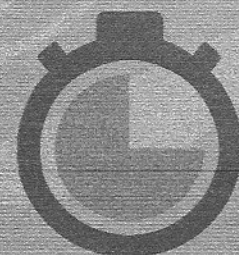


RESIDENTS RESPONSE TO MAGOR SQUARE SURVEY

548
RESPONSES



CONSIDER
TIME
LIMITED
PARKING

77%

IN FAVOUR
OF CURRENT
TRAFFIC
ARRANGEMENTS
IN THE SQUARE
BECOMING
PERMANENT

HOLD EVENTS
AND MARKETS



ALL
WEATHER

COVERED SHARED SPACE

57%

TRAVEL
ON FOOT
TO THE SQUARE



TRAVEL



BY CAR

36%

TO THE
SQUARE

MORE
SEATING



MORE
ATTRACTIVE
PLANTERS



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Magor Square Traffic Restrictions Consultation

1. Background

- 1.1 Monmouthshire County Council introduced temporary traffic restrictions into the Square in Magor to enable shoppers and users of the Square to socially distance in a traffic free space. These changes have received a mixed response from businesses and residents alike and therefore the views from stakeholders are vital prior to any decision being taken on whether the restrictions should be made permanent.

2. Methodology

- 2.1 A questionnaire was made available online as Microsoft form and as a paper survey collected from specific shops in the Square. The completed surveys could be returned to specific shops in the Square. The consultation period commenced on 3rd November and closed on Sunday 28th November.
- 2.2 The consultation was promoted by MCC, Community Council, Councillor Frances Taylor through their social media and posters were displayed in the shop windows, Community Council noticeboards and the poster was printed in the Frost Fayre newsletter delivered to all households in the area.
- 2.3 The purpose of the survey was to gather views on whether the changes to traffic accessing the Square should be permanent. In the explanatory note at the start of the survey it stated clearly what the current arrangements are

"The current arrangements restrict traffic from one side of the Square, thereby creating an area for outdoor seating and a space free of traffic. This has resulted in six parking spaces being repurposed. This arrangement has ensured the disabled bays in front of the Post Office can be retained. In response to feedback from businesses, we created a further space in front of the Post Office. There is also a large bay for deliveries and drop off only."

- 2.4 It was also clearly stated that the survey was not consulting on the licences which allow businesses to utilise the outside public space for tables and chairs. It was stated that there are no plans to immediately change the current arrangements before the consultation has concluded.
- 2.5 We did not seek comments on the gazebo erected in the Square which has supporters and critics, however many respondents took the opportunity to voice their opinion on the gazebo. These comments have not been included in the results section unless part of a wider comment.
- 2.6 The questionnaire was anonymous but did gather some personal information on gender, age and mode of travel when visiting the Square.

3. Results

Profile of Respondents

- 3.1 The survey generated 548 respondents of which 192 (35%) were men, 330 (60%) were women, 5 (1%) were non-binary with 21 (4%) that preferred not to say.

3.2 In terms of age breakdown, the majority of respondents were aged between 36 and 65 as shown below

Age bracket	No of respondents (%age)
Under 18	2 (0.04%)
18-25	14 (2.6%)
26-35	62 (11.3%)
36-45	140 (25.5%)
46-55	161 (29.4%)
56-65	95 (17.3%)
66-75	58 (10.6%)
75+	16 (2.9%)

- 3.3 Ninety-four percent of respondents (517) were residents, 4% (23) both a business owner and resident with 1% a business owner only.
- 3.4 The majority (57%) usually travelled to the Square on foot, 36% by car, 1% by bike, 1% by mobility scooter with 4% not having a 'usual' mode of travel and adopting a combination of all modes.
- 3.5 Those travelling by car used all the nearby car parks with some respondents stating that they parked on local roads.

Permanent or temporary?

- 3.6 Respondents were asked what they thought of the current arrangements in the Square now that they had been in place for over 12 months. Below are some of the comments from those respondents that are in favour of the arrangements:
- I like them. If they are made more permanent they need to make it prettier and restrict further parking or enforce double yellow lines around the memorial.
 - Big fan. There is ample parking nearby and any shops saying they are struggling now there is no parking directly outside need to look at themselves and their business as it should not be affected by lack of parking as there are 3 large car parks with a short walk
 - Great mix of parking and people.
 - Vibrant atmosphere
 - Football has picked up
 - I like the seating areas outside fantastico and the gate etc . But I feel there also needs to be a free flow of traffic and some parking spaces to allow the post office, chemist etc to flourish
 - I absolutely love them. My family have lived in Magor for over 35+ years (we have family members ranging from 4 yrs - 70 years) and Magor has never had more of a community buzz than it has since the changes have been introduced in the square. There's now a buzz around the area, beautiful shops and makes for lovely daily walks / shopping in the area. Everyone I speak to says the same. It's really brought the community together. There's ample parking around Magor (big car park right next to the square), with a walk car park on the other side of the square, sycamore terrace car park right next to the square, big car park on the main road, a 5 min walk from the square so I really feel keeping the sectioned off part of the square for the community is not a big ask. There's parking for disabled still available and we should be encouraging more people to walk an extra few steps rather than pollute the atmosphere even more with

unnecessary car journeys. If heaters could go up around the cafe section I know my family for one would still love to spend there and have coffees and cake in the winter, outside, in the fresh air, under cover. Really hope it stays like it is. It's fantastic.

- I prefer it. With the exception to park for school drop off/pick up there is ample parking elsewhere in the village and it's nice communal space.
- I love seeing all the people sat out enjoying themselves and seeing less cars. Would love it to be pedestrianised
- Its now more of a destination rather than somewhere just to pop to chemist/post office
- I love it. It's created a real community atmosphere. You see lots of the residents outside the coffee shops and restaurants talking and sharing a coffee and it feels safer for my children to wander around
- Good Idea less traffic should stop the traffic coming through altogether apart from funerals weddings and deliveries
- Fantastic its much better. I'd take it further and restrict access for all vehicles (apart from delivery).
- I think they are wonderful. There is a stronger sense of community being allowed to stand, browse, talk. The dynamic is different. There's a less rushed feel. It's pleasant and welcoming.
- I have absolutely loved using the square over the past 18 months, it has felt like the village that it once used to be when I was younger. I now use all of the shops and services more often and enjoy the community feel that it brings. It has brought more businesses to the square and 'keeping it local' has to be better for everyone that lives in the area
- As a business owner, I am seeing more people in the village which is a good thing
- I think the pedestrianised area is a wonderful addition to the square allowing for outdoor seating and a wonderful atmosphere. I have also received these observations from friends outside of the community. There is plenty of parking including disability parking in the car parks which are extremely close to the village square.
- The square is now a vibrant, safe place for people to enjoy the centre of the village. The loss of a handful of parking spaces versus what is currently a benefit to far more people is a no brainer.
- It is always nice to see that people are spending time in the square to have coffee & a chat. It gives it more of a community feel rather than people just passing through. Despite plenty of car parking people would previously drive through, park/ double park / pull in & dash to do their chores. Now it feels like a destination itself.
- I have lived in close proximity to Magor square for 15 years and it's the most vibrant I've seen it creating a welcoming and community atmosphere.

3.7 However a significant minority did not like the current arrangements for the following reasons:

- They are highly disruptive, they make parking a nightmare and ruin the flow of the square.
- I would like to see the square returned to its previous state. Parking bays outside Post Office restored and the eyesore of the marquee removed.

- The idea behind the current arrangements is good, but it is not being policed. Cars and vans are parking all along the barriers making it difficult for 'through' vehicles. Cars are currently parking wherever they like including in the disabled bays when they have no blue badge.
- I think that the new parking situation over covid has made it very difficult to park for me and my disabled wife. Parking is a nightmare and we now have to park further away to reach the post office. The marquee has also made it difficult to get into the post office and chemist, as people stand around blocking doorways.
- Personally I don't think that the changes to the Square are very good at all. The pavements in Magor Square are wide enough to socially distance without taking up 4+ car parking spaces and by doing this has had a massive impact on some of the businesses in the Square as it is not convenient for customers. Its not only not convenient for customers its unsafe for staff and disabled people having to walk around from the car park especially during autumn and winter when it's dark and slippery. Also the planters are dangerous and just get in the way of cars and pedestrians and the majority of the time they look untidy.
- Impractical. It is no longer easy for people who live a couple of miles away to pass through, eg en route to work, to pop a letter in the post or pick up recycling bags due to lack of short term parking. Working commuting people, eg from up the top of Undy do not have the time for a 40-60 minutes round walking trip to do this! The small car park by the side is often full, and the bays are too narrow giving risk to a door side swipe.
- Was ok as a temporary measure but very frustrating with restricted parking facilities and access.
- It was better when there were parking spaces in front of the post office. Get rid of the tent and randomly placed planters and make it more like a village square. I would stop parking on the road from the coop in to the square as that's dangerous.
- We have essential services the post office and pharmacy in the square which have large numbers of people queuing out side in all winds and weathers and are restricted where they stand because a large gazebo has been given permission to be erected for a cafe which is non essential service over the disabled parking spaces and only opened at selected times
- The changes had a purpose when they were initially installed and it was important that pedestrians were able to maintain distances from each other without being in danger from traffic. That said, given that there was no narrowing of the road entering the Square to widen the pavement I suspect that safety was not the primary motivation. The changes served their purpose and now I feel that the Square should go back to normal. The negatives are now outweighing the advantages, particular when considering accessibility to facilities for the less mobile visitors. It appears that the changes disproportionately benefit specific business to the cost of others.
- I feel businesses are taking advantage of the parking spaces and less able bodied drivers are suffering because of this
- I do not like the current set up. It looks awful and promotes noise and litter.
- They altered the heritage feel of the square and imposes unwelcome and unsightly and trashy looking temporary structures and created more litter in the square. Also restricts and disadvantages elderly residents and those with

physical disabilities gaining close access to the shops and facilities e.g. the Post Office.

- there is not enough parking specially for peeps of restricted mobility who do not have a blue badge
- I personally prefer the Square the way it was before. Maybe keeping it the way it is now gives everyone the best of both worlds but making it all pedestrianised will certainly do a lot of damage to the businesses in the square! In a perfect world everyone would walk everywhere and there wouldn't be an issue but the truth is people don't.. whether that be to do with work, children in the car, disability etc. I know so many people that have driven past a shop and if they can't park outside to nip in quickly they drive off and don't bother. It really will affect businesses so badly but people who don't have a business just seem to have the attitude of 'oh people can walk' but unless you have seen people drive off because they can't stop it really is disheartening! Businesses are struggling so hard as it is to get customers why would you want to add to it!!!
- I feel that the square is less accessible, I visit less as a result. Shop access is blocked by tables and chairs and some shops cannot be seen due to gazebos and barriers. I appreciate you are not addressing this issue, but the massive gazebo taking up spaces, and lack of access behind it, means I no longer do the short trips, such as to the post office, chemist or any single shop.

There were also a number of comments in support but highlighting issues:

- Pretty but untidy. Placing the planters around the cenataph would stop illegal parking and look nice.
- I think Magor square should be traffic free. People are very lazy parking outside the lion pub and outside the square. There is no pavement/road difference in Magor which is very dangerous for children so a traffic free zone would be excellent. There is plenty of parking around the village
- Much better but parking officers need to enforce safe parking due to less spaces and people parking badly

- 3.8 A specific question was asked on whether the current arrangements regarding traffic restrictions on the Square should be made permanent. In response 76.8% (421) said yes with 23.2% (127) saying no. A don't know option was not offered, and no-one declined to comment.

Further changes to the Square

- 3.9 Respondents were asked for any further suggestions for changes to the Square related to their answer on whether the changes should be made permanent.
- 3.10 Many suggestions were put forward and common themes began to emerge. These are making the Square traffic free during specific hours, more seating, improved signage, time limited parking. Removal of the railings around the War Memorial was suggested by a couple of respondents due to the railings detracting from the War Memorial and taking up space. A selection of the 'in favour' responses are below:
- Make the flower pots opposite the Golden Lion drop off point more secure they are being moved back into the shop area so that cars can park especially outside the Magor Gate shop.

- I think it is working well with parking on the one side and the disabled spaces outside the post office. The drop off near the middle of the square is working well for residents and businesses to receive deliveries etc. Customers tend to park there to quickly pop into any of the business which is also working well. I would suggest maybe a sign or road markings stating that is a drop off point and maybe only a maximum stay of 30 minutes. To deter others who could use the car parks if visiting the village for longer.
- Completely traffic free 9am -5pm with access for emergency vehicles and hearses only
- Temporarily have changes during hotter months, but back to normal during colder months
- The parking outside the pub, magor house to be 1 hour only!?
- More parking in the village. The sycamore car park is always full or bad parking and non electric cars using electric bays. With wall and procurators house car parks always full. I turn right out of the square and park near the old peoples housing on the road but that too is difficult. I don't have a blue badge because the need got a double hip replacement is not considered a disability but I can't park anywhere near the square and I certainly can't walk there from my home in undy
- Car parks should be limited to 2 hours to stop people parking in them all day
- It would be nice to maybe see some of the wooden seating that has been used in Caldicot and Chepstow town centres.
- Longer term changing the surface to delineate the road from the pedestrian area. In other countries they change the whole road surface to paving to make the 'road' less pronounced and encourage more considered driving through shared spaces.
- The part of the road entering the square that has no footpath on the east side of the road is a danger. Remove a few parking spaces along that section and divert the road a few feet west giving space for a walk area on the east.
- I would love it to be totally pedestrianised! Larger areas for seating
- More seating maybe with shelter and opportunity for pop up market stalls on the weekends
- Yellow lines to avoid people parking around the memorial in the square
- I'd like to see sails for shade/ shelter in bright colours. I'd like to see the square pedestrianised. With access for disabled parking where you exit the square and bollards that can be lowered with a fob for deliveries/ emergency vehicles
- It's possible to add 2-3 parking spaces to the square on the LHS as you drive in by moving the planters back just a little bit. These would run parallel to the ones on the opposite side, in front of the Golden Lion. There would be sufficient space for vehicles to drive through
- I believe that people should use the FREE car parks and not park in the square at all. I have noticed more visitors from outside the village since the outside seating has been in place. These people seem happy to park in the car parks. They then walk to the premises on the square bringing in revenue without causing any traffic/parking issues.
- Removal of the railings from around the monument would not only create more space but would perhaps allow people to look at it properly.
- The square has so much to offer shame there's no signage directing people towards our shops

- Perhaps a cycle rack as there appears to be a lot of cycles visiting the square.
- Advertising the shops available on the main road as many people drive by and do not know what the village has to offer.
- Adjustment to parking outside the lion etc to be for residents only. Disabled spaces to be provided but extend the pedestrianised area to tie in with the memorial more formally
- There needs to be parking. More parking. The seating areas are also important, especially so people can stay and chat but people also need 30 mins to go to Coop, Post Office & grab a few things. Spaces are being 'held' for long periods of time while people sit, chat, eat & drink. Also, people are using parking spaces to park there all day. There needs to be short stay & long stay spaces, seating which can be used for all businesses because one place 'can't' sell drinks because of the other place & one place doesn't like people eating another place's cake when they're drinking that place's coffee. I don't think seating should belong to anyone & no business should have the monopoly on seating or seating area. The key objective is to get as many people in to use ALL of the facilities & shops available. That's not currently happening.
- Seeing the square go from a dead village to a thriving busy square is great, but this has been to the detriment of the safety of pedestrians using the square. You need to make it safe and in its current format it isn't safe.

3.11 Suggestions were also made in relation to removing the restrictions but with the introduction of time limited parking such as below:

- My suggestions would be to remove the planters and the marquee and put the square back to how it was originally before COVID. Maybe to control the amount of time a vehicle is allowed to park in the Square put a 30 minute parking limit on each space and for residents have a permit for after the shops are shut.

Further Uses of the Square

3.12 Respondents were asked if they have suggestions for future use of the Square. Markets, greater traffic free area, open air cinema, charity stalls, public toilet, additional shops that do not compete with existing and car boot sale were offered. A selection of responses is provided below:

- A monthly market would be good.
- occasional farmers market
- A market once a month like the one in Chepstow would be good
- We would love to see more space for public seating for the use of lifestyle businesses such as the cafe and restaurant.
- There should be a weekly farmers type market and monthly car boot sale in one of the car parks
- A few public benches would be nice as would a public toilet. I get asked frequently by visitors where the public toilet is. I think markets and events are a good idea as long as some thought is put into who will be at these events, as a shop owner we certainly don't want to compete for customers when it's

already a struggle for us independent businesses. I would certainly welcome anything that would compliment the village and work alongside us.

- It's too small for much of market but a couple of stalls which change on a daily basis might be nice eg a fish man, butcher.
- I feel by limiting traffic throughput in Magor Square opens huge opportunity for events such as markets, fayres and large community gatherings. All being achievable in a safe manner with limited restrictions needed.
- A market would be a great idea. We enjoy going to Chepstow market. There are plenty of small local vendors that would benefit from another physical location to meet their customers and sell from.
- The square has so much potential for small markets, perhaps monthly in the summer. I have also thought a small festival, like Folk on the Lawn in Tintern, would work well once a year.
- Regular events would be great a monthly market would be good as long as the stalls are carefully considered
- We lack a bakery and butcher so a regular stall for these type of products
- Family friendly Live music events
- Markets & pop up events. A place for visiting stalls to feature eg. Citizens advice, Monmouthshire cc, volunteering for well-being, local interest groups to demo what they do..
- I would love to see an antiques/flea market periodically, a regular farmers market and, in summer, some live music. Let's turn Magor into a tourist destination with a community at it's heart!
- If the road was closed off to traffic completely then there would be alot bigger areas outside for seating outside businesses and event etc
- A christmas food & craft market would be good,
- more public seating (if that hideous marquee is removed) and
- perhaps the ability for street entertainers or bands at weekends and bank holidays.
- The Community Council memorial Bench needs to be resited as due to the proximity to shops, it further exacerbated the limited pavement space.
- The Square is a perfect setting for fetes and fayres, with refreshments all around and local businesses that could benefit. Quirky, themed events like last year's scarecrow walk help bring people to this area from others. The key would be to produce events people can't get elsewhere in the wider region.
- I think the whole square should be a hour parking max which would help all
- Yes Market on Sunday is a good idea. Seating by Be -Glitz on the grass patch. This will assist senior residents of Lawns to walk to the square , surgery, shops and dentist.
- More seating would be great, a food and local Etsy type monthly market ! More seasonal events - Easter , Halloween , st. David's day , etc etc
- I'd like to see pop up shops too and a cafe repair shop
- Since the seating has been on the square and the large tented area I feel the square has a more pleasant atmosphere. The May fair is always a good event and if there was No parking on the square more events could be held. What about a French style bric a brac market once a month or table top sales, fruit, veg, household items. Without traffic this is a lovely, charming usable space. These activities would all help local business.
- More community events such as gigs, concerts and musical recitals.
- More things for the teenagers

- Markets would be great. A communal seating area, utilised by all of the businesses somehow would be much better than individual pop up gazebos etc.
- All the events where the square gets closed off, (the Frost Fair, May Fair, Marathon etc), are always really busy, popular community events. It would be great to see the square closed for more events
- It's a great location for markets, events etc... With covid still around, anything we can do to encourage the public to get out and enjoy the fresh air is a plus. Hopefully we can have Christmas decorations around the square and some wooden type areas/seating to make it a really Christmas Market type of vibe, music playing? We are already attracting visitors from outside of the area to pop in and visit the square as they pass through the area during longer journeys, so anything we can do to encourage this and help attract more people to the area and purchase from local businesses is a benefit.
- Saturday market stalls , weekend & evening entertainment, Carol services , street food events , pop up events
- I would love to see regular markets and events like they have in Caldicot. And a thriving cafe culture with more outside seating. The number of houses are growing ridiculously- all bringing extra cars to the 'village' can we at least have one area where they are banned?
- Allow all the businesses in the square to provide seating and tables. A roof covering the part of the square to make it a fully usable space all year round would make Magor a go to for so many people. This could take the form of a non permanent structure (tensile canvas etc) which would be relatively low cost to install and not affect the architecture of the square in the long term. This is not ground breaking stuff, look what is done in Europe for public spaces to protect from the weather
- German style beer festival
- I would like to go further and make it pedestrianised maybe Friday and Saturday evenings after a certain time this would allow the pubs and restaurants to use the space for dining in the summer months and allow for social events etc
- Pedestrianisation and communal seating area properly implemented could be beneficial but please don't do it on the cheap as it currently devalues the area, which is fine in covid times but not acceptable as a permanent feature.
- Outdoor cinema in the summer
- Magor has a history that far precedes many other towns, villages and cities in Wales. A historical society , supported by MCC, could be a centre for a history of the Gwent Wetlands and a link to the history surrounding the dissolution of the monasteries

3.13 A number of respondents voiced concerns against any future uses of the Square citing that it's not big enough and possible competition with existing businesses

- Already plenty of seats. Better to concern yourselves with supporting businesses to stay open. Post office is struggling as people won't walk and prefer to go to Coop Caldicot and park by the door
- No, it's not big enough
- I think Magor is a small village and to change its originality would spoil the village and its character.

- NO MARKETS. They do not help small businesses which have now developed in the square. You have created a great community space. Leave it be.
- No: it's a road with much-needed parking. Pedestrians need to stay off and stay on the pavements.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 There is overwhelming support to make the current restrictions permanent. Alongside the necessary traffic orders required to enable this change to take place there should be a longer term project to design and build a scheme that can create an attractive space. This space should be able to accommodate different uses and incorporate many of the suggestions made by respondents such as more seating.
- 4.2 Car parking arrangements could be reconsidered as part of the permanent scheme with consideration given to any benefits from introducing time limited parking and how future parking restrictions can be enforced. Existing car parking provision can be busy at particular times of the day so there may be merit in establishing when the car parks are less busy and making this information available in the village to enable people to make informed decisions on when they visit the Square if travelling by car.

GREENTOP EVENTS – STREET MARKETS

I made visits to the businesses in and around Magor Square as requested at our last meeting to investigate the viability of having markets held within our Area.

A Company Called Green Top Events who specialise in running open air markets in and around Monmouthshire have made a proposal to the Council to run such markets.

Please find enclosed as attachments comments taken from most of the businesses in and around the Square, which was undertaken both on the Friday the 28th of January and on Friday the 1st of February.

The visit on the 1st of February was with a member of staff from Green Top Events so that the Businesses understood what Green Top Events wanted to do and Green Top Events clearly understood what the businesses were happy to accept.

For example businesses in general did not want the Road closed going through the Square, so the only area available would be around the War Memorial, and certainly did not want any duplications of Products and services which were already being sold in the square.

Green Top Events were going to come back to us with a Detailed plan of how they propose to run the Markets in that area, and how many stalls they would supply.

We as the Council would need to apply for whatever Licences would be necessary and accept the costs, as they would like to start in March.

As of today Wednesday the 9th of February we have not received any further correspondence!

Regards.

John.

REPORT OON THE POSSIBLE OPEN MARKET.

22/02/2022.

After further discussions with GreenTop Events with reference to holding markets in Magor Square area.

There needs to be at least 15 to 20 spaces available in which to make it a viable proposition.

Therefore as we can't close the Road there is only enough room for 10 spaces around the War Memorial & Shop fronts. Ref the enclosed plan.

The Plan shows an alternative arrangement if it were possible to obtain either to close the top half of the Church Car park or obtain permission to use the Magor Baptist facilities such as their Hall and Lawn at the rear!

Giving appox 8 to 10 more spaces?

Open to discussion.

Grŵp Newid Hinsawdd, Ynni a Chynllunio
Climate Change, Energy and Planning Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Ein Cyf/Our ref: qA1510369
Eich Cyf/Your ref: DM/2019/01937
Dyddiad/Date: 10 February 2022

Dear Mr Hand,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - SECTION 77 CALL-IN REQUEST.
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(WALES) ORDER 2012 – DIRECTION UNDER ARTICLE 18(1).
HYBRID PLANNING APPLICATION - OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR UP TO
155 DWELLINGS, ASSOCIATED OPEN SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE WITH ALL
MATTERS EXCLUDING ACCESS RESERVED, AND FULL PLANNING PERMISSION
FOR 72 DWELLINGS, ASSOCIATED OPEN SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT LAND
AT VINEGAR HILL, UNDY, MONMOUTHSHIRE – APPLICATION NO. DM/2019/01937

1. I am writing to inform you the Welsh Ministers have been asked to call in the application referred to in the heading to this letter for their own determination.
2. Article 18(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 ("the Order") enables the Welsh Ministers to give Directions restricting the grant of permission by a Local Planning Authority ("LPA"). I am authorised by the Minister for Climate Change to issue such Directions and, in exercise of this authority, I hereby direct your LPA, with effect from the date of this letter, not to grant planning permission in respect of:

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Parc Cathays • Cathays Park
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Ffôn • Tel 0300 025 3489
Ceri.litherland@gov.wales
Gwefan • website: www.gov.wales

- (a) application no. DM/2019/01937 referred to in the heading to this letter; or
- (b) any development of the same kind which is the subject of the application on any site which forms part of, or includes the land to which the application relates,

without the prior authorisation of the Welsh Ministers.

- 3. I issue this Direction to enable further consideration to be given to whether or not the application should be referred to the Welsh Ministers for their determination.
- 4. The Direction prevents the LPA only from granting planning permission; it does not prevent the LPA from continuing to process or consult on the application. Neither does it prevent the LPA from refusing planning permission.
- 5. *Your attention is drawn to Article 31 of the Order which provides for the Welsh Ministers to vary or cancel this Direction in respect of both the land and type of development covered.*
- 6. I will ensure you are informed of the Welsh Ministers' decision on whether the application is being called in as soon as it is made.
- 7. A copy of this letter has been sent to LRM Planning Ltd, agent for the applicant.

Yours sincerely,



Lewis Thomas
Pennaeth Penderfyniadau Cynllunio / Head of Planning Decisions
Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Cynllunio / Planning Directorate

Arwyddwyd o dan awdurdod Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd; un o Weinidogion Cymru.

Signed under authority of the Minister for Climate Change; one of the Welsh Ministers.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS JUNE 2022

NOTES FROM MEETING HELD Tuesday 1ST February 2022-02-04

Attendees: Cllr. Sally Raggett – Chair, Cllr. Penny Kirkham, Rob Ollerton (Magor Events Team), Andrea Rodley (Magor/Undy Guides), Peter Wilson, Cllr. Julie Wilson

Proposed event date 2nd – 5th June 2022 Magor Square.

Updates from attendees

Sally – MUCH group no plans for events for Jubilee

Rob – May Fayre to go ahead as usual but nothing planned specifically for the Jubilee

Andrea – Nothing specific planned as lots of Guides/ Brownies will be away, although Guides will be involved with beacons on the Thursday. Scouts have a prior engagement elsewhere.

The general consensus was that the main event should take place within the Square and take the form of a street party. To minimise work, people to be encouraged to bring their own food but tables and chairs to be provided as far as possible. Enquiries as to availability of these to be carried out. Numbers will be limited according to space and a small fee of £1.00 per person was suggested for 2 reasons: to control numbers and to encourage attendance after booking. A prize draw was suggested to compensate for charge and any (small) profit would go back into the Community. Tables to be sited on 3 sides of the Square to avoid area in front of shops.

Entertainment suggested, singers etc. and children's entertainment. This to be booked ASAP because of possible demand. Rob to approach Magor Churchmen regarding PA system

Penny advised that grants are available and that MUCC has allocated a fund of £2,500 for the event.

Penny confirmed yarn bombing plans in red, white & blue. Bunting/flags to be purchased and erected in the Square and outside the Wheatsheaf and Co Op to make it inclusive. Agreed on as much as possible for maximum impact. Shops and businesses to be encouraged to display and/or decorate with a possible window competition similar to Christmas.

Consideration given to allocation of the events with a view to having celebrations over 3 consecutive days. It was agreed that Friday 3rd June, the bank Holiday, might be the best day to close off the Square to traffic for the street party to cause a minimum disruption to businesses, although some might wish to open and partake. This will be subject to consultation with the businesses. Sally agreed to approach and consult.

On Sunday it's understood that there will be some celebration arranged by the Church. (Rev. Jeremy Harris to be consulted). Songs of Praise mentioned or a service perhaps, I'm sure we are all prepared to help where necessary!

Suggested that something needed to be arranged for the Saturday to ensure a continuity and link between the 2 events.

Andrea – highlighted the 7 decades of the reign lending itself to a fancy dress competition representing any of the decades. Looking at developing this into a parade culminating in perhaps a family picnic event in the Sycamore playing fields, possibly. Entertainment could be an addition. This idea to be expanded and explored.

Possible approach to businesses to donate prizes.

Agreed Actions

- 1) Sally to liaise with businesses in Square
- 2) Bunting to be ordered through MUCC (to be displayed throughout weekend and possibly beyond)
Guides/Brownies to help with this too
- 3) Road Closures to be arranged

- 4) Schools to be consulted. Mugs for all school Children to be supplied through MUCC if possible
- 5) Rob to approach Churchmen about trestle tables and Sound system
- 6) Urgent need to assess how many tables and chairs will be needed and where we can access them. (Mem Hall, Baptist Chapel, Church Hall,, Golden Lion for example)
- 7) Announcements needed on social media ASAP
- 8) Aaron Reekes, Caldicot Town Team, to be approached by Rob for ideas/suggestions.
- 9) Possible contact with Caldicot and Rogiet Councils to enquire of their plans.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Thursday 02/06/22 Girl Guides – Beacons

Friday 03/06/22 street party in the square

Saturday 04/06/22 possible fancy dress parade and picnic

Sunday 05/06/22 Songs of Praise/Service - Jeremy to be consulted.

Next meeting date agreed as 15/02/22 – possibly face to face if possible.

UPDATE:

Sally and I visited all the businesses in the Square this morning (Friday) and the responses were all positive. Some slight concerns about a Saturday road closure but this is unlikely as the main event is proposed to take place on the Friday.

Assurances given that this is still very much in the planning stage and that we are open to any feedback or suggestions. All welcomed anything that brings the community together and people into the Square!

More importantly, Sally has secured us some entertainment for the Friday, so we are off to a good start!

If I've missed anything feel free to remind me and apologies if I've mentioned things twice!

MUGA WORKING GROUP

MEETING REPORT

Date: Wednesday 9th February 2022
Time: 10.00am
Venue: Via Zoom
Meeting: MUGA WORKING GROUP
Councillors: Cllrs Cook, Kirkham
Present: Beverly Cawley (Clerk to the Council)
Apologies: Cllr Raggett
Absent: Cllr Zagozda

Cllr Crook lead the meeting

Hire Agreement and Booking Conditions

Background

The latest Internal Audit Report (dated 7 May-21) stated:

"R5: We recommend, as in our prior year report, that the Clerk should arrange for a formal licence agreement to be drafted in relation to the use of the tennis courts by the local Tennis Club".

As previously noted, we cannot sublet the MUGA courts to users; members had drafted and approved the use of Hire Agreements/Booking Forms which were felt fit for purpose.

The Clerk confirmed that we now had copies of signed Hire Agreements on file for all regular users. Like the Booking Form for one-off hire, all users are required to sign to confirm they have read and understood the Terms and Conditions of hire, and to attach a copy of their liability insurance (where appropriate). Subsequent hire by regular users can be obtained by follow-up email copy of Hire Agreement.

Action closed 09/02/22 – signed Hire Agreements on file for all regular users

Error with booking for Netball Team

ACTION WG 240122: *Cllr Raggett to speak with members of the Netball Team to apologise on behalf of the Council for the genuine error.*

The action was discussed. The Clerk had heard from Cllr Raggett that the Netball Team had changed their mind and had now booked an hour later for the duration of the term.

Action closed 09/02/22 – Netball Team reconsidered & booked an hour later for duration of term (to end Mar-22)

Tennis nets left up when courts not in use

Background

Issue raised by member of the public in September 2020 and December 2021

Kari Davies Tennis had been to a previous meeting when this was discussed, and she had agreed to leave only one net up (at the far end) so that at least 2/3rd of the MUGA could be used for other sports; kick about, basketball etc. when the courts were not in use by her.

ACTION WG 240122: *Cllr Raggett to speak with Kari Davies (and any other groups/users) about ensuring only one net is left up, particularly on the weekends, bank holidays etc.*

Action ongoing – speak to Cllr Raggett for update. Cllr Crook happy to take lead if required

Banners

Background

Members had noted Kari Davies Tennis' request to put up some banners, and that the clerk had agreed for them to go up temporarily, whilst Tennis Wales were undertaking some filming. There were still two banners in place. Members were conscious that other users might want to advertise eg. Magor Undy Tennis Club, Will Croft Tennis, B2W Fitness, Undy AFC etc. and that Council could not be seen to favouring one user, and neither did members want to see the banners cluttering the site.

It was noted that new users had been attracted by the banners at last summer's tournament (eg. Beechwood)

ACTION WG 240122: *Cllr Raggett to speak with Kari Davies about taking down the banners in the short term, but welcoming a request to put banners back up when Kari Davies Tennis was hosting/holding outside tournaments.*

Action ongoing – speak to Cllr Raggett for update. Cllr Crook happy to take lead if required

Replacement Portakabin/facility

Background

Per Minute 90.4 OM 08/02/21 - Cllrs Cook and Kirkham had previously obtained quotes for replacement portakabin, with only some firms quoting to remove the existing one.

Additional/supplementary items for consideration were:

- the removal of trees around the unit
- cutting off utility supplies. The clerk had previously pointed out that the electricity could not be cut off totally, as it supplied the floodlighting for the MUGA
- removal of existing portakabin
- temporary storage
- planning permission/application
- business case

ACTION WG 240122: *Cllr Kirkham to send 3 current portakabin quotes to Cllr Crook.*

Action closed 25/01/22 – quotes sent to Cllr Crook by email

ACTION WG 090222: *Members to get 3 quotes "refreshed". Cllr Kirkham to collate*

Action ongoing –

- 1) Modex attending MUGA site 11/02/22 to meet with Cllr Crook. Their refreshed estimate to include disposal of old facility (not previously included in previous quote), disabled access ramp, temporary storage unit and site clearance (trees?).
- 2) Reecer - refreshed quote received 08/02/22
- 3) Carlton Building Solutions - Cllr Kirkham to approach for refreshed quote

ACTION WG 240122: *Cllr Kirkham to get three quotes for the removal of trees*

Action ongoing – Tree(s) and/or Crackwillow to be taken down and treated. One contractor visiting site 12 February to provide a quote, another expected 14th February. Mon CC declined to

quote as currently busy due to Ash die back disease; they suggested a particular third party however after negative feedback it was decided not to pursue and to seek a separate 3rd quote.

ACTION WG 240122: Cllr Crook to get quotes for capping off utilities

Action ongoing – Septic tank: 4 quotes received all circa £200 incl GD Environmental

ACTION WG 240122: Cllr Kirkham to contact companies quoting to supply portakabin for a cost to remove the existing one.

Action ongoing – linked to above action refreshing previous quotes.

Temporary storage

Discussion over whether a temporary (small) storage unit be required. The Clerk mentioned existing items such as the fridge, which was thought to be in good repair and, also existing wooden slatted benches; would these be required in a new facility and, if so, would these need to be stored in the meantime?

The current facility was quite untidy. It is understood that Kari Davies would be having a sort out. She indicated that she had heard about proposed future charges for storage and had expressed concern over how this would adversely affect her business.

Cllr Crook had canvassed Kari Davies about the extent of her intended future use of a new portakabin type building. Her requirements were mainly for use of a toilet facility (and wash basin) and changing room. It is understood that some equipment is currently housed in one of the locked green metal cabinets outside the existing facility.

ACTION WG 090222: Members to obtain quotes for temporary storage unit once it is known how much storage space is required

Business Case

ACTION WG 090222: Clerk to provide blank business case/template to enable members to start preparing whilst information being sought/collated

Planning Permission

Discussion on whether to seek temporary planning permission (2/3 years) for which there is a specific form and potentially £126(?) cost or permanent; or whether to leave to pursue permanent option when funds available to do so. It's understood MWUCC would pay ½ standard fee.

Application would need to include a design and access statement (DAS). A DAS provides a framework for applicants to explain how a proposed development is a suitable response to the site and its setting, and to demonstrate that it can be adequately accessed by prospective users.

ACTION WG 090222: Clerk to obtain copy of application

Action Sheet

A brief discussion about resurrecting the Working Group Action Sheet

ACTION WG 090222: The Clerk to email Cllr Kirkham the latest version of the Action Sheet

ACTION WG 090222: Cllr Kirkham to update and circulate the MUGA WG Action Sheet prior to the next WG meeting.

The next meeting would take place on 23rd February 2022 at 10am, via zoom.

Cllr Crook would lead, with Cllr Kirkham taking notes.

Meeting closed at 11.35am.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS (Signage)

The Clerk has picked up these projects following the resignation of the Admin Assistant.

The Welcome Signs had already been agreed, and commissioned.

The Village Maps had been commissioned, and were prioritized in order that Council did not lose the grant of £5k towards the cost.

The Finger posts and Brown & White signs projects were put on hold temporarily.

Village Maps

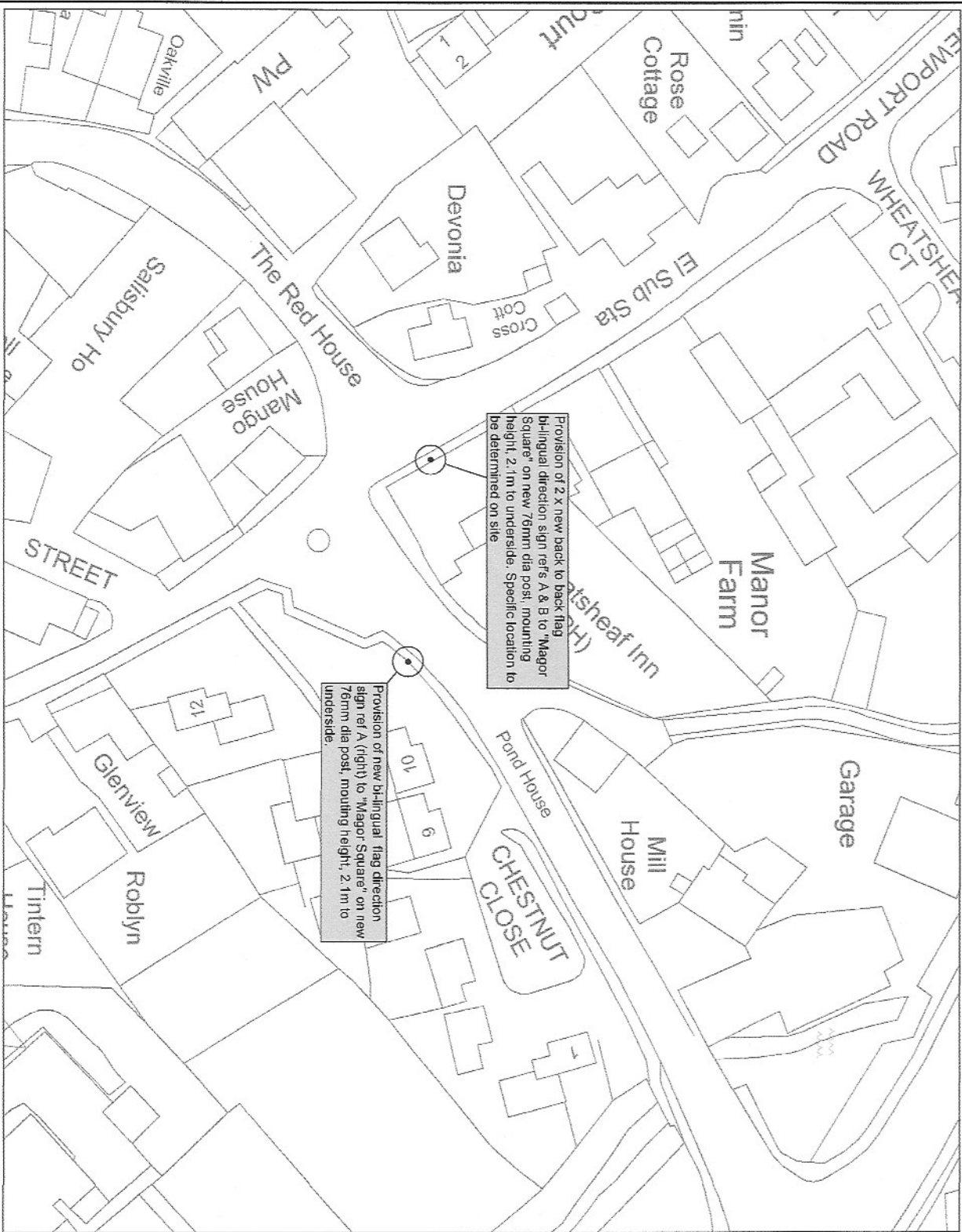
- The office completed the research and text for the Village map, liaising with Platform One with the final design being agreed by Council.
- The office has liaised with Living Levels regarding the grant to pay for the Village Maps. The grant needs to be spent shortly and therefore the project needs to take priority.
- The office has taken delivery of a 'Lay-Flat' map which has been proof-read.
- A site meeting was held with Platform One and their contractor regarding the installation of the maps in Magor Square and Undy Pound.
 - The contractor will do everything to preserve the flagstones in Magor Square without damaging them.
 - Due to possible underground cabling at Undy Pound it will be necessary to move the existing walk map so that the Village Map can be displayed prominently.
 - The walk map is rotten at the back, and requires repair, so the contractor will not put it back in place, **(subject to council approval)**, which will give Council the opportunity to send it off for repair.
- The office has applied for a street furniture license from Mon CC for the map in Magor Square. A response is still awaited.
- The office has written to (and chased) Mon CC Planning for confirmation that we do not require planning permission. The map should be within size, and is not an advertisement. A response is still awaited.
- Platform One raised an issue regarding the maps and **requires a response before they go ahead and produce**. Gilwern (who they recently installed a map for) had a complaint from a resident that the map at Gilwern was only in English. At present, our maps are only in English, apart from the 'Welcome' bit at the top. Platform One, said that maps that they have done for Chepstow and other Monmouthshire towns/villages were in English only, and there had not been a problem with those. He further said that going forward, Mon CC no longer need to renew street signs in both languages, so begs the question whether we need our maps to be bi-lingual.
<https://www.monmouthshirebeacon.co.uk/news/move-to-leave-street-signs-mono-lingual-503976> As a Council we have not signed up to the Welsh Language Act. When we have copyright of the map, we were looking to produce it in leaflet form – perhaps this is where we get a welsh narrative done. We could add to the Village map, that a welsh version is available from the Council Office. If we want to add welsh to the Village Maps, it will make the map very crowded, and space will be limited – things may need to be scaled down. We would also have the added cost of welsh translation. **(Council need to decide what they want to do)**

Welcome Signs

- The office met on site with Standard Signs and the Mon CC Highways Officer in early November to agree the final positioning of the signs that have actually been ready for some time.
- The installation supervisor confirmed that he had the signs programmed for installation the second week in December 2022.
- The office believes that Standard Signs were waiting for confirmation from Mon CC Highway regarding traffic management during the period of the installation of the signs.
- The office has chased Standard Signs for an update. This is still awaited.

Finger Posts

- The Signage Working Groups started to look at finger posts along with the other projects; Village Maps, Welcome Signs and Brown & White Tourism signs when the Admin Assistant was clerking the working group
- Members agreed to progress the Village Map and Welcome Signs initially, but were left with the action of looking at the icon requirements for the signs, how many fingers they wanted, and where the finger posts were to be sited.
- When the Admin Assistant left the Council's employ, the Clerk picked up the Welcome Sign and Village Map projects, and members agreed to leave the other two projects until the first two were completed.
- The next working group meeting will be able to pick up on the finger post project now that the first two projects are nearing completion.



Sgwar Magwyr Magor Square

Sign Ref.	Magor Sq	Post Ref.	50.0
Sign Ref.	Magor Sq	Post Ref.	50.0
Letter colour	WHITE	Sign Ref.	50.0
Background	RED	Post Ref.	50.0
Letter	WHITE	Height	2.1m
Material	CLASSIC-LK	Area	0.20 m²

Sgwar Magwyr Magor Square

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Letter colour	WHITE	Sign Ref.	50.0
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Letter colour	WHITE	Sign Ref.	50.0
Background	RED	Post Ref.	50.0
Letter	WHITE	Height	2.1m
Material	CLASSIC-LK	Area	0.20 m²

FLOODING REPORT FOR THE MILL REEN AS OF FEBRUARY 2022.

WELL AT LAST THE MILL REEN HAS BEEN CLEARED AND CLEANED PLUS DREDGED IN PLACES.

NEVER SEEN THE REEN SO CLEAN AND RUNNING SO CLEAR & FREE.

NRW RIVERS HAVE NOW COMPLETED THEIR WORK FROM THE M4 DOWN TO THE SLUICE GATES.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE IN THE FLOW OF THE WATER, NEW GATES AND POSTS HAVE BEEN FITTED TO THE AREA AROUND MAGOR SCHOOL FOOTPATH SO THAT MACHINERY CAN NOW ENTER BOTH SIDES OF THE REEN.

ALL THE CULVERTS HAVE BEEN CLEARED UNDER DINCH HILL AND THE B5245, THE LAST OF THE MON.C.C. OUTLETS HAVE ALSO BEEN CLEARED AND RUNNING WELL AT COWLEAZE, PLUS THE ROAD DRAINS UP DANCING HILL OPPOSITE MILLFIELD PARK HAVE NOW BEEN CONNECTED UP TO THE BOTTOM DRAINS AT DINCH HILL LANE.

ALL THE MAIN ROAD DRAINS HAVE BEEN CLEANED AND CLEARED ALONG THE B4245 FROM THE BREWERY ALL THE WAY TO CALDICOT.

THERE IS JUST A COUPLE OF ISSUES TO BE COMPLETED.

1. BOTH THE DRAINS WHICH ARE OWNED BY MON.C.C. GOING ACROSS THE 3 FIELDS SITE, WHERE WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN STARTED ON CLEARING THEM. ONE NEAR THE GREEN SHOP AND THE OTHER NEAR THE CAR PARK WHERE THE COMMUNITY HUB IS ABOUT TO BE BUILT.
2. THE CULVERT UNDER THE NETWORK RAIL SITE WHERE THE MILL REEN RUNS UNDER THE MAIN RAILWAY LINE WAITING ON NETWORK RAIL TO FINISH REMOVING THE STEEL MESH OVER THE WATER COURSE AND THEIR OLD VEGETATION / ITEMS OUT OF THE BOTTOM OF THE REEN, THIS HAS BEEN AGREED TO BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT 25 DAYS.

AT LAST AFTER SOME 14 MONTHS OF CONTINUALLY PUSHING ALL THE UTILITIES INVOLVED TO GET HOLD OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO SORT IT OUT.....NOW THEY NEED TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME! NRW RIVERS, NRW IDD, MON CC, WELSH WATER, NETWORK RAIL.

THE NEXT AREA OF WORK WHICH NEEDS TO BE SORTED IS THE WILLIOW BROOK AREA.

THIS IS NRW IDD / MON CC.

WHICH INCLUDES ACTION FROM US AT MAGOR & UNDY COMMUNITY COUNCIL AROUND OUR ALLOTMENTS AT SYCAMORE!