

MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

Date : Tuesday 12th June 2018

Agenda

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Flower Planters.
3. Review of Council's Green Space Management Policy.
4. Dog Litter Bins.
5. Ivor Woods River Path Walk
6. Pontyclun Sidings.
7. Pontyclun Community Garden – Any business to raise.
8. Pontyclun Environment Group – Any business to raise.
9. A.O.B

Present

Paul Griffiths; Margaret Griffiths; Anne Jackson, Mike Davies; Karan Lane
Pontyclun Environment Group (PEG) :- Sarah Jenkins; Bernie Wilson; Gina Skelly
Pontyclun Community Garden (PCG) :- Liese Ganderton; Hannah Daley

1. Apologies
Neil Holley; Gwyn Jackson
2. Flower Planters

There are 4 large wooden planters located in Pontyclun. The planter located by the Windsor pub is in particularly poor condition.

The Community Council previously agreed to wait to see if that particular planter might be moved during the revamp of the Windsor car park. The planter has not been moved during the car park works, and so the Environment Working Group needed to consider certain options as, when the autumn comes, the planter will need to be removed as it will be too dangerous to stay.

The options are :-

1. Replace it - the Clerk has been making enquiries and the minimum cost for a large planter like the one at the Windsor is around £1,000, and for one of the same quality nearer £2,000.
2. Replace the planter with a horizontal plastic planter which would fit onto the posts of the Rugby Club sign. The Clerk advises that the estimated cost for this option would be around £350.

3. Remove the planter and not replace it.

Following the Clerk's enquiries on costs etc, the Clerk has commented that the preferred option would seem to be to remove the planter, and replace with one attached to the Rugby Club sign (Option 2). The Rugby Club would need to give permission but the Clerk advises that this should, hopefully, not be an issue.

The other 3 planters have a few more years of life in them but probably not more than 5 years. We could decide to replace the worst of the wood in the 3 other planters with the best of the wood from the Windsor planter once removed.

After some discussion of the above options, the Working Group agreed that option 2 is the best option.

Action: Council to consider whether the Environment Group's proposal of following the 2nd option, and replacing the planter with a horizontal plastic planter fitted onto the posts of the Rugby Club sign is agreeable. Estimated cost being around £350.

3. Review of the Council's Green Space Management Policy

This agenda item prompted a discussion concerning ownership of the green spaces in Pontyclun. It was agreed that it would be useful to obtain confirmation of which green spaces are owned by the Community Council, and confirmation of ownership of those spaces not in PCC ownership. Whilst the need for community engagement for matters relating to the green spaces owned by PCC is self evident, Paul raised the question of whether community engagement should also be applied to those areas identified as not in PCC ownership. This can be considered further by the group, and by full Council, once details of land ownership are known.

. Karan agreed to contact the Clerk with the query on green space ownership.

With regards to the Green Space Management Policy, after some discussion it was agreed that the current policy could be reviewed, and amended, to meet the Council's needs more precisely. Members of the Working Group will consider the Policy, and will provide Karan with any suggested changes to the policy.

[Since this meeting Margaret and Paul have provided Karan with suggested amendments to the policy, and Karan is reviewing the policy and suggested changes].

4. Dog Litter Bins

The group are tasked with;

- (i) reporting on the current location of dog litter bins in our area; and
- (ii) considering recommendations for the position of new dog bins. It is hoped that RCT's policy of banning dogs from parks should result in spare dog bins being available.

Prior to the meeting Karan contacted RCT's Environmental Health department and requested details of the current locations of dog bins. Karan was advised that this information should be available from RCT's Waste Management team. Karan currently awaits a reply to her logged enquiry, and has chased this up.

The next meeting of the Working Group can discuss possible locations for additional bins (if available), once details of the current locations are known. A general discussion of possible additional locations did raise the suggestion, from Mike, that a couple of dog bins are needed along Cowbridge Road and Llantrisant Road.

5. Ivor Woods River Path Walk

The Clerk suggested that the problem of litter (including a shopping trolley in the river) would be a good item for discussion by the Working Group.

Sarah Jenkins (PEG) advised that PEG have already considered litter picking along the river walk, but they cannot deal with the bigger items of litter (e.g: the shopping trolley). They would need help to deal with such items. It was agreed that PEG will contact Richard Wistow (Keep Wales Tidy) to see if Keep Wales Tidy can assist as they have equipment that could help deal with the larger items of rubbish.

6. Pontyclun Sidings

Paul gave a verbal report of the site meeting held with Network Rail on 6th June.

Firstly, Paul reminded the group that the Council participates in the Adopt a Station initiative.

Paul advised that the Network Rail representatives had been shocked by the amount of litter at the sidings. NR agreed to an internal consultation process being undertaken to consider allowing people to clear the sidings of rubbish, and subsequently to litter pick as needed. Paul warned that it is possible that NR will deem such a licence a high risk, but the outcome of the consultation should be known at the end of the 6 week (approx) NR consultation process.

Lastly on this point, Sarah (PEG) commented that PEG are planning an 'Autumn Clun'. If NR agreed a licence for people to access the sidings PEG could include the sidings in their 'Autumn Clun' plans.

7. Pontyclun Community Garden – Any business

Liese and Hannah (PCG) raised issues that their group has been having with a neighbouring home owner. The neighbour's main complaint is that she was not given prior notice of the proposed location for the Community Garden. Relations between the PCG group and the neighbour have improved more recently, following complaints to the group, particularly at the end of May.

Following some discussion, it was agreed that Paul would speak to the neighbour to explain that her point about lack of prior notice of the garden location has been noted

by the Council, and is understood. Paul suggested he could, at the same time, advise the neighbour of the community picnic event.

8. Pontyclun Environment Group – Any business

PEG raised the issue that 4 trees at the entrance to the Brynsadler Mill river walk are at risk, and so pose a potential danger. The Clerk had alerted PEG to this problem. Paul commented on the potential effect of this issue on the Council's Public Liability Insurance cover.

Karan agreed to contact the Clerk to see if there was any further update on this issue.

The land concerned is owned by the PCC, and was leased to Pontyclun Community Trust (now PEG). Karan had previous involvement with the lease and agreed to check the lease to ascertain responsibility for the trees. Sarah (PEG) queried whether a grant could be available from the Council if it is the case that PEG are responsible for the trees.

9. A.O.B

(i) Mike queried whether Richard Wistow (Keep Wales Tidy) could assist the Council with the management of our green spaces (e.g: Cefn yr Hendy, Ynysddu). A meeting between the Council and Richard Wistow was proposed to discuss this. The date of Monday 9th July at 7pm was suggested. Margaret agreed to contact Richard Wistow to arrange a meeting. [Since this meeting, a meeting has been arranged with Richard Wistow for Tuesday 24th July at 6.30pm].

(ii) PEG - Sarah commented on the problem of Japanese Knotweed along the Brynsadler Mill river walk, and along the Ivor Woods river walk. Sarah queried what RCT's current policy is for dealing with knotweed. It was commented that knotweed treatment should be done in the Autumn (from the beginning of September).

Karan will contact RCT to ask for advice on dealing with knotweed, and to ascertain what RCT's current policy is.

Karan will also contact the Clerk on this issue to check whether the PCC are dealing with knotweed at all at the moment.

(iii) Anne raised the issue that litter has built up again along the cycle path. This point was noted by PEG and the Working Group. Litter picking along the cycle path could be perhaps be included in the PEG 'Autumn Clun'.