Straying Animals - Action Plan June 2021

No.	Action Description	Action Owner	Expected Outcome	Timescales	Budget / Staff Resource Implications	Risk / RAG status
1	What would be the current cost for an Impounding Service?	Neigh. Services	To identify the cost associated with implementing a new Impounding Service	Short Term	£80,000 - £100,000 per year [2 FTE's, vehicle, cattle trailer, not including premises]	Complete
2	Updated Farmers / Commoners / Landowners / NRW List [BGCBC and Police to have access] - est. single points of contact for each stakeholder	BG	All stakeholders aware of relevant contact details	Medium Term	Within current resources	In progress
3	Data gathering - no of reports / requests / GIS overlay	C2BG	To identify problematic areas	Short Term	1st Feb - 7th May = 2189 calls Ebbw Vale - 78% Tredegar - 12% Blaina / Abertillery - 10%	Complete
4	Reporting mechanism for farmers / public / Members [e.g. App / MCS / "What3words"]	BG	Investigate means of easier / improving reporting of location of sheep and fence repairs	Medium Term	Within current resources	In progress
5	Establish a full register of land and boundary fenceline ownership [inc. mapping of BG land, common land NRW land etc.	Estates	• Priority 1 - Identify land in BG ownership which backs on to the various Commons having fence line maintenance responsibility and map on a GIS overlay (note BG not necessarily legally responsible for fencing all boundaries but have taken management decisions to fence certain areas) • Priority 2 - Identify land in third party ownership which backs on to the various Commons having fence line maintenance responsibility and map on a GIS overlay (note may not be able to identify all land and boundary responsibilities if not registered at Land Registry). • Priority 3 - Identify owners and fencing responsibility of hotspot areas when identified. • Outcome - This will enable responsibility to be quickly identified and the appropriate response determined.	Medium Term	• Staff time in researching ownership information (desk top)– suggest 3 days per common for 5 commons. • Costs of obtaining land ownership conformation from Land Registry (difficult to determine until number of registered owners are identified (suggest 5 commons @ £250.00 per common). • Staff time in walking BG land boundaries adjacent commons and prreparing reports on outcomes (2-3 days per common for 2 people). • Impact: Day to day estate management, dealing with queries, plan preparation, land ownership information, asset valuation and annual WAO audit, decanting – knock on to other officers and services. • Impact: Staff involved will not be able to support Bridging the Gap initiatives, Land Review, rating, growth strategy.	In progress
6	Meetings convened on a local level with Farmers / Commoners / Police to remove sheep from Highway / repair fencelines - Questioning current effectiveness of fencing? using different types/methods of securing boundaries to be considered to target harden. repeat locations and reduce the opportunity of repeat issues. Gwent Police designing out crime officer may be able to assist in this.	Neigh. Services	A protocol established for the collection of straying animals. Offer some support to farmers in the recovering of straying animals	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress
7	Identify Current "Hot Spots" across the Council - to be mapped and signage erected [inc. rights of way]	C2BG / Estates / Neigh. Services	Target resources to try and elivaite the problem	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress
8	Fully Establish the legal position for dealing with straying animals [BG /NRW / Police / SEWTRA / WG [Trunk Roads] etc.]	Legal	Everyone would be clear about their responsibility	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress
9	Establish multi-agency meeting with Police, NRW, other LA's etc. Every 3 months?	Comm. Safety	Regular updates between Organisations leading to quicker response	Medium Term	Within current resources	
10	Liaise with NFU for advice?	P.Health	Position on tagging of sheep and livestock established	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress
11	Develop a Good Practice Guide for Farmers and Commoners i.e. tiered response model e.g. sheep on Highways = red, Clear process of reporting and 'callout response' required. Further process required for recovery of costs from livestock owners	Neigh. Services / Police	Protocol developed and issued to Farmers / commoners / Police etc ie what we actually do with the sheep? Who do we contact? Reporting lines with BGCBC etc.	Medium Term	Within current resources	In progress

12	Consider extending the current use of covert / overt cameras to deal with hotspot areas	Comm. Safety	Identify any criminal activity and act accordingly	Medium Term	Staff Resource required	
13	Community engagement - promote the revised countryside code (revised April 2021). When restrictions allow	Open Spaces	Including process for reporting roaming sheep	Medium Term	Staff Resource required, possible impact on other service provision	
14	All sheep to be ear tagged and fed into central database to allow immediate identification of who owns the sheep.	Farmers	This will allow early repatriation and to quickly establish the cause of the insecurity which can be repaired and cause further investigations if due to criminal conduct	Medium Term	to be determined following meeting with local farmers	
15	Gwent Police to assist with patrols at known 'pinch points' - also incorporates the off road bike issue	Police	Stakeholder meetings arranged and numerous Police Operations to take enforcement action	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress
16	Consideration of issuing body worn cameras to farmers to capture evidential footage of persons damaging fencing and build the intelligence picture	Police	Evidence capture	Medium Term	tbc	
17	Contact with other LA's to establish how they manage similar issues	P.Health	Establish best practice, share knowledge, collaborative working / resolution	Short Term	Completed by Dave Thompson	Complete
18	Establish a schedule for the cleaning out of cattle grids	Neigh. Services	Prevent sheep ability to cross cattle grids	Short Term	Within current resources	In progress