

**Minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting
held at the Shire Hall, Monmouth
on Wednesday, 10th September 2014 at 2.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: County Councillor B. Strong (Vice-Chairman)

County Councillors: P.R. Clarke, R. Edwards, E. Hacket Pain,
R.J.C. Hayward, P. Jones, V. Smith and A. Wintle.

County Councillor Greenland attended the meeting by invitation
of the Chairman.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. D. McCarty	-	Whole Place Officer
Mr. S. Kneafsey	-	21 st Century Schools Programme Manager
Mrs. C. Sheen	-	Client Liaison Officer, 21 st Century Schools Team
Mr. R. Williams	-	Democratic Services Officer

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Councillor D. Politt	-	Llantrisant Fawr Community Council
David Seymour	-	Gwent Police
Ms. S. Hughes	-	advent
Ms. B. Wright	-	Monmouth Swimmers
Mr. B. Ramsey	-	Monmouth Swimmers
Mr. A. Smith	-	Monmouth Swimmers

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors G.C. Burrows and S. White

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2. Declarations of Interest are identified under the relevant minute.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3. The Chairman invited members of the public present to put questions to the Area Committee, or to raise issues of concern:

Monmouth Swimming Pool

County Councillor P. Jones declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to Monmouth Swimming Pool, as her grandson received weekly swimming lessons at Monmouth Swimming Pool.

A representative of Monmouth Swimmers addressed the Area Committee outlining the following points regarding Monmouth Swimming Pool:

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- Monmouthshire Swimmers had posted letters regarding Monmouth Swimming Pool to all Members of the Area Committee with the expectation that this matter would have been discussed at the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting on 11th June 2014, but was informed that plans were not available.
- One week later, display boards and plans relating to the swimming pool were displayed in the comprehensive schools.
- Concern was expressed that the information was not available for the June 2014 Area Committee Meeting. Lack of information to Members had resulted in no discussion in respect of this matter.
- The press release was misleading regarding the numbers of users of the swimming pool last year.
- Only primary school children will be given swim time at the pool.
- 600 children receive swimming lessons in the pool. 400 children pay for out of school lessons. Concern was expressed as to where these children will go to receive their swimming lessons.
- Building the new Monmouth Secondary School on the flood plain will be problematic.
- Children have received swimming lessons at the public swimming pool for 40 years. Concern was expressed that children might look for alternative unsafe areas to swim whilst the new swimming pool was built. Therefore, a request was made for the new swimming pool to be built as soon as possible.

The 21st Century Schools Programme Manager provided the Area Committee with the following information:

- All options to provide a new swimming pool had been explored.
- This was an opportunity to bring a 21st Century School with swimming pool into Monmouth Town as a campus development.
- The planning application would be powerful with a view to holding discussions to ensure the design would provide an appropriate modern facility.
- The phasing of the development needed to be delivered as soon as possible to ensure value for money.

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- There will be a gap between the closure of the existing swimming pool and the opening of the new swimming pool. However, officers were trying to minimise this gap.
- The construction team was aware of the passion that the people of Monmouth had for the swimming pool.
- A delivery / management plan will be established and dialogue with Monmouth residents will be held.
- Much work was being undertaken in order to be in a position to submit the planning application as soon as possible.

In response, the following information was noted:

- The new swimming pool would be delivered concurrently with the 21st Century School, i.e., as one planning application.
- Officers had been tasked by Full Council to find an alternative swimming pool for use by Monmouth residents until the new swimming pool was built.
- It was hoped that the planning application would be submitted for consideration by Planning Committee in October / November 2014 with a view to commencing work in February / March 2015.
- A funding report would be presented to Full Council in due course.
- After the funding options had been considered, the Cabinet Member and the 21st Century Schools Programme Manager could meet with representatives of Monmouth Swimmers.
- Officers had spoken to Monmouth School to discuss a parking and management strategy of the school's parking in order to alleviate the parking issues that were arising in the Burgage where 6th Form pupils were parking their vehicles.

MINUTES

4. The minutes of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meeting dated 11th June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

UPDATE ON AREA ISSUES

5. We received a report from the Whole Place Officer, which updated on issues in Central Monmouthshire:

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CSAT

Members of CSAT attended Monmouth Show and had a very successful day. Approximately 1000 children were issued with security bands and several members of the public purchased personal safety equipment.

Monmouth Partnership Forum

At the last forum meeting members discussed the problems of litter and dog faeces in and around Monmouth and what could be done to deal with the issue. The Friends of Chippenham Group had been established.

Rural Forum

Members of the forum had discussed local issues.

Usk Community Hub

A small working group has now been established to take forward the work of forming a new community hub. Currently, estimates for works needed were being collected for the various aspects of the project.

Community Led Plans (CLP) update

Llandogo – The finished CLP has now been printed and was available to view on the TUCC website, or limited copies were available from Browns Store.

Raglan – The Community Led Plan was adopted by Raglan Community Council on 28th May 2014 and copies were now available from Raglan Post Office or could be viewed on raglan Community Council Website.

Llangybi Fawr – On the 15th July 2014, the Community Council adopted the Plan for Llangybi and printed copies have been delivered to every household in the village, or it could be downloaded from the village website.

Coed-y-Paen – The CLP Steering Group has met twice in the recent weeks, and the Draft Action Plan should be ready by the end of September 2014.

Llantilio Crossenny – A very successful Community Consultation was held in the village on 19th July 2014, and the Steering Group was due to meet on 26th August 2014 to review the findings from the Consultation, and plan the next steps in writing their Community Led Plan.

The Narth – The adventa Project Officer attended the Village Fete on Monday 25th August 2014 to promote their Community Consultation which will take place on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September 2014 in The Narth.

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Penallt – One of the Community Councillors for the area has made an approach regarding a CLP for the village, and the Project Officer will be making arrangements for a Consultation event in the near future.

Overview of Summer Play Schemes

- Play schemes were operated at the four leisure centres and Bulwark Community Centre on behalf of Chepstow Town Council for four weeks of the Summer.
- There was a breakfast club 8.00am - 9.00am and after play scheme sports camps 3.30pm - 5.00pm to assist working parents.
- They attracted over 1000 children to these schemes and 6500 visits in total.
- Staff training was provided for around 80 members of staff including safeguarding level 1.
- They linked with around 100 families of children with disabilities.
- 25 members of staff were employed to work with 40 children with additional needs to access the schemes.
- There was a varied four week themed programme including daily swimming and links with Museums, Libraries, Emergency Services.
- Visits from the Mayor and Town Councils to view the schemes were organised.
- There were a few off site visits organised this year to the Kymin View, Monmouth Music Festival.

Tour of Britain

The Tour of Britain takes world class riders around the country in an eight stage race, culminating in a time trial and circuit race through the streets of London.

Monmouthshire hosts a dramatic summit finish to stage three of the race that will challenge riders to climb the Tumble, just outside Abergavenny.

A bid will be put next year for Monmouthshire to host a stage of this event.

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Tourism

Monmouthshire Ambassadors

To date, there were 140 Monmouthshire Ambassadors (out of a target 200) to welcome visitors to the county. 19 of the trained ambassadors have gone on to complete accredited World Host training. Monmouthshire Ambassador sessions have been delivered in all towns, and on specific themes such as walking and heritage. Now work on development of bespoke sessions aimed at retailers, market stall holders and event organisers were taking place with a pilot session planned for Abergavenny in September 2014. If successful this bespoke version of the training will be rolled out to the other towns, subject to there being sufficient interest.

Tourism Performance

New events to Monmouthshire this year included the Wye Valley River Festival in May 2014, the National Cycling Championships in June 2014 and the Wales Open Criterium in Chepstow in July 2014. In addition, Chepstow racecourse has hosted a programme of new events including the Sunrise Celebration which relocated to Monmouthshire for the first time this year. Usk Show would be held on 13th September 2014 and the Abergavenny Food Festival on 20th - 21st September 2014.

Visitor Information

More sustainable models of delivery for our TICs were being explored. In Abergavenny a shared service model was being operated (with the Town Council and Brecon Beacons NPA).

In response to a Member's question regarding the closure of TICs on Sunday, it was noted that this was due to financial restraints. However, the Tourism Ambassadors would be available to help with tourist's queries.

Website

A new visitmonmouthshire.com website was being delivered to promote the wide range of visitor experiences on offer. This was due for completion at the end of November 2014 and was being funded through the RDP Welcome Monmouthshire project.

PR activity

Actively involved in two destination partnership PR contracts with Alexandra Marr Associates with Brecon Beacons Tourism and Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Tourism as partners.

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Travel Trade / Group Travel

Working closely with businesses to update existing and develop new itineraries for promotion to travel trade / group travel contacts.

RDP Welcome Monmouthshire

Continuing to progress the following activity under this project which ends on 30th November 2014:

- Development of circular routes off the Usk Valley Walk and Wales Coast Path.
- Development of community-led interpretation, signposting and access.
- Improvements to visitor highway and pedestrian signage.
- Improvements to interpretation and visitor management at Caldicot Castle.
- IT infrastructure improvements.

Sports Development

- Dragon Sport Figures for Monmouth Cluster Primary Schools have increased for the last academic year. A total of 3,764 individual attendances were recorded at after school clubs. This increase has been seen from community club engagement, education / training for teachers and delivery from year 6 pupils as part of the Bronze Young Ambassador Programme.
- A number of festivals took place for primary schools last year to take part in and compete against other schools within the cluster. These included cross country, netball, football and rugby. These festivals will be developed further next year so the winning schools will progress on to South East Wales regional finals or Monmouthshire finals for each festival.
- A large increase in the tots' sessions with children age 3-6 years old taking part in cycling, football, netball and rugby. Around 60 children have taken part in these sessions.
- 12,576 individual attendances recorded as part of the 5x60 programme at Monmouth Comprehensive School – the highest in the authority. Pupils have been given the opportunity to take part in activities such as Kayaking, rowing, fencing, water polo and street dance.
- 14 year 6 pupils (2 per school) trained to deliver, promote and encourage sport participation in their primary schools as part of the Bronze Young Ambassador Programme.

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- Kymin View Primary School took part in a six week block of Paralympic sessions where they took part in wheelchair basketball, boccia, curling and archery activities. These pupils then delivered four activities to the whole school as part of their sports day demonstrating fantastic leadership and responsibility.
- Feedback from children and parents for the Sport Camp days during the holiday periods which have seen increased participation, income and usage at Monmouth Leisure Centre.

Budget Consultations

Monmouthshire County Council will be running a series of road shows and consultations to discuss the future budget and have an opportunity to engage with the people in our county.

The road show will be held during the day in Monmouth on Friday 19th September 2014 and in Usk on Monday 22nd September 2014. Budget consultations will take place in the evening at Monmouth Comprehensive School on Monday 29th September 2014 and in Usk on Wednesday 8th September 2014.

Whole Place

The role of the Area Services Officer was deleted earlier this year. A new team of Whole Place officers were 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.

Capital Monies

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

We resolved accordingly.

We resolved to receive the report and noted its content.

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WORK PROGRAMME

6. We received and noted the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee Work Programme.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. We noted the future dates of the Central Monmouthshire Area Committee meetings, as follows:
 - 11th February 2015 – 2.00pm
 - 29th April 2015 – 2.00pm

The meeting terminated at 3.03 p.m.