

County Councillor Martyn Holland's Monthly Report – September 2021

Playground Warning Signs

The new Maeshafn Highways Play Ground warning signs are still being discussed and I am grateful to the Chair for meeting with DCC Officers during my holiday absence.

A494 Bee Friendly Verge

There will have to be some compromise in relation to the size of the A494 Bee Friendly Verge in Llanferres. As previously reported I had received a number of complaints about the height of the grass on the verge which was impacting on the visibility as you joined the A494 from Rectory Lane. The County has agreed to cut the section of the verge outside the Druids but they will leave the Bee area in front of the Church. The verge has now been cut to help reseeding.

Untaxed and Uninsured Cars

Just a gentle reminder that untaxed and uninsured cars should not be parked on the public highway and just to let you know that the police are monitoring cars parked for any length of time on the highway.

Parking on Forestry Road

The consultation letters about the Counties proposed parking restrictions on Forestry road will be sent to local residents on the 13th October. You will be able to view the proposals on line via the Counties website and respond via the County Conversation section. A press release will be issued this week so that anyone can comment. Responses must be registered by the 5th November.

Levelling Up Fund

As previously mentioned Central Government has allocated money to Parliamentary seats as part of the Levelling Up Fund. Members of Parliament have contacted their local County Councils to look at projects and I submitted a suggestion that some of these funds should go to rural areas to finance such things as small car parks.

This would relieve parking problems in many of our villages and provide parking for visitors who support the rural economy.

Sadly, the projects were no big enough for the Levelling Up fund but Cadwyn Clwyd will be managing grants of up to £30k for rural villages aimed at improving facilities and services. These grants may help us establish car parks in our area with possible additional support from the AONB.

Burley Hill Quarry

Tarmac announced at the last Quarry Liaison meeting that they intend to submit a planning application to extend the life of the Burley Hill Quarry for a further fifteen years on the 26th November. They will have completed all their surveys by the third week in October and they will then hold a consultation exercise between the 25th October and 7th November with a webinar event on the 4th November. They appear to be reluctant to hold public events because of covid but they will provide details of the application, surveys, etc via their website and in paper format on request.

Once the planning application has been submitted DCC will also hold a public consultation and the application will go before a full planning committee. Because of the nature of this application and all the public bodies involved this will take longer to process.

If granted they intend to use the waste material from the new excavations to back fill the current lake/hole. This will then create a new lake which will not have steep sides but will still be up to ten metres deep.

They would intend to blast every two months dropping fifty thousand tons each time and a mobile crushing unit would be used in the quarry.

Finally, Tarmac have announced that they will not be undertaking any test blasting prior to the planning application as originally stated.

I would call a public meeting (covid allowing) once the planning application has been submitted.

Regional Corporate Joint Committees

Welsh Government has announced the formation of new Regional Corporate Joint Committees which will initially be staffed from the existing County Councils and cover such things as Regional Transport (which had already been taken from County Councils), Strategic Development and Economic Well Being.

These new bodies will have their own chief Execs and Officers and could also include unelected co-opted members. They are planning more legislation in the future and this will be more than likely the thin end of the wedge in their third attempt to do away with Local County Councils and the formation of Regional Authorities.

Ward Boundaries

Finally, the Wales Electoral Commission has confirmed the new County Council ward boundaries for Denbighshire and that they will be in place for next year's local elections.

Sadly, they have ignored all objections to the proposed changes for our ward and the Community of Llanferres will therefore be joining Llanbedr in a new ward to be called the Moel Famau ward.

The remainder of our ward namely the Communities of Llanarmon Yn Ial and Llandegla will become the Alyn Valley Ward.

These changes do not affect the current Community Council boundaries.

Contact Details for Cllr Holland

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