Cwmbran Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Cwmbrân

You are summoned to attend the following meeting:

Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee

13 April 2016 at 6.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Council House, Ventnor Road, Cwmbran NP44 3JY

AGENDA

To: Councillors SWJ Ashley, M Day, S Evans (Vice Chair), R Jones (Chair), KK Manneh, R Seabourne, D Standing, WJ Walker, DJ Williams and TJ Winter

Councillors M Johnston, LJ Chaney SJ Brooks & WM Howell (Ex Officio Members)

To: *ALL OTHER MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION*

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Members' Declarations of Interest**

3. **Planning, Highways & Footpaths Matters**

   (a) Planning Lists - To deal with any outstanding planning consultations.

   (b) Schedule of Torfaen County Borough Council Planning Decisions attached.

   (c) Torfaen Local Development Plan Newsletter – March 2016

   Here is a link to the second Torfaen Local Development Plan (LDP) Newsletter. www.torfaen.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan.

   The newsletter outlines progress on implementing the LDP, such as the delivery of strategic action areas & housing sites etc., the findings of the first Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), the Wales Planning Award for the regeneration of the Arvin Meritor Site and other associated work, including the preparation of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG).

   For any further information or to resolve any problems opening the newsletter please contact Stephen Thomas, Senior Planner at Torfaen County Borough Council stephen.thomas@torfaen.gov.uk tel. 01633 648140.

4. **Sustainable Development Charter/ Well–Being Update**

   (i) The Council is a signatory to the Charter (Minute ESP15/029 refers). From March 31st 2016 Cynnal Cymru ceased to run the Sustainable Development Charter as it was taken back in to the Welsh Government.

   The Welsh Government's contract with Cynnal Cymru has ended, but the Charter remains a Welsh Government initiative. Signatories will be contacted soon to follow up on the comments made by the Minister for Natural Resources at the Charter Conference on 16 March.

(ii) The Well-Being of Future Generations Act came into effect on April 1st 2016. It is the role of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Sophie Howe, to advise and encourage sustainable ways of working and implement the Act with the 44 public bodies in Wales.

To stay up to date with the work of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, sign up to the Wales We Want mailing list here.

On 16 March 2016, Councillor DJ Williams attended a seminar about the Act, which champions a shared purpose and new opportunities to work together to develop a more sustainable Wales. The event brought together the Minister for Natural Resources, the new Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe and the Chair of the Climate Change Commission for Wales Peter Davies to:

- Mark an important transition in how we govern for sustainable development in Wales, catalysed by the WFG Act.
- Provide a space for ideas to be discussed with the Welsh Government about the future of the SD Charter.
- Provide a platform for the Future Generations Commissioner to speak about her role and provide a mechanism for delegates to reflect, discuss and shape future plans.
- Reflect on what has worked well regarding SD in Wales in recent years including thoughts on the Climate Change Commission for Wales.
- Share your learning and ideas with others.

Literature received by Councillor Williams at the event is available from the Clerk.

5. **Blaen Bran Community Woodland**

The Council has agreed to fund certain works at the above woodland. (Minute ESP15/043 refers). The works will include a commemorative plaque.

It is proposed to use a similar inscription on the plaque to that used to dedicate the flagpoles at the Council House. These are dedicated to those who gave up their lives in the struggle for liberty (see “Members Matters”15 March 2016.) This matter is being reported to this committee for information but the plaque would be funded from the Remembrance budget, which is held by the Events & Community Projects Committee (code L10). Details were reported to that committee on 4 April 2016.(Minute ENT15/045 refers)

The Clerk has negotiated a generous discount on the cost of construction, fitting, laying and engraving of the plaque with Mossfords, details of which will be reported at the meeting.

Other opportunities will be sought to commemorate the contribution of former Members who have passed away, which members have suggested in discussing the above works.

6. **Wildflower Planting in Cwmbran**

Bron Afon Community Housing has invited the Council to fund seeding of three sites of wildflowers at a cost of £276. Planting would commence by the middle of May. The mix of seeds would be 50% Annuals and 50% Native Perennials, which would bring colour in the first year and new flowers in the second year and going forward.

There could also be an additional charge for any signage/information panels.

The sites in question are at the top end of the large grass area of Hafren Road by the entrance to Sirhowy Court Thornhill; the rear of Woolpitch by the flyover bridge and a verge by Neerings near the fly over bridge. These areas have been seeded before but now require cultivating and re seeding.

The schemes also have an anti-poverty impact as the first two sites are in Communities First areas, though the third – the Neerings - is not. Widlflower planting can also contribute to Well Being, producing a long-lasting positive impact on mental health – not only by providing a stimulating and calming environment, but also by offering a space to socialise and interact with other people.

The committee's approved budget for the current year includes £1,500 for environmental enhancements (N05) and £1,500 for New Projects (N10.). Alternatively, members may wish to refer the request to the Policy & Finance (Regeneration Projects) Sub Committee.

Members' views are requested.

7. **Regeneration Proposals**

In considering the minutes of the meeting of the Policy & Finance (Regeneration Projects) Sub Committee held on 16 February 2016, the Policy & Finance committee referred to the potential to work in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy to undertake low key landscaping projects such as vegetable planting (Minute PF15/075 refers.) The committee referred the matter to this committee.

The Council already enjoys good relationships with Keep Wales Tidy, as evidenced by the success of the recent "Clean for the Queen" project. Further opportunities will be sought to draw on their advice and expertise wherever possible.

It is **recommended** that the position is noted.

8. **Neighbourhood Services Matters**

Councillor Cunningham, Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services and Performance will attend this meeting.

9. **Seminars & Outside Bodies**

To consider the attached reports in relation to seminars and meetings of outside bodies, attended by representatives of the Council.

(i) Eastern Valley Joint Local Access Forum 10 March 2016

It is **recommended** that the reports are noted.

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6 April 2016
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