



County Hall  
Rhadyr  
Usk  
NP15 1GA

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

**Notice of meeting:**

**Lower Wye Area Committee**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 10.00am**

**The Wye Valley Room,  
Chepstow Leisure Centre, NP16 5LR**

**AGENDA**

*The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.*

Item No	Item
1.	Apologies for Absence.
2.	Declarations of Interest.
3.	Public Question Time.
4.	To confirm and sign the minutes of the Lower Wye Area Committee meeting held 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 (copy attached)
5.	Update report from the Traffic and Network Manager (to follow)
6.	Chepstow Leisure Centre service update.
7.	To receive an update from the Whole Place Officer.
8.	To review the future work programme for the Lower Wye Area Committee (copy attached).
9.	To note the next date of the Lower Wye Area Committee meeting as 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 10.00am (venue to be confirmed).

**Paul Matthews  
Chief Executive**

# MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

### THE CONSTITUTION OF THE LOWER WYE AREA COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors: D. Batrouni  
D.L.S. Dovey  
G.L. Down  
P. Farley  
R.J.W. Greenland  
P.A.D. Hobson  
P. Murphy  
A.C. Watts  
A.E. Webb

## Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

### Sustainable and Resilient Communities

#### Outcomes we are working towards

##### **Nobody Is Left Behind**

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

##### **People Are Confident, Capable and Involved**

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

##### **Our County Thrives**

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

#### Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation

#### Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

**Minutes of the Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
The Old Station, Tintern  
on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 10:00am**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor: A. Webb (Chairman)

County Councillors: D. Batrouni, D.L.S. Dovey, G.L. Down, R. Greenland, P.S. Farley and P. Murphy.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs D. McCarty	-	Whole Place Officer
Ms R. Rawlings	-	Whole Place Officer
Mr J. Sterry	-	Manager, The Old Station, Tintern
Mrs S. King	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs S. Dovey	-	Chepstow Town Council
Mr J. Harris	-	Local resident
Mr B. Howells	-	St Arvans Community Council
Mrs S. Squires	-	Local resident
Mr N. Vincent	-	Local resident

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and we noted the following questions:

a) Mr J. Harris, Local Resident, addressed the committee:

- We were advised that a question had been raised at an earlier area committee, which related to Caerwent, and no response had been received.

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In response, we noted that the relevant officer would be contacted so that a response could be provided.

b) Mr N. Vincent, resident of Mynyddbach, addressed the committee as follows:

- Monmouthshire County Council were commended for the increased cyclists that had been encouraged into the area. However, concerns were expressed regarding the number of motorcyclists on the B4235.
- Clarification was requested regarding the responsibility of police and local authority in terms of reducing speed limits and managing vehicles on similar roads.

In response, we noted the following points:

- The local member agreed that this was a very real problem regarding speed and noise. The area would benefit from speed to be restricted to 40mph through the area.
- Members would raise concerns through the CSAT group.
- It was recognised that the problems occurred in a number of rural areas and speed reductions would be welcomed.
- We requested that a highways officer could be invited to the next meeting, so that information regarding the issue could be provided.
- It was recognised that the police had been contacted regarding the issue.
- The Whole Place Officer confirmed that the issue could be included for discussion at CSAT on 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The Chairman advised that responses would be sought in relation to issues raised at previous public open forums.

The Old Station, Tintern

The Chair introduced Mr J. Sterry, Manager of the Old Station, Tintern and we were provided with a brief overview of successes at The Old Station, Tintern, as follows:

- There had been a significant number of visitors to the site and it had become a local community aspect.
- Awards had been received, however, further attractions were required on site to support the number of visitors that attended e.g. zip wire.
- The site had been included within an article within a national newspaper, as a result of The Old Station being recommended by a visitor.
- Staff had contributed to raising funds.
- We were advised that a department management plan was in place.

Members commended the team at the site and recognised the significant work that had been undertaken.

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**4. URGENT ITEM - PETITION**

The Chairman agreed to receive a report, which reported and updated members of the Lower Wye Area Committee on the receipt of a petition which requested that Monmouthshire County Council reduced the speed limit on the A48 through the village of Crick.

We noted the report.

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

We resolved to confirm the minutes of Lower Wye Area Committee held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

**6. UPDATE ON AREA ISSUES**

We welcomed the Whole Place Officers and were provided with an update on issues as follows:

**Capital Monies**

A member raised a query regarding a paragraph within the report which related to Capital Monies:

*'This year the area capital monies have been reduced from £15,000 to £5,000. Members will be aware that this money can only be used for capital schemes and not revenue. To make sure that the money is spent appropriately on capital projects that enhance the environment or benefit the local community we will be using this money to support the work of the whole place plans in order to pump prime some of the projects.'*

We were advised that the money was part of area management budgets and was used as a grant system in some areas. However, it would be difficult to administer a grant system with no dedicated support officer in place. It was suggested that funds could be allocated through the Whole Place Plan so that community groups would still benefit.

The committee were completely opposed with the proposed allocation of monies and expressed significant concern that it would not be available for local groups.

The Cabinet Member clarified that the Whole Place Plan enabled decision making within communities and the monies would enable this.

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We recognised the important link between local members and communities and felt that the area committee should be responsible for allocating monies. However, we noted that there was not an officer in place to administer a grant system.

It was highlighted that one meeting for the 2014/15 financial year remained for Area Committees and if no applications were received then the monies would be lost.

**Whole Place**

We were advised that the role of the Area Services Officer had been deleted. A new team of Whole Place officers are currently being formed to lead and support the Whole Place initiative in Monmouthshire. Officers will still be working in the areas but there will be no one officer assigned to a specific place. All whole place officers will be working where projects need support and guidance throughout the county to help build sustainable resilient communities and continuous work will be generated through delivery of the Whole Place agenda.

Whole Place initiatives were taking place throughout the UK, the approach in Monmouthshire related to behaviour and culture of collaborative working, which was not a 'one size fits all' approach.

The Whole Place Plan had commenced in Severnside and Bryn y Cwm, it had increased productivity and levied for potential investment. Local innovative ideas had been welcomed.

During discussion we noted the following points:

- The Whole Place process was evolving and would evolve as it was developed. However, each area would have a plan specific to its own needs.
- There had been good response received from the public and various interest groups, particularly in Severnside.
- Whole Place had introduced the opportunity for collaborative working, community cohesion and improved economies.
- The committee felt that they would benefit from further information about the meaning of Whole Place within the Lower Wye area. Some concerns were expressed that the plan would be focused on the town and not rural areas.
- Community led plans needed to be an integral part of the project and would be welcomed as a starting point for whole place to be developed.
- We recognised the limited resource available, in terms of Whole Place Officers.
- We thanked the officer for the report and updates, we welcomed further information, in due course, regarding how Whole Place would be developed.

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**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

We received and noted the Lower Wye area committee work programme.

During discussion we noted the following points:

- Information required regarding success of Chepstow Leisure Centre attendance
- An update was requested regarding Chepstow cluster and the deficit position.
- We were provided with an Air Quality update, which advised that there would be a decision from Welsh Government regarding Hardwick Hill by the end of the year.
- We agreed that items would be deleted from the work programme: housing benefit, partnerships.

**8. TIMING OF MEETINGS AND DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

We noted future meetings as follows:

- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 – 10.00am
- 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 – 10.00am

**The meeting closed at 12:00noon**

Lower Wye Area Committee Work Programme 2014/15

Item	Background Detail	Reporting Arrangements
<b>Standard Items:</b>		
<b>Area Update</b>	To receive the Various Updates report from the Area Services Officer	Ongoing
<b>Coordinating Board</b>	To receive feedback from the Chairman on referrals from the Coordinating Board	Ongoing
<b>Working Groups:</b>		
<b>Flood Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Flood Forum Working Group has been established and will report to both the Lower Wye Area Committee and Severnside Area Committee on flood management and related issues in Lower Wye and Severnside areas, in conjunction with strategies of the Environment Agency and Welsh Water.</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>New Work Programme Items:</b>		
<p><b>Vacant Properties</b></p> <p><b>Chepstow Rail and Bus Interchange</b></p> <p><b>Air Quality Management in Chepstow Area</b></p> <p><b>Whole Place Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations regarding Vacant Properties, of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee, considered by Lower Wye. Further discussions would be held regarding whether Town and Community Councils would be contacted in relation to empty properties.</li> <li>Regular update report to be on each Lower Wye Area Committee Agenda from July 2013               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government decision expected end of 2014.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Potential for the plan being extended to the Lower Wye Area</li> </ul>	<p>Update presented to Lower Wye AC 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Further Updates as and when necessary</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>Regular update</p>