



## Meeting

Members of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council are summoned to attend a meeting of the council, to be held remotely, on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 at 7pm**. Members of the public are welcome, and encouraged to attend, and will have opportunity to address the council.

A hybrid meeting will be held – accessed remotely in accordance with the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, or physically in the Reading Rooms, Bonvilston, CF5 6TQ. The meeting will be recorded to ensure the accuracy of the Minutes.

## Agenda

1. Chair's welcome and introductions
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To receive declarations of interest
4. Co-option of Member
5. Police Matters
6. Vale of Glamorgan Council Matters
7. To approve the Minutes of the
  - a. Extraordinary Meeting of October 14
  - b. Meeting of November 1
  - c. Extraordinary Meeting of November 18
8. To receive updates from other meetings attended
9. To receive updates on completed & actioned projects
  - a. Actions from the Extraordinary Meeting of November 1
  - b. Community Engagement / Place Plan
  - c. Employment of a Clerk to the Council
  - d. Remembrance
  - e. Christmas Trees
9. Correspondence
10. Matters not on the agenda – Discussion Forum
11. Finances
  - a. Payments and income

## Agenda (Continued)

12. To receive updates on planning matters
  - a. Planning decisions
13. To consider Planning Applications & Matters
  - a. Bonvilston Village Green  
Community Council's response to latest developments
  - b. Replacement LDP  
Public consultation until Friday December 17
  - c. Land at Sycamore Cross, Bonvilston  
Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission  
2015/00960/FUL
  - d. 18, Maes Y Ffynon, Bonvilston  
Retrospective application for games room, ancillary to main dwelling
  - e. 3, Broadway Green, St Nicholas  
Proposed two storey rear extension, removal of existing conservatory for  
new single storey extension with roof terrace
14. To discuss
  - a. Public Right of Way Audit, and accessible countryside,  
Millennium Heritage Trail and Haunted Field Walk, St Nicholas
  - b. "Lost" Public Rights Of Way
15. To consider
  - a. Community Liaison Committee – Management of Public Open Space
  - b. Request for Traffic Surveys – speed & types of vehicles
  - c. Biodiversity Planting
  - d. New Benches – Walkability – Age-friendly community
  - e. Fingerpost signage
  - f. Street Name Signage
  - g. Water Bottle Refill Station
  - h. Bus Shelter Enhancements
  - i. Scarecrow Trail
16. Announcements
17. Next meeting

### Part ii

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) in accordance with section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

18.

*Cllr Ian Perry*  
Chair



# Supporting Documentation

## Police Matters

## Vale of Glamorgan Council Matters

### Annual Delivery Plan

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is consulting on its [draft Annual Delivery Plan](#) for 2022-23. The draft Annual Delivery Plan sets out the actions will be undertaken in 2022-23 as part of the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan for 2020 – 25. The Corporate Plan sets the priorities for a five year period whilst the draft Annual Delivery Plan details what will be taken forward in 2022-23.

### Project Zero

The Vale Council have sent the following for our attention:

- 2.1 Project Zero sets out the Council's commitment to reduce its own carbon emissions to net zero by 2030, but the ambition of Project Zero is wider than just reducing the Council's carbon emissions. It recognises the Council's role as a community leader and how through its policies and actions it can work with, support and influence others to make changes and consider their impact on the environment. Project Zero and the developing response to the nature emergency are therefore closely aligned.
- 2.2 An effective response to the climate emergency and the nature emergency requires a co-ordinated and integrated approach across the Council and robust arrangements for working in partnership with the community and a range of organisations, including the Public Services Board, Town and Community Councils, community organisations and the private sector.
- 2.3 The approved Challenge Plan contains 18 challenges which are grouped under the following three themes reflecting the importance of community leadership, influencing and supporting others to make changes and changing how we work.
  - Demonstrate Strong Leadership – this includes challenges around engagement, communication, developing our evidence base and how we influence others.
  - Fulfil our responsibility to current and future generations – this includes challenges around transport, planning, the economy, energy, natural resources, food and waste.



- Make a difference – this includes challenges around how the Council manages its assets including schools and housing and how we operate as an organisation.
- 2.4 The Challenge Plan also emphasises that the Council has a range of plans, policies and strategies already in place that detail how particular services will be developed and delivered.
- 2.5 Detailed below are some of the key Council strategies, policies and plans that will have a critical role in the Council’s work to adapt to and to mitigate the impact of climate change. These plans and strategies will shape how the Council acts but will also inform and influence the behaviour and actions of others. As new plans are developed, and existing plans reviewed and revised, they will increasingly reflect the integrated approach being taken to tackle climate change and, where relevant, the nature emergency.
- Corporate Plan 2020-25 ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’
  - Annual Delivery Plan
  - HR Strategy
  - COVID-19 Recovery Strategy
  - Reshaping Strategy & Programme
  - Corporate Asset Management Plan
  - Carbon Management Plan
  - Digital Strategy
  - Income Generation & Commercial Opportunities Strategy
  - Procurement Policy and Strategy
  - 21st Century Schools Programme
  - Economic Growth Strategy (in development)
  - Investment Strategy (in development)
  - Local Housing Strategy
  - Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2015-30
  - Active Travel projects
  - Local Development Plan 2011-26
  - LDP review – 21-25 and subsequent plan
  - Relevant Supplementary Planning Guidance
  - Green Infrastructure Strategy (in development)
  - Biodiversity Forward Plan



- Flood Risk Management Strategy
  - Shoreline Management Plan
- 2.6 Project Zero and the Climate Change Challenge Plan do not replace the Council's statutory plans and other statutory responsibilities. They articulate the Council's commitment to doing more to understand the challenge of climate change and to taking action to influence others and encourage change across a number of areas including planning, energy, transport, food, green spaces and procurement.

The Council will continue to show leadership, meet its statutory obligations and use its influence to improve wellbeing and consider the needs of future generations. Decisions will need to be taken within the context of these statutory obligations, duties and the financial context within which the Council operates. It is fundamental that the Council's approach to the climate and nature emergencies has full regard to and operates alongside our other statutory responsibilities

#### Project Zero Governance & Delivery Arrangements

- 2.7 Governance arrangements have been developed to ensure the effective delivery of Project Zero. These arrangements are illustrated in Appendix A. In recognition of the importance of Project Zero and that it forms part of the portfolio of projects to be progressed via the Council's transformation programme, delivery will be overseen by the Council's Reshaping Board which includes Cabinet and the Strategic Leadership Team.
- 2.8 The implementation of Project Zero has been designed to reflect the new focus for the Reshaping Programme as Reshaping with:
- Our community
  - Our work
  - Our resources
- 2.9 Success will require us to challenge how we work with the community and our partners and how we empower the community to take projects and ideas forward. We will need to embrace new ways of working and new technology, building on work already underway around renewables, digital transformation and electric/low carbon vehicles. We will need to consider how we use our resources, our people and our assets and plan for the long term. All the elements of the Reshaping programme form part of what we need to do to tackle climate change, for example, regenerating our town centres, encouraging healthy lifestyles and wellbeing, tackling food poverty and adapting where and how we work. The Reshaping Programme's enabling activities (such as HR/organisational development, digital and



engagement/communications) will be vital aspects to the successful delivery of the project.

2.10 A new Project Zero Board has been established to provide operational oversight for the delivery of Project Zero. The Board is chaired by the Managing Director and reports to the Reshaping Board. The eighteen challenges contained in the Challenge Plan have each been assigned to a Senior Reporting Officer (SRO). The SROs will be supported by specialist officers within the Council and a Project Support Team who will lead on a number of cross cutting themes essential to the success of Project Zero. These include communications, organisational development and training, and data collection and analysis. Details of the Project Board and support arrangements are included in the Project Brief (Appendix B).

The Project Brief also details the initial steps necessary to support the delivery of the Plan and to ensure a co-ordinated approach to Project Zero including how progress will be reported.

2.11 This report references above the Council's many different strategies, policies and plans. Part of the role of the Project Zero Board is to ensure that there is a consistent and ambitious approach to tackling climate change across the Council's diverse range of activities.

2.12 The Council's Insight Board will also have a critical role in shaping work, making connections and identifying opportunities. In addition, and as necessary, challenge teams and workshops will be created to generate new ideas, progress specific activities and to provide internal and external challenge to the board.

2.13 Effective engagement across the Council and with partners will remain critical to the success of Project Zero. The Council will continue to work through the Public Services Board to deliver the commitments in the PSB Climate Emergency Charter.

2.14 At the first meeting of the Project Zero Board members of the board discussed how they would be taking forward their areas of responsibility. The Board also considered the commitments in the plan from the perspective of what could be achieved most quickly and where delivery arrangements are already in place or can be easily put in place or resourced. Board members also considered which actions were more complex and required more consideration in terms of resourcing and development. The Board also discussed which actions would have the biggest impact and would deliver our ambition.

2.15 The Board concluded that there were significant opportunities to reduce our emissions through changing procurement practices, innovative energy projects, investment in housing, the 21st Century Programme for Schools, encouraging cycling and use of electric vehicles. Members of the Board will now work at pace to explore what action can be taken in these areas and the



potential impact changes could have. In addition, the Board recognised the need to reflect on the findings of the carbon emissions report to be submitted to Welsh Government on the 31st October and how the Council can further develop expertise, capacity and knowledge in this area. The next meeting of the Board will seek to prioritise action and assign resources to this work so as to ensure maximum impact can be delivered.

2.16 The importance of aligning work with the nature emergency was discussed and an exercise is underway to map what activities are being undertaken and where there are gaps. This work will be reported to Cabinet later in the year with an update on the development of the Green Infrastructure Plan.

2.17 SROs will now develop specific plans of work to deliver the steps set out in the Challenge Plan for their area of responsibility.

### Developing our Baseline and Measuring Progress

2.18 Progress made in delivering the Plan will be regularly reported to Cabinet. The Corporate Performance and Resources Scrutiny Committee and the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee will both have a role in scrutinising progress in meeting the challenges to tackle climate change and deliver Project Zero.

2.19 As part of the consultation on the draft Climate Change Challenge Plan questions were raised about how we would know if we have met our targets. Using existing, relevant indicators as a starting point, a suite of indicators will be developed to demonstrate progress and the difference we are making. The information gained from completing the data requirements for Welsh Government will also contribute to the development of our baseline and greater insight into our carbon emissions. In addition, the PSB is currently undertaking a Wellbeing Assessment (WBA) to be published in 2022. The WBA must consider economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and this will include a range of data and analysis to inform the work of the PSB and will also assist in the evidence base for Project Zero.

### Ongoing Engagement

2.20 The Plan includes a commitment to continue to engage on this topic and to work with the community to respond effectively to the climate emergency.

2.21 Officers are keen, for example, to continue working with the Youth Service to engage young people in the work of the Council and with the PSB to tackle climate change. The recent decision of Cabinet to modify the approach to Youth engagement will assist in this regard.

2.22 A number of community groups have also contacted the Council through the Project Zero e-mailbox asking for information and whether officers can attend meetings. Work will be undertaken to strengthen links with community groups, to develop a green ambassadors' model and to build on the energy,



knowledge and expertise within our communities. Green ambassadors could be new or existing groups and will be an important part of how we engage with the community and how the community can get involved in shaping championing and delivering project zero. This work will underpin work across all areas of Project Zero and will also connect to work around nature recovery. This engagement is fundamental to the success of the strategy.

- 2.23 As part of our work within the Public Services Board (PSB) meetings have been arranged between PSB partners and Town and Community Councils to discuss how we can work together on a number of issues including the Local Places for Nature funding and climate change.
- 2.24 Work will also commence to develop the Project Zero web pages which will provide a resource base for the work on climate change. It is the intention that the Challenge Plan is a dynamic document and that the web pages include details of progress, case studies, links to relevant plans and strategies and research and evidence that will inform Project Zero.

## **Updates from other meetings attended**





## Updates on Completed & Actioned Projects

### Community Engagement

We've been advised to decide prioritise issues to be covered.

Everyone will have a different opinion, so this detail isn't for discussion at the meeting, but just for example. 10 would be very important, 0 would be of no importance at all.

| <b>Land Use Issues</b>                              | <b>Relevance</b> | <b>Importance</b> |
|---|------------------|-------------------|
| Sites for new housing development                   |                  | 10                |
| Affordable housing for local people                 |                  | 5                 |
| Locally sensitive design of new buildings           |                  | 7                 |
| Keeping and improving open spaces                   |                  | 10                |
| Energy conservation in new buildings                |                  |                   |
| Retaining existing community facilities             |                  | 8                 |
| Sustainable construction of new buildings           |                  | 10                |
| Conserving existing quality of spaces and buildings |                  | 9                 |
| New facilities for visitors                         |                  | 5                 |
| Premises for local employers                        |                  | 5                 |
| Improving the town/village centre                   |                  | 7                 |
| Renewable energy projects                           |                  | 10                |
| Flood mitigation scheme                             |                  |                   |
| Allotments  |                  | 9                 |
|   |                  |                   |

| <b>Non Land Use Issues</b>                       |  |    |
|--|--|----|
| Traffic management (speed control etc.)          |  | 10 |
| Improving public transport                       |  | 8  |
| More activities/events for children/young people |  | 10 |
| More activities/events for older people          |  | 10 |
| Initiatives to improve safety and reduce crime   |  | 5  |
| More/better footpaths, cycleways, bridleways     |  | 10 |
| Planting more trees etc.                         |  | 8  |
| Litter management                                |  | 8  |
| Encouraging healthy lifestyles                   |  | 9  |
| Opportunities for sport and fitness              |  | 10 |
| Public seating                                   |  | 7  |

| <b>Other Issues specific to you</b> |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Social Cohesion                     |  | 9 |
|                                     |  |   |

A Place Plan sets out a Vision for the Future. A direction in which the community would like to see their villages develop, improve. The reasoning behind the Place Plan is to value and protect what's important to residents, whilst shaping future development and activities of the Community Council.

The work going into the Place Plan would be used to influence the forthcoming LDP, and decisions in infrastructure and services provision and planning.



# Community Vision 2030/2040

The St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council has a mission:

Enabling residents to participate in shaping our communities and proactively enhancing our distinctive rural communities for the benefit of the health and well-being of residents and future generations.

Our villages have doubled in size over a very short period bringing in new residents with different needs and new ideas. The Community Council is embarking on a program of community engagement to provide opportunity for residents to shape our community for the next 10, 20 years and beyond.

In April of 2019, the Community Council resolved to contribute towards the Welsh Government's Well-being Goals:

## A Resilient Wales

"A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change."

## A Healthier Wales

"A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood"

## A Wales Of Cohesive Communities

"Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities"

## A Globally Responsible Wales

"A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being"

## A Wales of Vibrant Culture

A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.

## A More Equal Wales

"A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances."



**Environment (Wales) Act 2016** Part 1 - Section 6 - places a duty on the Community Council to seek to maintain and enhance biological diversity (referred to as biodiversity). This is a statutory duty to work towards a Resilient Wales

The **Vale of Glamorgan Public Services Board** Well-being Plan contains the following objectives:

- To protect, enhance and value our environment
- To enable people to get involved, participate in their local communities and shape local services
- To reduce poverty and tackle inequalities linked to deprivation
- To give children the best start in life

The above provide key themes for the engagement work of the Community Council.

A Place Plan should complement and be consistent with the following Welsh Government documents:

- Planning Policy Wales
- Building Better Places



## Remembrance



Elsewhere:



## Correspondence

- Dangerous tree

## Matters not on the agenda – Discussion Forum

This is an opportunity for residents to raise matters of concern to them. This replaces the section of the agenda formerly referred to as Public Participation, due to the changes coming in from the Local Government and Elections Act (Wales), 2021. Members of the public will be offered the opportunity to speak, briefly, on all agenda items.



Meeting of November 1, 2021



## Finances

### Payments for approval

- Locum Clerk – 26 hours in May at £18: £468
  - Storage boxes for poppies: £30
  - Paper: £7.80
  - Fairy lights: £76.45
  - Planter for Christmas tree – £310 + £40 delivery: £350
  - Christmas tree planter surround/banner – Printing Wales: £75
  - Wooden Christmas decorations: £20.74
  - Training – Cllr Hunt – One Voice Wales, Module 6, Local Government Finance: £30
- 
- Data Protection fee (ICO) – fee will be £40 for this year or £35 if we choose to pay by direct debit.

Engagement preparation – 2-3 hour working session in August with Community Council. Including working through actions list appended e.g. Planning Aid prompts. This includes preparation, attendance, & collation of decisions by MD.

- Urban Habitats: £400
- Afallen: £200



## Updates on Planning Matters

### Planning Decisions

- a. Ty Groes Farm, Bonvilston  
Non Material Amendment - Amendment to Barns roof heights. Planning approval 2019/00890/FUL - Conversion of existing agricultural barns into 2 no. holiday lets.  
Approved
  
- b. Coedarhydyglyn Park, St. Nicholas  
Hoarding Signs - Giving information regarding the event such as dates that the event will run over as well as the opening and closing times and web address for more information  
Approved

### Planning Applications & Matters

#### **Bonvilston Village Green, Maes y Ffynnon – [2019/01031/RG3](#)**

Ten new dwellings and associated works

#### **LDP**

All allocated sites within Minor Rural Communities have, or are being developed.



## Land at Sycamore Cross, Bonvilston – [2021/01489/FUL](#)

Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) of Planning Permission 2015/00960/FUL: Development of 120 homes including affordable homes, new vehicle, pedestrian and cycle access, improvement works to Pendoylan Lane, regrading of site, drainage, landscape works, provision of public open space, demolition of existing modern timber stables and all associated works



The drawing shows the proposed dwelling locations, with the existing planned dwellings in red outline. The properties are being pulled away from the boundaries.



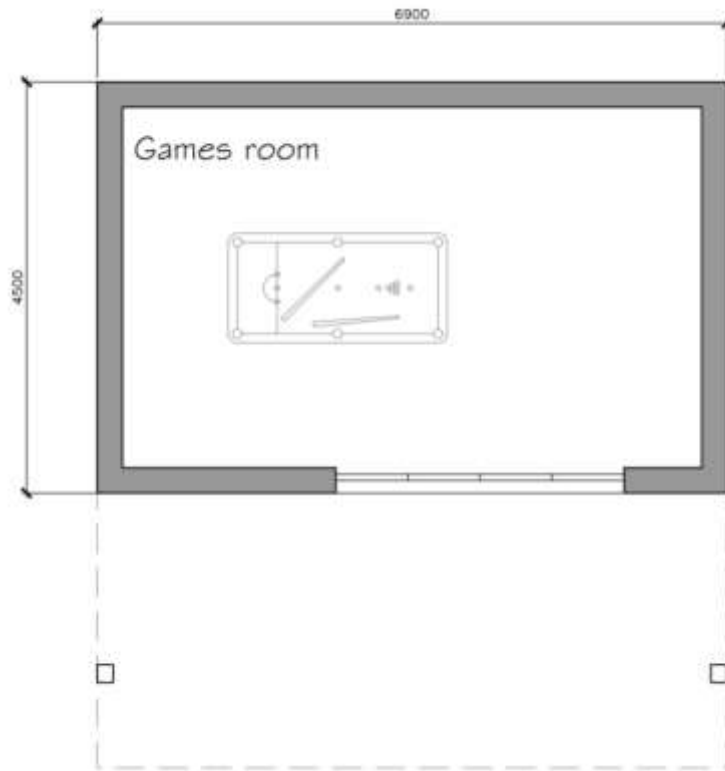
| Area of Site                               | Proposed Changes  | Amenity/Design Impact   | Change in Numbers |
|--|---|---|-------------------|
| <b>Area 1.</b> Plot 67 (1 plot)            | House type substitution.<br><b>Existing</b> -1 no. B Type.<br><b>Proposed</b> - 2 no. J Types.  | Required to improve mix of units. No discernible impact upon design or wider amenity considerations.  | +1 dwelling       |
| <b>Area 2.</b> Plots 32 -35 (4 plots)      | House type substitution.<br><b>Existing</b> -1 no. D, 1 no. F and 2 no. A Types.<br><b>Proposed</b> -4 no. J, 1 no. G and 2 no. E Types.                                    | Required to improve mix of units and enhance saleability. The change repositions the dwellings further into the site and away from the existing neighbouring residents.   | +3 dwellings      |
| <b>Area 3.</b> Plots 83 to 86 (4 plots)    | House type substitution.<br><b>Existing</b> - 1 no. F, 1 no. B, 1 no. C and 1 no. D Types. <b>Proposed</b> - 4 no. L, 1 no. G, 1 no. F and 3 no. J Types.                   | Required to improve mix of units and enhance saleability. No discernible impact upon design or amenity considerations.  | +2 dwellings      |
| <b>Area 4.</b> Plots 101 to 118 (18 plots) | House type substitution.<br><b>Existing</b> 6 no. J, 2 no. A, 1 no. C, 1 no. D and 8 no. flat Types. <b>Proposed</b> - 4 no. J, 2 no. L 1 no. H, 2 no. E and 3 no. F Types. | Position of turning head and plots 101 to 105 slightly repositioned. Required to improve mix of units and enhance saleability. The changes repositions the dwellings further into the site and away from the existing neighbouring residents. | -6 dwellings      |
| No change to total unit numbers            |   |   |                   |

“In terms of impact upon existing residents neighbouring amenity the changes to areas 2 and 4 are most applicable. In both instances the dwellings are to be set further away from the boundary with existing residents and so it is considered that the changes will result in benefits to those existing properties adjacent when compared to the previously approved scheme. Through the changes to the mix and reposition of dwellings the proposed units in these areas will have longer gardens which not only benefits the existing neighbours but also future occupants. With regard to area 4, the changes also allow the dwellings to be moved further away from the boundary trees adjacent.”

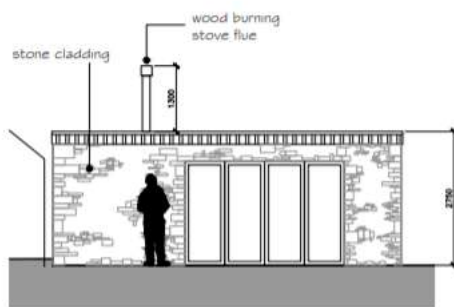




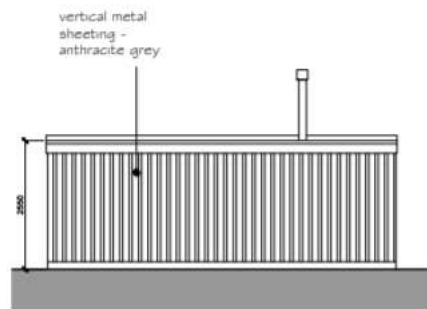
# 18, Maes Y Ffynon, Bonvilston – [2021/01524/FUL](#)



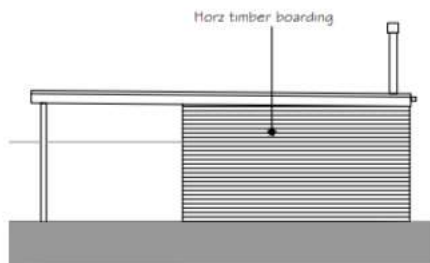
floor plan - 1:50



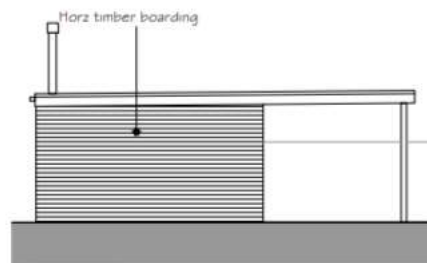
front elevation - 1:50



rear elevation - 1:50



side elevation - 1:50



side elevation - 1:50



### 3, Broadway Green, St Nicholas Bonvilston – [2021/01547/FUL](#)

Proposed two storey rear extension, removal of existing conservatory for new single storey extension with roof terrace



01 EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION  
1:100



02 PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION  
1:100

02 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION  
1:100



03 PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION  
1:100



04 PROPOSED REAR ELEVATION  
1:100



04 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION  
1:100



03 EXISTING REAR ELEVATION  
1:100



# Public Right of Way Audit, and accessible countryside, Millennium Heritage Trail and Haunted Field Walk, St Nicholas

Audit for accessibility:

## Accessible Countryside: St Nicholas, Tinkinswood, Duffryn

The route from Duffryn Lane to Doghill Farm, Dyffryn forms part of the Millennium Heritage Trail, and Haunted Field Walk



The Milton Keynes gate is widely regarded as the product that's easiest for people with disabilities to use, as it allows access for all-terrain mobility scooters. It can be installed with stockproof handles.

Next to busy roads, for extra security, the Large Oxford kissing gate is acceptable.



Our intention must be to make the countryside as accessible as possible.

## A48 to Brook Lane, St Nicholas



- 1 – bypass stone stile with Large Oxford kissing gate
- 2 – replace pedestrian kissing gate with Milton Keynes gate
- 3 – bypass 2in1 gate with inward opening Milton Keynes Gate, located where a stile used to be.





## Brook Lane, southwards



Milton Keynes gates to bypass Bristol 2in1 gates with step-over. This will require a new gap in the hedges.

## Duffryn Lane, southwards



Milton Keynes gates to replace wooden stiles & bypass stone stile. 2in1 gates with step-over create barriers – plus **mud** issue.



## Tinkinswood

CADW have been asked to consider replacing the kissing gates, remove the step, and tackle the mud issue on the permissive access to Tinkinswood Burial Chamber.



## Tinkinswood, area



Pedestrian kissing gates (10) need to be replaced by mobility scooter friendly Milton Keynes gates – and the step (10) needs to be removed.

The area at 11 is a concern, should the gates be closed...

At 12, the pedestrian kissing gate needs to be replaced with a Milton Keynes gate.

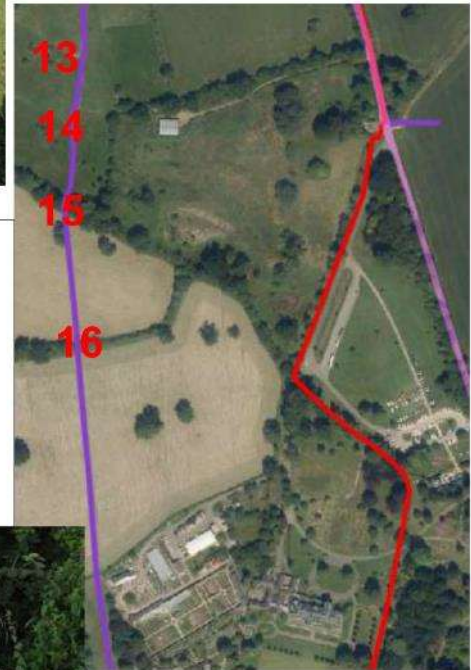




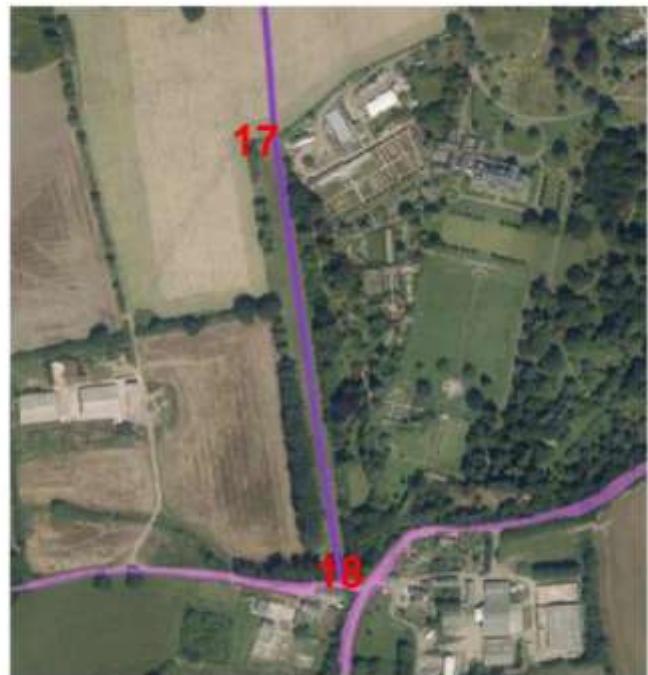
## Northwest of Dyffryn



Mud is a problem here. The Bristol 2in1 gates are a problem for everyone. The wooden gate (15) is difficult to open, and there is no alternative to the field gate (16).



## North of Doghill Farm, Dyffryn



At 17, there is a large "gap". At 18, the stile needs to be replaced by an inward opening Milton Keynes gate, and the step up to the stone slab bridge (not pictured) removed.

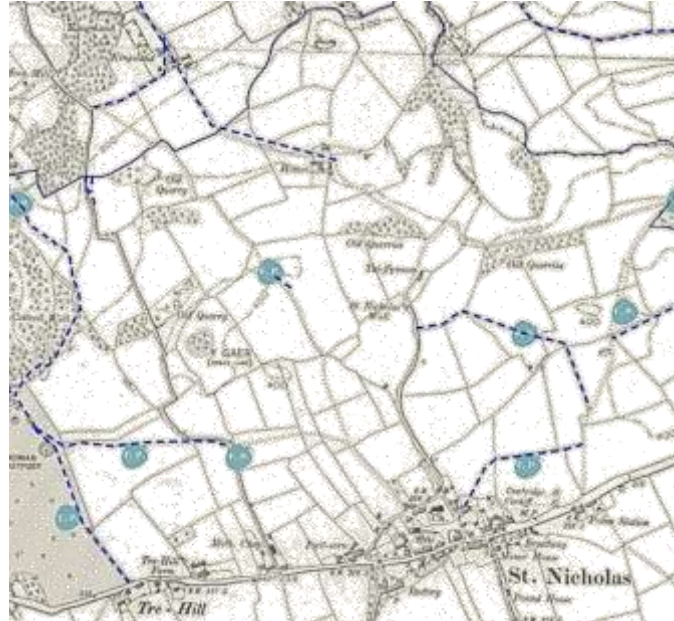




## “Lost” Public Rights Of Way

The Ramblers have searched all of England and Wales and found over 49,000 miles of paths that could be lost forever unless they are added to Definitive Maps. Don't Lose Your Way is a campaign by the Ramblers to identify and add “lost” PROW to definitive maps.

There are some “lost” rights of way north of St Nicholas – marked in blue.



Definitive Map – 1954



## Definitive Map 2021 with lost footpath added (blue)



There are two usual options for regaining these footpaths as public rights of way:

- a request could be made to the landowner asking that they enter into a creation agreement – Highways Act 1980 sec.25 or
- an application under The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 sec.53 to claim that the footpaths exist and therefore should be recorded on the Definitive Map.





## Community Liaison Committee – Management of Public Open Spaces

**Proposal for consideration:** The Community Council to put forward the issue of private management companies owning Public Open Space in the Vale of Glamorgan for consideration at a meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan's Community Liaison Committee.

**Issue:** New housing developments in the Vale of Glamorgan are having their Public Open Spaces managed by profit-seeking management companies that allow minimal community "ownership" of parks and play areas, and charge "estate fees" that are often high.

Since 2014, developers have been able to seek a third-party management company to take on responsibility for green spaces, and sections of road, rather than the Unitary Authority. The term 'Fleecehold' has been coined to describe residents who find themselves liable to paying a management company, and hostage to the charges the management company sets.

This has resulted in hostility between the residents of the new developments who receive bills for the maintenance of parks and play areas, and other local residents who wish to use the public facilities (play equipment) that have been provided for the community beyond those paying the "estate fee".

The profit-seeking management companies take money out of our communities, and offer little, if any, input from communities.

Town and Community Councils were created to carry out functions like managing public open spaces/Village Green's. A few years ago, the Vale Council held the "Reshaping Services" meetings/consultation, where those present heard of the desire of the Vale Council to devolve responsibility of public open spaces back to communities – to our Town and Community Councils. Town and Community Councils would receive financial support from the higher authority, but would be free to manage their open spaces as they chose, for the benefit of their community. Moving the decision-making process closer to the people who use the amenity is seen as beneficial for communities.

Privatising our Public Open Space isn't popular and creates conflict within our communities. The Highway Authority should be adopting all public roads, and Town and Community Councils should be given the opportunity to take ownership of open spaces in their Community Wards.

The Home Owners Rights Network ([HorNet](#)) has been set up to highlight the problems.

**A condition of planning approval for residential development within the Vale of Glamorgan should be that the Vale Council, or the Town/Community Council take ownership of Public Open Spaces, and the Highway Authority adopts all roads and footways.**



## Request for Traffic Surveys – speed & types of vehicles

**Proposal for consideration:** Requesting the Highway Authority carry out new speed and vehicle type surveys.

**Issue:** The new A4226 has brought additional traffic, and larger vehicles through our villages. Speed surveys have not been conducted since the opening of this road, nor the pandemic – which is linked to behaviour changes.

Whilst the police are to carrying out a speed scoping exercise, pneumatic tube surveys by the Highway Authority, in conjunction with Go Safe, provide essential data.

It would be helpful to have traffic speed surveys at the following locations to provide up to data data:

- A48, St Nicholas - by junction to Cae Newydd
- A48, Trehill, St Nicholas - 120m west of Chapel Lane
- A48, Bonvilston - by junction to Maes y Ffynon
- A48 Bonvilston - 70m west of the Old Village Shop
- A48 Bonvilston - by the junction with Greenway Road, near the Aubrey Arms

These locations are where residents are particularly concerned by traffic speeds. Just by observing what happens for a few minutes on any day, anyone can see and hear why! It's believed we were due some surveys in 2020, but these didn't happen due to the pandemic.



Residents continue to frequently raise concerns related to traffic speeds, safety and road noise.

Pneumatic tubes were laid across the A48 in November at three locations:



## Biodiversity Planting

**Proposal for Consideration:** Engage residents of the Broadway Green, Duffryn Close and Button Ride area of St Nicholas with a view to planting trees, low shrubs and possibly wild flowers on the verges to the east of Duffryn Lane.

**Issues and background:** The Community Council has a statutory duty to enhance biodiversity within our community under the **Environment (Wales) Act**.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has given us permission to plant areas of verge east of Duffryn Lane.

When Duffryn Close was built, the close was lined with flowering cherry trees and berberis shrubs.

Would NT Duffryn Gardens assist us as this is the gateway to Dyffryn Gardens?

Could we place a new bench off Duffryn Lane to assist those who are less mobile?

Should we only plant directly into the ground, or incorporate planters?

We are entering the tree planting season.

Map showing areas (green):



Example of planting from Groes-faen:



## New Benches – Walkability – Age-friendly community

**Proposal:** Provision of additional benches

Two locations have been identified:

- Frontage of Cae Newydd
- Duffryn Lane

**Background:** Public benches are an asset which enable people to participate in society, using the simplest of communal resources. A well-positioned and well-used bench can help to facilitate interactions and create a sense of belonging and place within the bustle of the urban landscape.

Sitting on benches supports healthy everyday routines by enabling people to spend longer outside.

Benches positioned 200m apart encourage and support people who are less-mobile to walk.

Public benches typically cost £1,100 each.

£106,000 may be available – VOGC Active Travel Officer looking at this.

## Finger Post Signage

This is for consideration as part of our **Budgeting Process for 2021-22**.

It's a legal requirement for public footpaths to be marked by finger posts from main roads. Most of our pathways are only marked by wayfaring disks. Finger post signs cost from £120 each – though typically twice this.

There is also the opportunity to put up signage to show people the routes – as part of enhance the public realm and encouraging walking. Walking contributes to us improving the health and well-being of residents.

Bespoke finger post signs could be considered, as these would contribute to our objective of being distinct rural communities. Perhaps utilising the talents of art and design students at Cardiff and Vale College in Barry?



## Street Name Signage

This is for consideration as part of our **Budgeting Process for 2021-22**.

Residents have pointed out missing signs for School Lane, Lon Haelfaes, and Chapel Lane. Signs at Duffryn Close and elsewhere are basic, functional, and not always in good condition.

The Community Council is being asked to consider providing new street name signage, perhaps of the quality found at Cottrell Gardens, or perhaps something bespoke? Perhaps utilising the talents of students at Cardiff and Vale College in Barry?

## Water Bottle Refill Station and Drinking Fountain

**Proposal for Consideration:** To investigate providing a water bottle refill station and drinking fountain to serve the Millennium Heritage Trail and Ghost Field Walks and visitors to St Nicholas church.

**Issues:** Use of disposable water bottles by visitors/walkers – Future Generations. There is nowhere to purchase water in St Nicholas.

**Background:** It was resolved to provide a water bottle refill station and drinking fountain next to the sports pitch at Cottrell Gardens. The Community Council also resolved to work towards the goals of the Future Generations Act.

Grants of £1,000 were available in 2018 & 2019.

In 2019, the Vale Council invested £40,000 in water bottle refill stations and their installation. These are located at:

- Barry – Central Park, Knap Gardens, Romilly Park, Upper Gladstone Gardens, Barry Island Promenade.
- Penarth – New Cogan Leisure Centre Skate Park, Cliff Walk, Penarth Seafront.
- St Athan – Lougher Place.
- Dinas Powys – The Murch or Bryn y Don Playing Fields.
- Ogmore-By-Sea – Main Car Park.

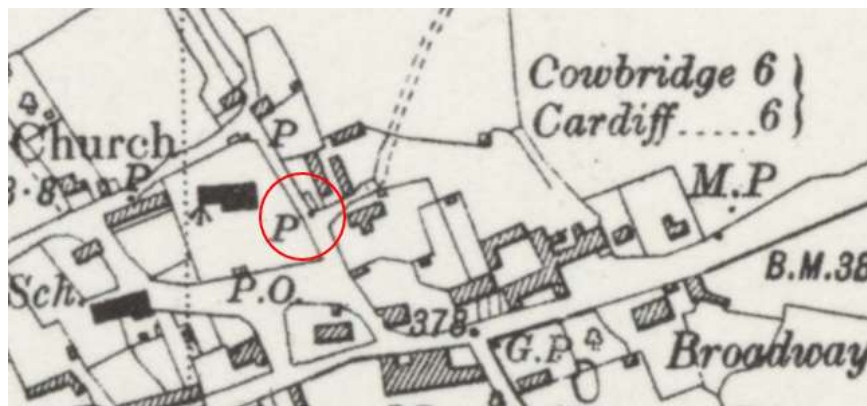






Water can also be provided for dogs.

A public water pump was installed next to Village Farm House in St Nicholas. It was probably relocated when Ger y Llan was built. The site suggested in the picture is directly on the Millennium Heritage Trail and very close to where a pump was previously installed.



## Bus Shelter Enhancements

This is for consideration as part of our **Budgeting Process for 2021-22**.

In November 2018, the Community Council had a meeting with officers of the Vale Council regarding widening the footway between the village centre, and the new developments. These discussions included remodelling the bus stop.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953, s.4 and Parish Councils Act 1957 give the Community Council the power to provide and maintain bus shelters. It's likely that the Cardiff bound bus stop at St Nicholas will be remodelled in 2022-23, and a basic new shelter provided by the Vale Council. There is an opportunity for the Community Council to collaborate with the Vale Council for a bus stop that's more appropriate for a Conservation Area.

There will also be opportunities to upgrade shelters at Bonvilston.

The Community Council will be asked whether they wish to seek estimates for the provision of a bus shelter, or shelters, such as that pictured below, for consideration of inclusion in the budget for 2022-23.



## Scarecrow Trail

**Proposal for Consideration:** Facilitating and empowering residents to hold a Scarecrow Trail in October 2022.

**Background:** Scarecrow trails have recently been started in Pentyrch (2019) and Creigiau (2021). As the map below shows, they are increasingly popular, and the photos demonstrate the enthusiasm for the event.

Entry is £5. There are prizes, and the money raised goes to a local cause/charity.

The event takes place each autumn half-term, leading up to Halloween.

