

# October 2018

Cllr Ian Perry

St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council

# Litter pick

- Following the second litter pick in September, a third is planned for October.
- There is interest in planting daffodils – the daffodil planting season being October. Many of the daffodils at the gateway to the village have been lost to the new 'gateway feature' and it's a responsibility of the Community Council to protect and enhance local biodiversity.



# Bonvilston Survey

I interviewed 50 residents of Bonvilston.

## Results

- Is there a problem with vehicles traveling at excessive speed through Bonvilston? Yes = 80%
- Is the 40mph speed limit correct for Bonvilston? No = 60%
- Should the pathways along the A48 be widened, even if this means narrowing the roadway? Yes = 58%
- Should there be an additional crossing near the shop? Yes = 80%

# Bonvilston Survey

- Residents were opposed to the roadway through Bonvilson being narrowed. The roadway through Bonvilston is between 9m and 10m wide. The new A4226 is going to be 7.3 metres wide and have a speed limit of 60mph.
- In contrast, the pavements along the A48 in Bonvilston are too narrow for wheelchairs and for most people to walk in comfort – even when hedges and debris haven't further narrowed the pavements.

# Bonvilston Survey

Residents were invited to add comments. These frequently included concerns about:

- hedges overgrowing the narrow pavements
- No pedestrian crossing for children using school buses – there are bus stops close to Redway Road that children use to access school. Also for reaching the shop and Reading Rooms.
- Vehicles parked opposite the shop obscuring views of traffic along the A48
- Road surface noise
- Motorcycle engine noise – particularly at night.

On one evening in St Nicholas, three residents complained to me about noise from motorbikes.

# A48 surface

- Can we find out what road surfaces are used along the A48 (St Nicholas and Bonvilston), and what quieter surfaces are available – particularly if the speed limit through Bonvilston is reduced to 30mph?

# Bonvilston Survey

Looking at Welsh Government guidance, which relates speed to the number and type of properties fronting the road and street lighting, the speed limit through Bonvilston should be 30mph – accident statistics being irrelevant.



## Properties fronting A48

1. 1 Sheep Court Cottages
2. 2 Sheep Court Cottages
3. 3 Sheep Court Cottages
4. 4 Sheep Court Cottages
5. 1 Maes-Y-Ffynnon
6. The Old Barn
7. The Old Farm
8. 1 Red Lion Cottages
9. 2 Red Lion Cottages
10. 3 Red Lion Cottages
11. 4 Red Lion Cottages
12. Natland
13. Ty Newydd
14. Plasnewydd
15. Ty-Mawr
16. Church Cottage
17. Tudor Lodge
18. Maesglas
19. Old Vicarage
20. The **Reading Rooms**
21. The **Red Lion**
22. The **Old Village Shop**

# Bonvilston speed limit

- With the result of the survey and the audit of the road, the Community Council needs to adopt a position and take necessary action.
- My recommendation is that the Community Council asks for the Speed limit along the A48 between Redway Road and Sheep Court Cottages to be reviewed and reduced to 30mph – with footways widened to at least the width required for a wheelchair – but ideally continuing the wider shared pathway along the northern side of the A48 for children.
- A new crossing is essential.
- A quieter road surface is required.



# Pavement obstruction



The “softly, softly” approach is clearly not working.

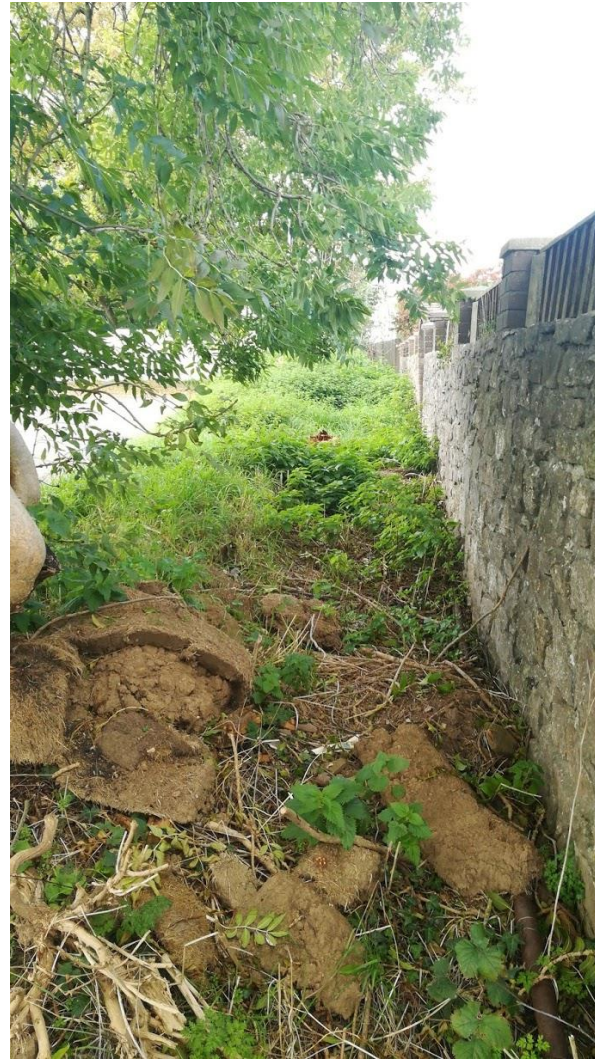
There are many more examples in our community.

We need to find a better solution to this ongoing problem.

I intend to research then agenda this in November.

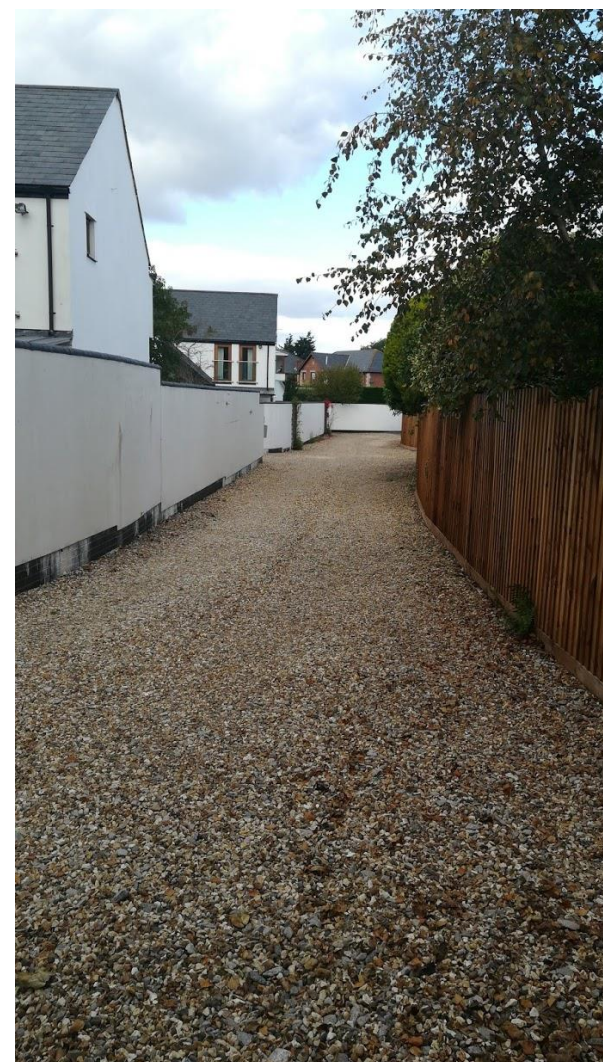


# Footpath by Red Lion to Village Farm





# Footpath by Red Lion to Village Farm





# Footpath by Red Lion to Village Farm

- This footpath needs a great deal of attention. Considering that it is in the heart of Bonvilston, it should be in pristine condition.
- Who is responsible/owns the land?
- Do we need to gather a group of volunteers?
- How can we enhance the visual appearance, the usability and the habitat offering this space has for wildlife?



# A48

- Whilst in Bonvilston to measure the road and pavements, I found myself tailgated and threatened by a speeding driver. His company viewed his dashcam and apologised for his behaviour.



I know that other residents have had similar experiences – particularly when slowing to turn into their driveways.



# Path along the A4226

- The partially constructed pathway along the top section of the A4226 has been destroyed as it was elevated so not maximising the Vale Councils requirements of endangering children, maximising pollution and deterring people from using it...



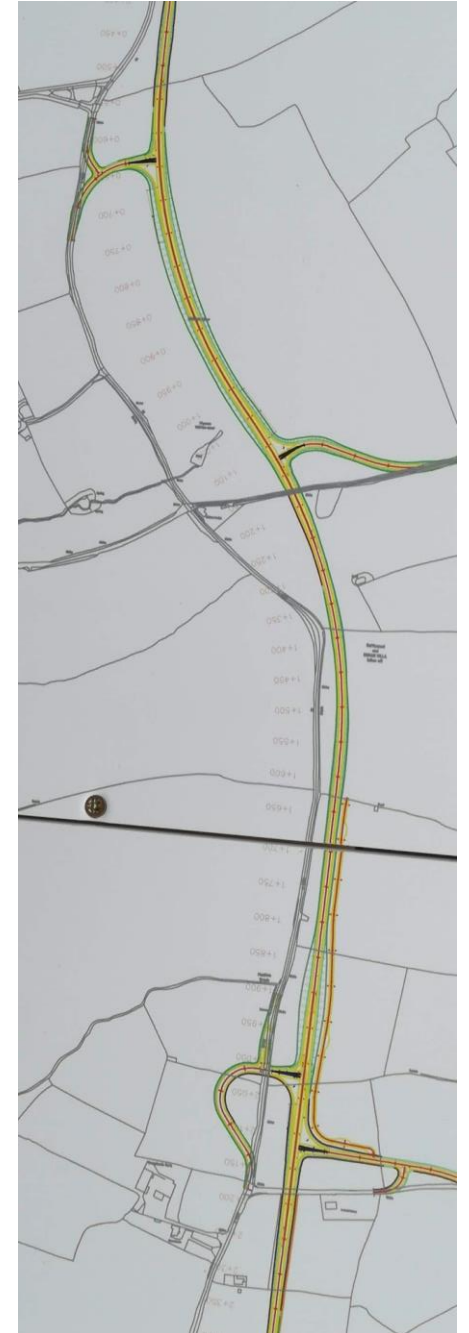
# Path along the A4226

- Hopefully, the section of old road between the top section of the A4226 will remain open for families to cycle on in an environment without motorised vehicles.



# Path along the A4226

- The existing middle section of road will remain part of the adopted highway with motorised vehicles. This is also supposed to enable families with children of 5 years and 7 years of age (and people with disabilities) to walk or cycle to destinations such as the Amelia Trust Farm.
- Can we ask the project leader at the Vale Council, John Dent, how he expects this to work.

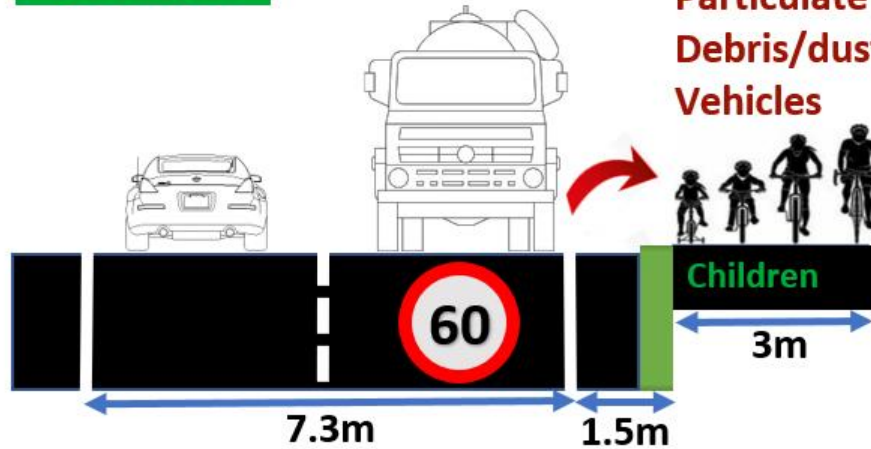




# Active Travel Act and Design Guide

- It is a simple fact that the Active Travel Act and accompanying Design Guide are not fit for purpose – and hence the recently released Welsh government statistical bulletin revealed a 0% increase in cycling.
- It is for Councils like ours to highlight the failings of the Act and Design Guide and campaign for better for our communities – and future generations.
- On the next page, to scale, are representation of Welsh standards vs Dutch minimum standards – the Dutch strive for even better!
- Where the Dutch buffer their children by 10 metres, in Wales the engineers think that 1.5 meters is enough! Few parents agree!

# A comparison of Welsh standards and minimum Dutch standards



Air Turbulence  
Noise  
Spray  
Particulate Matter  
Debris/dust  
Vehicles

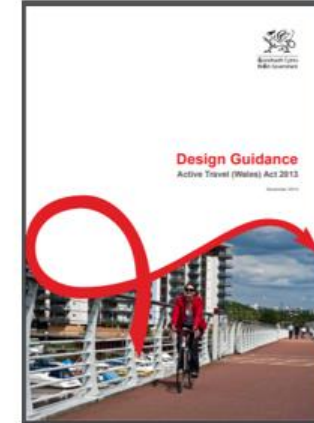


No change

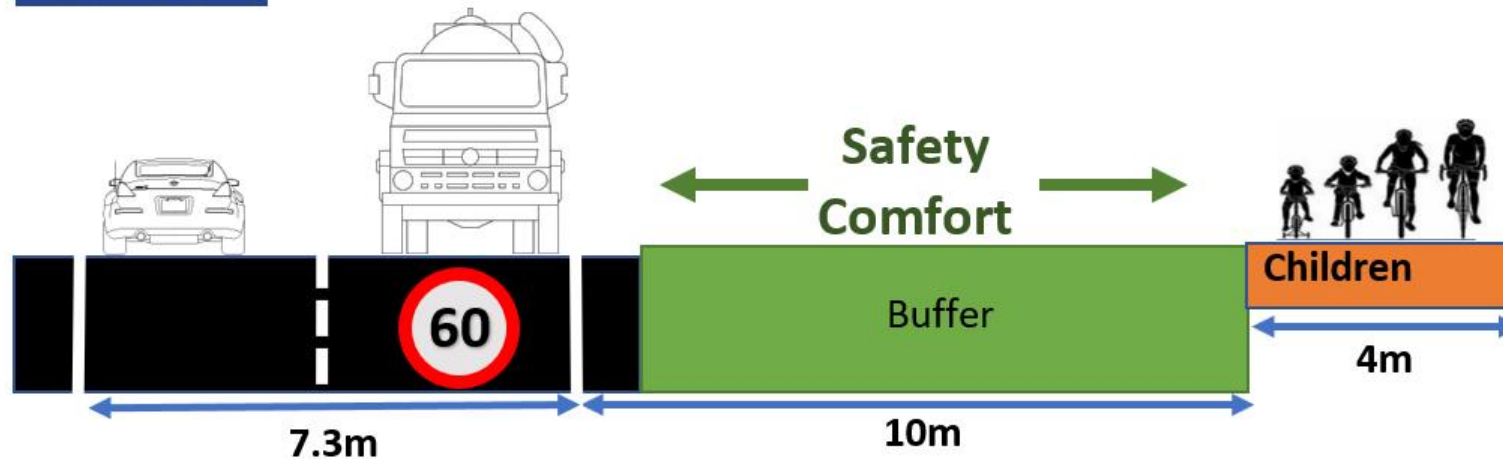


Pedal cycles

0% increase  
in cycling in  
Wales - 2017



The difference is clear...



Safety  
Comfort

Buffer

Children

4m



# Path along the A4226

- We need to show this diagram to John Dent and demand that a barrier is built to protect our children and future generations (a legal requirement) from the hazards created by a very straight 60mph road. If the path is build within 10m of traffic, it needs to be protected by a barrier – as with the Church Village Community Pathway.
- Can we call John Dent to the November meeting of this council to defend his decision to follow the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and Active Travel Design Guidance without pause for thought, community engagement or any common sense?



# Church Village

- The minimum standard of work we will accept.

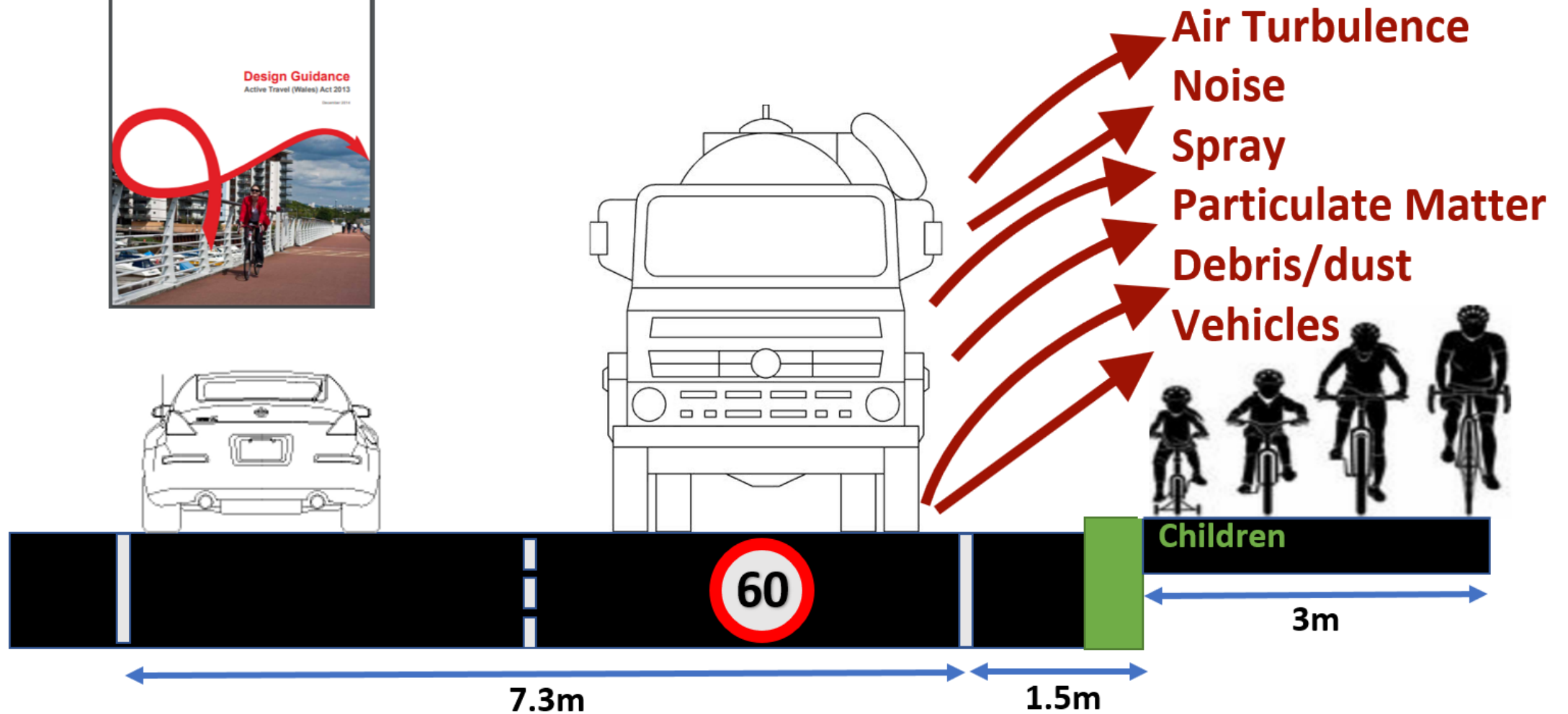




# This is unacceptable!



0% increase in cycling in Wales, 2017



# Urgent

- Can we please write to John Dent (and Griffiths) with our concerns on Tuesday morning – he's meeting with the contractors on Wednesday to review the latest design.

# Community Inventory

- My work on this is still ongoing.
- One of the new additions is the partially buried milestone at Bonvilston.



# Community Council Capacity

- The Good Councillor Guide suggests that most Community Councillors work on behalf of the people they have chosen to represent for between 3 and 7 hours each week.
- With the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of our community, we need Community Councillors to be contributing to meetings and the work that needs to be done outside of meetings.
- Needless to say I was not impressed by those who confronted me after last months meeting... It is a choice, a responsibility, a time commitment and a privilege to be a Community Councillor.