

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Severnside Area Committee held
at The Lab, Innovation House, Magor on Monday, 23rd April, 2018 at 10.00 am**

PRESENT: County Councillors: D. Evans (Chair)
J. Watkins (Vice-Chair)

F. Taylor, A.Davies and L.Dymock

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE County Councillor S. Jones

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Paula Harris	Democratic Services Officer
Roger Hoggins	Head of Operations
Paul Keeble	Group Engineer (Highways and Flood Management)
Judith Langdon	Communities and Partnership Development Lead
Andy Smith	Strategic Investment and Funding Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

County Councillors P. Fox, L. Guppy, A. Easson, J. Higginson and Town Councillor P. Stevens.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Confirm and sign the minutes of the previous meetings

Both sets of minutes were confirmed as accurate and signed by the Chair.

4. Traffic Issues in the Severnside Area & Public Open Forum

The Committee were joined by members of the public who were invited to speak and made the following points;

Mr. Michael Russon

- Concerned with issues with traffic volume and speed, especially on the main road in Undy

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Severnside Area Committee held at The Lab, Innovation House, Magor on Monday, 23rd April, 2018 at 10.00 am

- Police have previously put up covert cameras which captured 85,246 vehicle movements in a 6 day period with 27% of vehicles speeding
- Gwent Police have told him that they feel other roads are more important
- The increase in housing has resulted in more cars on the roads
- How much traffic is too much traffic?
- He is unable to open windows of his home due to traffic noise and pollution
- HGV have no reason to drive through Magor and Undy, they are dangerous and often oversized vehicles have mounted the pavement

Mr Trevor Harris

- Happy the issues with the B4245 are being highlighted
- A solution needs to be found and implemented ASAP as we don't want to be in the same position in twelve months' time
- Surely an increase in houses mean an increase in Council Tax payers – more revenue available?
- Need police to be involved for this to work

The Head of Operations for MCC advised Mr Russon and the Committee that following a special meeting of the committee last month regarding the traffic on the B4245, the Chair has written to the Police Crime Commissioner, Gwent Police and the local AM to invite them to the next meeting to discuss matters further. He also advised that MCC commissioned a study in 2012 on the speed and volume of traffic in this area and have now commissioned a further piece of work.

County Councillor Frances Taylor spoke of her experience of living in the area and the fact that she moved in 2007 when it got to the point she could not pull off her drive due to the volume of traffic passing her house. She felt that the average speeds being used as a guide is not an effective way to prioritise need.

Magor Square and the local schools have issues with increasing amounts of traffic and it was suggested that we link up with the Crime Prevention Panel.

Go Safe have not been in Magor for eighteen months because of vegetation and signage, they will be returning soon.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Severnside Area Committee held at The Lab, Innovation House, Magor on Monday, 23rd April, 2018 at 10.00 am

County Councillor Taylor asked that the businesses on the Severnside Bridge Industrial Estate could be written to highlighting the committee's concerns regarding speed and volume of HGV vehicles entering and exiting the estate. **(ACTION R.H.)**

County Councillor Alan Davies spoke of the need for a risk assessment and that it's not just about average speed. He said that we need to review how we analyse the data as he felt that the current methodology is wrong. He was also critical of the length of time it has taken to get a resolution.

When the bridge tolls are abolished the impact on the area will be huge, we need businesses and houses and the correct road infrastructure. During pre-election canvassing, traffic was a concern for most residents.

County Councillor Lisa Dymock asked the Head of Operations how 'near-misses' were reported and he asked that local members collect that information.

Attending the meeting on behalf of local AM John Griffiths, Deb Davies thanked the committee and the residents for their comments stating she will speak to Ken Skates in regard to M4 signage and return with an update to the next meeting.

5. Area Grants

Andy Smith, Strategic Investment & Funding Manager attended the meeting to discuss the grants.

From the six applications received from the Severnside Area, two were accepted and reiterated to members that the grant could only fund capital, not revenue projects. He will produce guidance notes to clarify the difference between capital and revenue.

Andy will organise some local drop in sessions to raise awareness of the grant and advised the committee that if local groups are looking for funding sources they can contact him for advice.

6. Town Team Update

Aaron Weeks was unable to attend the meeting.

He has advised that the next meeting of the Town Team will be on Tuesday May 1st at 6:30pm at St Mary's Hall, Caldicot.

7. Social Justice Strategy

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Severnside Area Committee held
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The Cabinet Member for Social Justice County Councillor Sara Jones attended the committee to speak to the Social Justice Policy.

8. Confirm the date and time of next meeting 11th July 2018

Members of the Committee were advised this this date is subject to change due to the invitation extended to the Police Crime Commissioner.

The meeting ended at 12:15