Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 21 October 2015

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, LJ Chaney, M Day, S Evans, M Johnston, D Standing and DJ Williams

Also Councillor TA Matthews and County Councillor BJ Cunningham

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Clare Rowles (Administrative Officer)

ESP15/018 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors KK Manneh (holiday), WJ Walker (illness) and TJ Winter (holiday).

ESP15/019 Declarations of Interest

Members were asked to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have and sign the Interests Sheet to give details of the nature of the interest.

ESP15/020 Grow Wild Flagship Site ("Cwmbran's Urban Buzz")

Members considered progress in relation to this native wildflower project funded through the National Lottery (minute ESP15/013 refers).

The project was part of a competition arranged by Grow Wild; a partnership between Kew Royal Botanical Gardens and the Big Lottery Fund, and the winner would be decided by a public vote.

Voting had now commenced and several members explained the procedure for voting. The Clerk reported that the Chairman of the Council, with support from Council staff, had taken part in a promotional video to encourage people to vote for the project. (The video can be viewed here.)

The Clerk agreed to provide members with additional information on how to vote.

It was **recommended** that:

(1) the above information is noted.

(2) details of further progress to be reported to the next meeting.

ESP15/021 Sustainable Development Charter

Natalie Rees, Sustainable Development Charter Coordinator from Cynnal Cymru-Sustain Wales provided members with details of the charter.

She referred to the Council's recent Annual Report, which had been based around the goals of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. She considered that the Annual Report would be useful for Welsh Government and Cynnal Cymru in highlighting examples of good practice to other Charter signatories and the public sector in general.

Members noted that the Charter was a voluntary arrangement which was free of charge. Other signatories to the Charter included One Voice Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members supported the idea of becoming a signatory to the Charter in principle, and asked to receive details of other opportunities to promote Best Practice. Members also discussed the wider question of the Act itself, and considered that it should apply to Registered Social Landlords. The Clerk explained that there may be an opportunity to take this observation forward as part of the consultation process on the draft statutory guidance for the Act.

It was **recommended** that

(1) the Council agrees to support the Charter in principle, subject to further advice on other opportunities to develop Best Practice and how the Charter would impact on the work of the Council.

(2) the Council considers that the principles of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 should also apply to Registered Social Landlords.

ESP15/022 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

It was **recommended** that this matter is deferred to the next meeting.

ESP15/023 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1111 and 1112.

It was **recommended** that

(1) no objections are submitted in relation to list 1111, subject to any additional observations from Councillor Matthews in relation to item 5966. (Application 15/P/00153 amended plans.)

(2) no objections are submitted in relation to list 1112, subject to any additional observations from Councillor Ashley in relation to item 5969. (15/P/00596)

(b) Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions

Members considered a schedule of recent decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the decisions are noted.

(c) Footpath Matters

The Council's application to register a route at Court Farm as a public footpath had been passed to the legal representatives of Torfaen County Borough Council so that the order could be prepared. (Minute CL13/115 refers). The Clerk reported that the appropriate Chief Officer had now agreed that an order could be made. He hoped that the order could be made and advertised before the end of November, so that it could be confirmed in January, provided there were no objections.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

ESP15/024 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Members welcomed Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) to the meeting, who reported on current issues and answered members' questions, as set out below.

- "Skinny Bin" Roll Out was proceeding as planned and was currently on schedule to be completed by November 2015.
- Avondale Road Gas Leak had been dealt with successfully.
- Winter Maintenance – preparations were underway for the beginning of the gritting season, which would start in October.
- 21st Century Schools – as part of the 21st Century Schools programme, there had been a sod cutting ceremony for the three new primary schools at Blenheim, Panteg and Llantarnam. Construction would commence shortly.
- Active Travel Consultation – Councillor Cunningham reminded members about the consultation exercise currently being undertaken by Torfaen County Borough Council. The exercise would help identify routes in Torfaen that were suitable for "Active Travel" by Welsh Government standards.

Issues raised by members included:

- use of liners for food waste containers.
- footpath near CCYP/Morrisons.
- statistics about the number of requests for recycling boxes.(150 – 200 requests a day.)
- limitations on the number of black boxes/blue bags requested. (within reason, there were no limits.)
- arrangements for the removal of "black bins" when "purple bins" were delivered.

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

ESP15/025 Seminars & Meetings of Outside Bodies

Members considered reports in relation to the following seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council.

- South Sebastopol Environmental Steering Group 8 September 2015
- Eastern Valleys Joint Local Access Forum 10 September 2015

It was **recommended** that the information is noted.

Signed …….. (Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)