

Rhigos report- 09.10.23

Parish Road

- We have been given different messages on the ownership of Parish Road following our questions:
 - Former employee of Celtic Energy- A lot of land from RCT side through to the other end of NPT side was sold to Welsh Government.
 - Welsh Government- "Welsh Government has not directly purchased the land in question, however its wholly owned subsidiary, GCRE Ltd purchased land at the former Selar Open cast mining site from Celtic Energy as part of the Global Centre of Rail Excellence (GCRE) project. Powys and Neath Port Talbot councils and the commoners are/have permitted the transfer of common land obligations from land owned by GCRE Ltd at Nant Helen, the site of the Global Centre of Rail Excellence project, to the Selar site in order to allow development to proceed."
 - Neath Port Talbot Council- "I am not aware of the land sale you refer to, however, we have an application currently with the Authority that has been with us for some time. This application followed the revised restoration strategy previously approved. This covers details as the alignment was part of that revised restoration... As you are aware we are currently taking legal advice on the use of Parish Road in its final form... I don't believe that there is any doubt it would open up in some form, however, the issue is that this may not be a through route for vehicular traffic."
- We still have concerns with the amount of flytipping along Parish Road. Following on from the many flytipping incidents, we believe it is justified to have cameras put in place- We have asked if the Council would consider this.

Public paths

- We were made aware of an unsecure gate on a bridlepath leading to the reservoir- The gate was replaced and a tree cut down to allow riders to have as much space possible. We expressed the concerns of one rider who felt it could be dangerous that the gate only opens 90 degrees.
- We questioned the Community Council on the ownership of a path from Rhigos Road to the Reda pond- The path is private. There was a previous agreement between the land owner and the King Fisher Club to access the land but that is no more.

Drainage

- Heol Esgyn- We were told that tarmac in one area had dipped and that this is causing a drainage concern- Reported to Council

Highways

- We were made aware of "huge ruts" appearing on the road to Treherbert from Rhigos- Reported to Council
- Reported potholes on Pencaedrain Road.

Streetcare

- Litter issues:
 - Requested a litter pick around the village, one area being along the Glynneath Bank.

- Concerns that litter bins are not cleared often enough were passed on- We have requested more litter and dog bins for the village. The Council have approved more investment in this area, so we hope to see more bins installed.
- Reported a streetlight not lit in Longmeade Park.

Overgrowth

- Reported trees that need cutting back along Rhigos Road
- Reported knotweed that is encroaching closer to the road on the Glynneath Bank and along the road towards the Vole

Fencing at Longmeade Park

- Following a request, we have asked the Council if a small length of fencing could be installed. Residents have seen others using the private land to go to the toilet.

Trivallis

- We have contacted Trivallis to ask if inspections could be carried out on their properties in Rhigos. The Community Council expressed concerns with some properties. We are not sure when inspections were carried out last.

Save Rhigos Primary School

- The consultation on a proposal to close Rhigos Primary is now open until 5pm November 17th-
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/GetInvolved/Consultations/CurrentConsultations/ConsultationonaproposaltocloseRhigosPrimary.aspx>
- Our support is with the students, parents, teachers and community of Rhigos in their campaign to keep the school open. We addressed Cabinet to influence their decision to not carry on with plans to set up the consultation and to push aside the proposal entirely. We will help in whatever way we can. We have signed the petition and donated £100 of our community fund to the cause, we all have time to still influence the decision.
- Please sign the petition- https://www.change.org/p/save-rhigos-primary-school?recruiter=1318054232&recruited_by_id=d3abdc90-6360-11ee-a999-2110a053f0f1&utm_source=share_petition&utm_campaign=share_for_starters_page&utm_medium=copylink
- And please donate- https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-rhigos-primary-school?utm_campaign=public+share-sheet-first-launch&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook
- There is a march planned for 11am on Sunday 15th October- Join us!

Council

- Question submitted for October's full Council meeting:
 - "It is important for us all to encourage our residents to use public transport. Unfortunately, our bus services are not the most reliable... How is the Council addressing the issues of cancellations, long waits and the knock-on effect of overcrowding on our buses?"

Recognitions

- We would like to express appreciation to all those who have joined the campaign to save Rhigos Primary School, whether it's signing the petition or donating to the fund or spreading the word to others. It all helps!