

FOCUS

On Trallwn

Traffic Issues Rumble On



Despite constant complaints from residents, and pressure from Trallwn County Councillor Mike Powell the Highways department appear to be blind to the problems at Central Square and adjoining streets.

In June five school pupils were taken to hospital when their school bus was involved in an accident with a transit van. Fortunately none were seriously injured.

Mike has had numerous meetings on site with officers, but says *"It appears that the Highways department are waiting for someone to get killed before they appreciate the problems here. "There is poor visibility at this junction, especially for people pulling out of Ralph Street alongside the Spar.*

There are still drainage problems on the bridge over the A470.



After a considerable battle the bridge was resurfaced in late 2009 and the drainage was supposed to be sorted.

Two years later the issue of water gathering there is still on-going.

Mike has been assured that it will be remedied in the near future.

This time let's hope that a more permanent solution is found.



Welsh Liberal Democrats
Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru

"Vehicles park all over the place there and in the morning and evening rush hours it is particularly bad.

"People use Trallwn as a rat run through to Ynysybwl. It is pure luck that there have not been any fatalities.

"Any suggestions get the same stock reply from RCT Council – they have no money. Yet it seems they can find it for their own pet projects.

"We can't have traffic calming or 20mph speed limits around Trallwn Primary, but they can in Tonyrefail where their Councillor is the Cabinet Member for Education .

*And if anyone cares to take a drive up to the Education department in Abercynon they may be shocked to see speed bumps **in the car park.***

That's Labour's priorities for you. Certainly not mine."



Thank you

Despite the best efforts of the Labour Party's dirty tricks brigade (see overleaf) I am pleased to say that the good people of Trallwn and The Common kept the faith during the recent Assembly election.

Whilst the result in the Pontypridd constituency and indeed across Wales was not good for us as a Party the Welsh Liberal Democrat vote remained solid in this ward.

I would like to thank all of those who voted for me and ensure you all that I will continue to do my best for you and indeed to fight for a better deal for people across RCT.

Mike

Congratulations to all those who had the exam results they wanted this week, and commiserations to those who didn't. A level results in RCT improved this year against the all Wales trend. This makes a mockery of Labour's plans to close all 6th forms and open tertiary colleges instead. Well done to pupils, staff, governors and parents

Mike Powell

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WHAT ARE WE PAYING THEM FOR?



The Labour administration has a rather flippant attitude to road safety it would seem.

Mike put several questions to the Cabinet Member who is supposedly responsible for Highways at July's Council meeting. The replies were brief.

Asked if there are any proposals for residents parking anywhere in Trallwn or other wards surrounding Pontypridd town the answer was no. This despite calls from residents in a number of areas who are fed up of being unable to park near their own homes.

Dirty Tricks Brigade

"Since 2006 local Labour party members and Councillors have submitted 11 complaints about me to the Ombudsman. Every single one of them has been dismissed.

"In March of this year, timed to coincide with the run up to the Assembly election, Allen Bevan - town Councillor and my beaten opponent in the County elections – made a complaint of harassment against me to the Police. His allegation was over photographs and videos I had taken of him as I believed misusing the Town Council car park

"As has been well reported in the press I was arrested and had my computer and mobile phone taken. What did not receive so much press attention after the election was over was that no charges were brought.

"There is no doubt in my mind that all of this is part of a sustained campaign by the Labour party to tarnish my reputation and remove me from the political scene. This because of the perceived threat to their local dominance that they see myself and my colleagues to be.

"With the Council elections looming next May then I also have no doubt that they will be employing similar tactics over the coming months. It is a sad reflection on their attitude to democracy."



Mike

If you have any comments, complaints or suggestions, anything you would like to see in the ward then let Mike know – contact details overleaf.

And it seems that despite being paid £34,671 for his role as Cabinet Member Mike says Cllr Andrew Morgan appears to have little or no input into what is going on.

"I asked him what input he has into the prioritisation of road safety schemes. Instead of directly answering the question he simply referred me to a report dating back to 2001 which 'approved a methodology for prioritising traffic management schemes.'

"This suggests that he has had no influence whatsoever in highways plans for the County. So what are we paying him for? Just to turn up for the photos in the Outlook magazine?"

"There are several issues of highway safety which need to be addressed throughout the ward. Residents in side streets such as The Avenue are concerned about the speed of traffic travelling through the street.

Whilst there is a limit to the amount of money available and not everyone who would like traffic calming or residents parking can have it, questions need to be asked over this Council's priorities.

Their latest idea is to employ a poet to work with community groups on finding suitable verses to have carved into paving stones in Ponty town centre.

Which Cabinet Member will come along to have a photograph taken of that? Or will it be a joint effort?"



Poetic Justice?

The panel which sets the levels of Councillors' salaries is proposing to cut the maximum basic salary for Councillors by between 5 and 10%

The Labour party in RCT previously set them at the maximum allowed - making leader Russell Roberts the highest paid Councillor in Wales. If these proposals go ahead he will face a pay cut of around £5000 a year. Many employees who have had their terms and conditions reviewed by his Council may feel this is poetic justice.

There may be another blow for Russell who also gets £23K+ as Chair of the South Wales Police Authority. The report makes it clear that the salary levels of the leader and the Cabinet are based on their roles being full time and they should not be taking up additional roles.

This is a point that the Welsh Lib Dems have been making for some time. It will be interesting to see the reaction of the Labour group.

Work is to begin soon on the new Sainsbury's development at the former Brown Lennox site.

As part of the planning approval highways improvements will have to be made in the area by Sainsbury's. Proposals include new pedestrian crossings and traffic lights on both the Bridge Street roundabout and the Cross Valley link road at the end of Broadway, Treforest.

Local Councillors have been asked to feed back comments on the proposals by 6th September.