

## **Notes on Public Meeting re proposed Pedestrian Crossing**

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 7.00pm at Victoria Hall.

### **Present**

Cllrs A Jones, Prichard, Newman, Rowlands, and James.

Elfed Jones, Rosie and Jessie Hazel, Pam Lewis, John Price, Patricia Lambkin and another.

### **Apologies**

Cllr Stocker

Cllr A Jones opened the meeting and explained that for some time members of the Town Council have been trying to make safe arrangements for children in particular to cross the road. In response to this, the Trunk Road Agency had been involved and a site meeting took place on June 16<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting, Dean Williams shared with members a draft drawing that had been produced by the TRA of a pedestrian crossing from the Green to Barclays Bank. Copies of this draft drawing were circulated to people present, and it was further explained that the pavement outside the bank would need to be extended to enable drivers to see people waiting to cross, and people waiting to cross to see traffic approaching the crossing.

It was stressed that there is no money in the 2010/11 budget to create such a crossing, however if it were to be approved by local people, the Trunk Road Agency would endeavour to include it in a future budget. With this in mind members decided to open up discussions with local residents to determine whether a crossing is wanted, and if so, would the draft plan be approved, and if not, what alternative measures would be welcomed.

Cllr James said that he had declared an interest when the issue was discussed at meetings of the Town Council, because the proposal might affect his business. He had however been requested to speak on behalf of his neighbours, Judy and Nick Dodds, and Len Thomas, who, although not against the suggestion of a pedestrian crossing are concerned that the proposal will take away valuable car parking space.

Cllr James said he had done a recce and found that most people seem to cross from the Neuadd to the Spar shop. He continued that much of the footfall is from Tai Cae Mawr, people also cross to use the Post Office outreach on the Belle Vue car park, and children to wait at the bus stop for the school bus, plus the flashing children crossing sign is already erected. Less work and expense would be needed to site the crossing there than at the proposed site. The proposed site is not suitable as there are five junctions, and the fire engine and logging lorries already find the junction difficult.

Other discussions included the money spent on the wooden bridge, parking on Dolecoed Road, the danger to children of crossing between parked cars, and a question of whether people who choose to cross at a different site to a pedestrian crossing would be covered by drivers insurance should they be

knocked down. It was also suggested that the crossing be from Peter Cook's to Victoria Square, children could then cross the wooded bridge to school.

Cllr A Jones said that Dean William's proposal was not finalised, so the focus is on whether people want a crossing or do they prefer some alternative traffic measures. A 20mph limit was suggested, but most drivers don't keep to the speed limit anyhow. People present felt the VA signs were effective. There has recently been an accident outside the Neuadd with a boy being knocked off his bike.

The majority of people present did not approve the scheme suggested by the TRA. The proposal was for a crossing from Neuadd to Spar shop with a second crossing on Dolecoed Road and a return of the VA signs. Cllr A Jones to contact Dean Williams with the suggestions.

Pat Dryden  
11/09/2010