

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 19 October 2016

Present Councillor S Evans (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, LJ Chaney, M Day, R Jones, TA Matthews, D Standing, WJ Walker and TJ Winter

Councillor BJ Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council, Executive Member)

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP16/020 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillors M Howell (illness), KK Manneh (work) R Seabourne (personal) and DJ Williams (personal).

ESP16/021 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.

ESP16/022 Community Infrastructure Levy – Emerging Works

Member welcomed Adrian Wilcock, Principal Planner, Planning & Public Protection Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council to the meeting.

Torfaen County Borough Council has been progressing the implementation of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a new levy that Councils can charge on new developments in their area and which can be used to fund the provision of new infrastructure to support the Local Development Plan such as roads and transport facilities, schools, sporting & recreational facilities, open spaces etc. Once adopted CIL money is used to contribute to funding projects identified on the Councils S123 Infrastructure List. As part of CIL, 15% of any CIL monies received will be passed to the Community Council where development takes place to also spend on the provision of infrastructure to support the LDP. It is expected that CIL will be implemented in March 2018.

A powerpoint report was reported to members by Adrian Wilcock, covering the following points:-

- Council approved emerging CIL work on 18th October
- 6 week public consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and 123 Infrastructure List programmed for Nov/Dec
- Briefing to update all Community Councils on the CIL as part of this wider public consultation to allow you to contribute to the consultation
- Consultation Documents – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and Draft 123 Infrastructure List, Viability Assessment, Infrastructure Assessment Report
- New levy that local ('charging') authorities can choose to charge on developments in their area - Not Mandatory
- CIL is a local tax that provides a mechanism for obtaining contributions to

fund LDP infrastructure

- Councils must spend the CIL income on their chosen Regulation 123 infrastructure List; which can include roads and transport facilities, flood defences, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities, open spaces, etc. (CIL Regs)
- CIL rates can vary by geographic area, use or development size; but they must be based on viability evidence rather than a policy choice
- CIL spend intended to focus on new or improved infrastructure, and repairing failing infrastructure made worse by new development
- CIL monies can be spent anywhere in the County Borough, does not have to be related to the area where development is located
- Neighborhood Funds - 15% of CIL revenue to be passed to Town / Community Council where development takes place (dependent on remaining LDP and windfall sites coming forward, number & size of dwellings, timing (2018-2028))

Adrian Wilcock finished the presentation and answered members' questions relating to the CIL and the affect it will have on Cwmbran and Cwmbran Community Council.

Other issues raised by members included:

- Members mentioned the need for more affordable/social housing.
- Concern by members that CIL will not be fully adopted until 2018, after the majority of current projects will have been completed in Torfaen and Cwmbran.
- Developers have to consult with local people and planning must be granted before the CIL charge.
- Clarification of responsible allocation of CIL monies within the Cwmbran Community Council area.
- TCBC will be setting up a working meeting for all parties involved which will include Cwmbran Community Council.

Members' observations would be forwarded to Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that Adrian Wilcock is thanked for his report.

ESP16/023 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning & Highways Matters

Members considered outstanding planning list 1155.

It was **recommended** that no objection is offered to list 1155.

(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) Notice of Withdrawal for the Replacement Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2031

Members considered a letter received from Caerphilly County Borough Council.

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

ESP16/024 Blaen Bran Community Woodland

Members were pleased to receive photographs of members who had attended the Blaen Bran Community Woodland. Members explained that the visit was very good and they were pleased with the speed of development at the woodland.

The Administrative Officer explained that good progress was being made with regards to the proposed World War One memorial plaque. Mossfords were currently working on the plaque, which with a planned installation by Remembrance Sunday.

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

ESP16/025 Little Pen-y-Waun

Councillor Standing explained to members that he would bring a full report to the next Environmental Committee Meeting, including photographs, having more time to report fully.

It was **recommended** that the position be noted.

ESP16/026 Neighbourhood Services Matters

Councillor John Cunningham (Torfaen County Borough Council's Executive Member Neighbourhoods) informed members on the following:-

Lwyncelyn Cemetery Office – The office at Lwyncelyn cemetery closed to the public from the end of September. The administrative services have been moved to the Council's office on Panteg Way, New Inn. Appointments can be made by contacting the office on 01495 766150. The move was one of the Council's budget measures.

Skatepark – Unfortunately, due to repeated vandalism to the flood light timer unit at Cwmbran Skatepark, Torfaen County Borough Council may have to consider turning the lights off permanently. The security casing and locks to the unit have been broken open using heavy duty tools on at least three occasions and Torfaen County Borough Council cannot continue to repair it. It also leaves live wires exposed which is incredibly dangerous. Torfaen has put an appeal out through social media which had a wide reach with the community that uses the park, and the Council hope that they don't have to resort to turning the lights off altogether.

Winter Maintenance – Preparations are underway for the beginning of the gritting season, which starts this month. The gritters will be out on the roads shortly as the Council test the machinery. TCBC have a stock of 2100 tonnes of salt, a further 1700 tonnes ordered for November and a further 2000 tonnes stored in a shared barn in Ebbw Vale if needed. All 710 salt bins across the borough are in the process of being checked and filled and Torfaen County Borough Council are asking the public to use the salt sensibly.

Morrison's Roundabout – The resurfacing work at Morrison's roundabout has now been completed.

Wayfield Crescent – Torfaen County Borough Council are due to start work at Wayfield Crescent from Monday which will run until the end of January 2017. This will include the realignment of existing carriageway and construction of a new one way loop road with parking laybys to replace existing turning head outside Maendy Junior and Infants School. Work will include all associated highway works, fencing, drainage, lighting, signs and lines.

Cwmbran Resurfacing Work – The following sites are all due to be resurfaced as part of an on-going programme of resurfacing works. At present the Council does not have specific dates when these will commence but Councillor Cunningham should be able to update on this at a future meeting:-

Cwmbran Community Council:-

- Grove Park Avenue, Pontnewydd
- Highland Grove, Pontnewydd
- Parc Avenue, Pontnewydd
- Parklawn Close, Pontnewydd
- Ty Box Close, Pontnewydd
- Wayfield Crescent, Pontnewydd
- Mountain Road, Upper Cwmbran
- The Square, Upper Cwmbran
- Orchard Place, St Dials
- Hogarth Close, St Dials
- Pentre Lane, Llantarnam
- Ty Coch Lane, Llantarnam, Two Locks & Henllys

Safe Routes in Communities - Torfaen County Borough Council recently held a drop-in session at Cwmbran High School to inform the public about plans for road changes and other works to increase safety around the school. The Council are currently considering comments and feedback and expect work to begin later in the year.

21st Century Schools – Both Blenheim Road and Llantarnam Schools have now been handed over and are due to open after October half term.

Local Nature Reserve Consultation – Torfaen County Borough Council are currently consulting the public on changes to the boundary of the Churchwood and Springvale Ponds Local Nature Reserve in Greenmeadow, Cwmbran. The changes will formally remove a section of amenity grass land from the Local Nature Reserve boundary area, however, there will be no practical changes to the way the land is managed.

To be formally designated as a Local Nature Reserve, land must be recognised as having biodiversity value, and the grass land area was originally included in error.

To view the planned changes to the boundary and have a say visit:- <https://mysay.torfaen.gov.uk/consult.ti/ChurchwoodandSpringvalPonds/consultationHome> or contact Steve Williams, the Council's Ecologist on 01633 648256.

Funding Available for Rural Projects – Funding to help entrepreneurs and businesses in rural wards in Torfaen is available to help develop projects that will have a social benefit to the community. Llanyrafon is one of the wards eligible for the funding. For more details contact the create team on 01495 742147.

Councillor Ashley reported at this point that the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Trust had recently been awarded with a Waterways Award in recognition of their services.

Other issues raised by members included:

Members mentioned, again, raising awareness of the neighbourhood teams spraying strong weed killer close to resident's gardens and that other councils were looking for alternative measures. Councillor Cunningham reported that he would bring further information to the next meeting.

Mention was made regarding drains being blocked in the Penylan Way and Henllys Way area. Councillor Cunningham explained that these need to be reported.

Hedges in the areas of Llantarnam Ward did not appear to be maintained as well as other areas in Cwmbran. Councillor Cunningham explained that due to birds nesting hedges are not usually cut until September, later on in the year.

It was **recommended** that Councillor Cunningham is thanked for his report.

Signed

(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)