

Rhigos Community Council 13.02.2023- County Councillors' Report

Heads of the Valleys Dualling

- We responded to a request from a Wales Online journalist about concerns of the roadworks. Two articles were published.
- Traffic lights were put in place after concerns were sent of potholes on the road from Trewaun roundabout to Rhigos roundabout. We shared that works announcement.
- There was traffic chaos on February 2nd with congestion throughout village and surrounding network. Residents have received an apology from Future Valleys stating “they got it wrong” and that they would be looking at actions needed to improve communication and ensure it doesn't happen again.
- We have shared closure/works notices on our social media page.

- Meeting of 9.2.2023

- Speed indicator devices have been placed on Rhigos Road and Swansea Road, Hirwaun. We have requested the results of the SIDs that were placed in Penderyn. There has been a problem with collecting/downloading the data that they had stored.
- Requested cones to be cleaned from Rhigos roundabout towards Rhigos, prior to expected closure. We were told they are an ongoing battle to clean.
- The Old Rhigos Road will be back open after the weekend closure.
- The slip road into Hirwaun has been partially covered by those working on site related to gas. Future Valleys will look into them being moved.
- In response to the disruption on February 2nd, an in-house line painting team could be set up rather than using sub-contractors. The night before inspectors approved the lines that were put down, but it was in the morning that Future Valleys realised that the work done was not acceptable, so needed to put up temporary traffic lights to re-do the painting of road markings as a safety measure.
- Future Valleys received many complaints through phone, social media and e-mail.
- In addition, they will be working on improving their understanding of how communities are being impacted by disruption in real-time, as they were not aware of issues until contacted by ourselves and residents. They do place traffic officers temporarily at key points in the network at the moment.
- Awaiting official dates of underpass closure and bridge opening. The bridge will be lit and Future Valleys are open to putting in place temporary lighting of new route if needed.
- RCT and Future Valleys are assessing possible routes as the alternative to the current Tram Road, with Welsh Government guidance.
- Queried when lampposts above underpass will be put back on.
- RCT and Future Valleys will look into putting a possible structure at the end of Brecon Road to mitigate issues of vehicles turning.
- We expressed concerns on behalf of businesses who are being impacted by road works. Asked for Future Valleys to communicate with businesses who will be impacted by changes.

- In 3-4 weeks, from Croesbychan roundabout to Baverstocks will be closed. Drivers will have to go on to two of the new roundabouts to get back on to Heads of Valleys, in the direction of Llwydcoed.
- Monitoring confusion- Funding has been sent to RCT to carry out monitoring on the Welsh Government's behalf. RCT have carried out their own separate monitoring because of the wait. Miscommunication and delays on procurement have prevented monitoring to take place. RCT monitoring had taken place pre-Brecon Road closure. It is possible for more monitoring to take place in future.
- We have been contacted about concerns with rats along the road network. Public Health and Future Valleys are being requested to look into this.
- Future Valleys shared at the meeting that they received over 65 complaints between January 12th- February 9th, at the January meeting they shared they had received 4 from the month before.
- Next drop-in at Church Hall- Tuesday February 14th

Flooding/Ice

- We shared a flood advice booklet that was produced by Senedd Member Heledd Fychan. It may be helpful to residents who felt their properties are vulnerable to wet weather.
- Reported drains outside 55 and 57 Heol Esgyn that are blocked, water is pooling – A ticket was issued
- Reported drains on the same side as Pennant Bungalow, Rhigos Road needing a clean as they are blocked – A ticket was issued
- Reported blocked drains by Clydfan Bungalow, Rhigos Road – The drain on the access road to bungalow is private, not maintained by highways.
- Reported drains on the Old Glynneath Bank that need cleaning as there is overflowing – A ticket was issued and a sweeper was sent to clean before cleaning drains
- Requested grit bins for:
 - Hirwaun Industrial Estate
 - The top road of Rhigos, Heol Esgyn and Heol-y-Bryn. The lower parts of the roads have bins.
- Requested gritting for:
 - Hirwaun Industrial Estate
- Shared emergency emergency school closures link.

Highways

- Outside Cysgod y Mynydd, the five missing/damaged dated plastic bollards will be replaced by metal ones to the same spec, a works register ticket has been issued. Officer- "We have such a backlog of potholes and scheduled inspections to carry out resulting from the Christmas period and current inclement weather."
- The cats eyes between Heol Pendarren and Mount Road that went missing were not removed by Highways. 16 went missing. A works ticket was issued and passed to sub-contractor for renewal.
- We reported potholes/surface damage at:
 - Heol Pendarren pothole – Inspected and a Cat2 works ticket was issued.

Streetcare

- Environmental Enforcement were in the Ward on 16th January. Made them aware of:
 - Rubbish on the road at the entrance to Min Afon.
 - A car bumper left on the grass verge at the Heol-y-Graig crossroads.
 - Queried why the large bin outside the shop has been removed and replaced by a small bin on the opposite side of the road – The litter bin was removed because of damage and replaced with a new mounted bin a few yards from shop.
- Reported flytipping along the road (the first road on right) just after Zip World.
- Reported litter and flytipping on Rhigos Sports Pitch.

Footpaths

- The public right of way by Heol-y-Graig is still closed due to a collapsed culvert. The Dwr Cymru rising main that is situated above the culvert has been temporarily secured through installing sand bags beneath and is being monitored weekly during the design and mobilisation phase of a scheme to rectify the situation.

Pest Control

- Many have posted issues with rats. The Council can investigate issues with litter and overgrowth. The Council cannot lay bait on public land but they can do home visits. There is a charge of £29.30 to treat inside and outside homes- the charge includes an initial visit to determine and treat the problem, followed by 2 additional visits, if deemed necessary.

Parish Road

- Celtic Energy have sold a portion of their site which includes the area surrounding Parish Road. We are waiting for the owner to get in contact with us.

Valleys Line Rail extension

- Further funding has been secured to pursue the extension of the passenger rail services to Hirwaun and Rhigos. The preferred option identified is to have a station at Hirwaun (Station Road/Penyard Road) and Tower Colliery.

Council Announcements

- RCT Council Cabinet have approved 3 weekly black bin collections, to begin from June 2023. There will also be pilot studies of new recycling bags (similar to garden waste bags).
- Advanced works have started this week in the Cynon Valley in preparation for the introduction of the default 20mph speed limit. The activity will include high-pressure water jetting, which is a non-evasive method to removing road markings. Localised resurfacing will be required at some locations. Later this year, there will be a public consultation on exempt locations. Also, the council is in the process of developing its own dedicated webpage to provide information on this project.

