

Bryn Surgery

09 Jan 10

Surgery taken with Councillor Marian Lewis
Chaired by Paul Bulmer
Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Actions from last minutes

Tidy up and maintenance in the village

All the items raised have now been done. Those present thanked Councillor Marian Lewis for progressing the work.

Right of way by the river through Bryn

David will follow this up with officers who specialise in this to ensure that this right of way remains open. All the land owners of the right of way alongside the river are to be notified of their responsibility to maintain this right of way and keep it clear for pedestrians. The footpath signs are to be replaced.

Councillor Marian Lewis reported that the land owners had been contacted. Over the next year the signs will be replaced and the path monitored to ensure it is kept clear for walkers.

Bus services to Bryn

David had been made aware that the bus service through Bryn had been reduced from twice an hour to just once an hour. He had confronted the service provider and been told that since the route was not subsidised by the council the operator needed to operate the route without making a loss. This could not be done with current levels of use so had to be reduced. A petition has been raised by the village. A community bus may also be considered for Bryn where appropriate.

Marian was asked what role central government can play in providing this service. Marian is to obtain a written reply to this.

Councillor Marian Lewis produced copies of emails she had exchanged with S R Colinese, the council employee responsible for running these contracts. He has stated that he will speak with D Ridgeway to see if his company can provide additional services on the route from Bryn to Port Talbot.

LDP proposals

Both Councillors have briefed the village at recent Village Meetings on this topic and will continue to communicate any updates via BRAG.

Councillor Marian Lewis was reminded of the proposal made by R Davies and which BRAG supported. David had agreed at his surgery to ensure this was not overlooked when new proposals were accepted in January and Marian agreed to do the same. BRAG have seen the proposal and recommend the support of this by the village.

A provisional plan is expected to be issued in March / April.

PACT

BRAG continues to stay in touch with Shaun Thomas from PACT (Partnership And Communities Together) and normally send at least one committee member to these meeting at Cwmavon. If anyone in Bryn has concerns they can either phone the Police or raise via there local BRAG committee member.

Wagons turning

Wagons turning next to the community centre were causing damage and were a potential safety risk.
Done

Roads

The state of the roads in Bryn was raised by all present as still being of great concern. Also the Goytre road is collapsing. Marian to progress. Marian also updated the meeting on plans for Cwmavon Rd. and Pen-Y-Cae Rd.

Flip chart.

Marian had a potential source in mind.

Proposed speed bumps on the main road through Bryn

The proposed speed bumps through Bryn that had been mentioned by David at the village meeting were discussed by all those present. It was not felt that this was a safe proposal in the location involved. Alternatives were discussed and suggestions made to further reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph. This is still 10mph faster than the safe speed for crossing speed bumps. Rumble strips to make motorists more aware of their speed. Speed cameras to enforce the speed limit, etc. Marian agreed to contact the community police officer to see if initially random speed checks could be carried out at this location.

All present felt that permanent speed cameras at either end of the village were the preferred option.

More signs showing the speed limit were also considered desirable.

A mirror opposite Baldwin Street was considered a major asset in providing safe egress from this street since current visibility is very poor and a speeding vehicle has little chance of stopping.

Marian reported that all these actions were still being evaluated.

Other work

R Davies raised the issue of the gas pipe beside the bridge next to the poultry farm was not only unsightly but was also potentially dangerous when exposed in the way that it is. Marian to investigate further.

The exposed plastic pipe had been covered with earth but this will only become exposed again when we next have heavy rain. The unsightly aspect had not been addressed.

New issues at this Surgery

Those present thanked Marian for arranging for some of the non-passable roads, such as the Goytre, to be salted.

Heol-Penhydd Rd.

R Rogers pointed out that a bad pot hole in this road had been the cause of an accident to a resident. Marian to investigate.

Petrol Station

On going issue with the tidying of this site to be progressed. The port-a-cabin is a particular eye saw. Can the Council demolish this now! Marian to investigate.

Derelict Building by Community Centre

Another ongoing eye saw and potential danger. Marian to investigate.

Old School Ground

Parts of this need tidying up and making safe. For example the old lean-to-sheds, parts of the wall facing the road, etc. Marian to arrange an inspection.

Varteg House

The road side drain just before Varteg House on the Goytre Rd. is blocked. This has been in this state for over a year causing water from the drain to run down the road. In this cold spell this water has frozen to form about a 100yds of solid ice several inches thick on this corner.

Bio-Diversity Project

The funding of this was discussed.

Bryn Surgery

13th February 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)
Chaired and Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Fly tipping opposite Royal Oak

At the Oct meeting David had reported that this had been recovered and will be forensically examined to identify the owners who will then be prosecuted. He would also arrange for boulders to be placed there to restrict access from the road. In December Cllr Williams reported that they traced the registered owner of the car responsible but are still waiting more information before the rubbish could be removed.

In Feb David said he would visit the site again and if the rubbish has not now been removed he would get it removed straight away.

Right of way by the river through Bryn

David will follow this up with officers who specialise in this to ensure that this right of way remains open.

The right's of way officer has visited the area and this has been followed up. Topic will now be closed.

Bus services to Bryn

David had been made aware that the bus service through Bryn had been reduced from twice an hour to just once an hour.

This is still an ongoing issue and is being progressed but also looking to alternative services.

LDP proposals

David updated those present on information he had been given for to cascade. R Davies was given a number to contact with regard to his proposal that had been given the full support of BRAG. Suggested people should raise any future concerns with Owen Lewis 01639 686287.

PACT

Shaun was not at the meeting but was continuing to progress issues raised via BRAG.

Wagons turning

Wagons turning next to the community centre were causing damage and were a potential safety risk. In December David reported that the wagons had now stopped and any damage caused has been repaired by Western Logs at No cost to council.

However, a haulier taking materials up past the school has resumed this practice. David said he would follow this up again.

Bryn Sign Posts

David reported that the Bryn sign posts requested about two years ago will now be erected.

Cllr Williams still following this up with John Flower.

20mph signs by school

Signs now done.

Bus stops

The Bus stops throughout the village need clearing of grass and weeds as people are unable to access some of them in bad weather.

Ongoing. David said he would get some one onto the bus stop by the community centre next week.

Portercabin

The porter cabin on the Old Bus Depot site and the Old Petrol Station needs clearing.

Marian Lewis had sent a report to BRAG to say this was now in hand.

Update needed on the Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot.

David had said work on this was planned to start in April but he had since heard money may not now be available.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg.

Council had visited the person involved and said nothing can be done.

Street lights seem to be on all the time in Penrhiw Street.

David reported that after April all street lighting is to be turned off.

New Actions

The following new issues were raised for action.

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg. Dog patrols to be started in the area.

Community Centre roof tiles knocked out again by youth club. To be investigated.

4x4s reported to Marian Lewis as being on the tip this morning. Marian to arrange for police to contact the owners.

An 18 ton weight restriction is to be placed on station road in Feb.

Graffiti on community centre, surgery and bus shelter to be removed next week.

General Information

David informed those present that school and community centre closures were planned, 750 council jobs are to go, 7 social services homes are to close, no road gritting next year, no street lighting and many more cuts are planned.

Post Meeting Note: Allan Jones reported that the speed limit by the school has not yet been done.

Bryn Surgery

13 Mar 10

Surgery taken with Councillor Marian Lewis
Chaired by Paul Bulmer
Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than 2 months.

Actions from last minutes

Right of way by the river through Bryn

These have been confirmed and will continue to be defended by the council. **Footpath signs showing these rights of way still need to be put back up.**

Bus services to Bryn

The bus service is now being monitored for level of use and occasions when there are no seats left when travelling through Bryn. Actions will then be taken based on the findings. The route has already been extended to Swansea again.

LDP proposals

Progress on this has slipped from what had been proposed. Provisional plans were expected to be issued in March / April but this has now slipped back to June. After a discussion on planning David Rees (Prospective AM) agreed to raise these concerns.

Robert Davies had submitted a proposal last year, supported by BRAG (see past minutes) but has had no further feedback so has written another letter requesting an update.

PACT

No concerns raised

Roads

The state of the roads in Bryn was raised by all present as still being of great concern. Also the Goytre road is collapsing. Marian to progress. R Rogers had pointed out at the Jan meeting that a bad pot hole in Heol-Penhydd Rd. had been the cause of an accident to a resident. Marian to investigate.

The road side drain just before Varteg House on the Goytre Rd. is blocked. This has been in this state for over a year causing water from the drain to run down the road. In this cold spell this water has frozen to form about a 100yds of solid ice several inches thick on this corner.

Concern was also raised about the damage caused by the wagons removing soil from the new site on the Goytre rd. This same concern was raised by residents from Nanty Boda. Marian to have the work assessed.

After the Surgery, Marian was driven around the local area and shown the state of many of the roads. Photographs were taken and these issues will be taken up with the council as a priority. Photos taken of collapsing drain in Coronation St. Road falling away in Chapel Ter. Pot holes on the main rd. through Bryn, Goytre rd. collapsing, and many more.

Speed controls on the main road through Bryn

Speed cameras will continue to be used through Bryn for the next few months. Also additional speed signs on the road approaching Bryn from Port Talbot to be investigated. It was noted that the road should be monitored with cameras during the commuter times. Marian to raise this with PACT.

Other work

Other work reported at the Jan meeting had all been completed.

Petrol Station

On going issue with the tidying of this site to be progressed. The port-a-cabin is a particular eye saw. Can the Council demolish this now! Marian reported that the owner had received a warning and that the next step was to serve notice. Those present were very concerned at this report as they had been told months ago that a notice had already been served. This site has now been an eye soar for years and prompt action is now expected!

The port-a-cabin was particularly unsightly. Marian to arrange for this to be demolished immediately.

Derelict Building by Community Centre

Another ongoing eye soar and potential danger. Marian reported that this is being progressed.

Old School Ground

Parts of this need tidying up and making safe. For example the old lean-to-sheds, parts of the wall facing the road, etc. Marian to arrange an inspection.

New issues at this Surgery

Access by electric mobility vehicle from the road to the railway at the Nanty Boda entrance was a concern due to a step drop. This was viewed after the meeting and photographs taken.

Litter along the Maesteg road was again very bad. Marian to arrange for a litter pick along the road.

The dog foul waste bin near the Royal Oak is full. To be emptied.

BRAG to pass on updates of the work being progressed with Bio Diversity. Paul to email details.

Further Information

Marian supplied the following update:

750 council jobs to go through natural wastage. (<10% of employees)

Efficiency improvements to cover this.

Senior management to make a 1% cut in expenditure without effecting front line services.

Introduction of charging for disabled parking in line with other councils such as Swansea.

There is no closure programme for nursing homes. Consultation in progress to identify ways to improve this service and make more efficient.

Bryn Surgery

10th April 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)

Chaired by Graham Rolands

Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

It was thought that the fly tipping opposite Royal Oak has now been cleared and with the fence now in place this should no longer be a problem.

Concern had been raised that the land owner had threatened to close the right of way by the river through Bryn. For the moment this access no longer appears to be under threat.

The Bus services to Bryn had been cut back. After changes introduced, those present were not aware of any remaining problems. It was also thought that the service to Swansea had been resumed but this needed to be confirmed.

Sign posts pointing the way to Bryn have now been put up along the rout from Port Talbot.

An 18 ton weight restriction has been placed on station road.

Graffiti on community centre, surgery and bus shelter has been removed.

Actions ongoing

LDP proposals: David reported that proposals by the council planning department would be made on the 24th May and he will report the outcome of this to the Bryn Residents via BRAG.

Wagons turning: It had been reported in December that wagons turning next to the community centre were causing damage and were a potential safety risk. In December David reported that the wagons had been stopped and any damage caused has been repaired by Western Logs at No cost to the council. However, in Feb a haulier taking materials up past the school had resumed this practice. David said he would follow this up again.

In April this practice was still continuing. David said this would now be resolved when the car park development was implemented. Paul said he had not been aware this had been fully approved. David to obtain an update and report back.

20mph signs by school: **These signs have still not been done. David has escalated this and is awaiting a reply.**

Bus stops: The Bus stops throughout the village needed clearing of grass and weeds as people are unable to access some of them in bad weather. This has now been done but concern that they continue to be maintained when the undergrowth starts to grow again was expressed. It was agreed to leave the action on for now so that this can be monitored.

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: The porta cabin and the Old Petrol Station still needs clearing. John had been chasing this with Chris Tennant. David will progress this again. All the Bryn residents present expressed their concern at how this has now been ongoing for years and still has not been resolved.

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: Work has now started on this.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg. Council had visited the person involved and said nothing can be done about lowering the kerbs but the turning circle should be kept clear for delivery wagons to turn. David will send some one up to see about putting down yellow lines.

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg: Dog patrols been started in the area but problem still persisting. David will progress this again.

New Actions

Goytre Valley: The erecting of temporary buildings along the Goytre road was raised as a concern by those living there. David reported that an officer had visited the area and action was being taken where planning violations had been committed. It was pointed out that more buildings had recently been put up. David will revisit the area and raise with planning. Concern about the state of the Goytre road was also raised and will be investigated. David said that an additional “hot box” has now been hired to address the many pot holes in the area. Fly tipping along this road also to be cleared.

Dram Rd: The complete lack of maintenance of the old Dram road was raised. Blocked drainage, no street lighting, subsidence, fencing, etc. David to progress.

Temporary cabins: in Varteg rd. was also raised again. This has been raised many times over the last twelve years and still has not been addressed.

White Drain Pipes: David will arrange for the white drain pipes to now be removed from opposite the Royal Oak since these are no longer required.

General Information

A PACT meeting will take place at Dillan’s in Cwmafan on the 18th April at 7pm.

Bryn Surgery

08 May 10

Surgery taken with Councillor Marian Lewis
Chaired by Paul Bulmer
Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Sue and Geoff introduced themselves as new residents to Bryn who would be keen to help with activities in the village.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

Right of way by the river through Bryn confirmed as recognised and on maps.

Access by electric mobility vehicle from the road to the railway at the Nanty Boda entrance has now been provided.

Dog foul waste bin was eventually emptied but this is still an ongoing problem. See new issues raised with regard to dogs.

Many of the issues raised at past surgeries with regard to roads have now been addressed but many more new ones were raised at this meeting. Also an action plan on drains agreed with Graham is ongoing.

Actions ongoing

Foot path **sign posts** still required.

Bus service through Bryn is still just once per hour and is often full, especially on Saturdays. Marian reported that a month long survey of the service has been carried out and she will provide the results of this as well as taking appropriate action.

LDP is now to be open to a second consultation period this month and a report is not now expected until July. This had been planned to be issued on 24th May as reported at the last 2 surgeries.

Petrol Station is an on going issue with the tidying of this site to be progressed. The port-a-cabin is a particular eye saw. Can the Council demolish this now! Marian reported that the owner had received a warning and that the next step was to serve notice. Those present were very concerned at this report as they had been told months ago that a notice had already been served. This site has now been an eye soar for years and prompt action is now expected!

The port-a-cabin was particularly unsightly. Marian to arrange for this to be demolished immediately.

Marian reported in May that interest had been expressed in developing this site.

The ongoing actions with this are still not satisfactory and the slow progress is of increasing concern to the residents of Bryn.

The **Derelict Building by Community Centre** is another ongoing eye soar and potential danger. Marian reported that this is being progressed.

The **Old School Ground** needs tidying up and making safe. For example the old lean-to-sheds, parts of the wall facing the road, etc. Marian has arranged an inspection and is awaiting the report.

New issues at this Surgery

Litter along the Maesteg road was again very bad. Marian to arrange for another litter pick along the road. It was requested that this needed to address all parts of the road not just where the foot path was.

The meeting asked if the police could monitor this road for car occupants littering and to press charges against them. To be arranged.

Lack of dog foul waste bins in Bryn was raised as a concern. Can more bins be installed? One on the railway track behind the bungalows was suggested plus others in the top part of the village.

Normal waste bins also required in the village and around the playing fields.

Dog fouling by stray dogs was also raised by all present as a concern. PC Shaun Thomas to organise patrols by dog wardens. Also residents encouraged to report issues and take photos where possible.

The very poor condition of roads generally in Bryn was raised. This has been an ongoing issue for some years but the bad winter has made them far worse. Photos of a particularly bad pot hole were given to Marian along with a photo of a buckled car wheel caused by the pot hole.

The very bad state of the Goytre road was also raised. Marian to arrange for the worst parts to be repaired.

Marian to provide details of the waste enforcement team. These will be placed on the Bryn web site.

Access by horses to the newly fenced off nature reserve was requested. It was reported that this is a longer term goal once the illegal access by motor bikes has been brought under control. Marian also reported that she was in the process of obtaining maps to show the official bridleways for horse access.

Signs to be placed at all the access points to the nature reserve prohibiting access to motorised vehicles. Shaun Thomas to progress this.

Marian is trying to arrange for the forestry to provide a further update on plans for the Bryn area of forestry.

Concern was also raised about a private house in the village which was now housing mentally unstable occupants who had previously been housed in a secure unit. The full details of this part of the meeting is included in the attached appendices.

BRAG informed all present that a voluntary litter pick has been organised for Bryn starting at 10am this TUESDAY 11th May. Meet outside the community centre. All Bryn residents encouraged to help.

PACT

PC Shaun Thomas briefed all present on garden security and precautions to stay safe in the village. Pamphlets were also handed out to provide further information on these topics.

Appendix 1: Open Mental House Unit 7 Varteg Row Bryn

Marian Lewis introduced Michelle Martin, the owner of this business, who had attended the meeting to answer concerns about the occupants of this house.

The following written questions were put to Michelle by the residents of Bryn.

1. Q: Has there or hasn't there been a patient referred from the psychiatric unit Rushcliffe?
A: It was confirmed that one of the current three residents had spent time in Rushcliff.
2. Q: We were lead to believe the house in question was going to be for blind elderly people.
A: It was confirmed that the owner of the house had been told that the original planned inhabitants would be an elderly blind couple. Due to changing circumstances this did not happen.
3. Q: Please explain how a patient can be referred from a low secure unit with 24 hour watch and a locked unit, to an open house with no security.
A: Because the patient has now been assessed as no longer a threat.
4. Q: How did you decide that this particular village and house would be suited to house these people, who have been in the psychiatric system for years?
A: Residents assessed as no longer a danger to the public or children.
5. Q: Until 04/05/2010 how come two so called professional nurses were unable to answer basic questions regarding mental health?
A: The qualifications of the carers at the house was clarified in the meeting. The carers are not professional nurses, only the owners of the business are.
6. Q: How could they not tell us where the local school was which to me is probably the most important place that would need to be contacted along with police if any outbreak occurred?
A: It was stated that this was not required because the residents are not registered as a threat to children.
7. Q: How was the unit placed next to a childminding house that has been established for 7 years and no notification was given to the owner?
A: Again it was restated that the occupants were not a threat to children.
8. Q: On the 04/05 we (the residents were lead to believe by the professionals) that came to reassure us that all patients would have 24 hour watch and a support worker with them at all times. On four separate occasions in the past week a patient has been seen outside the premises.
A: It was stated that because the occupants do not pose a threat to the residents of Bryn, they were safe to venture into the village.
9. Q: Is it true that Sandfields Estate has caused uproar regarding Rushcliffes and the type of patients it houses? Locals have informed us that police have been called to the hospital on two separate occasions; the latest was regarding one of them smashing the hospital up. Surprisingly the professionals assured us that no harm would come to any one, which is false promises, as all patients are sectioned for a reason and nobody can make a promise like that.
A: No explanation was offered to this as it was not considered by Michelle to be relevant to the situation at Bryn. Marian Lewis did state that Rushcliffes were operating beyond what had been understood to be the case when planning was granted.
10. Q: What are the regulation for an open house? Is there a contraband list i.e. no drugs, no alcohol, no razors, etc.

A: No alcohol or drugs allowed in the building. Razors are provided under controlled use. Computers are also only provided under controlled use.

Many other questions were raised in the meeting that did indicate a general concern by the residents of Bryn.

There were also a number of stated observations that called into question the professional abilities of the resident carers in the home. Michelle stated that these observations were being investigated.

Marian also expressed her concern that people in the village had not been informed. Although there appeared to be no legal requirement it was considered common courtesy that the councillors should have been informed in advance of the residence being set up in Bryn.

Michelle stated that social services had been informed and apologised for not informing the councillors.

Those present were assured that no one with a sexual threat would be placed in the home. It was stated that this could not happen because the business was not licensed for this.

The villagers were concerned about the many stories they had seen where mistakes had been made. The villagers did not wish to be the victims of such future mistakes.

Again the question was asked how a patient who had been locked up for many years could now be housed in open accommodation. Michelle stated that this was now possible because the resident was now assessed as no longer a threat.

Marian is to ask for a written reply to the situation from both the AM and the MP.

Marian will also seek to establish the facts in relation to this case.

Michelle has offered to show both Bryn residents and the Councillors around the house to meet the occupants and the carers should they wish to take up this offer.

Michelle is also to provide further written statements to address the concerns of the villagers.

Bryn Surgery

12th June 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)

Chaired by Graham Rolands

Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

Fly tipping on the Goytre road had been cleared.

Actions ongoing

LDP proposals: David reported that further candidate Site consultation will be open from 15th June to 27th July. BRAG will add details to the Bryn website and links to the relevant areas of the NPT site.

Wagons turning: The use of the Community Centre grounds by wagons turning before heading up past the school to a local farm has now been going on for months. This happened twice during the period of the surgery meeting. David is to find out the reason behind this operation. The use observed from the community centre during the meeting was that the wagon entered and turned at high speed kicking up a large dust cloud and presenting a danger to anyone in the area.

20mph signs by school: **These signs have still not been done. David has escalated this and stated he has now had a reply and the signs will be changed within two weeks.**

Bus stops: The initial work on tidying up the bus shelters was completed earlier in the year but with the undergrowth now growing again this needed to be revisited.

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: **The porta cabin and the Old Petrol Station still need clearing. Notice has been served on the land owners and these should now be cleared within 28 days of the 11/6/10 or the owners will be summonsed to appear in court.**

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: David reported that work was progressing well.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg? **Council had visited the person involved and said nothing can be done about lowering the kerbs but the turning circle should be kept clear for delivery wagons to turn. David will send some one up to see about putting down yellow lines. At this June meeting it was noted that there had been no further progress. Turning areas are no parking areas so David will now visit with a warden.**

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg: **Dog patrols have been started in the area but problem still persisting. This has now been ongoing for over a year with no progress. In the June meeting David promised he will progress this again.**

Goytre Valley: At the April meeting the following was reported:

The erecting of temporary buildings along the Goytre road was raised as a concern by those living there. David reported that an officer had visited the area and action was being taken where planning violations had been committed. It was pointed out that more buildings had recently been put up. David

will revisit the area and raise with planning. Concern about the state of the Goytre road was also raised and will be investigated. David said that an additional “hot box” has now been hired to address the many pot holes in the area.

At the June meeting it was reported that notices had been served but those present in the surgery reported that this was having no effect. Information is to be passed to BRAG so that representation can be made to the council (Jeff White) and the assembly (Dr. Brian Gibbons) on behalf of Bryn residents. David and a Council Inspector to inspect state of the Goytre road.

Dram Rd: The complete lack of maintenance of the old Dram road was raised. Blocked drainage, no street lighting, subsidence, fencing, etc. David reported that the drains are to be piped and that work on these issues is to start soon.

Temporary cabins: in Varteg rd. was also raised again. This has been raised many times over the last twelve years and still has not been addressed. David appreciated the dissatisfaction of the residents on this matter and is continuing to progress the matter.

White Drain Pipes: David reported that he had intended reusing the pipes to block another site where fly tipping occurred on a regular basis but the land is private so this could not be done. David will arrange for the pipes to be removed from opposite the Royal Oak since these are no longer required.

New Actions

Work on the community centre car park to start within two weeks.

Grass cutting and weed spraying was a general concern. David said this is to start in Bryn within two weeks.

General Information

David provided information on possible grants for tourism. BRAG will investigate. This Information will be placed on the notice board.

Bryn Surgery

10th July 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor Marion Lewis
Minutes by Sue Phillips

Actions ongoing

LDP proposals: Marion reported that two further candidate sites put forward to the LDP

- 1) Nant y Boda
- 2) Maesteg Road

Submission period 15/6/2010 - 27/7/2010 Comments accepted until 30/9/2010

Waggons Turning - no discussion or update

20mph signs by school: no update available

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: Port a cabin now demolished but left on the old garage site a fly tipping order will now be issued to the owner for it to be moved.

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: Marion reported that new problems had been met and that the road works would take longer to repair than thought.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg?
No discussion or update

Goytre Valley Road : A survey done last Wednesday 7th July ready for the improvements to be carried out. Orders had been sent out to those responsible to carry out a tidy up.

Temporary cabins: No discussion or update given.

White Drain Pipes : No update

Litter Bins : concern that the bins are not been emptied often enough.

New bin required on the track by the bench as old one demolished.

More doggy bins also required around the village.

Weight Restriction at Station Terrace : order in hand

House at Bryn Varteg : those present still concerned with the occupants and change of use of this house. Marion intends to arrange a visit with Graham. Police called recently regarding the noise levels.

Garden Trees at 21 Bryn Varteg : Roydon Rodgers concerned with the height of his neighbours trees , now over 30ft, and is worried about the effect on his drains and boundary wall. Marion to look into the height restriction of trees.

Bryn Surgery

14th Aug 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)

Chaired by Paul Bulmer

Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

Bus stops: The initial work on tidying up the bus shelters was completed earlier in the year and has again been cut this summer. Action closed.

Grass cutting and weed spraying had taken place although there were still some areas that had not yet been done.

Actions ongoing

LDP proposals: David provided printouts of further candidate Site in the Bryn area. Applications for new sites closed on 27th July. Consultation will continue until 30th Sept. BRAG will update details to the Bryn website and links to the relevant areas of the NPT site.

Wagons turning: In June it was reported that the use of the Community Centre grounds by wagons turning before heading up past the school to a local farm had been going on for months. This happened twice during the period of the surgery meeting. David was to find out the reason behind this operation. The use observed from the community centre during the meeting was that the wagon entered and turned at high speed kicking up a large dust cloud and presenting a danger to anyone in the area.

In Aug he reported that the use observed had been outside of the permission granted and that this was now being progressed with the violation of the planning permission being called in by David.

20mph signs by school: **These signs have still not been done. David has escalated this and in June he stated he had then had a reply and the signs will be changed within two weeks. This still had not happened by Aug so he would push for immediate action.**

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: The porta cabin by the Old Petrol Station has now been clearing. David also showed those present a letter from Environmental Health requesting progress on the petrol station and informing the owner that action will be taken.

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: David reported that work was still progressing well, contrary to what had been reported in the paper, and was expected to be completed in about 12 weeks.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg?

Letters have been sent out to residents in the street requesting their views on this. Roy provided an update on the communication he had with the council. David stated that yellow lines had been provided in the turning circles in Cwmafan.

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg: Dog patrols have been started in the area but problem still persisting. This has now been ongoing for over a year with no progress. In the June meeting David promised he will progress this again. Problem has now persisted for over a year with no progress.

Goytre Valley: At the April meeting the following was reported:

The erecting of temporary buildings along the Goytre road was raised as a concern by those living there. David reported that an officer had visited the area and action was being taken where planning violations had been committed. It was pointed out that more buildings had recently been put up. David will revisit the area and raise with planning. Concern about the state of the Goytre road was also raised and will be investigated. David said that an additional “hot box” has now been hired to address the many pot holes in the area.

At the June meeting it was reported that notices had been served but those present in the surgery reported that this was having no effect. Information is to be passed to BRAG so that representation can be made to the council (Jeff White) and the assembly (Dr. Brian Gibbons) on behalf of Bryn residents. David and a Council Inspector to inspect state of the Goytre road.

In the August meeting David stated that the actions were being enforced and the builds would have to be made to comply or taken down. John said he would speak to G Jones on the council to let him know how strong the residents of Bryn felt about this spoiling of the Bryn landscape.

Dram Rd: The complete lack of maintenance of the old Dram road was raised. Blocked drainage, no street lighting, subsidence, fencing, etc. In June David reported that the drains are to be piped and that work on these issues is to start soon. Paul to speak with Graham about progress with this.

Temporary cabins: in Varteg rd. was raised again in June. This had been raised many times over the last twelve years and still had not been addressed. In August David reported that this was now to be taken to court.

White Drain Pipes: David reported that he had intended reusing the pipes to block another site where fly tipping occurred on a regular basis but the land is private so this could not be done. David will arrange for the pipes to be removed from opposite the Royal Oak since these are no longer required.

Work on the community centre car park to start within two weeks.

The waste bin next to the seat along the old rail way line still has not been replaced.

New Actions

The Road from Varteg to Chapel Terrace is breaking up and needs urgent repair. Also further along by the speed bumps. View obstructed at the bottom of this road by Japanese Nott Weed.

The Steps and the Cwms paths need the trees cutting back along these paths. (through the woods below the Dram road).

General Information

David reported that the council had now cleared the house at 6 Heol Penhydd.

Bryn surgery

11 Sept 10

Surgery taken with Councillor Marian Lewis

Chaired by Graham Rowland

Minutes by Graham Rowland

Residents at meeting- R Stratford, M Jenkins, V Merrimen, G Merrimen, J Ecton, D Ecton.

- 1) Concern raised about the condition of the path at the front of the old age bungalows at Penrhiw. Marian to meet with council official and residents on Thursday morning 14/9/10.
- 2) Large stones on Railway line have been pushed to close together access to narrow. Marian will discuss with workmen on Thursday.
- 3) Dog bin by pub needs emptying, also litter bins need emptying and bin needed by Cenotaph on Bryngurnos street. Marian will discuss Thursday.
- 4) Concern raised about access to Port Talbot as Goytre road and Top road both closed. Marian stated Top road will open 1st of October.
- 5) Pot holes still a concern on goytre road. Marian will arrange for the Hot Box lorry to repair road.
- 6) All agreed at the meeting a letter of thanks should be sent to the Police Inspector about the excellent co-operation received by Shaun Thomas our Community Police Officer.
- 7) A complaint was made about the visibility of the bend by the river bridge at the bottom of the road leading to Chapel terrace also the loose stone on the road from the blocked gully's on the old dram road. Marian will discuss with council Thursday.
- 8) Concern about what was going to happen with land owned by council at the rear of the Community Centre. Marian to discuss with planning.
- 9) Can the council look at re-instating the allotments at the rear of the old age bungalows. Marian to investigate possibility.
- 10) Surgery wall has been knocked down again. Marian will discuss with Community Health Council.

11) Barrier required between Community Centre and Surgery as children cycling through gap and jumping off wall into pedestrian access. Marian will discuss with council.

12) Is there a chance that the toilets could be reinstated by the Community Centre? Marian will look into the possibility of accessing a grant to renovate.

13) Showers at the playing field are not working correctly. Marian will contact council workmen.

14) Issue rose about why a planning application for a dwelling on farm land opposite Maesteg Road is continually being refused. Marian will investigate application.

Bryn Surgery

09th Oct 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)

Chaired by Paul Bulmer

Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

20mph signs by school: Action completed.

White Drain Pipes: These have now been moved.

Actions ongoing

LDP proposals: David had provided detailed information on the LDP proposals at the BRAG AGM. Applications for new sites closed on 27th July. and the Public Consultation period ended on the 30th Sept. BRAG have provided links from the Bryn website and posted replies on the LDP Consultation site.

The main concerns raised was the drilling for coal in Bryn that could start possibly within weeks and the massive proposal for 30 meter wind turbines in Bryn that would present both an eye sour and a very high wind noise in this residential area.

The residents expressed concerns and quoted examples of suspected corruption in the handling of planning applications in the past. They expressed a strong determination to ensure such practices were not repeated with these applications.

People can obtain further information on these applications by phoning Owen Lewis on 686287 or visit him at the Quays Council Offices.

An LDP meeting is to be arranged by the Council to further discuss these issues.

Wagons turning: In June it was reported that the use of the Community Centre grounds by wagons turning before heading up past the school to a local farm had been going on for months. This happened twice during the period of the surgery meeting. **David was to find out the reason behind this operation.** The use observed from the community centre during the meeting was that the wagon entered and turned at high speed kicking up a large dust cloud and presenting a danger to anyone in the area.

In Aug he reported that the use observed had been outside of the permission granted and that this was now being progressed with the violation of the planning permission being called in by David.

At the Oct meeting David reported that an application to extend the hours had been made and approved. G Jones, the enforcement officer was not available to oppose this. A further request for the tipping of soil at Penhydd has now been made for 2,000 wagon loads a year. This is up the narrow road past the school.

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: the demolition of Petrol station still not progressing.

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: Main work now complete and road reopened but strong views were aired about the waste of money spent on the lights that now present a number of dangers that had not been there before they were installed. David to find out why these have been put there.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg?

Letters have been sent out to residents in the street requesting their views on this. Roy provided an update on the communication he had with the council. David stated that yellow lines had been provided in the turning circles in Cwmafan.

In Oct Roy reported that parking had been better recently allowing room for the area to be used as a turning circle but he was still awaiting the kerb to be lowered.

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg: Dog patrols have been started in the area but problem still persisting. This has now been ongoing for over a year with no progress. In the June meeting David promised he will progress this again. Problem has now persisted for over a year with no progress.

Goytre Valley: At the April meeting the following was reported:

The erecting of temporary buildings along the Goytre road was raised as a concern by those living there. David reported that an officer had visited the area and action was being taken where planning violations had been committed. It was pointed out that more buildings had recently been put up. David will revisit the area and raise with planning. Concern about the state of the Goytre road was also raised and will be investigated. David said that an additional “hot box” has now been hired to address the many pot holes in the area.

At the June meeting it was reported that notices had been served but those present in the surgery reported that this was having no effect. Information is to be passed to BRAG so that representation can be made to the council (Jeff White) and the assembly (Dr. Brian Gibbons) on behalf of Bryn residents. David and a Council Inspector to inspect state of the Goytre road.

In the August meeting David stated that the actions were being enforced and the builds would have to be made to comply or taken down. John said he would speak to G Jones on the council to let him know how strong the residents of Bryn felt about this spoiling of the Bryn landscape.

In the Oct meeting it was reported that this is still being progressed.

Dram Rd: The complete lack of maintenance of the old Dram road was raised. Blocked drainage, no street lighting, subsidence, fencing, etc. In June David reported that the drains are to be piped and that work on these issues is to start soon.

In the Oct meeting David reported that the fence is to be removed, the drains will be repaired and large boulders placed in the road.

Temporary cabins: in Varteg rd. was raised again in June. This had been raised many times over the last twelve years and still had not been addressed. In August David reported that this was now going through court.

Community Centre: Work on the community centre car park to start when machines are next time in Bryn.

Waste Bins: **The waste bin next to the seat along the old rail way line still has not been replaced.** Other concerns were raised about lack of bins and damage to existing ones.

The Road from Varteg to Chapel Terrace: is breaking up and needs urgent repair. Also further along by the speed bumps. View obstructed at the bottom of this road by Japanese Nott Weed.

The Steps and the Cwms paths: need the trees cutting back along these paths. (through the woods below the Dram road).

New Actions

The trees that are falling down below the Dram road were reported. The drainage improvements to the Dram road may improve this situation.

The damage to the surgery wall was discussed. Actions have been initiated to address this.

It was requested that the land on the Groften that can not be built on be laid to lawn to restore some of the natural beauty of this area.

General Information

David reported that he had arranged to inspect the proposed area for a fishing pond that was being promoted by BRAG.

BRYN SURGERY

13th November 2010

Surgery taken by Councillor Marian Lewis

Chaired by Graham Rowland

Minutes by Graham Rowland

NEXT STEPS FROM 11th of September 2010

- 1) Concern rose about path in front of old age bungalows. COMPLETED.*
- 2) Large stones on railway line path through needs widening. NOT COMPLETED, MARIAN TO CONTACT GARY (COUNCIL).*
- 3) Dog bins need emptying also litter bins. MARIAN WILL CONTACT COUNCIL TO INCREASE FREQUENCY OF EMPTYING.*
- 4) Access to Port Talbot along Goytre road concern raised as top road closed. COMPLETED, TOP ROAD NOW OPEN*
- 5) Pot holes still a major concern on the Goytre Road. PART COMPLETED, ROAD NEEDS REVISITING AGAIN MARIAN TO CONTACT RESPOSIBLE PERSON.*
- 6) Letter sent out to Police Inspector regarding Shaun Thomas. COMPLETED.*
- 7) Visibility issue on the bend river bridge leading to Chapel Terrace. NO WORK CARRIED OUT BUT KNOT WEED DYING BACK.*
- 8) Concern about land behind community centre. COMPLETED, MARIAN PROVIDED MAP.*
- 9) Council to look at the possibility of re-instating allotments behind old age bungalows. NOT COMPLETE, MARIAN WILL LOOK AT AGAIN.*
- 10) Surgery wall knocked down. COMPLETED.*
- 11) Barrier required between community centre and surgery. NOT COMPLETED, MARIAN WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH HEALTH BOARD.*

12) Re-instating of toilet block. PART COMPLETED, FUNDING REQUIRED MEETING TO BE HELD WITH MARI SHUFFLEBOTTOM.

13) Showers at playing field. MARIAN WILL FIND OUT.

14) Issue raised about planning permission for dwelling on farm land alongside Maesteg Road. NOT COMPLETE, MARIAN TO INVESTIGATE.

ISSUES RAISED ON 13 NOVEMBER 2010

1) Structural condition of building alongside community centre, concern raised also of beer cans inside. MARIAN WILL DISCUSS ISSUE WITH RESPOSABLE PERSON.

2) Concern raised again about lorries taking waste material to Penhydd farm. MARIAN WILL RAISE ISSUE AGAIN ALSO BRAG TO SUBMIT LETTER TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF COUNCIL WITH CONCERNS RAISED.

3) Could we use the old Ambulance Hall as a youth centre? BRAG TO RAISE ISSUE WITH OWNERS.

4) Possibility of holding a similar surgery session with the teenagers of Bryn during their youth club night. POSSIBLE DATE OF DECEMBER 3rd.

5) House a bottom of steps leading to community centre, is there a business being run on the property and does this comply to council rules? MARIAN TO INVESTIGATE.

7) Are they going to shut junction 40 when the new road in Port Talbot is completed. MARIAN TO INVESTIGATE AND A LETTER FROM BRAG TO BE SENT OUT RELAYING CONCERNS.

Bryn Surgery

11th Dec 2010

Surgery taken with Councillor David Williams (01639 896999)
Chaired by Graham Rowland, Minutes by Paul Bulmer

Note: Items in **Red** are those that have been outstanding for more than two months without any satisfactory progress.

Actions Reported as Completed or No Longer Required

The damage to the surgery wall was repaired by Roy, a resident of Bryn, in cooperation with the surgery.

No other actions were fully resolved.

Actions ongoing

The position documented in the October meeting and included below is still the case. The residents of Bryn must contact Owen Lewis and express their views on these proposals.

LDP proposals: David had provided detailed information on the LDP proposals at the BRAG AGM. Applications for new sites closed on 27th July and the Public Consultation period ended on the 30th Sept. BRAG have provided links from the Bryn website and posted replies on the LDP Consultation site.

The main concerns raised was the drilling for coal in Bryn that could start possibly within weeks and the massive proposal for 30 meter wind turbines in Bryn that would present both an eye sour and a very high wind noise in this residential area. The residents had expressed concerns and quoted examples of suspected corruption in the handling of planning applications in the past. They expressed a strong determination to ensure such practices were not repeated with these applications.

Residents can obtain further information on these applications by phoning Owen Lewis on 686287 or visit him at the Quays Council Offices.

Wagons turning:

The position outlined in the Oct meeting and included below was reported to have been approved. Graham is to speak with the planning department in order to understand their reasons in supporting this application.

In June it was reported that the use of the Community Centre grounds by wagons turning before heading up past the school to a local farm had been going on for months. This happened twice during the period of the surgery meeting. **David was to find out the reason behind this operation.** In Aug he reported that the use observed had been outside of the permission granted and that this was now being progressed with the violation of the planning permission being called in by David.

At the Oct meeting David reported that an application to extend the hours had been made and approved. G Jones, the enforcement officer was not available to oppose this. A further request for the tipping of soil at Penhydd has now been made for 2,000 wagon loads a year. This is up the narrow road past the school.

Porta cabin and Petrol Station: the demolition of Petrol station still not progressing. John has been in touch with Clive Davies about this. David is to ensure that the notice is enforced.

Top Road between Ynys-y-Gwas and Port Talbot: In Oct it was reported that the main work was now complete and road reopened but strong views were aired about the waste of money spent on the lights that now present a number of dangers that had not been there before they were installed. David to find out why these have been put there.

Can the kerbs be lowered for easier access to the Property in the turning area at Bryn Varteg?
No Progress. David to find out what was the result of the ballot on this issue.

Dog fouling in Bryn Varteg: Dog patrols have been started in the area but problem still persisting. This has now been ongoing for over a year with no progress. In the June meeting David promised he will progress this again. Problem has now persisted for over a year with no progress. The police have provided patrols but with no effective outcome. David to look at what can be done next.

Goytre Valley: At the April meeting the following was reported:

The erecting of temporary buildings along the Goytre road was raised as a concern by those living there. An officer has visited the area and action was being taken where planning violations have been committed.

At the June meeting it was reported that notices had been served. In the August meeting David stated that the actions were being enforced and the builds would have to be made to comply or taken down. John said he would speak to G Jones on the council to let him know how strong the residents of Bryn felt about this spoiling of the Bryn landscape.

In the Oct and Dec meetings it was reported that this is still being progressed.

David did report, in Dec., that with regard to the pot holes, £7m had been provided by the Welsh Assembly to address this problem.

David to provide a written progress report to BRAG on all these issues.

Dram Rd: work has started on this but is not yet complete. A written reply on the proposed work is to be provided to BRAG.

Temporary cabins: in Varteg rd. was raised again in June. This had been raised many times over the last twelve years and still had not been addressed. In August David reported that this was now going through court. In December we were told an appeal had been made against the order. BRAG has requested a written status report on this. The village has photographic proof that these have been there over 19 years.

Community Centre: Work on the community centre car park to start when machines are next time in Bryn.

Waste Bins: The waste bin next to the seat along the old rail way line still has not been replaced. Other concerns were raised about lack of bins and damage to existing ones. In December it was suggested that one of the two dog fouling bins or one of the three litter bins at the end of the track could be used. David to arrange their relocation.

The Road from Varteg to Chapel Terrace: is breaking up and needs urgent repair. Also further along by the speed bumps. View obstructed at the bottom of this road by Japanese Nott Weed.

The Steps and the Cwms paths: need the trees cutting back along these paths. (through the woods below the Dram road).

The trees that are falling down below the Dram road were reported. The drainage improvements to the Dram road may improve this situation.

It was requested that the land on the Groften that can not be built on be laid to lawn to restore some of the natural beauty of this area. David to find out what was in the original plans.

David reported that he had inspected the proposed area for a fishing pond that was being promoted by BRAG and that these plans were now with Jeff White to progress.

New Actions

New 20 MPH signs are in place outside of the school but the old 30mph signs have not yet been removed.

The hand rail on the path opposite the community centre still needs to be repaired properly. It has been put back together about 4 times but never lasts more than a couple of weeks.

The capping stones on Varteg Row Bridge are to be replaced.

David to arrange for BRAG to be able to make a presentation to all the relevant officers of the council about the marathon to take place in Bryn next June.

David to find out about the rumour of a remand unit going into Goytre

The state of the roads, caused by the wagons moving soil, needs to be addressed by the companies concerned. David to progress.

The stones on the railway line need to be moved about 0.5 M further apart to allow access by invalidity vehicles and horses.

A drain needs to be provided to drain away the orange water seeping from the bottom of Bryn Varteg road.

Drains need reinstating along the Goytre road as the water has been going across the road and freezing causing a severe hazard.

Graham reported that the Bryn tunnel was being assessed for reopening as a tourist attraction. Dr Brian Gibbons is overseeing this project.