

## **COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – OCTOBER 2015**

### **DINAS POWYS LIBRARY**

The Business Case for the creation of a Community Library has yet to be discussed by the Vale Cabinet. This delay is due to the pending Judicial Review lodged by Rhoose residents which should be held mid October. Meanwhile the volunteers have held an information stall at the Village Show with more similar events proposed. The Library 'negotiations' with the Vale Council were very arduous.

### **RESHAPING OF SERVICES**

Although the emphasis has been on the Library we are likely to need to come to important decisions regarding a range of services, e.g., grass cutting, playing fields, play areas, the Community Hall. We need to be aware that the Vale Council will look to Community Councils and volunteers to seriously consider managing more local services.

### **LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)**

The LDP continues to cast its shadow over the Council. Although not approved by the Inspector or Minister, when it suits the planners act as though it has been approved. Since the summer the Vale's Planning Committee has approved in excess of 200 houses. The Planning Committee also approved two 'dirty' industrial operations in Barry Dock. The implication for Dinas Powys is that additional lorries will race along Cardiff Road.

### **CROSS COMMON ROAD JUNCTION**

We are awaiting the application at Cross Common Road held up by the lack of an ecological assessment. The bid for a new junction at Cross Common Road has been lodged.

### **FORMER ST. CYRES SCHOOL ANNEXE**

The future of the site at the former St Cyres School Annexe is still to be agreed. Officers have indicated that they will be able to make a statement on the site once commercial negotiations with the developer[s] is completed. However the plans of the Football Club and the Baptist continue to be developed.

### **FINANCE – VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL**

The financial challenges of the Vale are ever present. A number of senior officers have retired and often this is used as an opportunity to reduce staff numbers.

### **PARKING**

The parking charges plans for Barry and Cowbridge have hit the buffers. Yet there is still the threat of 'on street charging' across the Vale and also at Cosmeston and Porthkerry Country Parks.

### **EDUCATION**

Secondary School reorganisation in Barry has also been thrown back into the melting pot. What will be the implication for Barry Comp, Bryn Hafren and Bro remains to be seen.

Chris Franks, Val Hartrey, Keith Hatton

