Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 13 April 2016

Present Councillor R Jones (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, S Brooks, L Chaney, M Day, S Evans, M Johnston, KK Manneh, WJ Walker and DJ Williams

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer) and Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council)

ESP15/046 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors WM Howell (illness), TA Matthews (work commitments) and TJ Winter (work commitments).

ESP15/047 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. Councillor S Brooks declared an interest in Minute ESP15/048 (a) below (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters) and Minute ESP15/051 (Wildflower Planting in Cwmbran).

ESP15/048 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

Councillor S Brooks declared an interest in Minutes ESP15/048 (a) below

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning list 1133.

It was **recommended** that no objections or observations are submitted in relation to list 1133.

(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) Torfaen Local Development Plan Newsletter – March 2016

Members noted that there was a newsletter available from Torfaen County Borough Council outlining progress on implementing the LDP and any further information was available from Stephen Thomas, Senior Planner at Torfaen County Borough Council.

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

ESP15/049 Sustainable Development Charter/Well-Being Update

(i) Members noted that the arrangement with the Welsh Government's contract with Cynnal Cymru had ended but that the Charter still remained a Welsh Government Initiative.

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

(ii) Members noted that the Well-Being of Future Generations Act came into effect on 1st April 2016 and that the role of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales (Sophie Howe) was to advice and encourage sustainable ways for working and implementing the Act with the 44 public bodies in Wales.

On 16th 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. Councillor Williams added that the event was well attended and very informative.

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

ESP15/050 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Members considered progress in relation to the Council's recent decision to support some environmental improvement works at this site. The Administration Officer added that the works would include a commemorative plaque, which would be produced by Mossfords with a very generous discount, which included construction, fitting, laying and engraving.

It was **recommended** that the position is noted and that the Council's thanks are conveyed to Mossfords.

ESP15/051 Wildflower Planting in Cwmbran

Councillor S Brooks declared an interest in this item.

Members noted that 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.

The sites were 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 flyover bridge.

Members noted the potential for identifying old planters in their wards and bringing them to the attention of the Clerk who, in the first instance, could identify the owner of the land and establish who would maintain them for future planting potential.

It was **recommended** that:-

(a) the position be noted.

(b) the Council support the wildlife planting in Cwmbran with Bron Afon at a cost of £276. (This is to be funded from the Environmental Enhancements budget N05)

(c) members identify old planters in their wards and bring them to the attention of the Clerk for future potential planting.

ESP15/052 Neighbourhood Services Matters

The Chairman welcomed that Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods)

Matters reported by Councillor Cunningham included:

- Cwmbran Boating Lake Carpark Extension – The carpark was reopened for the Easter and holiday period and is already being well used. During April cleaning will take place and the carpark will be marked with parking/disabled parking spaces. Tree planting will also be taking place along with wildflower seeding with pupils from local schools.

- Cwmbran Urban Buzz Legacy – Thanks to the funding from Cwmbran Community Council there is a legacy project from the Grow wild Cwmbran Urban Buzz competition to create two wildflower/interpretation hubs in Northville and Southville. Torfaen County Borough Council's Environmental Projects Team have met with Bron Afon, the landowner, and agreed the two locations which are based on the areas in the original competition entry. One by the tower in Southville and one on Pontnewydd Walk in Northville. Once the areas are prepared it is intended that a community seeding/planting activity will take place later this month. The information and interpretation will follow after workshops with local residents to design the panels.

- Road Works – There are a number of road works/road closures currently in place related to new housing developments in Cwmbran.

- Grant Funded Schemes – Torfaen County Borough Council has recently been successful in securing Welsh Government funding for a number of schemes from the Local Transport Fund, Road Safety Capital and Revenue and Safe Routes in the Communities Grants for 2016/17. These include measure to improve safety for walking/cycling and reduction of traffic speed at Cwmbran High School, through traffic calming measures on Ty Gwyn Way. Road safety improvements and a local reduced speed limit on the A4051 Cwmbran. Road safety improvements to Station Road, Pontnewydd. Upgrade to Pontypool and New Inn Station. The preparation of the Integrated Network Maps and Kerbcraft, National Standards Cycling and Pass Plus Cymru.

- Cemetery Friends Group – Torfaen's Cemetery Friends Group is looking for new members. The friends group is open to all of Torfaen's cemeteries and works closely with the Council to improve the service.

- Area Cleansing - Torfaen County Borough Council want to get teams together to help "clean" in the areas in which they live. This will help teams to identify areas that they are familiar with and therefore tackle any cleaning/litter problems, easily ascertaining who owns the land etc.

Other issues raised by members included:

- Continuing concern over the maintenance of grassed areas along key highway routes/canal corridor. Plus identifying who is responsible/who owns the land of many of these sites.

- Members mentioned Planweb which was recently on Members Matters, which identifies who owns what land and which areas are still unidentified. Member requested that this information is placed on the next Members Matters for members' information.

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

ESP15/053 Seminars & Outside Bodies

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

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

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

Signed ……...

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)