

7th March, 2017

Minutes of the Gilfach Iago Working party meeting held at the Council Offices, High Street, Llandybie on Tuesday, 7th March, 2017 at 6 p.m.

Present

Councillors	P.H. Roberts	Mrs S. E. Thomas	A. Davies
	N. Evans	A.P Cooper	I. Rh. Llewelyn

1363.

Gilfach Iago OCCS

Further to Minute 1313 – Presentation from Carmarthenshire County Council on Gilfach Iago – this meeting had been convened with Rob Thompson, Operations Director Celtic Energy, to update the Members on their proposal to settle this long outstanding matter. Steve Murphy, Senior Solicitor with Carmarthenshire County Council was also in attendance.

Members reminded Mr Thompson that Celtic Energy had reneged on their initial plans to reinstate the roads, pathways and bridleways and that a Public Enquiry had also found that reinstatement should occur. None of the work had been undertaken and concern was expressed that the pathways officially remained open but caused a significant danger to the public.

Mr Thompson confirmed that the Celtic Energy proposal included the return of all pathways and bridleways, and included the construction of new bridleways. The monetary offer of £175k remained in place. They are also prepared to offer a piece of land at the centre of Gilfach Iago to the Community Council, but Members questioned whether this could turn out to more of a liability in terms of long term maintenance. In return, the roads would not be replaced.

Members suggested that a cycle path be considered to link up the Gwendraeth Valley cycle path and the Brecon Beacon cycle path, to run along one of the bridleways with improved surfacing suitable for cyclists. Whilst recognising that Celtic Energy had made mistakes and fallen short of the original agreement to reinstate the road, the Members recognised that a compromise would be necessary and that a reasonable equitable solution should be found for both parties. Both Steve Murphy and Rob Thompson agreed to investigate the potential opportunity of Sustrans becoming involved with the cycle path, and any grant funding that might be available for the Community Council.

Mr Thompson agreed to revisit the proposals and discuss with the Celtic Energy Board who will next meet in May 2017. He indicated that they were keen to reach a settlement as this case remained a liability on their Balance Sheet.

It was agreed that a further meeting to update Members be held on the 20th June, 2017 at 6pm at the Council Chamber

1364.

As there was nothing further to discuss the meeting closed at 7 pm.

Chair