

Independent County Councillor Frances Taylor

Councillors, I have provided an overview of what I spend my time on and the principle matters I have dealt with and continue to work on. I will provide an update/exception report on a regular basis. I have not used the form this time as it doesn't really lend itself to the information I would update you with.

A few successes

Magor Church in Wales Primary/Sycamore field

As you will be aware I actively pursued the County Council to finally find a solution to the use of this important space. It has now hopefully drawn to a close four years of costly dispute between the Community Council, the County and Magor School. You are aware that the fence was erected earlier this year and the signs went up in May/June. The solution to improve safety for all users of the field and keep the footpath open for the majority of the time seems to be working well. Sadly, there is still a great deal of rubbish and dog mess left on the field and I have received a good number of concerns and complaints particularly during the warm weather we are experiencing. I have advised that people contact Bev so that she might direct the litter pickers accordingly. I declare an interest as I have a child at the school.

X74 /74 Bus replacement services by Newport Bus

After pressure from local Councillors, and residents, Monmouthshire Council has negotiated with Newport bus to offer a replacement service. This is a great relief for many residents. The changed timetable took effect from 21st July. In the absence of information about times, the brilliant Magor group produced a timetable which I put in in the bus shelters but sadly it didn't last long. To download a copy please visit magorstation.co.uk However, the service is not as frequent as the previous service. The fares are a good deal cheaper and hopefully provide some assistance for those regular bus users.

Resurfacing access to the local Scout Hut etc.

You may have noted the improvement to the entrance to the old telephone exchange. I worked closely with Jazz and the Scout Hut to make the case to Monmouthshire County Council estates department for resurfacing this area to improve safety and access for all users. An agreement has now been put in place so that future maintenance is split between MCC, Jazz and the scout hut.



From this



To this

Opposing Council developing the land adjacent to Undy Primary School for Houses

I lobbied the Cabinet Member and the Estates department to ensure that this scarce piece of community land was not lost to housing. The Council deemed it not suitable for development at this time. I am however concerned about the future LDP process and have previously asked the Community Council to consider working with the County to enable community use of the site (as a circular walk or similar). It was previously well used by young

people as an informal bike area. I would like to ask the Parks and Open spaces committee to have a look at what is possible.

Redwick Road

Redwick Road has been resurfaced and also a **Slow Down** speed awareness sign has been added by Monmouthshire Council after successful petitioning, I have also asked Gwent Police to monitor the road as speeds to and from Redwick can be excessive and drivers sometimes fail to stop for the crossing.

Other matters

MUSLA/community facilities – I have been concerned about the lack of progress here for some time. With the timescales moving on I therefore asked Kellie Beirne and other Council officers convene a meeting to gather together all interests to move this forward. The first since January took place on 11th June. I am keen that any commitment to build on the 3 fields site adds real value to our community, is sustainable and has a sound business plan. Meetings are now ongoing. With 500 new houses coming we require enhanced community facilities- although the shape of them is less clear. Monmouthshire County Council needs to take some responsibility for moving this forward and I will ensure that is the case.

Welsh Water

Since 2007 there has been regular dialogue with Welsh Water. Though in 2010 this tailed off largely due to changes in personnel. When I was elected I reconvened the meetings and along with residents, County Council officers, and community councillors we meet on a quarterly basis. This has resulted in significant improvements to the West End pumping station and also significant progress in the Europark problems of discharging without permissions. I was naturally concerned about the impact the LDP sites will have on the water infrastructure and convened a meeting between WW developer services and Council officers to discuss this and surface water drainage, Monmouthshire Council intend to commission a joint hydraulic assessment with Bovis to look at capacity and any improvements required. At our recent meeting we had a report from developer services and the ongoing dialogue will hopefully prevent the problems we have had in Magor from becoming worse and also save Undy residents the same difficulties. I attach the recent minutes for your information.

Magor

I am an active member of MAGOR and recently attended a meeting convened by John Griffiths on Electrification. It would appear that they are significantly behind their published plans. We were able to make a clear case for effective community consultation and raised the issue of bridge closures, disruption, noise and passive provision for Magor Station. We await Welsh Government's study regarding services on the relief lines in which Magor features as a possible station. I have also been to Magor School to support their work in lobbying for a station through the Eco Council.

M4 Relief

I continue to receive numerous communications from residents who are deeply concerned about the prospect and the impact on Magor. I advise them to contact all their AM's including the regional AM's some of whom are deeply opposed to the principle.

In our community

I have spent a lot of time on casework and lobbying Council on behalf of residents. I have been;

- Carrying out casework for residents regarding, highways, planning matters, environmental health issues
- Supporting residents with concerns/issues regarding the Council's Additional Learning Needs provision changes
- Dealing with a number of sites /highway verges/footpaths which require cutting.
- Encouraging local organisations to secure grant funding from Severnside Area Committee. Last year the following grants were given totalling almost £6,500 out of the total Severnside budget of £15,000. £313.75 to 1st Undy Brownies, £500.00 to the Villagers Photography Club, £2,500.00 to St Marys Church, Magor, £1,745.00 to Undy Athletic Club, £970.00 to M.A.G.O.R. and £350.81 Magor Church Centre.
- Working with Llandeenny residents we have managed to get Llandeenny Lane in the capital programme for resurfacing.
- Keeping an eye on the changes in our post office, to try and ensure that the service remains in Magor Square.

Representing your interests at Council

For your information,

I am a member (vice Chair) of the Strategic Transport Group

Member of the licensing and regulatory committee

Member of the Planning committee

Vice Chair of Gwent Police and Crime Panel