



**CYNGOR CYMUNED
LLANBRADACH & PWLL-Y-PANT
COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

C/o C Mortimer, Clerk to the Council
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Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Caerphilly County Borough Council
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9th January 2020

Dear Ms Harrhy,

Caerphilly County Borough Council's (CCBC) Budget Consultation 2020/21

I am writing in relation to Caerphilly County Borough Council's 2020/21 budget proposals, and list below the agreed comments of Llanbradach & Pwllypant Community Council for your consideration:

B08 Trehir Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) (£15k) – closure of Trehir HWRC

We are opposed to the closure of Trehir as it serves the needs of residents of the Caerphilly Basin and nearby villages. CCBC may want to consider utilizing the once used storage area that was used during the road improvements just off the Llanbradach roundabout or look for an alternative site to meet the needs of residents in the Caerphilly basin and nearby villages.

B09 Public Protection (160K) – Merge Community Safety Wardens with the Environment Health General Enforcement Team

Opposed to the deletion of 4 CSW posts as they provide an invaluable service, filling the gaps of other services.

C11 Infrastructure – withdrawal of subsidy Blackwood to Ystrad Link

Opposed to withdrawal of subsidy and would suggest considering alternative support. Have CCBC considered the consequences of a less frequent service?

C16 Community & Leisure Services (£10k) – reduction in playground maintenance budget

Opposed to the reduction on health and safety grounds, risking the safety of our children is unacceptable on all levels. A saving that could backfire as CCBC could potentially see an increase in insurance claims.

C18 Community & Leisure Services (£32k) – 50% reduction in public rights of way budget.

Opposed on the grounds of health and safety. Walking has many health benefits and should be encouraged. Reducing maintenance of our public rights of way could compromise safety.

C20 Community & Leisure Services (£5k) - reduction in War Memorial maintenance.

Opposed to further reduction in maintenance. A reduction would be a failure to observe or respect the ultimate sacrifices given by our fallen. This is such an emotive and important subject amongst residents. A small sum of £5k to keep the sites weed free and clean is a small ask.

C25 Public Protection (£24k) – Decommission of all BT line rental cameras

Opposed to the proposed decommission of 2 cameras in Llanbradach Car Park as it serves as a deterrent in the first instance, it is also useful for requesting back up and for the purpose of gathering evidence for successful prosecutions. Our community would be less safe without the cameras.

For instance during the period 01/09/18 to 31/08/19 there were 318 recorded incidents in the Llanbradach ward and 49 recorded incidents in or near the area of the cameras.

Since the installation of the cameras the following statistics apply:

2391 targeted CCTV patrols carried out by operators

2 incident monitored by CCTV not requiring police attendance 30 police request for assistance for live incidents

3 police requests for assistance for live incidents

8 police requests to view retrospective CCTV footage after incident has already occurred.

4 DVD's provided for evidential purposes.

C28 Corporate Policy (£80k) – Reduction in voluntary sector budget

Opposed – Llanbradach & Pwllpant Community Council abhors cuts to the voluntary sector. Caerphilly County Borough Council should be looking to support the most vulnerable people in our communities. Implementing cuts will undermine the invaluable and supportive work that these organisations (CAB, GAVO & Groundwork) carry out in the community.

Citizen's Advice is a life line to the most vulnerable in our communities. Without this service which offer support and direction, lives of many would become intolerable.

Removing this cut from the budget, which we appreciate is a considerable sum, would be showing empathy to the most vulnerable.

C30 Corporate Policy (£6k) – further reduction in the Well-being budget

Opposed as this could undermine partnership working within our communities.

D08 Waste (£25k) – increase charges for bulky collections (from £16 to £25 for 1 to 3 items)

Opposed as the increase is too high too quickly which could have an adverse effect and be counterproductive, with an increase in fly tipping. Suggested increase to £20.

D09 Public Protection (£20k) – Review pest control fees and charges and introduce a charge for rat treatments

Opposed - because if charges are applied, rat sightings and infestations will go unreported, thus becoming a public health issue.

{D13 Catering (£28k) – Increase price of meals by 25p from April 2020

{D14 Catering (£54k) – Increase price of secondary school meals by 10 from April 2020

Opposed to D13 & 14 – on the grounds of failing the most vulnerable in our society. We are aware of the value of a decent school meal for our children, in terms of benefitting their physical development and mental well-being therefore increasing their potential to perform better at school.

Yours faithfully,



C Mortimer
Clerk to the Council & Responsible Financial Officer