

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 4 July 2018

Present Councillor SJ Brooks (in the Chair), Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, PJ Cathcart, M Day, J Rees and M Villars

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP18/010 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors Rh Bennett (work commitments), M Johnston (holiday), F Jones (holiday), KK Manneh (work commitments) and WJ Walker (personal).

ESP18/011 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.

ESP18/012 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Local Development Plan (LDP) /Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): Progress.

On 6 June 2018, Members considered progress in relation to the above (minute ESP 18/004 refers).

Members were pleased to receive Robert Murray, Principal Planning Officer at Torfaen County Borough Council, who explained the current position regarding the Local Development Plan.

Torfaen County Borough Council was required to produce a Local Development Plan to guide the use of land and development in Torfaen. The current plan ran out in 2021 and the Council was creating a new one that would set out the guidelines for development of land in Torfaen until 2033.

A timetable of key dates had been set out:-

- Review of LDP Dec 17 - Apr 18
- Produce Delivery Agreement Jan 18 - Jul 18
- DA submission / agreement, Jun 18 – Jul 18
- Review & Update Evidence Base Mar 18 - Mar 19
- Pre-Deposit Participation Mar 18 - Sep 19
- Call for Candidate Sites Aug 18
- Engagement on LDP Vision and Objectives Oct 18
- Engagement on Strategic Options Mar 19
- Pre Deposit Public Consultation - Preferred Strategy Sep 19 - Sep 20
- Consultation on Preferred Strategy Oct/Nov 19
- Statutory Deposit of Proposals Sep 20 - Apr 20
- Consultation on Deposit Plan Aug/Sep 20

- Submission to the Welsh Government Mar 2021
- Examination of the LDP June/Jul 21
- Receipt of Inspector's Report Oct 2021
- Adoption of LDP Dec 2021
- LDP Annual Monitoring Report Oct 2023

The Community Involvement Scheme sets out how Torfaen would engage with the local community throughout the development of the LDP.

One of the most important aims in creating the LDP was to improve the way people and the community were involved in its creation.

Torfaen County Borough Council would seek views at an early stage when there were difficult issues and work together to resolve problems and find common goals everyone could share.

The main objections were transparency, accessibility, accountability and opportunities.

Robert Murray went on to answer Members' questions. Issues raised included

- How Torfaen County Borough Council identify what sites are developed and the suitability of developers?
- How the public/community is involved in the process and are their concerns listened to or/and taken into consideration?
- Developers must deliver on what they are promising.
- Public involvement at consultation and are they invited?
- How is this LDP going to be better than the last one?
- Various concerns and questions on Place Planning - further guidance would probably be produced.

The Chairman and Members thanked Mr Murray for a very interesting update on the Local Development Plan.

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

(b) Planning Lists

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1232 and 1233.

It was **recommended** that no objections are offered in respect of lists 1232 and 1233.

(c) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members considered the Planning Decisions.

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

(d) Diversion of Public Footpath Nos 6 (Part), and 8 (Part) at Wrens Nest Farm Pontnewydd

It was **recommended** that the Diversion of Public Footpath is noted.

ESP18/013 Active Travel

On 6 June Members sought advice on progress in relation to Torfaen County Borough Council's Active Travel Integrated Network Map (minute ESP 18/004 refers).

Torfaen County Borough Council was required to produce an Integrated Network Map setting out a 15 year programme of improvements to active travel routes. The maps would show proposed future networks of key walking routes and key cycling routes and facilities. Following the public consultation referred to above, the finalised Integrated Network Work Map was submitted to Welsh Government for Ministerial Inspection on the 3rd November 2017. This was approved in February 2018. Funds had also been received to support the feasibility and design of the routes shown in the map.

Torfaen County Borough Council was required to produce an annual report detailing the actions taken in the previous financial year to promote active travel, and the costs incurred for new or improved active travel routes and facilities. Links to reports submitted to Welsh Government were provided to Members.

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

ESP18/014 Neighborhood Services

- (i) No questions were submitted to Neighbourhood Services.
- (ii) On 6 June 2018, Members discussed the Maintenance of Parks & Open Spaces (minute ESP 18/005 refers). Members requested a list of open spaces and parks. It was explained to Members that the Clerk was waiting for this information from Torfaen County Borough Council.

It was **recommended** that the list be sent out to members and discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

ESP18/015 Seminars & Outside Bodies

No meetings had taken place.

ESP18/016 Exclusion of the Press & Public

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was agreed that the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 be exercised.

ESP18/017 Task Force

Members considered performance information about the recent work of the Task Force.

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

Signed
(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)