



RHYMNEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Mr. Geraint Williams
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Cllr. David Poole, Leader, Caerphilly CBC
Mr. Robert Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Caerphilly CBC
Caerphilly County Borough Council
Tredomen Park
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7PG

12th December 2018

Ref: Caerphilly CBC Draft Budget Proposal 2019/20. Community Safety Warden Service

Dear Cllr. D. Poole and Mr. R. Hartshorn,

I write on behalf of the above-mentioned Community Council, to articulate Council's unease the potential impact a minus percentage settlement would have on front-facing Council Services – chiefly those associated with Community Safety and Social Justice. The Community Council is cognisant of the financial restraints the County Borough has been obliged to work within in recent years and the continued pressure of pay and superannuation against the need to derive further efficiency over the next five years.

Whilst the Community Council is appreciative of the predicament presented, it is particularly concerned with the mooted cessation of the Community Safety Warden Service. Council is worried the impact such a change would have on community engagement, public perception of safety, and the potential for increased anti-social behaviour and/or crime. Council strongly believes the Community Safety Warden team deliver a crucial service across our most derived communities, where the prevalence of anti-social behaviour and crime are also statistically higher. The visibility and accessibility of the Community Safety Warden team also offers reassurance to those most vulnerable in society, particularly the elderly.

At the November meeting of the Community Council held on November 8th 2018, Cllr. John Bevan asked attending Officers from Gwent Police whether the potential loss of Caerphilly CBC's Community Safety Officers would have a detrimental impact on policing and community safety functions. In response, attending Officers confirmed Caerphilly CBC's Community Safety Wardens provide pivotal support across the wider community area (Minute No. 58_2018/19 attached). Consequently, the Community Council requests Caerphilly County Borough Council reconsiders its proposed withdrawal of the Community Safety Warden Service.

Should you require any further information, comment or clarity on the above, please do not hesitate to contact me on the mobile number or email address, provided above.

Yours sincerely,

Geraint Williams
Clerk to Rhymney Community Council

Rhydney Community Council. Minute No. 58_2018/19 (November 8th 2018)

58 Gwent Police

PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs provided Council with a detailed verbal update of developments throughout the Community Council area. The update included statistics on reported crime within the last month as outlined below:

- Moriah Ward 149 Incidents, 67 Crimes, 13 Anti-social behaviour.
Ward breakdown
 - L. Rhydney 127 Incidents, 12 Anti-social behaviour.
 - Abertysswg 022 Incidents, 01 Anti-social behaviour.

- Pontlloftyn Ward 061 Incident, 31 Crimes, 02 Anti-social behaviour.
- Twyn Carno Ward 76 Incident, 46 Crimes, 5 Anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs then took questions and areas for further investigation from Councillors. The Clerk queried the accuracy of the information supplied when compared to previous months.

Moved. PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs to review and report at the next meeting of Council.

Cllr. J. Bevan asked PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs whether the potential loss of Caerphilly CBC's Community Safety Officers would have a detrimental impact on policing and community safety functions. PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs confirmed that Caerphilly CBC's Community Safety Team provide pivotal support across the wider community area.

Cllr. Harse thanked PCSO Lewis and PCSO Childs for their report and for attending Council.