Siege shatters village’s pre-Christmas peace

PEOPLE living around Stag’s Head, near Llangattock, expecting a quiet and peaceful Christmas, were shocked last week as an armed police, fire and ambulance service arrived on the scene of a 24-hour standoff involving the removal of wooden fencing at the side of the highway.

It all started at 10.30am last Wednesday when a county council official arrived with police at the Pempargery smallholding to serve notices on the removal of wooden fencing at the side of the highway.

The fence in question, which is around 150 yards long, was said to have been put up around two years ago to protect the banks on either side of the road from the previous overgrown trees by passing vehicles.

However, when a long-running dispute began between the landowners and the council last year, the council said that the removal of some of the trees should have been allowed for the purpose of the fence.

Pempargery is home to the Wor- gan family and it is understood that the three brothers and their mother were removed because they were obstructing the view of the police car as it moved down the lane.

The vehicle of the council officer who had come to oversee the removal of the fence, and a police car were burnt out during the incident.

Rural residents have been left shocked as a huge manhunt to find the people responsible for the attack was launched.

The Harvard-named police station has been closed and the local community has been left feeling unsafe.

Dispute with council started over a fence

THE TROUBLE began over the fence designed to protect hedges from being trimmed by council workers and ended with two men under arrest and thousands of man hours used by emergency services during the row.

The controversial fence along the side of the road now has had one wooden section torn off and is lying by the roadside on Thursday morning.

A spokesperson for Ceredigion County Council explained how the incident started and said: “Council workers had complained of the number of trees being trimmed on private property and the fencing was put up to protect the banks on either side of the road from the previous overgrown trees by passing vehicles.

The existence of the fence had been the subject of complaints by members of the public for some time.

The adjoining landowner had therefore been required to remove the obstruction subject to a notice under the Highways Act 1980.

Unfortunately, however, the landowner failed to remove the fence and the council officers were now carrying out work in default.”

Cllr David Evans, the county councillor for Llangattock, said that the situation was one of the worst heard about in the area for some time.

He said: “It is very unfortunate what has been happening over there in Llangattock.

The fences had made quite difficult for some motorists and residents and some of the local people had actually signed a petition asking for them to be removed.

Cllr Evans added: “This is all started when the hedges were cut and they didn’t want the council to cut them near their house.”

Removal of a wooden fence sparked the siege, which lasted 22 hours and involved great manpower from all emergency services.

“Then they put a large sign up saying ‘Do not cut the grass’ on the road, and that was there for one month, but then a ferry coming in from the farm cut up some of the hedge posts, and then they put up the fence on the main road, but also on the side roads from the crossroads.

The ferry workers are very sorry to put up that fence because they put up a large metal welded fence which made the road too narrow for the ferry so they’ve been putting animals on small fences, and then bringing them to the larger one on the main road.

“As far as I’m concerned the council let these people have their own way for long enough, but went about dealing with the council in the right way.

Everyone’s sympathy is in with the residents who had to work so much harder because of the people.

After the council posted signs notifying the landowner that the barriers were to be removed, signs apparently painted by the family had been nailed by the roadside near the property attacking the county council.

CARMARTHEN DENTURE STUDIO
10 Water Street, Carmarthen
For all your Denture Needs:
New Dentures - Repairs - Relines
New patients welcome
Telephone 01267 221112

DOWN HOME STOVES
AGA STANLEY
QUALITY CAST IRON RANGE COOKERS

Large selection of top brand stoves
Open 6 days a week
Ample parking. Disabled access.
01558 650 675
www.downhomestoves.co.uk
The Old Bridgend Garage, Crugwbach, Llanwrda, Carmar SA19 8UE

Can you summarize the main events of the incident described in the text? The incident described in the text involves a standoff between the council and a property owner over the removal of wooden fencing along a highway. The council official arrived to serve notices on the removal of the fence, which caused the property owner to barricade a house. Two vehicles, including a police car, were burnt out during the incident, and police investigations were launched to find the people responsible. The standoff lasted for 22 hours and involved a significant amount of manpower from emergency services. The dispute began over the fence designed to protect hedges from being trimmed by council workers, and the situation was exacerbated by the removal of wooden sections of the fence. The council officers were forced to act in default of the landowner’s removal of the fence. The incident highlighted the need for better communication and resolution of disputes between the council and property owners.