

CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILO FERWALLT
BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY FULL COUNCIL - 26/02/26 AT 19:00
CHAIR: L ELLIS



Present: L. Ellis, N. Matthews, A. James, I. Shemilt, B. Ball, J. Jones, H. Hartshorn, S. Dunce, N. Lomas, R. Brace and Cllr Lyndon Jones,

1. Apologies

K Lawrence

2. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest

S. Dunce - Pump Track

3. Planning

148 Bishopston Road - No concerns.

4. Project Updates

4.1 Active Travel Track

- An update was requested on the Active Travel Track.
- Progress is currently dependent on outstanding correspondence between solicitors.
- It was reported that the council's solicitor, Linden, had confirmed they were waiting for a response from the other solicitor.
- Edward Harris, now with PLN and Partners, was chased and confirmed on Friday that the required information had now been sent.
- Funding has been applied for and members remain hopeful, as the scheme is seen as a key project with broad support.
- Concerns were raised regarding a comment suggesting delays were being caused by the council "dragging its feet".
- Members noted this accusation was not considered accurate, particularly as the council has submitted a new application and redesigned the scheme.

4.2 Bishopston Community Park / Murton Park / Wellfield

Wellfield

- The zip wire is currently broken in Wellfield.
- It is out of warranty, so repairs will incur a charge.
- A further update on repair costs is awaited.

Murton Play Park

- Clerk is awaiting advice from SCVS on the most suitable funding source.
- It was noted that a community council is limited in what funding it can apply for directly.
- An alternative capital grants contact was suggested for follow-up.
- A consultation has been launched on what children want in the park.
- The consultation is:
 - included in the Gower magazine
 - being promoted on Facebook
 - available in collection boxes at the petrol station, lamplighter and post offices
- The consultation closes on 31 March.
- Early responses and ideas have already started coming in by email.
- The consultation states that approximately 80% of funding has been secured, with a decision awaited on the remaining 20%.
- Members discussed using grant funding wherever possible before relying on any land-sale-related funds.
- Estimated project costs may vary depending on consultation outcomes and drainage requirements.
- Members noted that some residents have asked when the park will reopen.
- It was explained that hazardous conditions were identified, including dangerous items protruding from the woodland side.
- Members felt residents were understanding once safety concerns were explained.

4.3 Copley Woods (inclusive of Pump Track)

Copley Woods Trees

- A resident raised concerns about several large trees close to their property.
- It was noted that the resident's insurance would not cover damage if the trees fell.
- A quote of £2,700 was presented from Cedarwood Tree Services for:
 - felling two sycamore trees to ground level, including one heavily leaning tree
 - felling two ash trees to ground level
 - felling a group of sycamores
 - leaving arisings on site while keeping the brook clear
- Members agreed that where a resident has raised a legitimate safety concern and the arborist has confirmed the risk, the council has little option but to act.

Pump Track / Wider Regeneration Project

- A recent meeting had taken place regarding proposals in Copley Woods.
- Members described the meeting as positive overall.
- It was emphasised that the project should be viewed as part of a wider regeneration and environmental enhancement scheme, rather than solely a pump track.
- Key points discussed included:
 - timeline, estimated around 2028–2029, subject to process and approvals
 - the need for ecology, planning and related consultancy input
 - the desire to secure specialist support free of charge or at low cost where possible
 - the importance of involving the school, local groups and older residents
 - the need for collaborative working between the community council, pump track/skate park group, council officers and commoners

- Paul from the Gower Society / related network was identified as someone who may be able to assist with ecology impact assessment and wider advice.
- It was stressed that consultancy costs could consume a large part of the budget if not managed carefully.

Surface Concerns

- Significant concern was raised around the proposed track surface.
- Pump track representatives were said to prefer tarmac, while members noted that commoners have been clear that a permanent hard surface on common land would not be acceptable.
- It was agreed that expectations must be managed carefully and commoners must be involved throughout.
- Members emphasised the need for compromise and for proposals to be developed through discussion rather than presented as a final decision.

Next Steps

- Another meeting is expected in around three months.
- Members felt future meetings should include:
 - community council representatives
 - pump track / skate park group representatives
 - commoners' representatives
 - relevant officers and technical advisers

5. May Day

- Planning for the May Day event is ongoing.
- It was confirmed that no road closure will take place this year due to cost and because there is no requirement for activities across the road.
- Discussion took place regarding Gareth Coleman running a children's sports activity session.
- The suggested format was a traditional sports day style activity, for approximately 30 minutes.
- It was agreed that further details should be clarified directly with Gareth.

Farmers' Market / Sunday Proposal

- Emma Oliver remains willing to help organise a farmers' market but needs a prompt response because May Day weekend is a premium period for stallholders.
- A proposal was discussed for:
 - a Sunday afternoon farmers' market
 - possible use of the marquee in poor weather
 - a possible extension into an early evening music/dance element involving The Hullas
- Members were open to the proposal in principle, but concerns were raised regarding:
 - responsibility
 - licensing
 - clean-up

- Monday morning access and set-up
- volunteer capacity
- It was agreed that more detail is needed before any final commitment is made.

Marquee, Generator and Logistics

- A larger marquee has been booked from Friday to Tuesday.
- A generator will be needed and is expected to cost around £300.
- Chris (local volunteer) has agreed to assist with generator arrangements and tidy-up.
- Nigel was asked to liaise on technical requirements.

Volunteers

- Concerns were raised again about the number of volunteers available for setting up, moving tables and chairs, and clearing up after the event.
- It was noted that paid support may need to be considered if volunteer numbers remain low.
- It was agreed that:
 - a Facebook appeal for volunteers should be issued
 - possible support should be explored through the school, scouts, guides and cadets

6. Emergency Committee

- Members discussed equipment recently donated via the Red Cross, valued at approximately £590.
- Items included torches, battery packs, radios and other emergency supplies.
- Concern was raised that a simple but clear system is needed for recording items taken out and returned.
- It was also noted that battery packs need to be charged every three months to ensure they remain usable in an emergency.
- Speaker 3 offered to oversee regular charging.
- It was suggested that the council purchase a lockable cupboard to store emergency equipment securely.
- The importance of battery-powered radios was emphasised, particularly for elderly residents and in the event of power cuts or communication outages.
- Work is ongoing with Welsh Coast Radio to improve local radio signal coverage across Gower.
- A suggestion was made to explore whether local amateur radio operators could support emergency communications.
- It was agreed that this could be discussed further at a future Emergency Committee meeting, potentially with a local radio operator attending.
- Members also noted that 4x4 rescue contacts could be useful in major emergency situations.

7. Providence Field

- Members noted that planning permission for development on Providence Field had been refused and that the land is now considered to hold agricultural rather than development value.
- A proposal was discussed for the Community Council to explore purchasing the field, estimated at around 6.5 acres, in order to protect it from future development and preserve it for community benefit.
- It was reported that grant funding may be available for such a project, potentially up to £100,000, though this would require 30% match funding.
- Potential uses discussed included:
 - community green space
 - footpaths and benches
 - community growing / allotments
 - school eco-projects
 - biodiversity preservation
- It was suggested that a “Friends of ...” group might be an appropriate future model for helping manage the site and applying for funding not available directly to the council.
- Risks and considerations discussed included:
 - ongoing maintenance costs
 - Japanese knotweed on site
 - uncertainty over whether the landowner would be willing to sell
 - the need for community consultation
- It was agreed that the matter should be explored further before any formal decision is taken.

Providence Lane / PROW

- Concerns were also raised regarding the condition of the public right of way / Providence Lane, particularly standing water and uneven surfacing.
- It was noted that ownership of the lane appears unclear and that drainage options are complicated by land ownership and practical constraints.
- It was agreed that a response should be drafted explaining the complexity of the issue and that further investigation is needed before any action could be considered.

8. City Council Update – Cllr Lyndon Jones

Cllr Lyndon Jones provided a general update covering the following matters:

Car Park / External Use

- Ongoing issues were noted with use of the car park by outside groups.
- Problems had recently arisen when a large walking group occupied most of the car park, causing difficulty for hall users, including frail visitors.
- It was noted that:
 - some groups appear to have assumed they could use the car park without formal agreement
 - future use should be confirmed in advance
 - hall bookings requiring the car park must take priority because they generate income

- Members also discussed whether the car park layout could be reviewed to maximise spaces.

Waste Bin

- An additional bin has been installed near the chapel.
- A gap in bin provision was identified between the Co-op and Murton.
- Further discussion with officers will take place.

Sheep Worrying

- A report was received of sheep worrying, including a sheep being killed.
- It was agreed that a carefully worded Facebook reminder should be issued asking dog owners to keep dogs on leads, particularly at this time of year.

Road Works

- Cllr Jones updated members on resurfacing and repair works, including:
 - Bishopston Road resurfacing works
 - further work still to be completed
 - additional roads and damaged areas that have been raised with officers
- It was noted that some works are incomplete and further action is expected.

One Stop Shop / Older 50's event

- A community support event for older adults is being organised for 27 March, from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm, at the hall.
- Around 16 organisations are expected to attend, including community safety, fire service, police, Men's Shed, Ramblers and Ageing Well services.
- It was suggested that the Community Council should also have a stand at the event.

9. AOB

9.1 Murton FC Fun Day Request

- A request was received from Murton FC to hold a fun day on 4 July, using the field and potentially the hall.
- Proposed activities include football matches, bouncy castles and food stalls.
- Members were supportive in principle, subject to:
 - risk assessment
 - event licensing
 - agreement of appropriate fees
 - site protection and post-event reinstatement

9.2 Blinds Quote

- Three companies had been approached for quotes for replacement blinds.
- Hillarys provided the lowest quote.
- Two options were discussed:

- £954 for basic blinds
- £1,312 for a better quality, safer wand-operated option
- It was noted that the current blinds are no longer compliant and are considered unsafe.
- Members agreed that an additional quote should be obtained from Just Blinds for comparison.
- If that quote is not more competitive, Clerk authorised to proceed with Hillarys.

9.3 Kitchen Supplies

- It was noted that the kitchen was lacking basic supplies including:
 - washing-up liquid
 - clean tea towels
 - food waste bags
 - general waste bags
- It was agreed that kitchen stock and responsibility for replenishment should be reviewed.

9.4 Policies

- Policy documents had been received from OVW.
- It was noted that some existing policies need updating.
- Tailored policies can be prepared externally at a quoted cost.

9.5 Foot Clinic Proposal

- Members were informed that a qualified chiropodist may wish to run a foot clinic at the hall on Fridays, initially twice a month.
- Members felt this would be beneficial given the village demographic.

Actions Arising

1. **Active Travel Track** – continue to monitor solicitor correspondence and funding progress.
2. **Hall Plans** – interested councillors to confirm to Antony if they wish to join a working group / subcommittee.
3. **Hall Plans** – review plans in more detail at the next meeting.
4. **Car Park** – contact outside groups and make clear that future use must be agreed in advance.
5. **Car Park** – explore whether layout or lining changes could improve parking capacity.
6. **Community Park** – obtain repair cost / update for zip wire.
7. **Community Park** – continue to pursue suitable grant funding.
8. **Community Park** – continue consultation and collect responses by 31 March.
9. **Copley Woods** – proceed with necessary tree safety works.
10. **Copley Woods** – pass ecology / support contacts to relevant project leads.
11. **Copley Woods** – ensure commoners are included in future discussions.
12. **May Day** – obtain fuller details from Emma regarding Sunday market / evening proposal.
13. **May Day** – finalise generator arrangements with Chris / Nigel.
14. **May Day** – continue volunteer recruitment.
15. **Emergency Committee** – arrange secure storage and maintenance system for emergency equipment.

16. **Emergency Committee** – implement periodic charging of battery packs.
17. **Providence Field** – investigate feasibility, land value and ownership position.
18. **Providence Lane** – draft response regarding ownership / drainage / surfacing issues.
19. **City Council Update** – issue dog control reminder regarding sheep worrying.
20. **One Stop Shop Event** – prepare Community Council presence / display if required.
21. **Defibrillator Case** – chase WRI regarding provision.
22. **Kitchen** – review restocking arrangements and supplies.
23. **Murton FC** – respond with conditions for use of field / hall.
24. **Blinds** – obtain additional quote from Just Blinds and proceed accordingly if competitive.

Meeting Closed

Next meeting 30/03/26 at 19:00