Further information in support of March 2022 Agenda for Crynant Community Council

**Item 850 – to consider Planning Applications**

1. Application Number: P2022/0128

Applicants Name /Address:

Mr Phillip Rees

43 Neath Road

Crynant

Neath

Neath Port Talbot

SA10 8SE

Site Location:

43 Neath Road

Crynant

Neath

Neath Port Talbot

SA10 8SE

Proposed Development:

Single storey side extension

Easting: 279233 Northing: 204394

1. Application Number: P2022/0168

Applicants Name /Address:

Mr Vivian Tucker

19 Heol Las Fawr

Crynant

SA10 8PB

Site Location:

19 Heol Las Fawr

Crynant

SA10 8PB

Proposed Development:

Ground Floor Extension to the rear of bungalow

Easting: 279553 Northing: 205497

1. Application Number: P2022/0207

Applicants Name /Address:

Catrin Stephens

Tirlan Farm

Lane From C182 To Tirlan Farm

Crynant

Neath

Neath Port Talbot

SA10 8NG

Site Location:

Tirlan Farm

Lane From C182 To Tirlan Farm

Crynant

Neath

Neath Port Talbot

SA10 8NG

Proposed Development:

Change of use from barn to one 3 bed holiday accommodation unit and associated external alterations including new and altered external openings, flue, patio area and new septic tank together with new surfaced pull in bays to existing access lane

**Item 852 – Membership to One Voice Wales**

Dear Clerk

Please bring this letter to the attention of your Chair and Councillors.

Membership of One Voice Wales 2022-23

I am writing to invite your council to renew its membership to join One Voice Wales from April 2022. Once again - whilst taking account of the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic the past year has seen many positive developments to our services, many of which are outlined in this letter, which we believe add significantly to the value for money offered by One Voice Wales membership.

We continue to represent the sector in a wide variety of ways – we regularly meet with the Minister for Finance and Local Government Rebecca Evans MS and we continue to represent the sector on the Local Government Partnership Council. During 2021-22 we have made strong representation on the role the sector can play in supporting sustainable local services and supporting the Local Government Reform agenda amongst others. We have continued to develop even stronger working relationships with the Welsh Government, Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and the WCVA strengthening the voice of the sector within the public services family in Wales and improving working relations with the Third Sector.

One Voice Wales continues to make significant contributions to public policy developments through our representation on several Welsh Government advisory panels including the Decarbonisation Strategy Panel, Ystadau Cymru Working Group, the External Advisory Group on Community Asset Transfer, Ministerial Towns Action Advisory Group, Welsh Government Litter Advisory Panel, Ministerial Advisory Forum on Ageism, Welsh Government Diversity in Democracy Working Group, NAfW Cross Party Group on Fuel Poverty and the National Training and Advisory Group. One Voice Wales is playing an ever-increasing role in the development resources for the sector and during the year has secured Welsh Government resources to establish the role of Local Places for Nature Officer in our team who has helped hundreds of councils to date on environmental projects and issues; we have secured funding from Pembrokeshire CC to establish a Community and Town Councils Projects Officer role – this exciting pilot project will provide an opportunity to show how our sector can collaborate more effectively at the local level; and we have secured two years of funding from Welsh Government to establish the post of Community CPR and Defibrillator Manager in the team who will work with Save a Life Cymru and community and town councils in developing this critically important agenda. We have also played a significant role working with Welsh Government and SLCC colleagues in the development of a Self-

Assessment Tool for the sector which will help to drive up standards of working practice.

We continue to work collaboratively with a range of other bodies including the Local Government Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales, Independent Remuneration Panel, Public Services Ombudsman and Wales Audit Office. So, our ability to influence key stakeholder organisations continues to grow year on year.

There are exciting and challenging times ahead for Community and Town Councils in Wales and we will continue to develop our lobbying and representational roles especially in relation to the outcomes of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

Work has already begun with Welsh Government colleagues in developing actions to address the new requirements facing community and town councils and this will continue into our 2022/23 work programme.

Our representational role means that we have direct interface not only with the Minister for Finance and Local Government but other Ministers where our sector’s remit extends.

During 2021-22 we made several representations to the Minister for Housing and Local

Government on a range of matters - on the need for greater resources for the sector, the

need for digital skills and capabilities to be developed, the role community and town councils can play in town regeneration and community planning, how the sector can support the decarbonization agenda, devolution of services and asset transfer agenda and support for the sector to better engage on the green infrastructure agenda. During 2021-22 we have extended our representational role - One Voice Wales’ many Councillors across Wales are increasingly able to provide their views on a wide range of policy areas to support our lobbying activities and influence government and stakeholder organisations in their decision- making. This includes representation on health trust stakeholder forums and several Public Services Boards. These developments have improved and further developed our representational and lobbying roles and we will seek to further develop them in 2022-23.

Some of our other accomplishments over the past 12 months include:

 There has been a healthy increase in membership numbers during the year. Over 88% (87% previous year) of all councils in membership of One Voice Wales, or 650 (639

previous year) out of the 735 Councils in Wales and this is the highest level of membership since One Voice Wales was formed. Plans are already in place to drive increases in membership in 2022-23.

 Through our new Local Places for Nature Officer post, we have enabled over £180,000 of funding to be accessed by Community and Town Councils across Wales with a further £500,000 of projects being worked up for 2022/23. As current members are aware, we provide the following services, and we are aware from feedback from our Members Survey 2020 by our members that all aspects of the service are highly valued.

 Provision of free legal advice from a team of experienced Solicitors which can save

members significant time and cost compared with using local solicitors for advice (These savings can in many cases exceed the membership that is payable)

 Quality and timely advice and support service on topics relevant to member

councils.

 Training for members and staff, including policy seminars and new working

opportunities.

 General information via our website including a members’ area.

 Monthly editions of our new ‘E- Newsletter’

 Representation of the sector on the Local Government Partnership Council.

 Creating new opportunities for collaboration with national organisations across

Wales.

The training and development agenda is another area where much progress has been made during 2021-22 with the successful delivery of webinar-based training. Under the auspices of the National Training Advisory Group, chaired by One Voice Wales, we have continued to refine and develop and extend our training provision to the community and town council sector.

Once again, the breadth of our training programmes has been extended and will be available to members throughout the year. During 2020-21 we provided over 1,400 units of training to the sector.

Furthermore, our Consultancy Services have been growing at a pace with many councils

taking advantage of this service. We are increasingly able to provide ‘One Stop Shop’

solutions for our members and have supported our councils on community planning

exercises, accountancy services, technical VAT advice, HR and personnel matters

including representation at Industrial Tribunals, assisted in policy development and

health and safety – and at costs significantly below market rates. We are also now able to offer consultancy support in relation to community planning and engagement. Please contact the Ammanford Office if you would like further details on how we can support you through these services.

Importantly our role as a representative body has been significantly improved with a

significant growth in our membership during 2021-22 – at year end we had 650 local

councils in membership or 88% of all community and town councils.

I hope that this summary of current and future developments has demonstrated that One Voice Wales continues to do all it can to represent the sector and provide a high-class information and support service for our members.

For your council to have a voice in the future of this vital sector of local government, and to benefit from the support provided by One Voice Wales, please return the attached

Membership Form by email or to our office in Ammanford – the address is at the top of this letter.

If you have any further queries relating to membership, please contact the office on 01269 595400 / 07917 846510 or email: tgilmartin@onevoicewales.wales

I trust that your Council will give this invitation full consideration and I hope to be able to

welcome you into membership shortly. I look forward to working with your council in 2022-23.

Yours sincerely,

Lyn Cadwallader

Chief Executive

For Members’ information, the fee for membership this year is stated to be:

Membership Fee: **£326**

Based on **906** chargeable dwellings @ **£0.360p** per dwelling

(Based on Valuation List, not Electoral Register)

**Item 853 – NALC National Salary Award**

The further information for this item is added as an attachment to the Agenda. Physical copies are available and the document is available alongside the Agenda on the Community Council website

**Item 855 (b)** – Information has already been circulated but a physical copy is available on request and digital format document is available alongside the Agenda on the Community Council website

Item 855 (e) - Law Commission's report on Regulating Coal Tip Safety in Wales

The report can be downloaded from the Law Commission’s website in both English and Welsh at <https://www.lawcom.gov.uk/project/regulating-coal-safety-tips-in-wales>. It is published alongside a summary, also available in both English and Welsh, and an impact assessment.

**Item 855 (f) - To receive Innovation for Wales Strategy Consultation**

**Have your say on the new ‘Innovation Strategy for Wales’**

We are inviting you to participate in an important piece of work that is being carried out over the coming weeks, which we hope will be of interest to you.

Welsh Government is developing a new Innovation Strategy for Wales.

Building upon global research, and learning and insights shared by individuals, organisations and communities across Wales, the strategy will set out a clear future direction, and overarching priorities, for innovation in Wales in the years ahead.

We want to invite you to contribute to this ongoing work, and to share your views on what you believe needs to happen, to allow more people to innovate, and more people are able to benefit from innovation.

Your contributions will directly inform the development of this strategy, and help to ensure it works for all communities, in all parts of Wales.

There are a number of simple ways in which you, your colleagues and your networks can join the conversation before the**closing date of 29th April:**

1.      **Join us on 6th April:**Come along to our online Open Space event on Wednesday 6th April, 10.00am-12.30pm, for a rich discussion of the new Innovation Strategy for Wales with people from across the country. Book your place <https://tocyn.cymru/event/0d7c80ed-8c56-4f62-8e00-d42a63b84332/s>.

2.      **Complete our simple survey:** Either sharing your own thoughts, ideas and experiences, or discussing these questions with your colleagues and communities, and sharing your collective responses. Link to survey here: <https://forms.office.com/r/eYaJ1zWtA1> . (Included within our survey are the broad principles that are guiding the strategy’s development, to help you consider potential impacts for you, your organisation or community).

3.      **Chat to us:**If you would simply prefer to talk to us, then let us know by replying to this email. We'll arrange a time and date which suits you, or would happily join a virtual meeting of your team or community to discuss things together.

These activities are being run by the Co-production Network for Wales on behalf of Welsh Government. If you would like to discuss the work in more detail, or have any questions relating to the above please contact us by emailing rox@copronet.wales.

For the latest updates, and further information about the strategy and its development, follow the link here  [https://businesswales.gov.wales/innovation/innovation-strategy](https://businesswales.gov.wales/innovation/innovation-strategy%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

Please share the opportunity with your friends, neighbours and colleagues.

**Item 855 (g)** – Co-ordinating Volunteers to respond to emergency situations in Wales/ Cydlynu Gwirfoddolwyr i ymateb i argyfyngau yng Nghymru

 We are holding a focus group to inform the development of an Emergency Planning Framework for Wales for the British Red Cross that covers the Statutory, Private and Voluntary sectors. The focus group is available to book via EventBrite and we would be delighted if you or one of your colleagues could attend:

[Welsh Framework for Co-ordinating Emergency Volunteers: Statutory and Private Sector (March 29, 1pm)](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welsh-framework-for-co-ordinating-emergency-volunteers-statutory-sector-tickets-293714998467)

If you are unable to attend we would be happy to enter into one-to-one structured conversations in order to explore in more detail any thoughts you have. Please contact cinzia@richard-newton.co.uk to arrange a conversation.

We also have a survey which we would like you to complete [here](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MMRS59F)

For further information please see below or check out our webpage [here](http://www.richard-newton.co.uk/brceng/) / [yma](http://www.richard-newton.co.uk/brccym/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Item 855 (h) - Local Elections (Miscellaneous and Consequential Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2022**

The further information for this item is added as an attachment to the Agenda. Physical copies are available and the document is available alongside the Agenda on the Community Council website

**Item 858 (a) – Ystadu Cymru Team**

The Russian attack on Ukraine has caused the displacement of many tens of thousands of Ukrainian people from their homes and marked the onset of what could be the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe for decades.

 We understand that we all want to do what we can to help those who have been displaced in their hour of need. You will also be aware that the First Minister has already announced £4m of financial and humanitarian aid will be provided, along with medical supplies from our NHS.

 However, as a Nation of Sanctuary for refugees and asylum seekers we in Wales need to do everything we can to support the Ukrainian people by providing a warm welcome and safety for those seeking refuge from the horrendous circumstances they find themselves in.

 Our welcome of refugees and asylum seekers needs to include safe and secure accommodation. These needs will be immediate as well as longer term, and sit alongside the challenges we all face including from rising numbers of people at risk of homeless currently in temporary accommodation across Wales (c7500 at end December 2021) and the continued high number of further presentations.

 Working together during the pandemic shows that we can find solutions to unprecedented challenges. However, supporting those who come to Wales will need us to be more creative, especially as we expect the majority of those who join us, certainly in the first instance, to be women and children.

 We need to explore all options, including existing empty residential dwellings/ buildings; vacant sites, which could accommodate temporary dwellings; buildings in general that could be readily converted for residential accommodation or used for other purposes in supporting relocated refugees; and finally any new ideas/suggestions you may have to meet the coming challenges.

For LA representatives to be aware, Welsh Government officials are already working closely with Directors of Housing and a copy of the email issued to LA Chief Executives and Heads of Housing is attached. The email also included an accommodation schedule to be completed. The deadline for this return to be completed is close tomorrow, with responses being issued to**UkraineResponse.Housing@gov.wales**

 I am sure many of you are already engaged on this request. But I would also be grateful to receive any other ideas or options, which you or colleagues within your sectors feel can assist with the current crisis. We would be particularly interested in plots of land that could easily be used to accommodate modular housing/residential accommodation. I would be grateful if you could submit any ideas/proposals to Richard (richard.baker@gov.wales), who will co-ordinate the responses within Welsh Government.

 Ystadau Cymru Team

YstadauCymru@gov.wales