

30/11/00

Town cattle market area in 'appalling' condition

Dear Editor

DURING the 28 years I have resided in Cowbridge, the condition of the properties in Eastgate and Westgate has been constantly improved, resulting in the present high quality and appearance of these buildings.

The only area that has been constantly downgraded is the cattle market. The roads around this area are in an appalling condition, despite the useless 'patching-up' that has taken place. The area adjacent to, and 50 yards from the Health Centre is constantly a foot deep in cattle slurry on market days. How planning permission was granted to build a health centre so close to an area of contamination is questionable.

There is no adequate drainage system of the Butts, or the ground adjacent to the main sheep market area; consequently, during and after a rainy period, this site is constantly flooded. The open area adjacent to the sheep market is like a World War 1 battlefield and is a hazardous journey for cattle transportation vehicles – and at night for people attending the Market Place theatre and the Scouts building.

Most town cattle markets attract the attention of small children who love to see all the animals. Cowbridge market after rain would most probably drown small children!

There have been rumours for a long time that Cowbridge cattle market was moving to Pencoed, but to date there are no signs of this happening.

I lived on a farm in Cornwall for three years so I am well aware of the conditions of life in the fields, but there is no need to duplicate those conditions in the middle of a town.

It would be appreciated by all concerned if this area of Cowbridge could be brought up to modern acceptable standards, in the near future, in particular the roads and drainage systems.

Yours sincerely

D V Reeves, Cowbridge

15/11/91
£2MILLION 'SET ASIDE FOR PROJECTS', BUT ...

'No immediate plans for the cattle market'

SAYS THE VALE COUNCIL

VALE Council officials this week claimed that there were no plans to redevelop Cowbridge Cattle Market, despite setting aside part of £2 million for "on-going projects" this year.

The announcement comes after Vale Council officials published their council summons report, prior to a recent meeting where it was estimated that the council's capital receipts at the end of March this year were £8.8 million.

In the report, it was claimed that "£2m would possibly be utilised during the current financial year for projects including Penarth Pier and Cowbridge Cattle Market."

A spokesman for the Vale Council stressed however, that: "The money is to be used for on-going plans and there are no immediate plans to develop the cattle market site.

"We can not reveal how the money is split up - much of it is needed for negotiations regarding Penarth Pier - and any money not used could be kept for next year."

CONTROVERSY

As revealed in The GEM during the past four months, the site has been the subject of much controversy with Foot and Mouth apparatus being set up by the leasees Glamorgan Mart, before owners, the Vale Council, ordered for it

to be taken down.

Plans to spend money on "on-going" projects was news to Glamorgan Mart representatives, however, who were still in discussions with the Vale Council regarding the apparatus.

Farming representatives, however, said they were disappointed that no plans had been made to spend money at the site.

Andrew Davies, NFU Glamorgan branch chairman, said: "With grant aid, £2 million would just about sell the cattle market and enable us to move to a modern market site, but it seems that Penarth Pier will take the lion's share of the money."

10/11/06
+over

FRF BRIDGEND
www.frfmotorgroup.co.uk
TELEPHONE: 08456 209779

The Cowbridge

GEM

VFD GEM Series (incorporates Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and Barry Editions) 29,380
Jan 2 - July 2 2006. Publishers Statement-6,250 copies for personal collection

A FAMILY-OWNED NEWSPAPER WITH

SELL CATTLE MARKET OR NO NEW SCHOOL - SAYS COUNCIL LEADER

by **RICHARD TAYLOR**

THE sale of the cattle market site in Cowbridge will be "essential" for the Schools Investment Strategy, the leader of the Vale Council has insisted.

Coun Jeffrey James has said that cash from the sale of the cattle market will go towards the school building strategy - and therefore to the new Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

The strategy involves the re-development of three comprehensive schools in the Vale - Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, and St Cyres, Penarth.

Coun James commented: "The release of the value of this site will be essential to support the Schools Investment Strategy, which has identified land, including the market site, as producing capital towards the building of the new Cowbridge Comprehensive School."

The cattle market is currently used by local residents and visitors as a

car parking facility, and fears have grown that its loss could be detrimental to the town's economy.

Coun James has moved to reassure residents, however, that a planning brief will take issues such as parking into account.

He said: "The auctioneers, who are the leaseholders of the site, have indicated their willingness to arrive at an amicable agreement to relinquish their interest, so that the site, which is of significant importance to the council and to the people of Cowbridge, can be identified for a new use.

"The council cabinet asked that the existing planning brief for the site be reviewed and brought up to date. The revised planning brief will need cabinet approval and, after that, approval will then be available for wider consultation, including with the planning committee, Town Council, and on the Vale Council's website.

"There are many essential issues that need to be considered, including future parking and future use, and the planning brief will consider all the relevant options and identify improvement works required as part of any development."

He has also expressed a desire for any development to be sympathetic with the historic surroundings.

He said: "This is a wonderful opportunity to remove the old cattle market building and reveal the old Town Wall.

"When the planning brief is finally approved, after consultation, the council will then be in a position to market the site and seek expressions of interest."

The vice chairman of the chamber of trade, Alun John, has dismissed Coun James' comments as "propaganda", however, claiming that the Vale Council has an ulterior motive behind the proposed sale.

He said: "This is another classic example of the Vale Council asset stripping Cowbridge.

"Losing the car park would sound the death knell for 50 per cent of businesses in the town.

"The sale of the Lower School site, which is far more valuable than the cattle market, is supposed to have funded the new school, so there has evidently been a failure in cash management."

Dr Chris Pearce, the co-ordinator of the Cowbridge and Llanblethian Residents Group, agreed with Mr John, saying: "In my view, it is bad financial management to sell one essential amenity to pay for another.

"The council has presumably already raised capital from the sale of the old Grammar School and council yard sites in Church Street.

"The petition to save the cattle market is growing daily, and the most frequent comment we have received from the 1,100 signatories is - *if we cannot park here, we will not come.*"

Pe
Sh
to s
n
bc
th
we
in l
sh

PETER S bank adv was kidn: Tbilisi, G 2002, will copies of Cowbrid; day.

Mr Shayv Hole - Kid Georgia, re experience Pankisi G where he w hostage for months.

Mr Shayv in Cowbrid signing his Cowbridge from Ham moving on Davies new

CL

200 PARKING PLACES NEEDED TO COMBAT TOWN CONGESTION

YOUR headlines 'Parking concerns deepen in Cowbridge' and 'Traffic Lunacy' (The GEM, November 9) caught my eye as I have campaigned for better management of parking in the vicinity of the Town Hall car park and also in Westgate.

As regards the latter, unless action is taken, traffic congestion will only get worse once the health centre is relocated.

My solution would be to ban parking (say between 8am-6pm except Sunday) on the north side of Westgate between Eagle Lane

and Ramoth Church.

This is not favoured by the local police who, in my opinion, prefer congestion to speeding.

Another objection is said to be that there is nowhere else for cars to park, so nothing gets done, apart from painting a 'Keep Clear' sign at the junction of Westgate and the Broad Shoard.

What could be done, given the constraints on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's financial resources?

I had hoped that the Town Hall car park could be extended by the acquisition of the Royal British Legion site, but I understand the national sale price placed on the site is beyond the Vale's resources.

Fortunately, the same situation

will not apply to the cattlemarket site as this is in council ownership. Given the need to provide additional car parking spaces is essential, if the economy of Cowbridge is to be sustained; and also if the town is to remain the Vale's 'Jewel in the Crown' for tourism, the Vale Council now has the opportunity to realise the development potential of the cattle market site in a way which incorporates some 200 plus parking spaces.

It is up to everyone concerned to make their views known to our Vale councillors, in order that they can be aware of the support on this vital issue for the future of Cowbridge.

Len Taylor, Cowbridge