

MINUTES of the Pencoed Town Council Millennium Project Management Committee held on Tuesday 4 April 2003 at 4.00 p.m. in The Council Chamber, Felindre Road, Pencoed.

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs. S. Jewell (Chair), Mrs. L. Davies, D.R. Gregory, G. Jordan

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor J. Butcher Mr. R. Jones (BCBC)

#### 1. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME

- B.T.C.V. had completed two days of gorse clearance. It was agreed that a further two days was necessary for clearance to be undertaken on the west side of the Colliers' path.
- A fire had been lit on the east side of the Colliers' path, but early intervention by the Fire service meant that only approximately 12 saplings had been destroyed.
- Boardwalk not yet completed. The heavy timber had been moved onto the site, but the lighter timber was now on land halfway between the kissing gates. This makes it vulnerable to theft. Greenlane to be contacted again concerning this.
- The condition of the Colliers Path to be monitored and appropriate action taken in consultation with the Rights of Way Officer, BCBC.

#### 2. DRAFT REPORT BRIDGEND CIRCULAR WALK.

Consequent to a meeting between Mr. David Mortimore BCBC and Councillors Mrs. Jewell, Gregory and Jordan, supported by the Clerk, a draft report proposing a circular walk linking Pencoed into the Bridgend County proposals was prepared and discussed. After a full discussion

RESOLVED: That this report be accepted and submitted to the Town Council for adoption at it's next Meeting for submission to BCBC.

#### 3. PROGRAMME FOR 2003/2004

The following programme was agreed

- Continue gorse and bracken clearance [the latter by spraying if necessary]
- Strimming of meadow on the west of the Colliers' path after natural seeding has finished.
- Non slip meshing of Boardwalk after it's construction.
- Agree virement from Budget for any Health and Safety expenditure Complete the audit of Flora and Fauna on site
- Compile and circulate a Publicity Leaflet.

#### 4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In the light of the proposal to merge this Committee with the Coed Iestyn Management Committee which will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting in May, Councillor Jewell, from the Chair, thanked the Members for their commitment and hard work to this Project. It has been an innovative piece of work that will reap its reward for the future generations of Pencoed.

## Pencoed Loop to Bridgend Circular Path

Pencoed is somewhat disappointed that the Bridgend Path does not really enter the town of Pencoed, limiting itself to the South west side of the Man made boundary of the M4. The Pencoed proposal endeavours to take the path under and over the motorway to create a varied walk which takes in part of the ridge walk between Pencoed and Heol y Cyw giving opportunities for the enjoyment of the superb views of Mynydd y Gaer to North, the Ewenni Fach valley to the East, and the western part of the Vale of Glamorgan and the Devon coast to the South. It also incorporates a walk through one of the two Pencoed Town Council woodlands (the Millennium Wood), with the option of a short diversion to visit the second (Coed Iestyn).

Where the Bridgend route leaves Deri Cochion (#7) it drops down to the fence at the edge of the M4 (#5). Where the Bridgend route turns left, turn right instead and go over a stile. Continue following the M4 fence through another stile. Descend a steep path and enter a pedestrian tunnel which goes under the M4 and emerges in Playing Fields.

the fields at right angles to the M4 to a gate near the Sports Pavilion and houses. If games or training are in progress, follow the footpath (#12) around the touchlines of the playing areas. Go through the gate and follow the Pavilion drive onto a road (Llwyn Gwern). If you wish to visit Coed Iestyn turn right, then left into Woodland Avenue and follow the instructions below. Otherwise turn left and follow Llwyn Gwern as it curves around to meet Hendre Road by a small shop (Refreshments!) Cross the road and walk across a grass area towards a telephone box. Turn left and walk up Heol Wastadwaun. Continue walking in the same direction and link up with the Coed Iestyn route.

If you wish to visit Coed Iestyn, walk down Woodland Avenue until you reach a main road, cross the road and head for a gate in the wall slightly to your right, cross a road and go through another gate between the houses. Go straight ahead along the path (#22) which crosses the site of the Pencoed Brickworks and its Pond. In the early C20 Pencoed had a busy brick making industry, the local area having a clay which made high quality bricks. The "Pond" was in fact a pit out of which the clay had been dug, following which it flooded with water from the many local "issues" or springs. The Pond was filled in during the 1960's and the area grassed over. At the end of the footpath cross the inner relief road and go between houses. Follow straight ahead for another 100 m. or so until you reach a T junction on Glyn y Mel. Turn left and walk up Glyn y Mel for about 150 m. to a clearing on your right which is the entrance to Coed Iestyn. The wood contains another flooded clay pit, and dates from the time the clay pit flooded early in the C20 so that the trees are mostly about 90 to 100 years old. The dominant species is oak, although ash, crab apple, thorn, mountain ash and hazel are also present. There is an understorey of Holly and Hazel which are being coppiced under the wood's management plan.

There is a circular walk around the wood, with various other loop walks. Part of the walk is suitable for pushchairs and for wheelchairs. Some of the walks are on board walks and involve steps. These can become slippery in wet weather, especially in autumn, so Take Care!

Leave the wood by the same entrance and turn right to follow Glyn y Mel as it curves around the wood's boundary, then continue straight to a T junction. Turn right and you rejoin the main route.

Walk up the road between allotments, cross a cattle grid to enter Coity Walia Common on a road called Ystadwaun. Look out for a footpath sign after about 200m. and turn right, heading

for Malvern House. On the left of Malvern House go through a kissing gate and follow the path (#29) over a stone bridge crossing a stream. The path then starts to climb with a fence on your immediate right. Note the whitish limestone blocks at the edge of the path. This path is known locally as the Colliers' Path because it 'was used in the early part of the last century by colliers living in the Hendre Road area of Pencoed to cross the ridge to the mines at Brynchwith and Wern Tarw. According to local legend each collier carried a piece of limestone from the other side of the valley on his way to work and laid it at the edge of the path, building up the edge so that it was more easily seen in the light of their lamps when they returned home in the dark. At the top of this path go through a kissing gate and re enter Coity Walia Common in the Millennium Wood managed by Pencoed Town Council. At the time of the Millennium the Lord of the Manor offered the Town Council, and others in the area, a sum of £1 0,000 to be spent on a project on the common which would benefit the town. Pencoed's choice was a woodland to strengthen the links for wildlife between Coed Iestyn and the ridge common. In this area which extends to your left and right, bracken and gorse control has been followed and the area on your left is being managed as a wild flower meadow, particularly for butterflies. To your right is an area of birch mainly about 30 years old, dating from seedlings which established themselves following an earlier bracken control scheme. The wet area on your immediate right has an interesting bog flora which can be observed from the newly constructed boardwalk. Some tree planting has been done but much of the area is being managed to encourage the natural re establishment of an oak woodland which covered much of the local hillsides before the industrial revolution.

Your route now takes you to the top of the ridge. The energetic may wish to follow the path straight up. There is an alternate route which makes two long loops to the top. For this turn left at the bottom of the main slope.. Another possibility, to see more of the wood is to follow the boardwalk on your right around the lower boundary of the wood. Climb upwards with the wall, cross the stile in the corner and turn left to walk along the stock proof fence which forms the upper boundary. This will bring you to the kissing gate to join up again with the footpath.

With your back to the gate take the path straight ahead. You are heading for Pencoed's original cross roads, where the path from Pencoed to Heol y Cyw (#29) crosses that from Penprysg to Coity (#41). It is also a very early example of a Motorway Junction because no one walked all the way to the cross to turn left or right, they cut the corners to create additional paths like slip roads! Go on to the top of the ridge until you can see the area from beyond Heol y Cyw to the West and the Rockwool Factory and beyond to the right. You will reach a wide grass path (#41) at a square marker post. Turn left and follow the top of the ridge for about a kilometer. This is a pleasant level walk, although it is interrupted by three or four wet areas where the bogs on the ridge start to drain to the valleys on each side. As you walk Westwards you will see an unnatural looking square piece of land ahead of you. This is an underground reservoir used as a header when the water for the surrounding district came from the spring at Schwyll near Ogmores by Sea. The path continues along the ridge towards Coity and Sam, but before you reach the reservoir you need to leave the ridge) at the Marker post by turning left and following the path downhill (#33) This path drops sharply at first and then levels out more. You need to head for the group of houses you can see slightly to your right. Head for these houses . This lower part of #33 will need some work to complete the route.

On reaching the house 'Brynteg', go along the roadway in front of the houses and then turn sharp left with the roadway. Until the M4 was built this road went direct to the crossroads at Hendre. Now you will need to make a short diversion to cross the M4. Continue to follow the road way around a sweeping bend until you cross a cattle grid. A short distance further on you reach the junction with Hendre Road. Turn right and cross the road bridge over the M4. Turn left at the crossroads and after a short distance you rejoin the main Bridgend route.