

CYNGOR CYMUNED TAWE UCHAF COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 27th June, 2024

Present; Councillors Stephen Davies (Chairman) Sandra Howard, Geoff Woods, Auriol Graham, Susan Pyart, Huw Williams, Gail Hopkins-Williams, Ann Watkins, Sandra Clayton and Alun Thomas

1. **Apologies for absence** were accepted from Councillors Arlene Jones and Monique Craine.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None submitted.
3. **Planning Ref 24/0820/FUL – Change of use from detached domestic dwelling to detached young persons residential care home – Cefnmeusydd, Morgan Street, Caehopkin Abercrave SA9 1TS**

The Council considered the proposal in the planning consultation document. The Council considered comments and representations from residents of Caehopkin, objecting strongly against the proposal. The Council discussed the proposal in detail, considering the local objections and the impact of the proposal on the village of Caehopkin. Following discussion, the Council agreed to submit the following comments to Planning at Powys County Council.

1. The Council registers its strong objections to the proposal for the change of use of Cefnmeusydd from a domestic dwelling to a young person's residential care home.

2. The Council has considered the strong feelings and comments from the residents of Caehopkin, to local Councillors, in submitting these objections

3. Road safety is already compromised.

There are 113 resident vehicles, in close proximity to Cefnmeusydd, all using the same access and exit route to the proposed development. The vehicles are parked along the route, when not in use. Traffic movements are already extremely congested on the access and exit routes to Cefnmeusydd.

Any increase in traffic movements will exacerbate an already difficult access and exit situation to and from Caehopkin for current residents. The congested traffic movements outlined will have a similar impact for traffic movements, into the access and exit route to Cefnmeusydd.

Access into Caehopkin by Emergency service vehicles is extremely difficult due to parked vehicles, the same difficulties will apply to service and delivery vehicles wishing to access Cefmeusydd.

4. There are already four registered Children's homes in Tawe Uchaf. One of the four is currently not in use and is up for tender. There is no requirement for additional residential care homes in the Community.

5. There appears to be, as a result of poor management, incidents where the attendance of Police and other emergency services have been required. These services are already severely under resourced.
 6. There are no amenities in the village, such as shop or social space, to satisfy the needs of a residential care home.
 7. There are shortages of affordable domestic housing in the Community. A better use of the property would be conversion into a number of flats.
4. **Street Lighting Proposal** – County Councillor David Thomas presented proposals from PCC on changes to current street lighting arrangements in Powys. He reminded the Council that Street Lighting was not a statutory function. The new lighting initiative will involve changing existing street lighting to low energy lighting. The new lights will have an orange glow and will project less light than existing lights. It will also result in changing the way current lighting operates. Existing night lights could be switched off and some lights could be removed entirely, including on main highway routes. The initiative will try and protect vulnerable areas. The initiative is required to future proof street lighting in Powys, due to budgetary pressures on the County, to meet net zero targets set by the WG and to respect areas of dark sky in the County. County Councillor Thomas set out the maps and proposed statements for the Council to view and make recommendations. The Council viewed the proposals, by Ward, as set out in the street lighting maps for the Community. The Council made recommendations to be presented to Powys Street Lighting by County Councillor Thomas.