

Dyddiad/Date: 10 May 2023

Dear Jack Sargeant MS,

Re; Petition-P06-1299 Welsh Government “Freeze on road building” to include a clause for cases that pose a danger to life.

I refer to your letter of 18th April 2023 regarding the above petition which was considered in your meeting of 27 March 2023, where you resolved to write to me to ask what action, if any, my Council is taking to ameliorate the issue raised. The petitioner makes the case for the Relief Road, highlighting the disruption which occurred during a fire at Tylorstown Workingmens’ Club. It was indeed a particularly disruptive event for the communities of the Rhondda Fach and for those that travel through, fortunately issues of this scale are thankfully quite rare.

The Club was located in a terrace that fronts on to East Road. East Road is part of the A4233 which runs the length of the Rhondda Fach connecting Porth with Aberdare. It is part of the Strategic Highway Network in Rhondda Cynon Taf and is the only classified route that runs the length of the Rhondda Fach.

Whilst the lower section of the valley was bypassed during the mid 2000’s, providing a modern alternative to the original route through the terraced streets, the route from Pontygwaith up the valley reverts to the traditional terraced streets for over six kilometres. This runs through the ribbon settlements of Pontygwaith, Tylorstown, Ferndale and Maerdy before rising over Maerdy Mountain towards Aberdare.

Where the route travels through these communities it is hemmed in by terraced streets, interspersed with the focal points of the community with larger buildings, such as the former Working Men’s Club and other places for social and religious gathering, retail and business premises. As with the fire at the Club, there are a range of emergencies that may lead to the need to close the road. The only option in these circumstances is to re-route traffic through residential side streets. However, these side streets are narrower than the main route and are even more heavily congested with parked vehicles. These routes are completely unsuitable for larger vehicles such as buses, coaches and delivery vehicles. Inevitably traffic moves much more slowly and conflicting movements, not just between vehicles, but also between vehicles and pedestrians and cyclists, will bring traffic to a standstill.

In the absence of a relief road or another suitable alternative route there is little that the Council can do to ameliorate the issues raised beyond diverting traffic or closing the route entirely.

Yours sincerely

A. Morgan

Y Cyngorydd Andrew Morgan
Arweinydd Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf
Councillor Andrew Morgan
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We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



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