

ES5.4

Local Development Plan Examination.

HEARING SESSION 5

SIX BELLS COLLIERY SITE

(SITES H1.14 AND ED1.12)

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
Local Development Plan Examination.**

Hearing session: 5 Six Bells Colliery Site (Sites H1.14 and ED1.2.)

Six Bells Colliery Site:

Six Bells Communities First (SBCF) considers BGCBC's plan to be **unsound**. This is based upon BGCBC's reference to *Six Bells Development Brief* (2008) throughout its responses as evidence / reasons why BGCBC opposes points as raised. The *development brief* undertook no community consultation nor has it been presented to BGCBC's scrutiny and has not been ratified.

SBCF is of the opinion that this document can not be included as supporting evidence as outlined within BGCBC responses and therefore **makes their plan unsound**.

Within BGCBC's response document (*appendix 1*), BGCBC outline the below sections and utilise this brief as evidence / reasons to 'oppose' alternative suggestions as raised through the LDP consultation process.

- Bullet point number 3 - (delete propose residential use and allocate for a primary school).
- Bullet point number 3 – this outlined that the plan (and the Education Department) identifies that the lower plateau is the most appropriate site
- Bullet point number 5 – (Better used for a primary school) this outlines that BGCBC has addressed this objection under bullet point 3,
- Bullet point number 8 - (valuable recreational and tourist destination)
- Bullet point number 8 - (Valuable recreational and tourist destination)
- Bullet point number 11 - (Impact on the natural environment and biodiversity)
- Bullet point number 15 - (Not compatible with other uses)
- Bullet point number 18 - (Impact upon the economy)

Response to questions as being asked by The Inspector.

Q1: SBCF would outline that it does not consider that a full and timely investigation has taken place which would support the proposed mix of uses and the site boundaries. This is based upon the timing of the *Six Bells Development Brief* (2008) and other strategies, which do not take into full consideration or acknowledge the existing regeneration developments (Guardian, The Ebbw Fach Trail and Ty Ebbw Fach). Consideration needs to be made in regard to these very successful and high profile community led regeneration projects, the regeneration funding which was (and continues to be) secured to deliver such large scale projects and the current and future benefits these projects bring to Six Bells, The Ebbw Fach Valley and Blaenau Gwent as a whole.

The Site boundaries will directly impact upon visual impact and access to the largest miner's memorial in Wales, if not the UK / World and the access to a widely utilised community open space and community memorial. The boundaries also impact upon The Ebbw Fach Trail, Valley's Regional Park initiative which also negatively impacts upon Ty Ebbw Fach.

Whilst BGCBC undertook reclamation of the land with the view to develop housing and a school. SBCF is of the opinion that BGCBC has not fully explored the potential which is being shown by the community led regeneration schemes which have proved to be very successful and is already bringing benefits in regard to health, training, employment and economic to the localised and wider areas.

SBCF is of the opinion that the land reclamation grant acquired for the reclamation of the former colliery site and any associated criteria for the sites development needs to be revisited in line with the development of Guardian and all regeneration projects and their positive impact upon the community and its economic regeneration. SBCF is of the understanding that the land reclamation grant does not restrict development of new initiatives (planning approval for Guardian) and would urge the exploration of new initiatives such as development in tourism and leisure areas.

Focussed Change 16:

SBCF raises concerns due to the impact upon developed DDA compliant access to Guardian and the site generally. Access will be greatly reduced from the Eastern side of the site (lower plateau), including the access point from The Six Bells Community Centre and The sheltered housing scheme. It will increase the distance required to travel to reach Guardian and route people into areas which are not overlooked. Such a re-routing potentially impacts upon people and visitors not going to Guardian as a result of perceived fear of crime and of course individual ability to walk the additional distance.

This Focussed Change (16) will also impact upon the local community and visitors (including walkers and cyclists) utilising Ty Ebbw Fach as in effect they will not be able to access the venue or indeed Guardian from the Eastern side which is where the funded cycle route and walkways are located. The route which enables walkers and visitors from the Aberbeeg entrance will be cut off as the Focussed Change 'crosses over' the access point from the lower to the middle plateau.

The Focussed Change (16) impacts upon the two Safer Access Routes currently being installed at Aberbeeg points of access. One will only lead as far as Guardian with no lower plateau access; the other will only go to the lower plateau with no access to the middle plateau (Guardian).

The Focussed Change (16) therefore all impacts upon users of The Ebbw Fach Trail, people visiting Guardian and the newly created social Enterprise Ty Ebbw Fach. There are real concerns that as the current routes are DDA compliant, that such a reduction will not provide all people with equal access to Guardian and therefore undermine it being dedicated to mining communities everywhere when in fact not everyone can access it.

Guardian plays a very import role in the promotion of The Ebbw Fach Trail and Valley's Regional Park initiative and supports visitors to Ty Ebbw Fach and the heritage centre associated with Guardian.

All projects have been funded through regeneration grants. SBCF raises concerns that the proposed developments, not only the Focussed Changes (16) but all, will impact upon what the grants were funded to do.

Q2: A full examination of the costs and impact of the proposed developments has not been undertaken. SBCF is not aware of what models for schools have been utilised to determine that the upper plateau is not suitable for school development and that the area which previously housed Arrael primary School has not been assessed as potential land use for a school only housing.

BGCBC proposed that the former Arrael School site being used as “an area of bare ground”, however SBCF would propose that far more benefits can be achieved if the housing is deleted from the plan, and that this site be used to create an eco friendly community focused school which would greatly benefit from the additional open spaces of the middle and lower plateaus. This in turn will support further wildlife regeneration.

SBCF would outline that these considerations should be included as part of an examination to support a full exploration in to the sites potential and value to the community, visitors, The Ebbw Fach Trail, Valley’s Regional Park, tourism, local businesses and of courses BGCBC.

SBCF acknowledges that the upper plateau may present difficulties for development of a school, but as BGCBC already acknowledges remedial work will need to take place to stabilise the slope for housing development. SBCF would welcome all options to be assessed and not just based upon a previous development which may or may not have the same issues as the upper plateau.

BGCBC outline that a school will have a less visual impact on the lower plateau as opposed to the upper plateau. SBCF would outline until such design plans / proposals are in a detailed form then location considerations pertaining to location on the upper plateau could not be fully undertaken and therefore BGCBC comments re: less of a visual impact can not yet be determined.

SBCF is aware that a flood risk assessment is being carried out as part of the LDP process. SBCF would wish to ask if the lower plateau is found to be unsuitable due to flooding will BGCBC be reconsidering the upper plateau as a option for a school site. Also in terms of the lower plateau and the flood assessment, if it is found that remedies can be taken to alleviate the flood risk, have costs been taken into consideration and have these been measured against any cost as outlined within BGCBC’s response (an additional £200,000 of funding was required) for development of school on upper plateau and any remedial work.

SBCF would wish it noted that BGCBC states “when there is a site already suitable for the intended purpose”, this is clearly not the case as outlined with the awaited flood risk assessment which could impede such development.

BGCBC clearly state in their response “There is uncertainty around the feasibility of the upper plateau for a school development without significant investigation” SBCF would request and expect that significant investigation s undertaken for all aspects of the plan in order for BGCBC and its community’s to be able to make informed decisions.

BGCBC state in response to “Delete from the plan” (residential sites) that “The site was previously assessed and approved under the Candidate Site Assessment Process for residential development” SBCF would wish it noted that this was **PRIOR** to the development of Guardian, The Ebbw Fach Trail and Valley’s Regional Park therefore the plan remains unsound as it has failed to take into appropriate consideration the new developments within the site.

Q3: SBCF would outline that it considers the loss of open space unacceptable. Following the redevelopment of the former colliery site, there has been an increase in the areas usage not only from the local community but also visitors to the area. It is the opinion of SBCF that the loss of the open space would not support on going regeneration development of the area and also end any community events including the annual large scale event, Six Bells Pit Party, In The Pink Walks and usage from cycling groups and walking groups.

SBCF would outline that whilst strategies exists to determine land space per person and distance to access this land, the former Six Bells Colliery Site is a unique site. It is one of the few former colliery sites which has not been fully redeveloped which has continued to provide the local community with an open area filled with historical relevance whilst supporting the development of biodiversity.

The loss of the open space will impact upon all developments undertaken and take away from the local community’s their sense of place. Since the creation of Guardian and the development of community infrastructure (cycle and walkways, seating BBQ area, planting, pond dipping platform, bird boxes etc) this area has become fully embraced by the local community. The community recognise this as ‘their place’, this is demonstrated through the extent which the area is utilised, the community champions who litter pick the site daily, the dog walkers, the thousands who attend the community events – it is there space as they are the cornerstone of its regeneration. It is the local community who have worked with Communities First (and BGCBC) to develop the successful regeneration projects. It is the local community who continue to work with Communities First and BGCBC who are bring funding and additional resources to the area.

SBCF feels that it is very important that the term ‘open space’ is not just linked to statistics but to the community and what it means to them.

In terms of community usage, the community are regularly utilising the site for walking, cycling and general enjoyment. This supports SBCF aims to increase the health and well being for the local community.

Q4: SBCF would outline that in its opinion the site **MUST** be considered for tourism and leisure. This is based upon the fact that Guardian has already proven to be a major attraction which is supporting the economic regeneration of the area whilst forming an integral part of the Ebbw Fach Trail and Valley’s Regional Park. (BGCBC and all of the South Wales Coalfields Area).

Large scale events such as the Annual Six Bells Pit Party will not be able to be accommodated else where which will impact upon income to the area – this event attracts over 3,500.

This is **only** area of its size within The Ebbw Fach Valley. This site has the real potential to develop activities and be a centre for not only tourism but also leisure. The area has clearly already demonstrated its potential and there is a clearly support from the local community (and visitors) to maintain the site for open usage and develop further community benefits and tourism.

The creation of Guardian and its impact towards the local economy is still be evaluated. However, Guardian has clearly created huge interest. It is a simple fact that the visitors coming to the area are coming **only** because Guardian is located here. Guardian has international recognition and has been visited by numerous people including The First Minister of Wales and HRH Prince Charles.

Since the installation of people counters (18.8.2011) up until 29.5.2012 the numbers recorded at Guardian is 9901. This averages at over 1,000 people per month viewing Guardian.

Guardian, The Ebbw Fach Trail and Ty Ebbw Fach demonstrate their importance as a strategic set of projects which form an integral part of the Valley's Regional Park initiative.

These three large scale projects have developed a robust infrastructure which supports economic regeneration through tourism whilst provided the valuable community benefits (for all ages).

SBCF would outline that it does not feel that full consideration of these developments and the positive benefits they bring to the localised communities and BGCBC as a whole have been fully accessed or recognised. Once these benefits are lost they can not be replaced. These developments provide a unique opportunity to develop a site which will continue to bring benefits to all.

Continuing partnership work is being developed to support the creation of training, volunteering and employment opportunities which in turn supports the vital economic regeneration of the area. SBCF firmly believes that the areas regeneration strategy and all aspects as outlined within the LDP should reflect the work and development not only in terms of what has been achieved but what can be achieved. No credence has been paid in regard to this work and the economic benefits for the area.

SBCF would wish it noted that the whole of the former colliery site is included as part of the VRP not just the middle plateau.

The land reclamation grant acquired for the reclamation of the former colliery site and any associated criteria for development needs to be revisited in line with the development of Guardian and its positive impact upon the community and its economic regeneration. It is the Board's understanding that the land reclamation grant does not restrict development of new initiatives (hence planning approval for Guardian) and would therefore urge the exploration of new initiatives as opposed to housing.

The Board would wish to raise awareness of the safer access routes currently being installed which link Aberbeeg and Six Bells via the colliery site. This development will need to access land currently being proposed for the new school. The Board would wish to raise its concerns that current spend and development is being undertaken which in turn will be null and void as the safer routes will not be able to access over the school site. The safer routes access scheme brings further benefits to the area, one which builds upon further development access to healthier lifestyles through walking and cycling.

The on going development of walkways including the Safer Access Routes scheme further supports health initiatives including exit strategies for GP referrals to walking groups, this is further supported by a cross Borough initiatives between BGCBC and Caerphilly as being delivered by Communities First St. Illtyds. These initiatives which are being supported by Communities First across the Ebbw Fach Valley provide an excellent platform to establish and develop on going direct impact to both the poverty agenda and also directly impacting on health issues which are evident through the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) and the Aneurin Bevan Health Board Strategy. (Obesity and healthy lifestyles). Such important initiatives need to develop to address the high ill health status of the localised communities, it is the access to this open space which is currently supporting these developments and will be impacted if such access is lost.

Q5 – Relates to Environment Agency only

Whilst this question relates to The Environment agency only, SBCF would wish to seek clarification that if the flood risk assessment outlines that the lower plateau is within a flood risk area, are BGCBC willing to consider utilising the upper plateau for school purposes and will BGCBC agree for the lower plateau to be created into Parc Arrael Griffin.

Other points to consider:

SBCF would like to outline that the proposed outline for the school whilst impinges upon access to the middle plateau does not state any intention of utilising any of the middle plateau for playing fields etc. SBCF is seeking clarification as to whether the planned area for a school is the area in total ie: not on the middle plateau and would ask whether playing field provision is included on the lower plateau.

If any area of the middle plateau is being developed for the school then SBCF would question where this is outlined in the LDP and would question whether this too would make BGCBC plan unsound as they have not clearly outlined the extent of their development for proposed usage of land.

SBCF has serious concerns that the school impinges upon access to Guardian and the cycle and walkways. SBCF would request that should any such development be undertaken that proper consideration be taken in regard to permitting access to Guardian and its links to the Ebbw Fach Trail whilst bearing in mind the safe secure setting as required by a primary school.

Local Development Plan Examination.

HEARING SESSION 5

PARC ARRUEL GRIFFIN

(AS (N) 23)

**Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.
Local Development Plan Examination.**

Hearing session: 5 Parc Arrael Griffin (AS (N) 23)

Parc Arrael Griffin:

As outlined in the above section, BGCBC make reference to *Six Bells Development Brief*. Listed below are the relevant bullet points.

Bullet point number 8 - (Valuable recreational and tourist destination)

Bullet point number 18 - (Impact upon economy)

Response to question as being asked by The Inspector.

BGCBC states that tourism development has already been carried on this site. The tourism development of this site has been community led through the projects initiated by SBCF in partnership with BGCBC. (Guardian, The Ebbw Fach Trail and Ty Ebbw Fach). SBCF also worked in partnership with BGCBC to develop the initial regeneration of the area through funding and physical support with the planting and pathways. As previously outlined, SBCF has a history of working in partnership with BGCBC to develop and deliver exciting large scale projects.

In terms of tourism, SBCF would outline that in its opinion that tourism and leisure is only just developing within the area. Of the limited unique selling points BGCBC has, Guardian is one of them.

SBCF believes that a failure to appropriately build in a mechanism whereby these successful community led projects are supported through appropriate development then there will be a negative impact upon the local and wider economic development.

SBCF in partnership with Ty Ebbw Fach has been developing tours to the area. To date 10 tours have taken place which have totalled at 326 people attending. A full break down of the tours is provided below.

The tours have not only included a guided tour and the story 'behind Guardian' (1.5 hours on site) but also food and refreshments and the selling of memorabilia at Ty Ebbw Fach. This is an important aspect of the tours as it is supporting the newly developed Social Enterprise which in turn supports training, volunteering and employment within the area.

Further to the 'known' tours, other tours have taken place along with numerous visitors to the site which have not been captured on any official statistics. SBCF know this through the local community reporting back about the coaches arriving and people being on site. Since the installation of the people counters, official evidence will be able to be captured.

A robust infrastructure is being developed by SBCF and its partners to establish the area as a tourist destination. This infrastructure includes developing training and employment for local people as one of the many positive 'by-products' of tourism.

Further work is being carried out with Big Pit and the development of Tourism Ambassadors will further support the promotion of the scheme and support tourism to the area.

The land reclamation grant acquired for the reclamation of the former colliery site and any associated criteria for development needs to be revisited in line with the development of guardian and its positive impact upon the community and its economic regeneration. SBCF understands that the land reclamation grant does not restrict development of new initiatives (hence planning approval for Guardian) and would therefore urge the exploration of new initiatives as opposed to housing.

The creation of Guardian and its impact towards the local economy is still be evaluated. However, Guardian has clearly created huge interest. It is a simple fact that the visitors coming to the area are coming **only** because Guardian is located here. Guardian is now gaining international recognition and has been visited by numerous high profile people including The First Minister of Wales and HRH Prince Charles.

Appendices

**Appendix 1: Council Response
- Council Analysis**

**Appendix 2: Visitors to area
- Tours / Events
- Quotes
- Areas visitors from**

Appendix 3: People counters (numbers)

Appendix 4: View of Guardian

APPENDIX : 1

COUNCIL RESPONSE

Council Analysis

There are a number of issues relating to this site these are dealt with under the following headings:

- bullet points
- 1 • **Support for allocation H1.14 (WG - BETS)**
Support welcomed.
 - 2 • **Amend the boundary of H1.14 to include the former Aberbeeg Junior School site (PPE)Disagree.** The Council's Ecologist opposes the proposed site boundary amendment on the grounds that the former Aberbeeg junior school has been demolished to create an area of bare ground. The school site is not currently part of the candidate LNR and/or SINC. However the addition of this area to the existing housing allocation would result in an increase in the number of dwellings, this is likely to result in impacts on the adjacent LNR and SINC.
 - 3 • **Delete the proposed residential use and allocate for a primary school use (A Goodenough + petition) (Mrs L M Evans + petition)**

A development brief has been prepared for the future use of the Six Bells Colliery site. The development brief establishes the capacity of the site for development and also sets out the quality and standards of design that would be expected in the redevelopment of the site.

The development brief and the Education department identify that the lower plateau of the Six Bells Colliery site is the most appropriate location for the school in terms of its size requirements as the land at the lower plateau can accommodate the proposed footprint of the school. The upper plateau is not large enough to accommodate the school building.

There is uncertainty around the feasibility of the upper plateau for a school development without significant investigation. However, it is known that because of the site topography that development costs are likely to be higher. The last time a school was constructed on site with a steep slope, an additional £200,000 of funding was required. The development also incurred significant delays and added pressures to the build programme.

It is also considered that the location of the school on the lower plateau will have less of a visual impact than if located on the upper plateau. The upper plateau proposes 40 houses which is a low density scheme in order to protect the views of the Guardian Memorial and takes into account the adjacent landscape qualities.

It is therefore fundamentally unwise to sacrifice a site which will accommodate a school to move to a site that has inherent difficulties for redevelopment. This could create a whole additional series of technical issues that may impose constraints upon the layout and involve additional costs when there is a site already suitable for the intended purpose.

- 4
- **Delete the site from the Plan** (A Goodenough + petition) (Mrs L M Evans + petition) (P Adamson) (SBCF + petition) (Mr S Jones) (Mr A Thomas) (Mrs Y Walker)

This site was previously assessed and approved under the Candidate Site Assessment Process for residential development (Candidate Site D13a).

The following reasons were raised:

- 5
- **Better used for a primary school** (A Goodenough + petition)

This issue is dealt with under the objection to delete the proposed residential use and allocate for a primary school, above.

- 6
- **Impact on A467** (A Goodenough + petition)

The A467 at Warm Turn is a Strategic Highway within the County Borough linking the A465 (T) Heads of the Valley to the M4 Corridor, it is also an important main arterial route adjoining regions of the County Borough. The said route is not operating at its capacity, and any proposed development served off this primary route will have junction/highway infrastructure and improvements that will be designed in accordance with current safety standards and capacity specification for such a residential development. The extent of such junction design/infrastructure works cannot be determined until proposed traffic flow / movement patterns have been analysed. Any such development will be the subject of a Traffic Impact Assessment and have the required Independent Road Safety Audit undertaken. There are no highway grounds of objection to such a residential development at this location.

- 7
- **Questions the need for housing** (A Goodenough + petition) (L M Evans + petition)

The Housing need to be met by the Plan is based on Assembly Government Household Projections for Blaenau Gwent which identifies the need for 3,932 dwellings between 2006-2021. A reduced figure of 3,500 is identified in the Plan to reflect the Council's plans to reduce the number of vacant properties in the area.

The figure is based on a population increase of 2,135 but only a quarter of this is as a result of migration to the area, the rest is from natural changes, that is more births than deaths. The reason a greater number of houses are needed is due to the reduction in the number of people living in each house. This reflects societal changes such as an aging population and more people choosing to live alone or in smaller households.

- 8
- **Valuable recreational and tourist destination** (P Adamson) (L M Evans + petition)

It is acknowledged that the Guardian Memorial located on the site is a popular tourist destination and a valuable recreational resource. The development of the Six Bells Colliery site is supported by a development brief which seeks to ensure that the development is sympathetic to the adjacent platform and the Guardian memorial through its indicative layout and a low density housing scheme.

- 9
- **Ground is man-made** (L M Evans + petition)

In 2006, the Authorities Consultants undertook a stability assessment of the slope at the Six Bells Colliery site. The assessment identified that the amount

of movement is small and does not appear to be causing distress to the adjacent slope.

A number of remedial options have been considered one of these will be implemented to stabilise the slope upon receipt of funding or can be undertaken as part of the plateau development. The remedial work to be undertaken will be to the satisfaction of the Local Authority before any recommendation can be given within the formal Planning application.

10 ▪ **Highway safety issues** (L M Evans + petition)

The Traffic Impact Assessment required at the planning application stage should identify any existing or potential highway safety concerns, these would need to be addressed to the satisfaction of the Highway Authority, for any formal Planning Application to be recommended for approval.

11 ▪ **Impact on the natural environment and biodiversity** (L M Evans) SBCF + petition)

It is acknowledged that the site is adjacent to a SINC and candidate LNR and that since mining activity ceased on the site it has become significant for its local biodiversity and landscape value. Therefore Chapter 9 of the Deposit Plan identifies that a full ecological survey including trees and vegetation and a biodiversity constraints and enhancement plan is required at the planning application stage.

The development brief also establishes a series of core design objectives to help create environments that are sustainable and exhibit a high level of design quality. One of these design objectives relates to environmental capital and seeks to maximise the use of existing site features and biodiversity enhancement.

12 ▪ **Forms part of the Valleys Regional Park** (SBCF + petition)

It is acknowledged that the middle plateau of the site forms part of the Valleys Regional Park and that the Guardian Memorial is highlighted as a top ten feature. Any development of the Six Bells Colliery Site would need to be considered against policies DM15 and DM16 which seek to protect and enhance biodiversity and the green infrastructure.

13 ▪ **Loss of open space and ecological connectivity** (SBCF + petition)

The middle plateau of the Six Bells Colliery Site is to be retained as open space and recreation. The development of this site for residential use will need to be in accordance with policies DM14 and DM15. Policy DM14 seeks to protect open space and where there is a loss compensatory provision will be made. Policy DM15 seeks to protect and enhance the green infrastructure network.

14 ▪ **Focus on renewal area** (SBCF + petition)

Policy SP4 acknowledges the importance of continuing to work on the renewal area to improve existing housing. Paragraph 6.31 commits the Council to continuing to assess the viability of future housing renewal schemes across the County Borough and to continue to seek funding sources to improve the quality, longevity and energy efficiency of the housing stock across all tenures.

15

▪ **Not compatible with other uses** (SBCF + petition)

A development brief has been prepared for the future use of the Six Bells Colliery site. The vision of the document is to ensure that the proposed uses of the site complement each other through design and sustainability and take into account the associated constraints of the land. The development brief states that "New residential development will be set within the attractive wider setting of the valley as well as an enhanced local landscape with biodiversity interest. The development will have strong accessible links to the Six Bells community and, together with the introduction of a new school aid the regeneration of the village."

16

▪ **Impact on infrastructure required to develop housing** (SBCF + petition)

As part of the candidate site assessment work detailed assessments have been undertaken to determine any infrastructure needs associated with the development of this site for housing. Chapter 9 of the Deposit Plan sets out the infrastructure needs.

17

▪ **Increased traffic** (SBCF + petition)

The Highway Authority has completed both a site inspection and a Highway Assessment Proforma for this LDP allocation. It is the opinion of the Highway Authority that the local highway network is more than capable of serving as access to the site, subject to localised highway improvements and any recommendations of a Traffic Impact Assessment which would need to be submitted with any planning application.

The lower density figure used to calculate the number of houses that could be accommodated at this site would also result in less traffic movements.

18

▪ **Impact on economy** (SBCF + petition)

The development of this site will not impact on the tourism economy. The Six Bells Development Brief has been prepared to ensure that the adjacent developments do not impact or conflict with the middle plateau but are complementary and create a sustainable development.

19

▪ **Pressure on community facilities** (SBCF + petition)

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that appropriate community facilities are provided throughout Blaenau Gwent. In recognition of this need the Council has been working with the Health Authority, Education department, emergency services, social services and leisure. The Community Facilities Background Paper provides information on the latest position on this. Chapter 9 of the Deposit Plan identifies infrastructure needs associated with the development of this site. It is identified that a primary and secondary school contribution would be required and a contribution to develop existing facilities in Parc Arrael Griffin.

20

▪ **Contrary to Six Bells Regeneration Strategy** (SBCF + petition)

The plans for this site are identified in the current Unitary Development Plan. Therefore it could be argued that the regeneration strategy is contrary to the Council's proposals for the area.

▪ **Site qualifies as a rural exception site** (SBCF + petition)

APPENDIX : 2

APPENDIX: 2

Known numbers / visitors to area.

Opening event (28.6.2010) Counted 7,500 (estimated 10,000)
Eisteddfod week (2010) 1,000 counted over 3 days (estimated 2,000 over 3 days)
Pit Party (June 2011) Counted 3,500 (estimated 5,000)
Since 18.8.2011: People counters: 9901. (Average of 1,000 per month)
HRH Prince Charles opening Ty Ebbw Fach(21.11.2011) 120 guests and min 300 in marquee outside.

Tours:

8.6.2011 Newport History group 50 people *
10.9.2011. Sunbury Upon Thames Welsh History Society 20 people*
16.9.2011 Llandybie Male Voice Choir 20 people *
30.9.2011 Growing together group Ammanford. 40 people**
17.10 2011. VRP Conference Tour 40 people **.
28.4.2012. Swiss Tourists Agencies – Visit Wales. 9 People (Tour agencies inc: China, France, Italy, France and Switzerland) *
11.5.2012. U3A Tredegar Group 12 people**
18.5.2012. WECAN Tour 55 people plus guides**.
26.5.2012 Llanyrafon group 40 people *.
27.5.2012. Twinning Association 40 people.
* With freshements
** Full catering and 1.5 hour tour

Other tours pending:

11.6.2012 mystery tour 20 people.
17.7.2012. CAN DO TEAM - Access to heritage visit – numbers TBC.
26.7.2012. Bristol group tour 40 people
September. Isle of Wight Comprehensive School tour 77 pupils plus teachers.
Creation Group – Tourism company – 6 people – TBC.

Other events on site pending:

24.6.2012 Six Bells Pit Party– catering for 5,000 people.
July 2012. In the Pink charity walk expecting 150 people.

Quotes:

HRH Prince of Wales: “ A remarkable memorial”, “ new life, inspiration and hope to the community” “real regeneration opportunities” “Wonderful community activity”

Carwyn Jones First Minister Wales “A wonderful memorial to those who lost their lives in Six bells and across Wales”

Elena Marks Director Communities First “An exceptional and unique memorial, so glad to have visited”

Derek Vaughan MEP “ A fitting tribute delivered by a fantastic community, It was an honour too see what a community can achieve, it is also good to see our past remembered”

Alun Davies AM “ A very moving tribute”

John Parsons Director Env & Regen BGCBC “ A tribute that’s engaged the whole community”

Robin Morrision Chief Exec BGCBC “A fitting tribute and very impressive memorial”

G Thomas MP (Shadow Minister) “a fantastic and really exciting project”

Jocelyn Davies AM “I’m a very proud Minister today”

French Comprehensive school (48 pupils and teachers) “After an unforgettable visit to Big Pit, my pupils have really been impressed by that amazing so astonishing statue. It is a fantastic idea to have this memorial standing in such a wonderful landscape to make us remember how hard life was for the people living here. We will never forget this site – thank you”

Alan Ware – Chairman of Newport History society “A special place, thanks for a wonderful evening”

Royden Paul Cardot French tour guide and on behalf of the French twinning Assoc. “After many years travelling with groups through Wales, this was the first time such a memorial give me this feeling of what could be such a disaster. Well done, I shall come again with other groups”

Guardian has a Facebook page and is being followed on twitter.

BBC and ITV completed 2 documentaries on Guardian.

Huge media coverage of opening event including:

BBC (National) Sky news. ITV and BBC Wales TV and Radio. BBC 2 countryside programme.

Visitors have come from across the world to see Guardian, a sample of which include:

Wales:

Risca, New Inn (Pontypool), Newbridge, Cardiff, Newport, Swansea
Cwmbran, Gilwern, Crickhowell, Merthyr, Blackwood
Castle Emyln, Ceredigion, Bridgend, Rhondda, Brecon
Pontllanfraith, Glynneath, Croespenmaen, New Tredegar
Argoed, Porthmadog, Neath, Rogerstone
Brynteg, Ebbw Vale, Gwynedd, Treharris
Porthcawl, Ammanford

UK:

Solihull, West Midlands, Caldicot, Barnsley, Castleford
Portsmouth, Sunbury Upon Thames, Sunderland
Tidworth Wiltshire, Croydon, Hereford, Sheffield
Gloucester, Coventry, Birmingham
Northumberland, Somerset, Saffron Walden
Shropshire, Plymouth Devon
Surrey, Northwich, Kent, Wessex
Bromley, Thornbury, Workingham
Worcester, Bristol, Manchester, Norfolk

International:

Australia, Sweden, Dubai
New Jersey – USA, Switzerland
Belgium, France
Ireland, Portugal
Canada, Rome – Italy

(All can be evidence captured from signatures in memorial books)

APPENDIX : 3

DATABASE FILE C:\COUNTERS\counters.NDB

SUMMARY OF SB02 (Access Footpath on Side of Carpark) FOR 2012

Total events: 12550.00
 Months with data: 5
 Avg per month: 1045.83
 Max per month: 2766.00
 Min per month: 0.00
 Days with data: 150
 Avg per day: 34.29
 Max per day: 173.00
 Min per day: 0.00
 Hours with data: 2717
 Avg per hour: 1.43
 Max per hour: 94.00
 Min per hour: 0.00

Calendar options:

Hours with events
 Cell colour [1C67E3] When Hours with events >= 11
 Cell colour [35CA9D] When Hours with events >= 6
 Cell colour [C08000] When Hours with events > 0
 Cell colour When Other cases

2012	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	19	19	17	20	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	19	19	20	18	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	18	17	17	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	17	18	17	18	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	17	19	18	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	21	17	18	21	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	19	16	17	19	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	20	17	19	19	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	19	18	17	14	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	19	21	20	19	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	19	17	19	19	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	19	20	17	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	19	19	16	16	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	17	16	17	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	23	16	19	21	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16	18	18	17	20	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	17	19	17	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18	19	16	19	16	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19	16	19	20	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	17	16	17	17	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21	19	18	19	17	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22	20	19	20	19	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	17	16	20	20	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24	16	20	19	20	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	18	20	19	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26	19	19	19	17	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	21	18	19	18	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28	20	19	18	21	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29	21	19	17	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30	17		18	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31	19		19		0	0	0		0		0	0

SUMMARY OF SB05 (Pedestrian route) FOR 2011

UJA DBQ AREA

Total events: 3695.00
 Months with data: 4
 Avg per month: 307.92
 Max per month: 1258.00
 Min per month: 0.00
 Days with data: 97
 Avg per day: 10.10
 Max per day: 69.00
 Min per day: 0.00
 Hours with data: 1188
 Avg per hour: 0.42
 Max per hour: 14.00
 Min per hour: 0.00

Calendar options:

- Hours with events
- Cell colour [1C67E3] When Hours with events >= 11
- Cell colour [35CA9D] When Hours with events >= 6
- Cell colour [C08000] When Hours with events > 0
- Cell colour When Other cases

Mill	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14	15	0	0
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	14	11	0	0
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	12	10	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	12	9	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	10	8	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	10	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	10	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	13	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	12	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	10	11	0	0
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	12	11	0	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	12	0	0
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	11	0	0
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	12	11	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12	14	0	0
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	11	12	0	0
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	10	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13	13	0	0
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	11	0	0
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	13	0	0
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13	11	12	0	0
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	15	13	12	0	0
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	14	10	0	0
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	11	15	10	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	11	12	0	0	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	13	0	0	0
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	13	0	0	0
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	13	12	0	0	0
29	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	13	0	0	0
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	12	14	0	0	0
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	13	0	0	0	0

SUMMARY OF SB04 (The Guardian) FOR 2011

Total events: 4527.00
 Months with data: 5
 Avg per month: 377.25
 Max per month: 1552.00
 Min per month: 0.00
 Days with data: 133
 Avg per day: 12.37
 Max per day: 207.00
 Min per day: 0.00
 Hours with data: 706
 Avg per hour: 0.52
 Max per hour: 139.00
 Min per hour: 0.00

Calendar options:

- Hours with events
- Cell colour [1C67E3] When Hours with events >= 11
- Cell colour [35CA9D] When Hours with events >= 6
- Cell colour [C08000] When Hours with events > 0
- Cell colour When Other cases

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	5	4
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	7	2
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	5	3
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	1	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	5	1
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	6	9	1
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	6	1
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	2	1
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	3	1
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	3	2
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	3	0
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	4	1
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4	3	6
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	5	3
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	4	3
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6	5	2
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	4	2
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	8	5
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	6	1
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	3
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	3	6	7
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	6	7	3
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	7	1
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	4	3
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	4	0
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	6	7	4
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	1	7
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	4	4
29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	12	3	3
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7	7	5
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	4

DATABASE FILE C:\COUNTERS\counters.NDB

SUMMARY OF SB03 (Access point near Com. centre) FOR 2011

Total events: 19339.00
 Months with data: 6
 Avg per month: 1611.58
 Max per month: 4344.00
 Min per month: 0.00
 Days with data: 170
 Avg per day: 52.84
 Max per day: 308.00
 Min per day: 0.00
 Hours with data: 3034
 Avg per hour: 2.20
 Max per hour: 100.00
 Min per hour: 0.00

Calendar options:

Hours with events

Cell colour [1C67E3] When Hours with events >= 11

Cell colour [35CA9D] When Hours with events >= 6

Cell colour [C08000] When Hours with events > 0

Cell colour When Other cases

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	16	17	20
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	21	16	17
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	15	17	15	18
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	17	19	19	19
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	16	15	18	18
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	16	16	19	16
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	19	16	19	15
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	13	13	13	14
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	20	16	20
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	20	20	19
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	18	15	17	15
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	18	17	15
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	20	18	16	13
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	13	19	19	13
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	13	14	14	15
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	17	15	16
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	19	20	18
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	14	13	17
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	15	17	17	13
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	17	22	19
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	15	19	15
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	17	21	20
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	16	13	17	15
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	17	19	20	18
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	17	20	18
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	18	18	16
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	20	13	19
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	20	20
29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	20	18	13
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	19	17	13
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	19	20	18	18

SUMMARY OF SB02 (Access Footpath on Side of Carpark) FOR 2011

Total events: 19380.00
 Months with data: 6
 Avg per month: 1615.00
 Max per month: 4336.00
 Min per month: 0.00
 Days with data: 170
 Avg per day: 52.95
 Max per day: 262.00
 Min per day: 0.00
 Hours with data: 3158
 Avg per hour: 2.21
 Max per hour: 97.00
 Min per hour: 0.00

Calendar options:

Hours with events

Cell colour [1C67E3] When Hours with events >= 11

Cell colour [35CA9D] When Hours with events >= 6

Cell colour [C08000] When Hours with events > 0

Cell colour: When Other cases

2011	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	17	13
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	22	13	13
3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	17	19	17	20
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	19	19	17
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	15	17	15	19
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	15	17	20	17
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	15	20	21	13
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	20	15	13
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	14	20	19	13
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	15	19	17
11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	19	13	15	13
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	20	13	13
13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	19	19	19	13
14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	17	16	21	13
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	13	17	20	17
16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20	19	21	17
17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	13	19	15
18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	21	20	13
19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	22	20	13	19
20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	11	19	15
21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	13	13	17	17
22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	13	15	13	13
23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	20	20	13	20
24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	22
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	16
26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	17	13	15	21
27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	20
28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	20	13	13	13
29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	17	13	13
30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	13	13	13	13
31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	14	21	13	20

APPENDIX : 4

