

Minutes of a Meeting of the Events & Community Projects Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Monday 9 October 2017

Present Councillors M Day (Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, Rh Bennett, AL Bird, LG Johnston, M Johnston, R Jones, M Villars and WJ Walker.

Also David Collins (Clerk to the Council) and Sian Redwood (Clerical Officer.)

ECP17/019 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were accepted from Councillor SJ Brooks (holiday) and AJ Davies (personal)

ECP17/020 Members' 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.

ECP17/021 Playschemes

Members welcomed Julian Davenne (Play Service Manager, Torfaen County Borough Council) and Christine Phillips (Head of Community & Youth Services, Torfaen County Borough Council.)

Members viewed a video about the 2017 Summer Playschemes. The video showed details of staff training – including First Aid – inclusion practices, DBS checks, safeguarding procedures and interviews with staff, children & parents. All Members had also been provided with a link to the video in advance of the meeting.

Members also received a written report about the Playschemes, which included statistics relating to attendance, sites, details of staffing, activities provided and policies relating to Looked After Children & Inclusion. Feedback was also included from parents, carers, children and Playscheme hosts.

Members also considered a report arising from visits to the Playscheme sites undertaken by Members on 8 August 2017.

Issues raised by Members included:

- positive feedback arising from the visits undertaken by Members.
- funding for breakfast and lunch provision, including “Free School Meals” issues. (The Play Service Manager confirmed that these had been provided at some sites for no charge. Welsh Government funding had allowed the provision.)
- areas for potential improvements in future years, including the identification of areas for targeting expenditure. (The Play Service Manager indicated that he would like to provide more 1:1 support for children and young people who required it if more finance was more available. He also encouraged the Council to appoint a Member to attend meetings of the Play Sufficiency Action

Group, which welcomed contributions from key partners. The Clerk confirmed that he often attended the meetings or sent a representative.)

- publicity for the support of Cwmbran Community Council. (The Head of Community & Youth Services displayed an example of a T-shirt, which all Playscheme staff wore. The shirts referred to the Partnership arrangements with the Council. Other publicity also referred to the Council's support.)
- Primary Schools used in Cwmbran. (The nine Primary Schools sites used were listed in the written report submitted)
- children's views on using schools as Playscheme settings.
- the contribution to the site at Llantarnam from Barratts. (This had been used to fund a "pizza party" and purchase additional equipment.)
- appreciation of the opportunities provided for volunteers.
- discussion about the range of other partners who supported the Playschemes. Members discussed whether a change of name should be considered to reflect these circumstances.
- the merits of using existing school sites for Playscheme settings, which provided a secure & safe environment and ensured that the schools were utilised during the school holidays. Members also acknowledged the importance of considering the use of non-school sites.
- the financial contribution from other councils. (The Play Service Manager provided a breakdown of the other contributions.)

In conclusion, the Chair of the committee paid tribute to the success of the 2017 Playschemes. The Play Service Manager referred to the forthcoming awards ceremony for volunteers on 4 December 2017. He encouraged Members to attend.

It was **recommended** that

- (1) the presentation and report is noted.
- (2) the Chair of the committee, Councillor M Day, is nominated to attend meetings of the Play Sufficiency Action Group. Councillor WJ Walker to attend as substitute where necessary.

ECP17/022 Provisional Programme of Events

Members considered the provisional programme of events for 2017/18, details of which were included on the agenda.

The Clerk drew attention to the forthcoming Senior Schools Choral Festival and encouraged all Members to attend. He also referred to information which would be published and circulated to Members about parades and services on Remembrance Sunday. He encouraged Members to submit any photographs taken at the event to help stimulate press interest.

It was **recommended** that the provisional programme of events for 2017/18 is endorsed.

Signed.....

(Chair, Cwmbran Community Council)