



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY :** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,** **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE MEETING**

MONDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2019

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Sammon (Chair)  
D Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, L Davies and C T Jones

**Cooptees:**

R Holdaway (Public), J McCarthy (Public) and T Butler (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

Councillor D Hughes, Portfolio Member

**Officers:**

J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), P Jones (Environmental Cleansing and Enforcement Manager), D Chaffe (Highways Officer), C Ridout (Street Lighting) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer)

M Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
392	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Davies.

393	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were received.
394	Highways, Winter Maintenance & Street Lighting – Performance Update	<p>Darren Chaffe summarised the report to the Committee with particular reference made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff numbers update</li> </ul> <p>The following questions/matters were raised by Committee and answered in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.6 – what system do you have to identify defects; how are priorities identified</li> <li>• Gully cleansing with Caerphilly - how is this going; does area of cleansing change to north; what if there is a need to come in earlier; are gully cleans done immediately or grouped before being done; problems with leaves blocking drains; volume of calls</li> <li>• 5.3 - Whiteout conditions/salt stocks – when do you start filling grit boxes</li> <li>• Page 10 - 5.16 and 5.17 will be should be (were in the past).</li> <li>• 5.19 is this correct that nearly 100% of street lights are working, as lights around the college are still out</li> <li>• Can you pick up what isn't working via tablet</li> <li>• Page 12 - 7.2 what we need to do next; where are you going to identify this funding from</li> <li>• 7.3 how can it be efficient to dim lights, isn't this insufficient; do LED lights last longer thus making a saving; are there any plans to move street lights on houses to columns</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The report be noted.</p>
395	Performance Report - Street Cleansing	<p>Paul Jones summarised the report to the Committee with particular reference made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance Levels</li> </ul> <p>The following questions/matters were raised by Committee and answered in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much of a priority/timeframe is the collection of needles; volumes of requests</li> <li>• Use of CCTV</li> <li>• Removal/relocation/funding of public bins</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed spraying</li> <li>• Clarity over Litter -v- Fly tipping</li> <li>• Dog fouling and use/emptying of dog litter bins</li> <li>• Smoking related litter</li> <li>• Separation of recycling</li> <li>• Volunteers – issue of non-attendance</li> <li>• Caru Cymru (Tidy Towns) funding</li> <li>• Trunk road cleansing</li> <li>• Youth litter pick organised by Thomas Butler</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
396	Draft Task & Finish Group: Rat Infestations	The Chair introduced the item and following brief discussion agreed to seek further clarification on how this matter would be progressed.
397	Forward Work Programme 2019/20	Sian Lyons provided a summary of the Forward Work Programme and sought clarification from Committee on the content.
398	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair and Committee discussed the following matters:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• abbreviations being used in some of the reports and it was noted that they are difficult for people to understand. Agreed that Sian Lyons to remind report authors to use full description before using abbreviations</li> <li>• offer for Committee members to make appointments to visit departments (in particular street lighting)</li> <li>• Bus pass problems/delays</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>Report be noted.</p>
399	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.
400	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair.