

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

## Notice of meeting

# County Council

**Thursday, 20th June, 2019 at 2.00 pm,  
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

## AGENDA

*Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.55pm. All members are welcome to join the Chairman for prayers should they wish to do.*

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
3.	<b>Public questions</b>	
4.	<b>Chairman's announcement and receipt of petitions</b>	1 - 2
5.	<b>Notices of motion:</b>	
5.1.	<p><b>From County Councillor P. Fox</b></p> <p>The recent decision by the First Minister and the Wales Government to disregard the recommendations of the Independent Inquiry into the proposed M4 relief road is deeply regrettable to this Council. This has delivered a devastating blow to businesses and residents within South East Wales and will massively restrict the economic opportunities of the region. Whilst many media headlines in the immediate aftermath of the decision have focussed on Newport, the implications for the south of our county are as acute. This Council accepts that the decision has now been made and cannot be undone so we have to move forward.</p> <p>This Council now calls on the Welsh Government and Transport for Wales to demonstrate commitment and support for other solutions to relieve congestion and infrastructure overload in South Monmouthshire. We call on both agencies to do whatever is necessary to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve transport infrastructure in and around Chepstow with pace</li> </ol>	

and urgency. Financing and completing the second stage of a WelTag study this calendar year is necessary now;

2. Commission a South Wales Metro Stage 3 study to cover the area east of Newport which to date has been neglected. We seek commitment to similar levels of service to those being implemented on valley lines for the mainline running through our county starting with a significant uplift in service frequency for Chepstow rail and an evaluation of a business case for direct connection to Bristol;
3. Explicitly support the ongoing development work for a walkway station at Magor, joining with this Council in match-funding our contribution to a GRIP3 study this summer.
4. Prioritise work necessary to upgrade Severn Tunnel Junction to a full Parkway station with improved service frequency and facilities.
5. Over and above 1-4 above, that proposals for all sustainable transport improvements put forward by the Future Generations Commissioner as part of her evidence to the Independent Inquiry within the county are urgently evaluated and where proven are implemented.
6. Ensure that this Council has early and ongoing engagement with the Independent Commission that has now been established by the First Minister to advance 1-5 above.

Furthermore that Council asks the Leader to write to the First Minister expressing this Council's view and requesting an urgent meeting to discuss these important issues.

## **5.2. From County Councillor F. Taylor**

That this Council continue to provide exemplar support the unique case for Magor Walkway station as an exemplar in active travel and building community resilience in the face of climate change.

We ask this Council call to on Welsh Government to confirm their unequivocal support for Magor Station by match funding Monmouthshire County Council's commitment to complete GRIP 3. Additionally, on completion of GRIP 3, we request that Welsh Government support Magor Station to progress their case to the DfT's New Station Fund.

Finally, that this Council request that following the decision to scrap building a New M4, Welsh Government acknowledge Magor Station as a key part of a suite of measures to support modal shift and reduce carbon emissions in South East Wales.

## **5.3. From County Councillor A. Eason**

Constituents in in my Ward, and no doubt other Wards, who travel along the B4245 to and from Caldicot to Magor have for several years expressed concern about the safety of this road .There have been several accidents over that time, some very serious. Many attempts have been made by Local Members to address the issue through the Severnside Area Committee. This road has over 13,000 recorded travel movements every day, and has become even more dangerous as heavy goods vehicles have become much larger.

No progress has been made over that time because of the uncertainty of a decision about the long standing matter of the M4 relief road proposals. Now that the Welsh Government has decided that the relief road will not go ahead concerns about the B4245 can now be addressed without the M4 clouding the issue.

I move therefore that our Highways Department brings forward plans and an implementation programme to address the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, and any other road users, along this busy stretch of highway between Magor and Caldicot.

**5.4. From County Councillor D. Batrouni**

That this council notes with disappointment the growing evidence that the Conservative party is fundamentally undermining the life chances of our poorest and most troubled pupils in Monmouthshire, making any notion of this council advancing social justice for these children a pure fantasy

**6. Members' Questions:**

**6.1. From County Councillor M. Groucutt to County Councillor R. Greenland**

I am pleased to note that significant extra funding will be available to support the Gwent Green Grid Partnership and wish to congratulate MCC as lead partner. I also note that in guidance published in 'Planning Policy Wales, vol 10' (Dec 2018) the Welsh Government confirms that local authorities can designate land as a Green Wedge in Local Development Plans. The aim is to protect valuable green sites from inappropriate development not in accord with proposals established in the Plan.

Against this background would the cabinet member responsible for the environment confirm his support for the creation of Green Wedges where appropriate across Monmouthshire, noting that several are proposed for Abergavenny, and recognising that the authority has responsibilities to retain iconic views, promote the health and wellbeing of its people, and support access to beautiful recreational areas that would enhance the enjoyment of our countryside?

**6.2. From County Councillor A. Easson to County Councillor J. Pratt**

Over 12 months ago a decision was made by Cabinet to discontinue proposals for street furniture levies. Would you clarify the use of Section 50 highways street works notices to impose a levy on incidental flower planters in Caldicot?

**6.3. From County Councillor B. Strong to County Councillor P. Jordan**

The new Post Office was recently installed at The Hub in Usk and opened for business a couple of months ago. This service was delivered after lengthy negotiations between Monmouthshire County Council, Usk Town Council and Post Office Counters had taken place. Could Councillor Jordan update Council on the performance of the new Post Office thus far and indicate whether any interest has been shown by any other Town or Community Councils whose treasured Post Offices may be under threat of closure?

<b>7.</b>	<b>To confirm the following minutes:</b>	
<b>7.1.</b>	<b>14th May 2019</b>	<b>3 - 4</b>
<b>7.2.</b>	<b>16th May 2019</b>	<b>5 - 12</b>

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Clarke  
D. Batrouni  
J.Becker  
D. Blakebrough  
L.Brown  
A.Davies  
D. Dovey  
L.Dymock  
A. Easson  
R. Edwards  
D. Evans  
M.Feakins  
P.A. Fox  
R.J.W. Greenland  
M.Groucutt  
L. Guppy  
R. Harris  
J. Higginson  
G. Howard  
S. Howarth  
R.John  
D. Jones  
L.Jones  
P. Jones  
S. Jones  
S.B. Jones  
P. Jordan  
M.Lane  
P. Murphy  
P.Pavia  
M. Powell  
J.Pratt  
R.Roden  
V. Smith  
B. Strong  
F. Taylor  
T.Thomas  
J.Treharne  
J.Watkins  
A. Watts  
A. Webb  
K. Williams  
S. Woodhouse

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# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

### Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

## Our Values

**Openness.** We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

**Fairness.** We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

**Flexibility.** We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

**Teamwork.** We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

