 3.9 As it is not a formal hearing under the procedure adopted in respect of an alleged breach of the Members Code of Conduct, it is suggested that the following simplified procedure be adopted for hearing the complaint: -
- i) Opening address by the Chairman;
 - ii) Councillor Davies be invited to address the Committee;
 - iii) Questions by Committee Members;
 - iv) Witness for Councillor Davies
 - v) Questions by Committee Members
 - vi) Councillor Morgan be invited to address the Committee;
 - vii) Questions by Committee Members;
 - viii) Councillor Davies be invited to address the Committee with any closing remarks;

- ix) Councillor Morgan be invited to address the Committee with any closing remarks;
- x) Committee to retire to deliberate in private on the representations and decide whether or not Councillor Morgan has failed to comply with the Protocol and what sanction, if any, to impose; and
- xi) Committee to reconvene in public for the Chairman to announce the Committee's finding.

N.B. Each of the parties will address the Committee individually and there will be **no cross examination of the parties save for questions asked by Committee Members.**

3.10 The Committee can come to either of the following decisions:

- 1. There is no basis to the allegation.
- 2. There is basis to the allegation but there is no need to act further.
- 3. There is basis to the allegation and the Member should be reprimanded.

3.11 In accordance with the Protocol the decision made by the Committee will be minuted.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

10th JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Background Papers: Report to Council, 12th January 2011

APPENDIX 1

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL PROTOCOL – STANDARDS OF CONDUCT TO BE FOLLOWED BY MEMBERS

1. Introduction

This protocol sets out the standards of conduct to be followed by Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC in dealing with each other. It should be read in conjunction with the Members' Code of Conduct and the Member-Officer protocol. It adds to these documents and does not detract from them.

2. The standards of conduct

Members shall: -

2.1 Public Behaviour

- (a) Show respect to each other
- (b) Not make personal abusive comments about each other
- (c) Not publish anything insulting about each other
- (d) Not make malicious allegations against each other
- (e) Not publish or spread any false information about each other
- (f) Show respect to diversity and equality
- (g) Use social media responsibly and in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and this protocol

2.2 Behaviour in Meetings

- (a) Behave with dignity
- (b) Show respect to the Chair and obey his/her decisions and conversely Members can expect the Chair to show mutual respect to Members
- (c) Not use indecent language nor make racial remarks or remarks which prejudice or may be deemed to be offensive to any section of society

2.3 Confidentiality

- (a) Keep the confidentiality of exempt papers and any other documents which are not public
- (b) Not release confidential information to the press or the public
- (c) Not use confidential information for purposes other than intended

2.4 Local Members

- (a) Work with Members of adjoining wards for the benefit of the locality
- (b) If dealing with any matter relating to another ward:
Explain to anyone seeking assistance that he/she is not the local Member and inform the local Member, unless it would lead to a breach of confidentiality

3. Rules of procedure

Rules of Procedure for dealing with complaints under the Local Protocol

- 3.1** Legislation sets out a statutory regime whereby complaints for breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct are referred to the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales (the Ombudsman).
- 3.2** The Ombudsman has the discretion to decide whether allegations of breaches of the Members' Code of Conduct will be investigated. This protocol is designed to deal effectively with those complaints which are not suitable for reference to the Ombudsman or which would benefit from a local determination.
- 3.3** Allegations by a Member(s) of a breach of one (or more) of the standards of conduct set out in paragraph 2 of the protocol by another Member(s) will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set out below.
- 3.4** It is important that any allegations made under the protocol are dealt with quickly and effectively with the co-operation of all parties involved. Each party must make themselves available to attend a hearing held thereunder as a matter of priority and within the timescales set out in this protocol.
- 3.5** Should, following commencement of the protocol process, any Member elect at anytime to refer the matter to the Ombudsman for investigation the protocol process will be discontinued and cannot subsequently be resumed.

3.6

Stage One – Making the Complaint and informal resolution

- (i) Any Member who wishes to submit an allegation under the protocol should send the complaint to the Monitoring Officer. The complaint must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer within one month of the event that has given rise to the complaint occurring or; within one month of the substance of the complaint coming to the attention of the Member submitting the allegation.
- (ii) Following receipt of the complaint the Monitoring Officer will advise whether the allegation falls within the protocol or whether the complainant(s) should consider referral to the Ombudsman as an allegation of breach of the Members' Code of Conduct.

- (iii) If there is a formal referral to the Ombudsman then legislation and regulations set out how the Ombudsman may investigate that matter and if appropriate refer the result of any investigation to the Standards Committee so that the Committee may determine that complaint.
- (iv) If the Monitoring Officer determines that the allegation falls within the protocol he/she will seek to try and resolve the matter informally.
- (v) If following Stage One the Monitoring Officer cannot resolve the matter informally between the parties and the Member(s) wishes to proceed with the allegation under the protocol the matter will be referred to a hearing before the Standards Committee under Stage Two.

N.B. The Monitoring Officer may choose not to deal with the allegation at this stage in order be able to advise the Committee later in the process, in which case the Deputy Monitoring Officer or a Legal Officer will advise the Member complainant(s).

3.7

Stage Two – Standards Committee hearing

- (i) Stage Two is a hearing before the Standards Committee.
- (ii) The Member(s) making the complaint will be asked to re-confirm the substance of the complaint in writing to the Monitoring Officer (including identifying which standard(s) of conduct set out in paragraph 2 above is/are alleged to have been breached) together with all the written evidence they wish to submit for consideration at the hearing within two weeks of notifying the Monitoring Officer they wish the complaint to be dealt with by way of hearing before the Standards Committee.
- (iii) The Member(s) who is the subject of that complaint must provide a written response to that complaint within one month of receipt of notification of it together with all written evidence they wish to submit for consideration at the hearing.
- (iv) The Monitoring Officer if he/she participated in Stage One will notify the deputy monitoring officer or a legal officer of receipt of the complaint who shall thereafter have conduct of the matter (the 'Investigating Officer').
- (v) If the Monitoring Officer chose not to deal with the allegation at Stage One he/she shall be the Investigating Officer.
- (vi) Both the Member(s) making the complaint and the Member(s) against whom the allegation(s) has been made must respond promptly to all correspondence relating to the matter including requests to confirm availability in respect of scheduling the hearing itself. Member(s) will be

given dates within a two month window in which they must confirm a date they are available to attend the hearing.

- (vii) The papers referred to in paragraph 3.7(ii) and 3.7(iii) will be distributed to the Members of the Committee in accordance with the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- (viii) No additional evidence may be produced without the prior consent of the Chair of the Committee.
- (ix) Each Member must give notification in writing to the Investigating Officer of any witnesses they intend to call to give evidence at the hearing. It is the responsibility of the Member calling the witness to ensure that witness is available to attend on the agreed date.
- (x) If either side wishes not to be present or fails to attend, the hearing may be held in their absence.
- (xi) Should they deem it appropriate the Standards Committee may invite Council officers to attend the hearing to answer any questions they may have any relevant to the matter before it.
- (xii) The proceedings at the Standards Committee hearing itself shall be conducted as follows: -
 - a) Opening address by the Chair;
 - b) Member(s) who submitted the complaint be invited to address the Committee;
 - c) Questions by Committee Members;
 - d) Member(s) who the allegations have been made against be invited to address the Committee;
 - e) Questions by Committee Members;
 - f) Witnesses for Member(s) who submitted the complaint address the Committee
 - g) Questions by Committee Members;
 - h) Witnesses for Member(s) who the allegations have been made against be invited to address the Committee;
 - i) Questions by Committee Members;
 - j) The Member(s) who has made the complaint be invited to address the Committee with any closing remarks;
 - k) The Member(s) who is/are the subject of the complaint be invited to address the Committee with any closing remarks
 - l) Questions by Committee Members (if any) to Council Officers who have been invited to attend by the Committee
 - m) Committee to retire to deliberate in private on the representations and decide whether or not the Member(s) who the allegations have been made against has failed to comply with the protocol and what sanction, if any, to impose;
 - n) Committee to reconvene in public for the Chair to announce the Committee's finding.

N.B. There will be no cross examination of any of the parties save for questions asked by Committee members.

- (xiii) The Investigating Officer will be available to advise the Committee.
- (xiv) The Committee can come to one of three conclusions, namely:-
 - (a) That there is no basis to the complaint.
 - (b) That there is a basis to the complaint but that no further action is required.
 - (c) That there is a basis to the complaint and that the Member should be censured.
- (xv) The conclusion reached by the Committee will be minuted. In addition, the Committee can make recommendations to Council regarding changes to the protocol or taking any further action.

3.8 N.B. The time-limits and deadlines set out in these procedures are subject to there being flexibility in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Chair.

4. Other matters

4.1 The protocol is not designed for use by members of the Public. If there is a complaint by a member of the public against officer conduct or Member conduct, then that should follow normal processes, either through a complaint to the Chief Executive or relevant Chief Officer in respect of an officer or to the Monitoring Officer and/or the Ombudsman in respect of a Member.



Geraint R. Davies
 The County Borough Councillor for the Treherbert Ward
 Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Treherbert

6 St. Mary's Close, Treherbert,
 Treorchy/Treorci, CF42 5RL

Tel/Ffôn: (01443) 771850
 Email/Ebost: geraint-davies@btconnect.com

LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC
 SERVICES DIVISION

27 SEP 2016

RECEIVED

Mr Paul Lucas
 Monitoring Officer
 Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
 The Pavilions
 Clydach Vale
 Rhondda

Dear Mr Lucas

Complaint relating to the Local Protocol-Standards of Conduct to be followed by members

I write concerning my complaint which I have asked to be considered by the Standards Committee.

The complaint relates to a letter written by Councillor Andrew Morgan to Mr Paul Russell, Secretary of Treherbert Labour Party. The letter was written with a Council Letterhead and was signed by Councillor Morgan as Leader of the Council. The letter was dated 10th August 2016.

The letter has been widely distributed to the public as an attachment to a Labour Party leaflet promoted by Mr Paul Russell. It also has been posted on social media. My name is mentioned on three occasions in the text of the letter, and states; **"It does seem to me that the approach on some of the issues were clearly politically motivated"**

I refute this accusation completely.

I therefore request that the Standards Committee investigates:

1) whether there has been a breach of the paragraph 4(b) Code of Conduct i.e. that he failed to show respect and consideration to me.

2) whether there is also a breach under the Local Protocol – Standard of Conduct to be followed by Members Para 2. Public Behaviour

1(a) Show respect to each other

1(b) Not to make personal abusive comments about each other

1(e) Not to publish or spread any false information about each other,

Standards Committee 10 January 2017
I enclose the following documents which I will rely on in showing that I acted appropriately in this matter.:

- Original Complaint letter to Monitoring Officer
- Letter from Councillor Morgan to Mr Paul Russell
- Leaflet published and distributed in Treherbert Ward
- Face book publication of above.
- Notice of meeting in Blaenycwm Chapel
- Letter to Mr Charlie Nelson outlining concerns in Public meeting as part of the Consultation re the bus stops.
- Emails to Councillor Andrew Morgan
- E Mail received from Councillor Morgan
- Letter received from Mr Nigel Wheeler

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you the date which the matter will be considered by the Standards Committee.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Geraint Davies

Geraint R. Davies
The County Borough Councillor for the Treherbert Ward
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Treherbert

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12th August 2016

Mr Paul Lucas
Monitoring Officer
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
The Pavilions
Clydach Vale
Rhondda

Dear Mr Lucas

My attention has been drawn to a letter written by Councillor Andrew Morgan to Mr Paul Russell, Secretary of the Treherbert Labour Party, which was written on Council letterhead and which was signed by Councillor Morgan as Leader of the Council and dated 10th August 2016.

The letter is headed Repositioning of Bus Stops/Bridge Proposals, Tynewydd.

The letter has been widely distributed to the public as an attachment to a Labour leaflet promoted by Mr. Paul Russell.

In that letter Councillor Morgan unjustifiably calls into question my integrity and without justification brings my reputation into disrepute.

Now that the Treherbert Labour Party have publicly circulated the letter they are also culpable. It is also posted on social media.

In their leaflet they make the following statement, "attached is a copy of the letter that we have now received from Councillor Andrew Morgan which not only condemns politically motivated antics but more importantly gives assurances on the three point commitment that Labour requested. We thank Andrew for his constructive response."

I had sent an email to Councillor Morgan on the 22nd July confirming that I had shared the content of an email I had received from him and informed him that everyone at the public meeting held on the 21st July were very relieved that the Council plans to repair the bridge.

I then sent an appropriate and detailed letter to Mr. Charlie Nelson on 26th July 2016 faithfully setting out the ten observations made at the public meeting relating to the consultation in changes in Bus Stops following restrictions on St.Alban's Bridge. The letter is written on my Council letterhead and signed by both myself and Councillor Irene Pearce as Local Members for Treherbert. You will find no mention of Plaid Cymru on that letter.

I am surprised that I seem to have been the subject of false judgements made by both Councillor Morgan. To avoid me taking this matter further I need an apology as public as the insinuations made by Councillor Morgan as Leader of the Council, and Treherbert Labour Party who sought to bring my reputation into disrepute..

I would request that you investigate that there is a breach of paragraph 4(b) of the code of Code of Conduct i.e, that he fails to show respect and consideration to me. This is also set out in Council's adopted local protocol;. Standard of Conduct to be followed by Members which is included in the Council's Constitution, Para2,1 states that members should show respect for each other and should not publish any thing insulting about each other

Yours faithfully

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Geraint Davies



Mr Paul Russell
Secretary, Treherbert Labour Party

Dyddiad/ Date: 10 August 2016

Dear Mr Russell

RE: Repositioning of Bus Stops/Bridge Proposals, Tynnewydd

I refer to our meeting on the 1st August 2016 regarding the public meeting which was set up to discuss the repositioning of the bus stops but which was unfortunately overtaken by a discussion about the bridge.

Firstly, for the record, I would like to point out that when agreeing to the initial meeting with Cllr G Davies, it was made clear by the Director of Highways and Streetcare that this meeting was for the sole purpose of discussing the repositioning of the bus stops and not about the bridge. The Director made it clear to Cllr Davies prior to the meeting that officers were not in a position to answer any queries on the bridge as they were waiting for consultants' reports and no decision could be or had been taken on the bridge issue.

The Director has informed me that Cllr Davies had accepted this position and was clear the meeting was about the bus stops and not the bridge issue.

Officers who attended the meeting have told me that many of the points you mentioned in our meeting were raised during the public meeting at Blaencwm Chapel on 21st July 2016, and in numerous letters from residents of Tydraw Terrace.

It does seem to me that the approach to some of the issues were clearly politically motivated so I would like to factually state the Council's position on this matter, something I believe the officers tried to do on the night.

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC has been advised by its consulting engineers of the need to impose a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the bridge at St Albans Road. This will have significant consequences on the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) in the area, including public transport vehicles (which recent figures indicate accounts for 61% of HGV traffic in the area).

As explained at the public meeting (and in various letter responses to local residents and elected members) the obvious diversionary route for such traffic would be via Tydraw Terrace. As a result of the necessity to divert public transport, the Integrated Transport Unit are obliged to consider the alternative bus stop sites that may be deemed appropriate and necessary in the circumstances.

Regarding the suitability of Tydraw Terrace to take additional traffic, the points you mentioned that were raised at the public meeting have been noted and will be considered and appraised accordingly.

With specific regard to the 'structural integrity' of Tydraw Terrace, following concerns raised by local residents our engineers are now examining the condition of the highway and also assessing the geometry of the road layout.

Our engineers are also currently liaising with Wales and West Utilities (WWU) as to the condition of their apparatus (gas main) in Tydraw Terrace. However, I must make it clear that WWU are a statutory body and have full responsibility for their apparatus in the highway. Any potential defect with their apparatus would be an issue for WWU to address.

The points you mentioned regarding potential damage to the gas main is noted, however, there is currently no weight restriction on Tydraw Terrace or Blaen-y-cwm Road Bridge (which was strengthened to carry 40 tonne loading in September 2007). For information, the Brook Street Bridge in Blaenrhondda was also similarly strengthened in 2013.

We are currently awaiting a further report from our consulting engineers which will detail numerous options and costs for addressing the issues at St Albans Bridge and as with anything like this, once we have all the facts, officers would consult with all relevant parties on the way forward.

As I have already stated there are many issues to address in this matter, and no firm decisions will be made until all options have been explored.

Again for the record, it is my intention as Cabinet Member for this area to recommend that we include monies in the Capital Programme for the next financial year 2017/2018 to bring the bridge back into full use and remove the restrictions.

Finally, you mentioned that there were comments made in regard to the lack of spend in the area. Whilst I don't want to get into arguments of that nature, I would point out that last financial year we spent £550,000 of council money on the new Community Recycling Centre, and this year we are spending in excess of one million pounds on the resurfacing of Rhigos Mountain Road. I am sure if I asked officers to go through the work programme, I am certain many more schemes could be highlighted.

I trust that the foregoing comments provide some clarity in this matter and should you require anything further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A Morgan

Councillor Andrew Morgan
Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Y Cyngorydd Andrew Morgan
Arweinydd y Rhondda Cynon Taf Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



Treherbert Branch Labour Party Newsletter Special August 2016



St Alban's Road Bridge Saved! *by Labour's Prompt Action*

Members of Treherbert Branch Labour Party attended the public meeting on 21st July when concerns were raised about the future of St Alban's Road Bridge between Tynewydd and Blaenrhondda.

Whilst the meeting was intended only to discuss proposals to reposition bus stops, it is understandable that residents took the opportunity to make their feelings known – **that the bridge must not be closed.**

Immediately afterwards, Treherbert Labour Party representatives called for an urgent meeting with Councillor Andrew Morgan, the Leader of RCT Council. **Paul Russell, Scott Emanuel, David Morris and Anne Morris** spelled out in no uncertain terms that the Council has to find the resources to:



- ensure that safety repairs are carried out;
- remove the safety restrictions which will be put in place; and
- bring the bridge back into full use.

Whilst Plaid Cymru set up a petition, which we do not believe at the time of preparing this Newsletter has yet even been submitted to the Council, your local Labour Party have acted decisively.

Attached is a copy of the letter that we have now received from Councillor Andrew Morgan which not only condemns politically motivated antics but more importantly gives assurances on the three-point commitment that Labour requested. We thank Andrew for his constructive response.

We will not play political games with things that affect people's daily lives.

****IMPORTANT NEWS**** St Alban's Road Bridge (The New Bridge) Saved by Treherbert Labour party's prompt action. This news letter has been delivered to most residents this evening with the last lot being delivered tomorrow.



Helen Hughes and 11 others

1 comment 6 shares



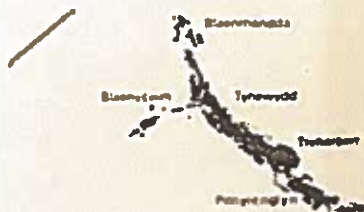
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Comment



Share



Treherbert Branch Labour Party Newsletter Special August 2016

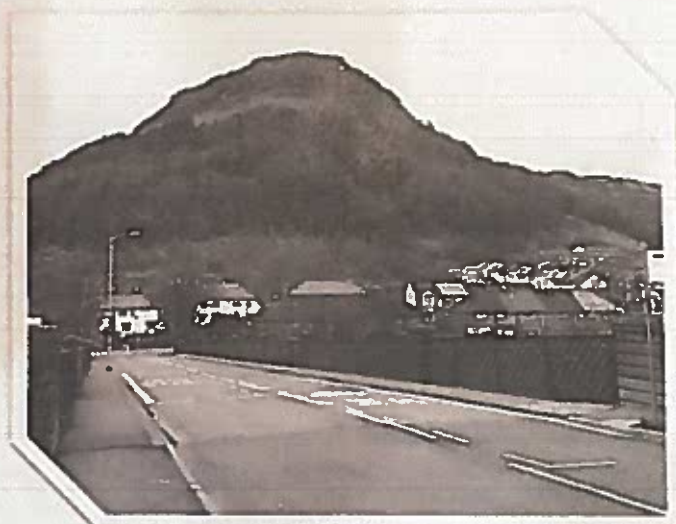


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Public Meeting
Blaencwm Chapel Tynewydd
Thursday 21 July 2016
at 6.00pm

To discuss the

Proposed Weight Restriction on the "New Bridge" Tynewydd.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council are proposing a weight restriction of 7.5tons on the New Bridge Tynewydd. This means that buses will longer use the bridge and it is proposed to move the Bus Stops to Ty Draw Terrace and Blaencwm Road.

Council Officers will be in attendance

Please come and give your opinion on these proposals.



Geraint R. Davies
The County Borough Councillor for the Treherbert Ward
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol dros Ward Treherbert

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26th July 2016

Mr Charlie E Nelson
Transport Manager
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Sardis House
Pontypridd

Dear Mr Nelson
**Consultation on Changes in Bus Stops following Weight Restriction on St.
Alban's Bridge**

At a well attended public meeting held on July 21st 2016 at Blaenycwm Baptist Chapel Tynewyd the following observations were made:.

- 1) New bus stops should not be positioned in Ty draw Terrace⁹. This was a resolution passed unanimously by the meeting.
- 2) That a risk assessment be carried out on the alternative bus route through Tydraw Terrace and Blaencwm Road before the route is adopted and made available to the public..
- 3) That a traffic survey be undertaken.
- 4) That use of lighter buses be investigated so that they could cross the bridge within the proposed weight restriction.
- 5) That smaller buses could service the streets which will lose the bus stop on the St Alban's Bridge. .
- 6) Concern was expressed at the condition of the road in Ty Draw Terrace which needs renovation as a matter of priority..
- 7) Concern was expressed at the number of gas leaks that had occurred in Ty Draw Terrace which the gas operator blamed on the condition of the road..
- 8) Concern was expressed at the width of the road at Ty draw Terrace particularly when cars are parked.

9) Concern was expressed at the lack of a pavement on one side of Blaencwm Road which was a potential safety hazard

St Albans Committee - 10 January, 2017

10) That the proposed alternative bus route be a temporary arrangement and that the St Alban's Bridge be repaired or renewed as soon as possible to its original load bearing capacity.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Geraint Davies

Councillor Irene Pearce

From: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)
Sent: 13 July 2016 08:30
To: Morgan, Andrew (Councillor)
Cc: Wheeler, Nigel
Subject: St Albans Bridge Tnewydd

Dear Andrew

Last week we received a consultation letter with regards the relocation of a bus stop due to the imposition of a weight restriction of 7.5tons on the S t Albans Bridge. This came as shock to us as we were unaware of any problems relating to the bridge. The bridge is an important part of the infrastructure of the Upper Rhondda and restriction on its use has serious implications for our community.

We would be like clarification whether this restriction is as a result of sudden deterioration of the bridge or otherwise. I understand that the bridge is inspected regularly. If so can we have copies of the inspection reports.

As local members we are very concerned with this situation and demand that action is taken to renovate the bridge so that the restriction is lifted as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Geraint Davies

Irene Pearce

[Enter Post Title Here]

From: Morgan, Andrew (Councillor)
Sent: 18 July 2016 14:42
To: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)
Cc: Wheeler, Nigel; Andrew Griffiths
Subject: RE: St Albans Bridge Tnewydd

Geraint,

I will ask the officers dealing with this to contact you.

I am unsure of what use the past inspections are to you though i am sure this info can be provided.

Options to deal with the issue of the bridge are being worked on.

It is no difference to others where we have had to put a weight limit on or even in some cases put an emergency closure on before then repairing.

Andrew

From: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)

Sent: Monday, July 18, 2016 2:13:33 PM

To: Morgan, Andrew (Councillor)

Cc: Wheeler, Nigel

Subject: FW: St Albans Bridge Tnewydd

Dear Andrew

Further to my e-mail is it possible to have copies of the inspection reports on the St Albans Bridge.

Regards

Geraint

From: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)
Sent: 22 July 2016 08:28:34
To: Morgan, Andrew (Councillor)
Cc: Pearce, Irene (Councillor)
Subject: FW: St Albans Bridge Tnewydd

Dear Andrew

Thanks for your e mail. I shared the contents in a public meeting last night and all there were very relieved that the council plans to repair the bridge. Going forward, once the consultants report is available I think it would helpful if Councillor Pearce and I have a meeting with you to discuss the matter. Please let us know when this convenient.

Incidentally I still have not received copies of the reports of the bridge's inspections.

Thanks again

Geraint

From: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)
Sent: 18 July 2016 22:34
To: Davies, Geraint (Councillor)
Cc: '[REDACTED]'
Subject: FW: St Albans Bridge Tnewydd



Gwasanaethau Gofal y Strydoedd | Streetcare Services
Tŷ Glantaf, Uned B23, Taffs Fall Road,
Ystad Ddiwydiannol Trefforest, Pontypridd, CF37 5TT
Tŷ Glantaf, Unit B23, Taffs Fall Road,
Trefforest Industrial Estate, Pontypridd CF37 5TT
Ffôn/Tel: 01443 425001, Ffacs/Fax: 01443 827745

Councillor Geraint Davies
6 St Mary's Close
Treorchy
CF 42 5RL

Gofynnwch Am/ Please Ask For: Public Transport

Fy Nghyf / My Ref
101003564459/CN/HJ

Eich Cyf/ Your Ref

Dyddiad/ Date
1st August 2016

Dear Councillor Davies,

RE: Consultation on Changes in Bus Stops following Weight Restriction on Tynewydd (St. Alban's) Bridge

I refer to your letter of 26 July 2016, concerning the above consultation and other matters relating to the bridge at St Albans Terrace. The points contained within, reflect those that were raised during the public meeting that was held at Blaencwm Chapel on 21 July 2016.

Firstly may I express my disappointment in regard to the meeting itself, as when we initially spoke and agreed for the meeting to take place, it was on the basis it was to discuss the issue of the bus stop alterations and in no way was it to discuss the bridge issue as we had not and still have not received the consultants options report.

I feel that I was slightly misled in the reason for the meeting which as I said was very disappointing.

I can confirm that the Authority has been advised by its consulting engineers of the need to impose a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the bridge at St Albans Terrace. This will have significant consequences on the movement of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) in the area, including public transport vehicles (which recent figures indicate accounts for 61% of HGV traffic in the area).

A number of possible options that affect the ongoing use of Tynewydd Bridge are therefore being explored. As explained at the public meeting, the obvious diversionary route for such traffic would be via Tydraw Terrace. As this would also involve the buses, the smallest of which that operate the 120, 121 and 130 routes being 9.39 tonnes gross vehicle weight, we are obliged to consider the alternative bus stop sites that may be deemed to be appropriate and necessary in the circumstances. This assessment involves a Traffic Officer from South Wales Police and considers the safety aspects.

Chris Lee C.P.E.A

Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadrn y Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol a Rheng Flaen | Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services



Dewiswch iaith a diwyg eich dogfen | Available in alternative formats and languages

Fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi | Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay

Regarding the suitability of Tydraw Terrace and Blaen-y-Cym Road to take additional traffic, the points raised at the public meeting have been noted and will be considered and appraised accordingly. Our engineers are now examining the condition of the highway at Tydraw Terrace and also assessing the geometry of the road layout. However strengthening works were carried out in September 2007 to enable Blaen-y-cwm Bridge to carry 40 tonne loading.

We are currently awaiting a further report from our consulting engineers, detailing numerous options and costs for addressing the issues at Tynewydd Bridge. There are clearly many issues to address before this matter is resolved, and no firm decisions will be made until all options have been explored.

I trust that the foregoing comments provide some clarity in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Wheeler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Wheeler
Director of Highways and Streetcare Services

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Swyddfa'r Cabinet | Cabinet Office

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Mr Paul Lucas
Director – Legal & Democratic Services
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
The Pavillions
Clydach Vale
Rhondda Cynon Taff

Dyddiad/Dat: 26th October 2016

Received
27/10/16

Dear Paul

Complaint relating to the Local Protocol – Standards of Conduct to be followed by members

I am grateful for the opportunity to respond to the complaint against myself by Cllr Geraint Davies which you recently made me aware, under the Local Protocol.

Can I firstly state how disappointed I am that Cllr Davies has chosen to escalate this matter. In my previous response to yourself as Monitoring Officer around the details of this issue, I made clear that I had no involvement in the publications stated by Cllr Davies in his complaint to you.

It is correct that I did correspond with Mr Paul Russell around highways matters relating Tynewydd, Treherbert. The correspondence received by Mr Russell was dealt with in the same as any residents correspondence would be dealt with, which is in line with Cabinet Office arrangements for providing responses to correspondence received by members of the Executive. The content of my letter was based upon the feedback I had received from the Director responsible, who had informed me that the meeting to which Council officers had attended, at the request of local members, to his mind had been misled as to the reasons for the meeting. I refer you to paragraph 2 and 3 Mr Nigel Wheelers correspondence dated 1st August 2016. The feedback I had received from those Officers who attended the meeting made clear in their view that they had attended a politically motivated public meeting. I therefore stand by the comments I made in my letter to Mr Paul Russell dated 10th August 2016.

Dealing with the specific breaches of the code Cllr Davies has listed for consideration by the Standards Committee, I do not understand the inclusion of paragraph 4(b) of the Members Code of Conduct, as this matter is being dealt with under the local protocol?



In respect of my alleged breaches of *Paragraph 2 of the Local Protocol – Standards of Conduct to be followed by Members – Public Behaviour, 1(A), 1(B) and 1 (e)*; I am firmly of the view that I have not acted against the spirit of any of these standards.

1(A) Show respect to others; My responses listed by Cllr Geraint Davies demonstrate that I have remained professional in my dealings throughout this matter.

1 (B) Not to make personal abusive comments about each other; I have not in any way been abusive and have proactively supported both Cllr Geraint Davies and his colleague ward member, Cllr Irene Pearce, in dealing with this complicated local matter and to seek a resolution for the residents of Tynewydd, Treherbert.

1(E) Not to publish or spread any false information about each other; I have not published or spread any false information, as the publications to which Cllr Davies refers I have had no involvement with whatsoever. I have always made this consistently clear.

I sincerely hope the clarifications I have provided above will bring this matter to a conclusion. Working with Officers, as Leader of the Council, I have dealt with this matter in an appropriate way and in no way sought to make a political issue of it. It is on this basis I am disappointed that Cllr Geraint Davies has chosen to escalate this matter to the Standards Committee of the Council.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

A Morgan

Y Cyngorydd Andrew Morgan
Arweinydd y Rhondda Cynon Taf Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol

Councillor Andrew Morgan
Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council