

## On Treforest

### Does Treforest really need any more fast food outlets?

Councillor John Bell shares the opinion of many residents that maybe enough is enough. Yet still the applications keep coming in.

*“Current planning regulations do not allow Councillors to take into consideration the number of similar type business in an area when deciding on an application.*

*I would like to see a saturation order places on Treforest which would put a stop to the seemingly endless stream of fast food places opening here. They have been used in certain areas of Cardiff by the Welsh Lib Dem led Council there.*

*However, these are currently only possible in areas where alcohol related nuisance is having a proven detrimental effect on the area so the idea needs to be explored further.”*



### One of the best used children’s playgrounds in Treforest is lacking in one essential at the moment – playground equipment

The area to the rear of Meadow Street, alongside St Michael’s RC Primary School has had most of the play equipment taken away as the Council say it is unsafe. Councillor John Bell is not pleased

*“This is another example of how the Labour administration appears to be ignoring Treforest. I can understand that if the equipment there was unsafe then it needed to be removed, but am far from happy that the parks department have told me there is no money to replace it*



*I was even more annoyed when I heard that they are employing a poet and two artists to work with local groups putting together bits of poems and songs to be engraved into the paving stones in Ponty town centre.*

*The cost of this is £15,000 we have been told – although they also said they couldn’t give a full breakdown of the costs. It’s is another example of money being wasted on fancy schemes which benefit no-one. That money could be better spent.”*

### Flood prevention needs to be stepped up.

September saw heavy rain yet again bringing flooding misery to Treforest residents.

Despite the bad weather having been predicted John says Highways were badly prepared.

*“They should have made sure that in areas that they know are prone to flooding the drains were cleared and sand bags provided.*

*I hope their winter preparations will be better. I have requested extra grit bins in various locations to try and make side roads across the ward more accessible.”*



### 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 the changes go ahead he will lose 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. Yet the Labour group refused to back the suggestions and are determined to hang on to every penny.

# JUST WHAT ARE WE PAYING THEM FOR?

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

Cllr Mike Powell, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrat group in RCT 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 in any of the wards surrounding Pontypridd town the answer was no. This despite calls from residents in many areas who are fed up of being unable to park near their own homes.

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. He referred me to a report from back to 2001 which 'approved a methodology for prioritising traffic management schemes.'*

*"This suggests that he has no influence at all on highways plans for the County. So what are we paying him for?"*

## ON THE PLUS SIDE



Some twelve months after the problem was reported and the work order instigated the steps at Bryn llan, Glyntaff, have been repaired.

John has also been successful in having more speed indicator units brought into use in the ward. The units are used on a rota basis at locations including Cardiff Road, Llantrisant Road, and Wood Road.

## LABOUR IGNORE LOCAL OPINION YET AGAIN

Permission has been granted for an extension to a residential development in Crych-Y-Gwas Road to the rear of Fothergill Street. Local residents and businesses had opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would cause parking and access problems.

Treforest Councillor John Bell asked for a site meeting to be carried out before a decision was made, but his request was voted down by Labour Councillors. He then moved that the application be turned down, but again those same Councillors voted to approve it. John said

*"It seems the Labour party are once again playing games and have little or no consideration for the residents of Treforest. Most of those who voted to approve the application have no idea of the problems in the area and yet were not even prepared to come and take a look."*



**Whilst the fight still goes on for a pedestrian crossing outside Parc Lewis School it seems the Council can spend money elsewhere.**

A road safety scheme has just been unveiled for Ty Nant – the ward of Labour Cabinet Member Clayton Willis. The RCT Council website says:

*'Plans for the scheme include the installation of humps and cushions, a new zebra crossing for shoppers and a reduced speed limit of 20mph.'*

*'Cllr Andrew Morgan, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Road Safety added, "We have listened carefully to the concerns of local residents who felt that this area was potentially dangerous for motorists and pedestrians alike and therefore our Highways Department have put forward a series of designs to improve the area.'*

Treforest Councillor John Bell says

*"So they can listen to the concerns of residents in a ward held by a Labour Cabinet Member. What about the concerns of residents here in Treforest?"*

*Anyone would think there is an election coming up. Surely the Labour party are not trying to buy votes?"*

**Councillor John Bell**

**Tel: 07782 155 588**

**e-mail: [john.bell@rctlibdems.org.uk](mailto:john.bell@rctlibdems.org.uk)**

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