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Pencoed Inner Relief Road

End of road in sight

As some of you will be aware the decision of the County Borough to approve the new housing development south of Hendre Road by Redrow Homes carries with it a planning obligation to provide the 1st stage of the inner relief road.

Following the completion of the Planning Agreement with Bridgend County Borough Council in June of this year, the Redrow road moves to detail design stage, prior to works beginning on site.

The plan (opposite) shows the proposed route of the relief road and a spokesperson for Redrow has advised that works are anticipated to commence early in 2001. The design currently provides a new traffic controlled junction situated on Hendre Road, with the relief road running north to join Penprysg Road at the bridge, again traffic lights will control the vehicle flows.

It is felt this highway improvement will go some way

to mitigating the peak flow congestion known to us all in the town.

The conditions imposed by the County Borough secure the

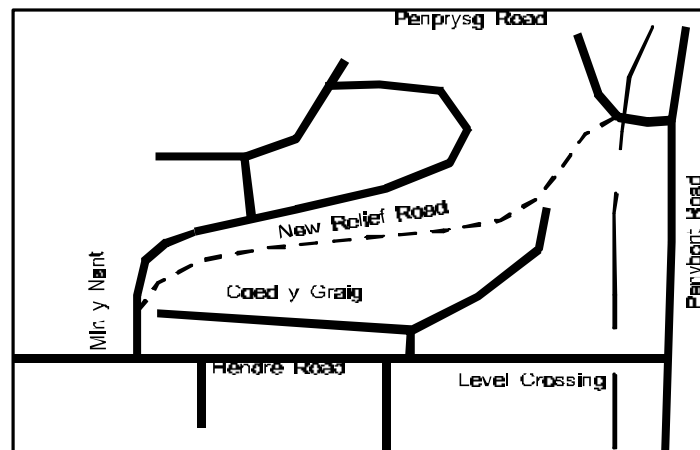
works may commence until such time that construction of the relief road is underway and no more than 50 dwellings may be occupied until the relief road



highway improvements by linking the new homes to the actual provision of the new road. For example no housing

is open. A further restriction provides for not more than 200 dwellings to be occupied until further improvements to Penprysg, including a new bridge over the railway (phase 2) is complete and available for use by the people of Pencoed

John Butcher



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Editorial

Progress

When the suggestion of a community newsletter was first put to the Council, there were a number who were sceptical that it would actually get off the ground (including the now enthusiastic editorial staff). We have however made it to the third copy, but not without some difficulty.

Our first big problem was delivery, which we are pleased to say, seems to be sorted out now.

Our second was content. We thought we would have some difficulty getting enough to fill our four pages, but thanks to organisations and individuals around the town, this hasn't been a major problem. In fact we feel we could do with more space, particularly as we would like to publish more photographs (and we'd like to make the text a little bigger for those with failing eyesight). Hopefully this may be resolved next year as the Council is to consider making the newsletter eight pages.

We have also had a couple of technical problems but with the help of the Bridgend County Borough Print Shop personnel, who print our newsletter, these have been surmounted.

What of the future. Well as we've already said hopefully next year we'll have a bigger and better newsletter and we are definitely going to change the publication dates so that we have an issue just before Christmas (see article opposite).

Editorial Staff

Cllr. John Butcher
Cllr Derek Gregory
Cllr Colin Hewlett

Just a Minute

A gentle reminder that copies of all Minutes are available in the Public Library, Penybont Road, within two days of them being confirmed by Council. Here is a list of the main resolutions passed by the Council in recent months.

Garage Sites and Bases

BCBC sought to devolve responsibility for these to local Councils. Pencoed Town Council resolved not to engage in accepting these responsibilities.

Public Toilets - The Square

In a response to BCBC this Council has urged them to consider -

- The urgent need to upgrade the toilets.
- The need for redecoration.
- The provision for hand washing facilities.
- Replacement of damaged seats.
- Re-examination of why the toilets are closed from Friday afternoon to Monday morning.

Road Signs in Pencoed

BCBC have been requested to discuss this issue with the council. Road signs in the Town are very unsatisfactory. We are awaiting a response

BCBC Objective 1 Partnership

Councillor Mrs Sheila Jewell has been appointed as a substitute Member of the strategic Management Board for the Partnership.

Councillor T. W. Williams - Millennium Garden

Registered Title and Land Certificate for the Garden in Coychurch Road have now been received. This very generous gift, given to the Town by Councillor and Mrs Williams is very much appreciated, and represents a delightful oasis along this busy road.

BCBC Mayor's Citizenship Awards

The Council have nominated the following Mrs Rose Malster, Mr Frank Lawrence and Mr Roy Williams ■

Matters Arising

The work at Pen-y-Lan site of our Millennium Wood has steadily progressed despite the constant battle against the bracken. We expect the boundary fence to be in place in September with our tree planting to coincide with National Tree Planting week in November. A special thanks to the Senior Class of Croesty Primary School who did a great job of bracken trampling in June. A good time was had by all!

A pity the same cannot be said for Coed Iestyn. A new boundary fence was badly damaged within a few days of being put in place. I also wonder how comfortable it is for the people who dumped the base of double bed in the pond to sleep on it in that position

On a more serious note, I am sure all our readers share the

great sadness felt by the vast number of people who attended the funeral service of Rhian Jewell, daughter of our immediate Past Mayor Councillor Mrs Jewell and her husband Norman together with their two sons. We all join in offering our sympathy and support to the family in their tragic loss ■

Christmas comes early

Because this will be the last issue of the Hyphen this year (the next issue will be in January 2001), the Mayor, Cllr Eric Alford has asked us to announce the following events.

- **Sunday 15 October** - The Mayor's Annual Civic service will be held at Salem Chapel commencing at 3.00pm.
- **Saturday 4 November** - The Council's Annual Firework Display will be held at Felindre Road Playing Fields commencing at 6.45pm.
- **Sunday 12 November** - The Annual Armistice Parade commencing at the Royal British Legion Club at 9.15am, proceeding to Salem Chapel for a service and return to the Monument by 11.00am.
- **Saturday 16 December** - The Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert at the Pencoed Welfare Hall commencing at 7.30pm.
- **Friday 22 December** - The Annual Carol Service around the Town's Christmas Tree at the Monument with the Pencoed Silver Band commencing at 6.30pm.

Please look out for the posters advertising these events nearer the dates ■

Fireworks

This year, the traditional council run firework display will be changing venue. Due to the imminent construction of the inner relief road, this year's display will be held at the Felindre Road Playing Fields.

Because Bonfire Night (5th November) falls on a Sunday this year, the display has been moved to Saturday 4th November and will begin as usual at 6.45pm.

As usual, members of the town council will be stewarding the event. So, please come along and watch the fireworks in safety. Look out for the posters at about this time ■

Pencoed Old Age Pensioners Association

Pencoed OAP Association was formed in 1948 in Salem Chapel by some of the older generation of the village.

The population of both young and old in those days could not have exceeded 2,000 because in 1968 the population of Pencoed was just over 4,000.

As Pencoed has grown over the years so has its Pensioners Association and membership at present is well over 160 which also includes life members.

They meet every first and third Tuesday of the month

at the Royal British Legion Club in Hendre Road and enjoy either a game of Bingo or a guest speaker together with a cup of tea and a biscuit.

Four trips are organised throughout the year for which members vote and which are subsidised for the members but visitors are more than welcome to join in. There is also the Annual Christmas Dinner, which is free to members.

It is a very friendly association and members enjoy their afternoon.

The Chair is Cllr. Clay-

ton Davies who is supported by the Treasurer, Mrs Diana Arthur and Secretary, Mrs Margaret Powell also several committee members.

The saddest thing about the Association is that no previous Minute Books can be found, therefore part of the history of the Association is lost forever.

Anyone interested in joining - you can become a member on your 55th birthday - please come along or contact the Secretary, Mrs Margaret Powell on 860067 ■

St. David's Church

The Church, to be found in Penprysg Road, Pencoed, is one of three in the Parish of Llanilid with Pencoed and Heol-y-Cyw. The church was built in the latter part of the 19th century and was originally built as a school. This accounts for its laying in an unusual west/east direction with the altar at the west "liturgical east" end of the building.

The present Rector, the Reverend Nicholas P. Jones, lives at "The Rectory" on Coychurch Road. He is assisted by a Lay Reader, Mr. W.C. Nicholas. There are two Churchwardens and the Parochial Church Council. There is no connection between a Parochial Church Council and a Parish / Town / Community Council.

Liturgically, the church is Church of Wales. Baptisms are conducted on Sunday mornings; weddings by prior arrangements and funerals as occurring.

Normal Services are:

Thursday

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday

9.45am Sung Eucharist

6.00pm Evensong

Services are also held at St. Paul's, Heol-y-Cyw (11.15am Eucharist - Sun-days), and at Llanilid (Euch-arist 8.30am and Even-song 3.00pm on alternate Sun-days). For further details, please see the Parish Magazine. There is also a Sunday School at St. David's at 11.15am on Sundays. This is held in the Church Hall on Wimbourne Road. Both St. David's and St. Paul's churches have a thriving Mothers' Union. There is, at St. David's, an evening Mothers' Union as well. In addition there are Men's Fellowship, Tuesday Fellowship, ALPHA Fellowship and other less regular meetings.

The town also has several chapels and the Roman Catholic community hold services in Bryn Seion Chapel on Coychurch Road ■

What's happened at the Welfare Hall

If you've been in the Monument area lately, you couldn't fail to notice the building work going on at the Welfare Hall. This work has been carried out during the summer when it causes least inconvenience to regular uses.

The work is being carried out using grant money from numerous sources. It is hoped that the work will be completed by the time this newsletter is issued and we plan to allocate a bit of space in our next issue to the Welfare Hall Committee so that they can tell you all about it. ■

Letters

No letters this month. Nobody has written to us! ■

Diary

Council Meetings

Council meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month, except in April, when it is the first Wednesday, and in August, when there is no meeting. The meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Felindre Road Sports Pavilion. Meetings are open to the public. There is, however, only limited seating for the public. Full Minutes of Council meetings are available on request at the Pencoed Library on Penybont Road.

Future Meetings

13th September
11th October
8th November
13th December

Other Diary Dates

15th October
Mayor's Annual Civic Service at Salem Chapel.

4th November
Annual Fireworks Display at the Felindre Road Sports Field

12th November
Armistice Parade at the Monument

16 December
Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert at the Pencoed Welfare Hall.

22nd December
Annual Carol Service around the Town's Christmas Tree

Mayor's Charity Christmas Concert
Pencoed Welfare Hall Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm

Contact Point

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Cllr. Ken King – 860595
Cllr. Glyn Oram – 863300
Cllr. Trevor Williams – 860321

Hendre Ward

Cllr. Eric Alford – 862148
Cllr. Derek Gregory – 861321
Cllr. Colin Hewlett – 862975
Cllr. Mrs Sheila Jewell – 860156
Cllr. Doug John – 861594
Cllr. Glyn Jordan – 860400

Penprisk Ward

Cllr. Clayton Davies – 860925
Cllr. Mrs Lilian Davies – 860925
Cllr. Vernon Thomas – 860421

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Cllr. Derek Gregory (Hendre)
Cllr. Doug John (Hendre)
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Chamber of Trade

Most towns and cities throughout the UK have a Chamber of Trade or Commerce and Pencoed is no exception.

The town has in fact had three chambers over the years, the first two having disbanded when member numbers fell below a practical level to have any effect. Like many organisations, apathy ruled and, to a certain degree, the present chamber suffers a little from poor turnout at meetings. This does not however deter the present committee from making sure that members' interests are protected wherever possible.

The present Chamber of Trade was re-established over three years ago, when the Town Council approached the previous Chairman to invite him to form a new Chamber, primarily for two reasons. One was the impending National Eisteddfodd to be held in Pencoed. The other was to give strength to the Council's request for CCTV cameras.

The Eisteddfodd turned out to be not the great success that the town's traders had hoped it would be, but, thanks to the

efforts of the Chamber, the name Pencoed did become the centre of Wales, albeit only for a week. The CCTV cameras (of which there are now three installed) have been more successful and have led to a decrease in vandalism and crime around the town.

Now that both the reasons for re-establishment of the Chamber are completed, it was decided that the efforts of the few should not be wasted and that the Chamber should continue to act for the traders as well as the community as a whole. This time the committee were determined that the town would continue to have an active group who would play its part in the growth of the community. They are always mindful that whilst they represent the interests of the traders of Pencoed, without the support of the customer their business cannot survive. With this in mind, the members decided at an early stage that they would assist the community in whatever ways they could. The spin off would be and should be more trade from a thriving community.

The Chamber has already

instituted a perpetual trophy for "Excellence in Art in the Sixth Form" at Pencoed Comprehensive School. They have also put in plans for a Millennium Show in Pencoed, which, because of difficulties hiring the Pencoed College grounds, has been put back until next year. With the support of the Pencoed Town Council, the Chamber also has plans to run a weekly street market in the Town.

The Chamber meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Chatterton Arms at 6.00pm. The meetings last around one hour. At a number of the meetings, the Chamber has guest speakers on subjects of general interest to traders.

If you are a bona fide trader and would like to join (Annual Subscription just £12.00), please contact the Chairman, Stuart Powell at 25 High Street, Heol-y-Cyw or the Secretary, Robert Grant at Top Line Carpets, Coychurch Road Pencoed : Tel. 862921. With around 50% of the town's traders as members, they are eager to increase their clout where it matters ■

Highways and Byways

For the concluding part of this short series on the footpaths of Pencoed, we have a walk for the fit and energetic, but one well worth taking for the views it offers. Once again starting at the monument, walk up the hill towards the post office and turn into Penprysg Road across the railway bridge. Walk for about three-quarters of a mile to the old bus garage (now A & A Tyre services). Opposite this garage, you will see Penylan Road, which rises to the west to Penylan House.

If you wish to stick strictly to the footpath, there is a stile in the fence on the right of the road, the footpath then climbs steeply skirting the old stone quarries to the right of the path. It is probably easier to walk further up Penylan Road and join the footpath a few hundred yards further on by taking the

path over the cattle grid on the right of the road.

From here the path follows the ridge of the hill for several miles though it leaves the confines of Pencoed a few yards before reaching the reservoir which is the highest part of the ridge. About half way between the start of the path and the reservoir, the path is crossed by another that passes between Ystad-waun to the south and the site of the old Brynwith Colliery to the north. This is called the Miners (or Colliers) Path for obvious reasons.

As I stated earlier, here from the top of the ridge are some of the finest views in the area. Looking south east, you can see the rolling limestone country of the Vale of Glamorgan. To the southwest, you can see the gap in the

limestone hills that form the estuary of the River Ogmore. Between the two, you get a magnificent panoramic view of Pencoed itself. To the north, is the 800 foot ridge of Mynydd y Gaer, which is the start of the Welsh mountains. In the valley below is the South Crop of the Welsh coalfield where for over a century local men dug the black gold that fed the industries of the world. Along the base of the ridge, there are a dozen or more old mines and the sites of four opencast operations.

From this point, where the two paths meet, the easiest way back to the town is down the steep escarpment to the south, down to Ystadwaun and back along the common road to Hendre Road. ■