

Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment, Sustainability & Planning Committee of Cwmbran Community Council held on Wednesday 17 October 2018

Present Councillors SWJ Ashley, AL Bird, SJ Brooks, PJ Cathcart, F Jones, KK Manneh, LM Ryan & M Villars

Also Clare Facey (Administration Officer)

ESP18/028 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were accepted from Councillors Rh Bennett (personal) and M Johnston (personal).

ESP18/029 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 AL Bird declared a personal interest in Minute ESP18/030 (Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters) below.

ESP18/030 Planning, Highways, Footpaths and Licensing Matters

(a) Planning Lists

(Councillor AL Bird declared a personal interest in this item)

Members considered outstanding planning lists 1247 and 1248.

It was **recommended** that no objections are offered in respect of lists 1247 and 1248 apart from item 6436 (List 1248) where concerns were raised regarding the boundary fence, if a solid fence is erected, this may be hazardous to drivers and their visibility.

(b) Planning Decisions of Torfaen County Borough Council.

Members considered the Planning Decisions.

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

(c) Torfaen Local Development Plan (LDP)

Work on the replacement Local Development Plan is underway. As part of this process, Torfaen County Borough Council is looking to hold a stakeholder engagement session on the 24th October 2018 but another date of 5th November is available, if needed. This will run from 10 am to 1 pm. The session will inform stakeholders of the background to the replacement LDP.

The session will provide an opportunity to contribute to the development and the objectives, as well as detailing how stakeholders can further contribute to the process.

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

- (d) Public Footpath No 8 (part): Request for a Temporary Prohibition of Pedestrians at Wrens Nest, Pontnewydd

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

- (e) Highways Act 1980 – Section 118 & 119
Extinguishment of Public Footpath No's 67, 68 & 72 and Diversion of Public Footpath No 73 at Pontnewydd

It was **recommended** that Extinguishment of Public Footpath No's 67, 68 & 72 and Diversion of Public Footpath No 73 at Pontnewydd is noted.

ESP18/031 Neighborhood Services

No questions were submitted to Neighbourhood Services.

ESP18/032 Weed Control Policies: Torfaen County Borough Council

On 5th September 2018, Members discussed weed control policies at Torfaen County Borough Council and the use of Glyphosate. The Clerk was instructed to ask the Executive Member, for Environment at Torfaen County Borough Council, to attend a future meeting to discuss the policies.

Following discussions between the Chairman of the Environmental, Sustainability and Planning Committee and the Executive Member, it was suggested that Members of Cwmbran Community Council may wish to attend the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting or watch the meeting via Torfaen's Webcast.

Members were informed that the meeting was taking place on 14th November 2018. Following this, if Members still wanted to raise issues, these could be referred to the Executive Member.

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

ESP18/033 Parks & Open Spaces

At a previous meeting Members requested details of all parks and open spaces.

Members welcomed Andrew Nevill to the meeting (Torfaen County Borough Council's Team Leader of Environmental Projects) where he provided the following report:-

- 1. Update to the Cwmbran Community Council on the subject of the Greenspace and Openspace Assessment being undertaken by the Environmental Projects team on behalf of the Planning Policy team as part for the Local development plan review.*
- 2. Update to the Cwmbran Community Council on the subject of the work that the Environmental Projects team is undertaking on behalf of the Torfaen Public Service Board to fulfil Objective 1 of the PSB Well –Being Plan for Torfaen.*

3. *Update to the community council on (a) a new community environment officer (b) Northville underpass progress and (c) the Mon and Brecon Adventure Triangle project*

1. Greenspace and Openspace Assessment - Background:

The current Torfaen Local Development Plan runs from 2013-2021. Before the plan is due to be renewed it is reviewed and updated to comply with changes to legislation, performance during the current plan period and new priorities.

For this review there has been a raft of legislation to take into account such as the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Planning (Wales) Act and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The new plan will be developed and will run from the expiry of the old plan to 2033.

The areas we will be including in our assessment will be

- *Parks and Gardens*
- *Natural and semi natural spaces*
- *Amenity greenspace*
- *Outdoor sports provision*
- *Play areas and youth provision*
- *Allotments and community growing areas including urban Farms*
- *Institutional Grounds including cemeteries, churchyards, hospitals, nursing homes, schools*
- *Green corridors*
- *Street and urban trees : TPO's, Estrytree*
- *Civic spaces*
- *Historic/ heritage sites*

Our role is also to undertake policy review that relates to Openspace and Green infrastructure eg:

- *Well Being for Future Generations Act*
- *Environment Act (Wales)*
- *Planning Act (Wales)*
- *Planning Policy Wales 10 (Draft) references of Green Infrastructure,*
- *PSB Well Being Plan,*
- *TCBC Corporate Priorities*

We will also undertake an engagement within the context of a managed engagement strategy. It is envisioned that this will include: Members Workshop, Visioning Workshop, Citizen Space Questionnaire, Play Service PSA Consultation, Focus Groups, Community Groups, Schools inc youth clubs, Senior Citizens, stakeholders

We will undertake a Green / Open Space Audit of GI assets based on a set of agreed typologies and for each we will assess:

- *quantity,*
- *quality,*
- *GI functionality (ecosystem services provision)*
- *Accessibility*
- *Demand through consultation*

This will then help to inform policy objectives for the LDP

In terms of progress in connection with Cwmbran Community Council we have recently written to the council for any new data they may have relevant to our assessments eg:-

...list of any play areas, playing fields, parklands or allotments (with locations) that the Community Council owns or manages

...an indication from community or councillors of any local demand or need.

2. Torfaen PSB GI Strategy

This place based project will primarily address improving the resilience and quality of our ecosystems to meet elements of the remaining top level challenges such as encouraging healthier lifestyles by developing a common Green Infrastructure (GI) strategy. Currently GI management is more fragmented with ecosystems potentially being underutilised.

The project seeks to deliver the 1st objective of the Torfaen Public Service Board Well-being plan and is about ways to align the management of land such as amenity areas with a better understanding of the benefits the lands provides ie carbon sinks, trapping pollution, habitat stepping stone as well as the easily identified values such as recreation and Openspace.

Interestingly the project is also helping to develop and refine working arrangements, roles and responsibilities within the PSB. The project is also embedding SMNR principles in its development to full application. For instance:

-adapting its management approach to be open to ideas and techniques from other landscape scale projects.

-adapting a future strategy brief to include greater emphasis on ways to collaborate with communities, to raise awareness and actively improve air quality in the borough. This will include collaborative community / PSB on the ground planting and training activity

-discussing further collaborative input and engagement from the NHS in monitoring the success of preventative activity, such as utilising natural solutions to improve air quality and healthy lifestyles and how community groups can help in the process of evidence gathering.

3(a) Northville Underpass

The residents of Northville have become concerned about the levels of ASB in their community, specifically around the subway leading to Town Centre.

A new innovative partnership called the Northville underpass steering group has a new aspirational project called 'Change Direction' that will seek to engage with the children and young people living and hanging around the

community to help design out crime, improve the environment and create a subway that is bright, colourful, funky and an area of pride.

The partnership consists of Northville Community Group, Bron Afon, Cwmbran Community Council, elected representatives, Cwmbran Centre, TCBC community safety and highways team, Maendy School, Cwmbran Centre Young People and some local traders. Together we have been looking at ways that can demonstrate at a grass roots levels by physical improvements and nudging behavioural change.

It's a roots up approach, building on local community projects in Northville, to support a change in direction and perception of use. The project will include community led workshops, specialists and artists that will look at

- *How the issues can be changed*
- *Best practice elsewhere*
- *Ways to design out the crime*
- *Ramps to make it accessible for all*
- *Colours, art works, better lighting*
- *Innovative ideas that the community and children develop”*

The group is currently seeking funding from the Gwent community cohesion fund and are at the EOI stage

3(b) New Community Environment Officer

Jo Giatra: 01495 766116 joanna.giatra@torfaen.gov.uk . Jo will be looking to continue activity in connection with club leases and allotments undertaken by Lauren Gregory who left the council earlier in the year

3(c) Adventure Triangle

The £4m Welsh Government / ERDF funded project is a partnership programme of activities with Caerphilly CBC.

The following is a link to the WG web site which explains the project more fully <https://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/16348196.46m-to-create-an-adventure-triangle-at-monmouthshire-and-brecon-canal/>

The projects that would be of interest to the community council are

- *Tow path improvements from Ty Coch to B&Q retail park*
 - *temporary closures enabling rolling phased works to be undertaken in small sections during that period to minimise disruption to users.*
 - *Opportunities for volunteer involvement and ecological watching brief*
 - *Works to start in November 2018*
- *Pontnewydd park*
 - *Improvements to the park and canal frontage*
 - *Community participation to input into designs and the way in which the park provides ecosystem services*
 - *Opportunity to set up a friends of the park group*

- *LEQ programme can help with PPE and small kit before March 2019*
- *Project itself runs from September 2018-March 2020*

- *Five Locks*
 - *Potential new hire location (subject to interest)*
 - *Potential localised fencing and surface improvements*

- *Links to Cwmcarn*
 - *Gateway location on the urban fringe.”*

Andrew Nevill answered Members' questions.

It was suggested that a forum is set up inviting all members to attend, every three months, to receive regular updates and information from Andrew Nevill, including section 106 money.

It was **recommended**:-

- a) that Andrew Nevill is thanked for his report
- b) that regular forums are set up every three months
- c) that the position is noted.

ESP18/034 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.

ESP18/035 Task Force

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

Members noted that the Clerk had recently purchased new gardening equipment for the Task Force, comprising of a battery powered hedge trimmer, blower, a cordless brush cutter and a long reach hedge trimmer.

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

Signed
(Chairman, Cwmbran Community Council)