

ITEM 114c

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REOPORT – MARCH 2026

Record Tax Rise

At 6.5% rise the Vales Council Tax increase is the highest in Wales. It is quite staggering to consider that the Senedd had allocated an extra £4 million to the council. We are not convinced that the budget will address the crisis hit schools' budgets. The budget will provide £535,000 of extra funding for rural public transport

Leckwith Road - Road closure

Leckwith Road will close from 6 pm to midnight on Thursday 19 March to allow resurfacing. This will continue each evening until next week.

St Richard Gwyn School

The School is undergoing substantial improvements, carried out by contractor Morgan Sindall. The old buildings will be replaced with new classrooms and ancillary spaces. Over 1000 pupils will attend the school. Work on the new school building is expected to be completed by the end of next year, with the old one completely demolished by December 2028.

Aqua Park - Cosmeston

The Cabinet has authorised the undertaking of a comprehensive review of options and opportunities for activities that exist at Cosmeston Country Park.

As part of a review of options, the Council says it would undertake a further full year of breeding bird surveys in 2026, and an enhancement strategy well in advance of any future leisure installation and operation at the Park.

The Council also undertake a further full 12 months of water quality testing, in the specific area identified for leisure uses during the aqua park trial. The testing be undertaken weekly during June, July, August and September. A further report should be presented to Cabinet in late 2026.

This issue has been very badly handled by the Cabinet and has caused a great deal of upset. We will carefully scrutinise the forthcoming investigations.

Anne Asbrey, Marianne Cowpe, Chris Franks