Tair Croes

Have you ever wondered just what happens in the field  at the end of the lane from Colwinston to the Llandow to Ewenny lane?

Well so did members of the Community Council and at the invitation of the farmer, Richard Anthony, Brian Morris and I accompanied by three members of The Ewenny and Corntown Community Council spent a blustery few hours on a site visit on a Saturday morning a few weeks ago.

To explain things very simply our green bag food waste which is collected weekly eventually makes it way to a large industrial site on Stormy Down where is undergoes treatment that removes all the toxicity and other odious elements. Apparently it then looks like an enormous pile of slightly damp Horlicks (as a drinker of that beverage myself that comparison made me shudder).

It is then piped into large tankers and is transported by road to Llampha. The large tankers are then driven along an internal road structure to the lagoon and the contents of the tanker are pumped into the lagoon. Water is added and the result is a dark liquid and after time for mixing and settlement the substance is used to fertilise the fields throughout the large acreage farmed by Richard with some being supplied to local farmers.

The whole process is fascinating and what in effect happens is that waste food eventually is used to fertilise fields where new crops are grown. The lagoon is enormous in size and is literally breath taking when viewed at close quarters.

And what of the large amount of stone on the site? As you can imagine the excavation process was a major task with tens of thousands of tonnes dug out. The stone has been broken down in size and is being used around the Estate with some being sold for use elsewhere. As the stone is used the piles get smaller and will eventually be clear, at which time the area will be seeded with grass. The emphasis of the owner has been to minimise disruption to local people and to ensure that all activity does not disrupt the tranquillity of the area.

Whilst excavation was taking place there was a short period of time when large commercial tipping lorries were using the lane through our village to the site as a short cut, but following a telephone call by a Community Councillor this ceased immediately. Whilst the residents of Ewenny have the tankers travelling their roads on certain days disruption is kept to a minimum.

The site and process is very impressive as is the enthusiasm of the owner and for such a progressive facility to be located in our area is credit to our farming community to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude as it is them who ensure out tables are laden with food.

Gareth Jones