

Nelson Community Council

Special Meeting held on 29th August 2024 beginning at 6:30 pm at Nelson Institute

Present: Cllr G Davies
Cllr A Gray (Chair)
Mr L John (Clerk)
Cllr E ap Llwyd Dafydd (online)
Cllr L Dufty
Cllr A John

1 To Receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr R Powell.

2 To consider CCBC consultation and related actions, in relation to Blackwood Miners' Institute and Llancaiach Fawr

The following was noted:

- Members (AG and GD) shared that they had recently attended a consultation event at the library.
- It is reported that CCBC have spent circa £900,000 for consultants despite high salaried officers being in position. Councillors were concerned that capacity is not available in-house.
- Investment in a new leisure centre is also proposed which is frustrating when other leisure facilities are proposed to close.
- Concern that Wales Audit Office authorised CCBC accounts in February 2024 and these proposals have followed.
- Members referred to a resident letter which listed a number of concerns.
- It is unclear if other organisations such as CADW have been involved in the plans to date

The following was agreed:

- The need for the Council to share their views on the current consultations.
- The need to reduce spending but this should be made elsewhere
- To urge CCBC to extend the current consultation period for the following reasons:
 - o The consultation takes place overwhelmingly during the summer holidays when many residents are on holidays
 - o Schools are on holidays and are a major stakeholder.
 - o August is a traditional holiday period when Community Councils and the Senedd are in recess
- For the Clerk to respond to the consultation citing concerns including:
 - o The negative impact on residents and local businesses, especially schools who use both facilities extensively
 - o The impact on residents who may have booked and paid for significant events at Llancaiach Fawr
 - o The focus on the arts without an understanding of the benefit they have to the community
 - o The cost of maintaining buildings in a 'mothballed' status
 - o The need to consider alternatives such as better business management of the sites
 - o The spending focus on Caerphilly town rather than other areas of the Borough.

- The Chair to respond to the resident's letter given that no address had been provided.

Meals on Wheels consultation

Members agreed to respond to this consultation citing concerns around

- the potential negative impact on vulnerable people in the community who provide a a vital service that is much more than a delivery service.
- More transparency is needed on plans to reduce services especially in relation to inefficiency at CCBC.

3 To Consider Planning application relating to Bryn Quarry

Members suggested that the operation has changed the whole landscape which cannot be rebuilt. Members discussed the following concerns of any extension to the existing operation:

- The concern of why an extension of the operation is being considered alongside the building of a new football pitch
- The increase in heavy traffic through Nelson
- The blasting without warning for local residents
- Increasing risks due to the impact to local wildlife and increased air pollution
- The operation is ever expanding closer to residential boundaries
- The works appear to have already commenced prior to permission being granted
- Residents have already submitted complaints to CCBC regarding smells and the increase in heavy vehicular traffic and this will increase further.

It was agreed for the Clerk to share concerns with CCBC in response to the planning application.

Other

Councillor GD gave praise to the Fire Service and referenced the prompt service received recently when they provided a service check on the alarms at a house.