



GELLIGAER COMMUNITY COUNCIL CYNGOR CYMUNED GELLIGAER

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Office Hours/Oriau Swyddfa – Wednesday & Thursday 10.30am – 2.30pm

Ceri Mortimer

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Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
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Christina Harrhy, Interim Chief Executive
Email: Harrhc@caerphilly.gov.uk

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 budget proposals for 2020/21. Gelligaer Community Council, following an informal engagement with local residents, agreed on the comments listed below in order of priority with the top being the most important, for your consideration:

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.

We opposed this last year and oppose it again.

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

Opposed – Gelligaer 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 at a time when CCBC are looking to the private sector for services CCBC provides especially to the vulnerable. Citizen's Advice is a life line to the most vulnerable in our communities. Lives would become desolate and wretched without these services.

We urge you to support our most vulnerable by removing this cut from the budget in its entirety.

{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 child poverty. We have pockets of high deprivation in our area and we are conscious of the value of a decent school meal for our children, in terms of benefitting their physical and mental well-being and overall performance at school. We need to support our children.

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

Opposed to the reduction on health and safety grounds. CCBC could potentially see an increase in insurance claims.

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

Opposed to the proposed decommission of 6 cameras at Pengam Station on the grounds of highway safety due to the inevitability of vehicles flooding the adjoining streets.

C29 Corporate Policy (£11k) – delete remaining technical assistance budget

Opposed because it will have a detrimental effect on the voluntary sector again, preventing many from applying for grants to external bodies, often securing grants on worthwhile refurbishment projects to their community buildings.

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 and too quickly. This could have an adverse effect and prove to be counterproductive with CCBC potentially seeing an increase in fly tipping. We suggest an increase to £20 this year.

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.

C23 Community Centre (£18k) – reduction of 1 hour Caretaker support across all centres

Opposed: Gelligaer Community Council would oppose any attempt to transfer the responsibility of structural maintenance, gas, electric and water services/installations to the Community Centre Management Committees.

Gelligaer Community Council certainly welcomes the proposal of Penallta Civic Amenity being expanded. However in relation to the closure of Trehir, 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.

Yours faithfully,



Ceri Mortimer
Clerk to the Council / Responsible Financial Officer

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