

Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Notice of meeting

County Council

**Thursday, 12th December, 2024 at 2.00 pm,
Council Chamber, County Hall, The Rhadyr, Usk, NP15 1GA**

AGENDA

Prayers will be said prior to the Council meeting at 1.45pm. All members are welcome to join the Chair for prayers should they wish to do.

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest	
3.	Chair's Announcement	1 - 2
4.	Receipt of petitions	
5.	Public questions Submitted by Mr. Jonty Pearce Why has Monmouthshire County Council Removed Key Protection for Monmouth's Endangered Greater Horseshoe Bats?	
6.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2024	3 - 12
7.	Reports to Council:	
7.1.	DEFORESTATION FREE CHAMPION COUNCIL	13 - 30
7.2.	CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED THROUGH PUBLIC TRAGEDY (The Hillsborough Charter)	31 - 34
7.3.	APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES	35 - 36

8. Motions to Council:

8.1. Submitted by County Councillor Jan Butler

This Council:

- Thanks the emergency workers, volunteers and all those who supported Monmouthshire residents during Storm Bert
- Expresses concern that a lack of maintenance of the county's drainage infrastructure will have exacerbated flood risks
- Calls on the council to reassess its processes to mitigate flood events and evaluate the size and funding of the workforce dedicated to drainage maintenance and environmental management.

8.2. Submitted by County Councillor Rachel Buckler

This Council:

- Greatly values the role of Monmouthshire farmers in producing high quality food, providing food security and acting as the guardians of our natural environment.
- Regrets the UK Government's proposed changes to inheritance tax, specifically the removal of Agricultural Property Relief, which threatens the future of family farms in Monmouthshire.
- Agrees to work with local farming unions and other Welsh councils to persuade the UK Government to protect our rural communities and not kill off family farms.

9. Members Questions:

9.1. County Councillor Steven Garratt to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please can the Cabinet Member provide an update on the experimental prohibition of driving (except for access) on the section of Goldwire Lane, Monmouth from the junction with Somerset Road to the junction with Drybridge Street?

9.2. County Councillor Martin Newell to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

In light of the flooding on Wonastow Road last month, when will the Cabinet Member abandon plans to partially close Goldwire Lane?

9.3. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Can the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the Council is doing to ensure the Penallt Viaduct (also known as the Wye Bridge in Redbrook), remains open to users for the foreseeable future, considering the fact that the attached footbridge, built in around 1955 is now well beyond its expected lifespan and is showing severe signs of decay. Next Year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wye Valley walk and so there is likely to be an upsurge in walkers.

9.4. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Following the news that the extensive Wye Bridge (Wyesham/Mayhill) repairs will not now take place until at least the spring of 2025 can the cabinet member please let us know what will be done to ensure the rutted potholes that plague the bridge surface will be repaired to standard that will last until then.

9.5. County Councillor Emma Bryn to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Can the cabinet member please provide an update on the progress of the Wyesham/Mayhill to Monmouth Town walking and wheeling bridge?

9.6. County Councillor Tony Easson to County Councillor Sara Burch, Cabinet Member for Rural Affairs, Housing & Tourism

Footpath 376/8 alongside the Neddern Brook, Caldicot, has been closed for well over 500 days. There is a recommendation from the H & S Executive that the adjacent recycling yard has created a risk to the public. Can the Cabinet Member provide me with a firm update on when this problem will be resolved, and the footpath will be reopened?

9.7. County Councillor Meirion Howells to County Councillor Ian Chandler, Cabinet Member for Social Care, Safeguarding and Accessible Health Services

Could you provide an update on the support being provided to looked-after children and young care leavers during the Christmas period? Specifically, what initiatives or measures are in place to ensure their wellbeing and inclusion during this time, and how can we, as elected members, and members of the public get involved by contributing gifts or other forms of support to make their Christmas brighter?

9.8. County Councillor Paul Pavia to County Councillor Ben Callard, Cabinet Member for Resources

Could the Cabinet Member provide a statement on the administration's assumptions regarding the increase in National Insurance rate for employers and its impact on the Council's budget?

9.9. County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

What discussions has the Council had with Welsh Government and partners about improving road safety on the A40 junction between Raglan and Tregare?

9.10. County Councillor Jayne McKenna to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on plans to resurface R46, the main road through Mitchel Troy?

9.11. County Councillor Jane Lucas to County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader

Will the Leader provide an update on the Vauxhall/Inglis Bridge?

9.12. County Councillor Laura Wright to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

Following the devastating fire in Abergavenny town centre, can the cabinet member please give an update on what the County Council is doing to support the local community and businesses in the aftermath?

9.13. County Councillor Laura Wright to County Councillor Angela Sandles, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Engagement

There has been a rise in the number of recorded incidents of antisocial behaviour in Abergavenny. Will the cabinet member please tell us what the County Council is doing to tackle this problem?

9.14. County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Paul Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development Deputy Leader

What steps is the administration taking to support high street businesses?

9.15. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please could the cabinet member advise of the current details of road sweepers in use in Monmouthshire, how their use is deployed and managed across the county and in particular the allocation to Llanbadoc and Usk Ward.

9.16. County Councillor Tony Kear to County Councillor Catrin Maby, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment

Please could the cabinet member give an update on road repair schedules / backlog progress and priorities in Monmouthshire, with particular reference and context to the deteriorating surfaces in my Ward on Chepstow Road, Maryport Street and Porthycarne Street.

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY**

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Rachel Buckler	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Laura Wright	Grofield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tony Kear	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Catrin Maby	Drybridge;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jan Butler	Goetre Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Ian Chandler	Llantilio Crossenny;	Green Party
County Councillor Sara Burch	Cantref;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Alistair Neill	Gobion Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Su McConnel	Croesonen;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Llanelly Hill;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Fay Bromfield	Llangybi Fawr;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jane Lucas	Osbaston;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Emma Bryn	Wyesham;	Independent Group
County Councillor Peter Strong	Rogiet;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Meirion Howells	Llanbadoc & Usk;	Independent
County Councillor Paul Griffiths	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jackie Strong	Caldicot Cross;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Rachel Garrick	Caldicot Castle;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Maria Stevens	Severn;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Steven Garratt	Overmonnow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party
County Councillor Ben Callard	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor John Crook	Magor East with Undy;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Tomos Dafydd Davies	Llanfoist & Govilon;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Dale Rooke	Chepstow Castle & Larkfield;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Sue Riley	Bulwark and Thornwell;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jayne McKenna	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Lisa Dymock	Portskewett;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Tony Easson	Dewstow;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Christopher Edwards	St. Kingsmark;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Simon Howarth	Llanelly Hill;	Independent Group
County Councillor Richard John	Mitchel Troy and Trellech United;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor David Jones	Crucorney;	Independent Group
County Councillor Penny Jones	Raglan;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Malcolm Lane	Mardy;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Phil Murphy	Caerwent;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Maureen Powell	Pen Y Fal;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Frances Taylor	Magor West;	Independent Group
County Councillor Tudor Thomas	Park;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru

Public Information

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Watch this meeting online

This meeting can be viewed online either live or following the meeting by visiting www.monmouthshire.gov.uk or by visiting our Youtube page by searching MonmouthshireCC.

Welsh Language

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.

Public Speaking at Full Council

Members of the public may register to ask a question of the members of cabinet at full council meetings. There is no facility for the public to register to speak as part of the debate of an item on the agenda at full council meetings. The total time allocated for all questions at a meeting of full council is 15 minutes.

No more than one question is permitted per questioner at a meeting of full council and questions will be asked in the order that they are submitted.

In order to submit a question at a full council meeting, notice must be given in writing or by email to the head of democratic services no later than midnight three working days before the day of the meeting with each question providing the name and address of the questioner.

Questions may be rejected if the question;

- Is not about a matter for which the council has responsibility or which affects the county
- Is defamatory, frivolous or offensive
- Is substantially the same question which has been put at a meeting of full council in the past 6 months
- Requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information

Where a person is not able to ask the question to full council in person, the chair may decide to read the question out on their behalf, instruct a written response be provided or choose to not deal with the question in their absence. Those who do ask a question in person will be entitled to one supplementary question which must arise out of the original question or the reply. The chair may reject a supplementary question on these grounds.

Any questions that cannot be dealt with at the meeting due to exceeding the time limit for public questions will be dealt with by a written response.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

- to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

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.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

Chair's Report 22nd October – 5th December

Tuesday 22 nd October 11 a.m.	Memorial Service – The Rt .Hon Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Jane Henshaw Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff
Friday 25 th October 3.30 p.m.	Official Opening of the Zone Caldicot
Friday 1 st November 10.45 a.m.	Annual Service of Remembrance for the 6 th HMS Monmouth St Mary's Priory Church, Monmouth
Thursday 7 th November 10 – 2	Bronze Young Ambassador Conference Thornwell Primary School, Chepstow
Friday 8 th November 3 p.m.	Armistice Day Service Llanelly Hill
Saturday 9 th November 7 p.m.	Gwent Bach Choir Concert St Mary's Priory, Abergavenny
Sunday 10 th November 11 a.m.	Remembrance Service & Parade Abergavenny
Sunday 10 th November 3 p.m.	Remembrance Service St Ellis Parish Church, Gilwern
Monday 11 th November 11 a.m.	Armistice Day Service County Hall, Usk
Monday 18 th November 11 a.m.	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and White Ribbon Day Neuadd, Senedd
Friday 22 nd November 12 p.m.	Art Exhibition to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and White Ribbon Day Gwent Police HQ, Cwmbran
Wednesday 25 th November 7 p.m.	Dignity Bags for Women – AGM and Quiz Bulwark Community Centre, Chepstow
Thursday 28 th November 9 a.m.	White Ribbon Day Week – raising awareness Abergavenny Market
Friday 30 th November	Welcome Albanian Delegation Chairs office, Usk
Tuesday 3 rd December 11 a.m.	Citizenship Ceremony Registrars Office, Usk
Wednesday 4 th December 6.30 p.m.	Forest of Dean Civic Carol Service Coleford Baptist Church, Coleford
Thursday 5 th December 4.40 p.m.	Cyfannol Women's Aid – 'Hamper for Hope Event' Whitehead's Sports & Social Club, Newport

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 6

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: County Councillor Su McConnel (Chair)
County Councillor Peter Strong (Vice Chair)

County Councillors: Rachel Buckler, Laura Wright, Tony Kear, Catrin Maby, Jan Butler, Ian Chandler, Sara Burch, Mary Ann Brocklesby, Fay Bromfield, Jane Lucas, Emma Bryn, Meirion Howells, Paul Griffiths, Jackie Strong, Rachel Garrick, Steven Garratt, Angela Sandles, Ben Callard, John Crook, Tomos Davies, Dale Rooke, Jayne McKenna, Jill Bond, Louise Brown, Lisa Dymock, Tony Easson, Christopher Edwards, Martyn Groucutt, Simon Howarth, Richard John, David Jones, Penny Jones, Malcolm Lane, Phil Murphy, Paul Pavia, Maureen Powell, Frances Taylor, Tudor Thomas, Armand Watts and Ann Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jonathan Davies	Head of Finance
Peter Davies	Acting Chief Executive
Jane Rodgers	Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health
Will McLean	Chief Officer for Children and Young People
Nicola Perry	Senior Democracy Officer
Frances O'Brien	Chief Officer, Communities and Place
Matthew Gatehouse	Chief Officer People, Performance and Partnerships.
Ian Saunders	Chief Officer Customer, Culture and Wellbeing.
James Williams	Chief Officer Law & Governance
Craig O'Connor	Head of Placemaking
Taylor Watts	Licensing Officer

APOLOGIES:

County Councillors Alistair Neill, Maria Stevens and Sue Riley

1. Declarations of interest

County Councillor Tony Kear declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in relation to item 6a as he is a trustee of Little Mill Village Hall charity which operates a firework event as its main fundraiser.

2. Chair's Announcement

The Chair wished to note this meeting as the last day in a very distinguished 6 years of service by Chief Officer of Communities and Place, Frances O'Brien. Members thanked Frances and wished her well in her new appointment.

3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2024

Council resolved to accept the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting held on 19th September 2024.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

In doing so County Councillor Catrin Maby highlighted a correction at item 17, para 2

*As a supplementary County Councillor Bromfield welcomed further information, particularly around Public Health Wales. The Cabinet Member was asked to update Members **regularly**, to which she agreed. County Councillor Maby also agreed to email an update on the issue around bacteria and swimming.*

4. Public Questions

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=635rwVQqnpzE8mZp&t=836

The Chair welcomed David Cummings, Chair of the Gateway to Wales Action Group to present the following questions to in relation to the Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan:

1. Monmouthshire has set permissible Nitrogen Dioxide levels at four times the levels recommended by the World Health Organisation. Why has MCC chosen a site, close to A40, to build houses where the extra emissions from cars will further break those WHO levels and create more PM 2.5 particulates?
2. The catchment area in which HA4 is located already has phosphate levels exceeding the maximum permitted. Why has MCC chosen a site where run off will increase those levels and further pollute the Wye above where the drinking water for our town is extracted?
3. Site HA4 is primarily Grade 2 prime agricultural land. MCC is bound to use the lowest grade agricultural land first. Why has it not chosen a site with poorer quality agricultural land?
4. This site is close to the Wye Valley AONB and is the Gateway to Wales. Why have MCC chosen a site that, if developed, despoils and changes a view that has not changed for visitors since the Wye Tour of 1782?
5. We ask what assessment has been undertaken of the impact of the additional traffic exiting this site either for access to work via the A40 or into the town?
6. In view of the many issues with site HA4 should not an alternative site be chosen for Monmouth, such as CS0274 off Wonastow Road, which has far fewer issues? Can the council agree to consider this option during the Deposit Plan consultation process?

The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, Deputy Leader, thanked Mr. Cummings for the questions and provided a response.

1. Environment officers monitor air quality across the County. The evidence is that this site has permissible air quality levels according to nationally set standards. The evidence has not led to this area being an air quality management area. Nevertheless, because of the strong points made at the Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Leader has asked that further testing of this site takes place during the public consultation period.
2. In terms of issues relating to water quality, the Monmouth Treatment Works are benefitting from investment in strategic treatment work improvements. This work is being undertaken now and once completed it will remove high levels of phosphates. All the new developments in Monmouthshire will require a sustainable drainage system to ensure there is no increased runoff as a consequence of the development.
3. With regards to agricultural land, in Monmouth the debate has been whether the future development should focus on the proposed Leesbrook site or the Wonastow site. The Leesbrook site has a marginally lower agricultural quality and that will be considered during the public consultation.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

4. In terms of the position of the site, the proposed development site at Leesbrook is on a smaller scale than that agreed by the Council in 2020. The proposal has drawn further back from the hillside and provides a green corridor and a landscape buffer. The proposed development was thought to be seen as an extension of the existing settlement.
5. The site promoter has submitted transport strategies and statements to evidence the impact of the development on the local area. A strategic transport assessment has been conducted by Transport for Wales and this does not indicate significant impact consequential on the development itself.
6. Our assessment is that on balance Leesbrook has advantages over Wonastow but if during public consultation evidence emerges that there is a preference and more evidence which would favour Wonastow then that evidence will be given detailed consideration.

5. Reports to Council:

6. Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan

The report was presented to seek Council's endorsement of the Deposit Plan to commence statutory consultation/engagement with communities and key stakeholders, and to seek Council's agreement of the RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement to submit to Welsh Government for approval.

Upon being put to a recorded vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To endorse the Deposit RLDP to commence statutory consultation/engagement with communities and key stakeholders.

To agree the revised Delivery Agreement for the RLDP for submission to Welsh Government for approval

For:	21
Against:	20
Abstain:	1

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

NAME	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	X		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	X		
Councillor F BROMFIELD		X	
Councillor L BROWN		X	
Councillor E BRYN			X
Councillor R BUCKLER		X	
Councillor S BURCH	X		
Councillor J BUTLER		X	
Councillor B CALLARD	X		
Councillor I CHANDLER	X		
Councillor J CROOK	X		
Councillor T DAVIES		X	
Councillor L DYMOCK		X	
Councillor A EASSON	X		
Councillor C EDWARDS		X	
Councillor S GARRATT	X		
Councillor R GARRICK	X		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	X		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	X		
Councillor S.G.M. Howarth		X	
Councillor M HOWELLS	X		
Councillor R JOHN		X	
Councillor D. W. H. Jones		X	
Councillor P. Jones		X	
Councillor T KEAR		X	
Councillor M LANE		X	
Councillor J LUCAS		X	
Councillor C MABY	X		
Councillor S MCCONNEL	X		
Councillor J MCKENNA		X	
Councillor P MURPHY		X	
Councillor A NEILL - APOLOGIES			
Councillor P PAVIA		X	
Councillor M POWELL		X	
Councillor S RILEY - APOLOGIES			
Councillor D ROOKE	X		
Councillor A SANDLES	X		
Councillor M STEVENS - APOLOGIES			
Councillor J STRONG	X		
Councillor P STRONG	X		
Councillor F TAYLOR		X	
Councillor T THOMAS	X		
Councillor A WATTS	X		
Councillor A WEBB		X	
Councillor L WRIGHT	X		

7. Statement of Gambling Policy and Proposals for Casinos

The report was presented for Members to consider the Council's existing resolution to not permit casinos within the County of Monmouthshire.

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Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To refuse any casino applications made under the Gambling Act 2005 and stated within the Authority's Gambling Policy.

To adopt the 'Statement of Gambling Policy 2025' for Monmouthshire County Council, provided in Appendix A (changes highlighted in red)

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=J_sFxks8WPzqibTX&t=14577

8. Annual Report of the Standards Committee for 2023/24

The Cabinet Member presented the 2023/24 annual report of the Council's Standards Committee.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

That Council notes the Annual Report of the Standards Committee

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=VNFmFJC1gNIUR2w8&t=14817

County Councillors Jayne McKenna(18:03), Tony Kear(18:11) and Phil Murphy(18:10) left the meeting.

9. Safeguarding Annual Evaluation Report

The Cabinet Member presented the report, the purpose being for Member to:

- Evaluate the progress of Monmouthshire County Council's key safeguarding priorities during 2023 / 2024 highlighting progress, identifying risks and setting out actions and priorities for 2024 - 2025.
- Inform Members about the effectiveness of safeguarding in Monmouthshire and the work that is in progress to support the Council's aims in protecting children and adults at risk from harm and abuse.
- To inform Members about the progress made towards meeting the standards in the Council's Corporate Safeguarding Policy approved by Council in July 2017, amended July 2022 and November 2023.

Upon being put to a vote Council resolved to accept the recommendations:

To receive and endorse the Annual Safeguarding Report 2023/24.

That Council tasks the Chief Officer of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions as set out in the Whole Authority Action Plan (appendix 4).

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=d_bt0q5vCK7p6Z0E&t=15045

County Councillor Frances Taylor left the meeting at 18:20

10. Annual Director's Report 2023 / 2024, Social Care, Safeguarding and Health

The Chief Officer for Social Care, Safeguarding and Health presented the Annual Report 2023/24.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Upon being put to vote Council resolved to accept the recommendation:

To receive and endorse the Annual Director's Report 2023/24.

That Council tasks the Chief Officer of Social Care, Safeguarding and Health to maintain focus on the priority actions as set out in Section 9 of the report.

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=z6LY0XwRJDXJt8qW&t=15735

County Councillor Rachel Buckler left the meeting at 18:32

11. **Motions to Council:**

12. **Submitted by County Councillor Meirion Howells**

Upon recommencement the following County Councillors were recorded as leaving the meeting:

Fay Bromfield; Louise Brown; Jan Butler; Tomos Davies; Christopher Edwards; Steven Garratt; Richard John; Penny Jones; Malcolm Lane; Jane Lucas; Paul Pavia; Maureen Powell; Ann Webb.

County Councillor Meirion Howells presented the motion:

Council notes the RSPCA's Bang Out of Order campaign which highlights how pets, horses and livestock are affected by fireworks, many of them hurting themselves in reaction to the noise and flashes. Therefore, Council resolves:

- To actively promote a public awareness campaign via the Council's social media channels about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- To write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays.
- To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.

Seconded by County Councillor Emma Bryn.

Upon being put to a recorded vote the motion was carried.

For: 24
Against: 0
Abstain: 0

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=GLZdhx7mG97fY71W&t=18453

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

NAME	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	X		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	X		
Councillor F BROMFIELD			
Councillor L BROWN			
Councillor E BRYN	X		
Councillor R BUCKLER			
Councillor S BURCH	X		
Councillor J BUTLER			
Councillor B CALLARD	X		
Councillor I CHANDLER	X		
Councillor J CROOK	X		
Councillor T DAVIES			
Councillor L DYMOCK	X		
Councillor A EASSON	X		
Councillor C EDWARDS			
Councillor S GARRATT	X		
Councillor R GARRICK	X		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	X		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	X		
Councillor S.G.M. Howarth	X		
Councillor M HOWELLS	X		
Councillor R JOHN			
Councillor D. W. H. Jones	X		
Councillor P. Jones			
Councillor T KEAR			
Councillor M LANE			
Councillor J LUCAS			
Councillor C MABY	X		
Councillor S MCCONNELL	X		
Councillor J MCKENNA			
Councillor P MURPHY			
Councillor A NEILL - APOLOGIES			
Councillor P PAVIA			
Councillor M POWELL			
Councillor S RILEY - APOLOGIES			
Councillor D ROOKE	X		
Councillor A SANDLES	X		
Councillor M STEVENS - APOLOGIES			
Councillor J STRONG	X		
Councillor P STRONG	X		
Councillor F TAYLOR			
Councillor T THOMAS	X		
Councillor A WATTS	X		
Councillor A WEBB			
Councillor L WRIGHT	X		

13. Submitted by County Councillor Howells

County Councillor Lisa Dymock left the meeting at 19:46pm

County Councillor Meirion Howells presented the motion:

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of County Council held on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm

This Council supports the campaign to devolve management of the Crown Estate and its assets in Wales to the Welsh Government and that the funds raised be used to support the social needs of the Welsh people.

Council calls upon the Leader to write to the Welsh Government outlining our support to help persuade the UK Government to devolve the Crown Estate as a matter of urgency.

Upon being put to a recorded vote the motion was carried.

For:	22
Against:	1
Abstain:	0

https://www.youtube.com/live/Uu0L_icjpik?si=3mPZ0DLoaQVedM8R&t=19968

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm**

NAME	For	Against	Abstain
Councillor J BOND	X		
Councillor M A BROCKLESBY	X		
Councillor F BROMFIELD			
Councillor L BROWN			
Councillor E BRYN	X		
Councillor R BUCKLER			
Councillor S BURCH	X		
Councillor J BUTLER			
Councillor B CALLARD	X		
Councillor I CHANDLER	X		
Councillor J CROOK	X		
Councillor T DAVIES			
Councillor L DYMOCK			
Councillor A EASSON	X		
Councillor C EDWARDS			
Councillor S GARRATT			
Councillor R GARRICK	X		
Councillor P GRIFFITHS	X		
Councillor M GROUCUTT	X		
Councillor S.G.M. Howarth		x	
Councillor M HOWELLS	X		
Councillor R JOHN			
Councillor D. W. H. Jones	X		
Councillor P. Jones			
Councillor T KEAR			
Councillor M LANE			
Councillor J LUCAS			
Councillor C MABY	X		
Councillor S MCCONNELL	X		
Councillor J MCKENNA			
Councillor P MURPHY			
Councillor A NEILL - APOLOGIES			
Councillor P PAVIA			
Councillor M POWELL			
Councillor S RILEY - APOLOGIES			
Councillor D ROOKE	X		
Councillor A SANDLES	X		
Councillor M STEVENS - APOLOGIES			
Councillor J STRONG	X		
Councillor P STRONG	X		
Councillor F TAYLOR			
Councillor T THOMAS	X		
Councillor A WATTS	X		
Councillor A WEBB			
Councillor L WRIGHT	X		

14. Date of next meeting - 12th December 2024

Noted.

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of County Council held
on Thursday, 24th October, 2024 at 2.00 pm**

The meeting ended at 8.00 pm

SUBJECT:	DEFORESTATION FREE CHAMPION COUNCIL
MEETING:	FULL COUNCIL
DATE:	12TH DECEMBER 2024
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	COUNTY WIDE

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 That Council recognises the threat that tropical forests face and commits to better understand how Monmouthshire County Council could be contributing to deforestation, by signing the Deforestation Free Champions Charter and committing to develop an action plan which outlines how we will reduce our impact on deforestation and raise awareness of the issues in our communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Council sign up to the Deforestation Free Champions Charter (see Appendix 1).

2.2 That officers develop and implement an action plan setting out the steps that we will take as Deforestation Free Champions both to understand and reduce our impact on tropical deforestation and to champion the importance of these issues in our communities. We have already taken some of these steps over the last year in collaboration with Monmouthshire's young people.

3. KEY ISSUES:

3.1 Tropical forests are essential to life on Earth. They absorb vast amounts of carbon, produce oxygen, maintain the water cycle, and play a significant role in maintaining the global climate. Tropical forests are hotspots for biodiversity and are home to around 80% of documented species as well as millions of people.

3.2 The world's tropical forests are under threat. Demand for commodities such as beef, soy, palm oil, cacao and coffee drives deforestation in forests like the Amazon. In the process, one of our best defences against the climate crisis is being destroyed – an area nearly six times the size of Wales every year!

3.3 We are all part of the deforestation economy - it's in the food we eat, the products we buy, the fuel in our vehicles. When we think of the term *deforestation free* (DF), it's very difficult to completely remove all risk of deforestation as it is so embedded in our economy, but we can take practical actions that help to significantly reduce that risk, like using ethical certifications, circularity approaches and reducing waste.

3.4 Welsh charity Size of Wales have been working with pupils from 4 Monmouthshire primary schools, Osbaston, Kymin View, Raglan and Undy, to help pupils to understand how Wales contributes to deforestation and to look at the school menu to identify foods which may be

contributing. Students that have moved on to secondary school in Monmouth Comprehensive and Haberdasher’s Monmouth Schools have continued to engage with the campaign and are pushing for deforestation free menus in these settings too. The work that the pupils have been doing has sparked the interest of Welsh Ministers, celebrity chefs and presenters and was even mentioned at the New York Climate Week! (see [The power of policy – how to put sustainable food on the public plate - YouTube](#) from 7m48)

3.5 Size of Wales has also collaborated with the community group ACE Monmouth who have taken on the deforestation free campaign as one of their own pillars of work, managing a regenerative farming mentoring scheme part funded by Size of Wales, MCC, Wye Valley Natural Landscapes which has led to the establishment of a growing ‘regenerative farming’ community online group and the elimination of soy from the animal feed chain at Lower House Farm in Chepstow. Size of Wales and Haberdashers Monmouth School have also collaborated with Great Trewen Farm in Llangrove (just over the border but a milk supplier to Monmouth/Haberdashers) to eliminate soy from their animal feed supply too.

3.6 The following video summarises progress to date. [Deforestation Free Monmouthshire | Sir Fynwy Dim Datgoedwigo - YouTube](#) Signing the Deforestation Free Charter and developing a Deforestation Free Action Plan will be the next steps to help Monmouthshire County Council continue our Deforestation Free Champions journey.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

4.1 Becoming a Deforestation Free Champion contributes positively to the Globally Responsible goal of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, as well as a Resilient Wales and a Prosperous Wales. There are no negative impacts on the wellbeing goals. Involvement and Collaboration have been intrinsic to the decision to become a Deforestation Free Champion, as the Council have listened to and involved young people in the decision, and worked closely with the Size of Wales, local Fairtrade Town groups and community groups like ACE Monmouth. The decision also embeds Long Term thinking and Prevention as a way of working, since preventing deforestation will make a significant difference to reducing climate change and protecting Indigenous communities now and for the long term.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

	Option	Pros	Cons
1	Do not consider whether we are contributing to deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less work • No potential for additional cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet the Globally Responsible goal • Does not consider the impact of our procurement decisions on climate and nature • Does not lead by example • Ignores the voice of the young people that Size of Wales have been working with • Does not align with the S6 Biodiversity duty

2	Consider deforestation free procurement in an ad hoc way as opportunities arise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May contribute in a small way to the Globally Responsible goal • Less additional work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doesn't look at our procurement choices in a systematic way • Does little to lead by example
3	Sign the deforestation free charter and develop and implement an action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes to the Globally Responsible, Resilient, Healthy and Prosperous wellbeing goals • Considers the impact of our procurement decisions on climate and nature and future generations • Contributes to our Sustainable Procurement policy and Local Food Strategy • Sets an example to other organisations • Has the potential to influence suppliers • Listens to the voice of our future generations • Positions MCC at the forefront of climate action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deforestation free alternatives may cost more • Some staff capacity required to develop and deliver the action plan

On the basis of the options appraisal above, Option 3 is considered to be the most socially and environmentally responsible, with pros outweighing the cons.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 The Deforestation Free Charter requires the Council to review and report on progress in one year. It is proposed that we review progress in March 2026 at the end of the next full financial year.

7. REASONS:

7.1 Monmouthshire County Council recognises that the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act requires us to work towards the Globally Responsible wellbeing goal. Considering our impact on tropical forests is an important part of working towards this goal. In addition, the Council has declared both Climate and Nature Emergencies, and exploring ways in which we can reduce our contribution to tropical deforestation will benefit both climate and nature, help our young people to be ethical, responsible citizens and help us to “think globally, act locally”.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

8.1 Work to date has taken place within existing staff resources. The chickpea korma that has been developed by the pupils as an alternative to chicken korma has been costed as cheaper per portion. However some deforestation free alternatives to items that we purchase may have a

financial impact. If this is the case, then any changes will be subject to the usual financial and procurement considerations.

9. CONSULTEES:

SLT
Cabinet
Size of Wales
Procurement Officer
Catering Manager
Food Engagement Officer

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Deforestation Free Champions Charter and Action Plan

11. AUTHOR: Hazel Clatworthy, Sustainability Policy Officer

12. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633 644843
E-mail: hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1

Deforestation Free Champions – Charter and Action Plan

We are all part of the deforestation economy - it's in the food we eat, the products we buy, the fuel in our vehicles. When we think of the term *deforestation free* (DF), it's helpful to compare it to the Plastic Free Campaign - you can take steps to reduce or stop using single use plastic, but it's very difficult to get rid of all plastic. This is the same for forest risk. It's very difficult to completely remove all risk of deforestation as it is so embedded in our economy, but we can take practical actions that help to significantly reduce that risk, like using ethical certifications, circularity approaches and reducing waste.

A *Deforestation Free Champion* is a school, business, organisation, community or individual who advocates for tropical forests, people and nature, by learning, raising awareness, acting for change and inspiring others.

Deforestation Free Champion Charter

As a public body Monmouthshire County Council are committed to helping deliver all of Wales' well-being goals included in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, including global responsibility, and meeting our biodiversity duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. We believe that becoming a Deforestation Free Champion will not only help us contribute to these goals, but enable us to act as an advocate for tropical forests, people and nature.

To become a Deforestation Free Champion:

1. We commit to tackling our overseas deforestation footprint and habitat loss through our practices and behaviours, for example, through procurement across different stages, such as challenging what we are buying, considering the wellbeing impacts or via effective contract management.
2. We commit to developing and carrying out our Deforestation Free Action Plan and auditing our procurement of forest-risk products and services.
3. We commit to making changes to deforestation-risk commodities in favour of more ethically sourced ingredients.
4. We will review our Fairtrade commitment and ensure it is carried out in our procurement practice.
5. We commit to helping our council learn about the importance of tropical forests, consumption-driven deforestation and what they can do about it.
6. We commit to working with our community, businesses, suppliers and partners, including schools, to raise awareness and support action on consumption-driven deforestation to help create a community of deforestation free champions.

7. We will continue to work with our local schools to help establish Wales' first Deforestation Free Champion Community.

In order to do this, we will develop and carry out the following action plan:

Monmouthshire County Council - Deforestation Free Champion (DFC) Action Plan

1. **Learn.** Begin with a DF training session/workshop for staff who will be involved in helping to deliver this work and those in decision making/leadership roles. (Size of Wales can deliver this.)
2. **Reflect.** Look at your own practices and behaviours as a council and identify where changes can be made. For example:
 - a. Have you adopted circularity and waste reduction practices across your estate?
 - b. Have you made a public commitment to source sustainably?
 - c. Have you switched to an ethical pension fund for your employees?

You can use the Policies & Practices [template](#) to help you with this.

3. **Audit.** Carry out a DF audit of the services and products you procure as a council and identify areas for change. This will include any forest-risk products and ingredients you procure directly and indirectly, e.g. through services such as catering and cleaning.

You can use the [DF Procurement Toolkit](#) (or [Business Toolkit](#)) and practical [audit template](#) to help guide you through this process. (The Deforestation Free team at Size of Wales will be happy to support you with this).

4. **Act.** Start to implement the changes you have identified in steps 2 and 3. These might include:
 - a. Signing up to the DFC Charter and making your commitment public.
 - b. Creating or updating catering guidance to incorporate DF criteria.
 - c. Reducing ultra processed foods (UPFs) in meals served to staff and the public.
 - d. Increasing the amount of plant-based proteins served in school meals and serving less, but better quality meat and dairy.
 - e. Replacing forest-risk ingredients with an ethically certified alternative.
 - f. Reviewing your Fairtrade commitment and ensuring Fairtrade products are given preference over non-certified products, consistent with your Fairtrade status.
 - g. Commit to becoming an RSPO certified council. (*Long-term commitment*)

Please note, that we don't expect you to do all of this at once! This is a journey, so you may want to start with one practical action and continue to make changes step by step. However you decide to begin, we recommend that you sign up to the DFC Charter and make your commitment public.

5. **Collaborate.** Continue to work with and support your community partners to become deforestation free, in particular schools, businesses and farmers. Support local farmers engaged in nature friendly farming practices, to build local food resilience.

6. **Inspire / Raise awareness.** Some of this will happen naturally through conversations with your suppliers, i.e. when you make changes as a result of your audit. However, there will be many other opportunities to raise awareness and inspire others across your work. For example:
 - a. Across your services, there may be opportunities to influence the partners and stakeholders you work with.
 - b. Within your community, e.g. you could share the journey you are on as a council and how you are working with community partners to achieve change.
 - c. Across your staff team, e.g., by organising a DF Lunch and Learn. (Size of Wales could deliver this).
 - d. After signing the DFC Charter and starting your deforestation free journey, you could share your actions and behaviour change publicly to show impact and inspire others.

How will this be assessed?

As part of our action plan and award, MCC will need to have done at least:

- 1 learning session - provided by Size of Wales
- 1 reflection - this will help provide the baseline via the [policy and practice questions](#)
- 1 audit of forest-risk commodities and services, e.g. catering
- 1 policy action - e.g. signing up to DFC charter, a council resolution, creating a deforestation free policy etc.
- 1 practical action - e.g. changing a deforestation risk ingredient, reformulating a dish to reduce forest footprint (“one meal at a time”), taking effective steps to reduce food waste etc. **NB: action has to be something new, not something that would have happened anyway through other commitments/policies.**
- 1 sharing/engagement - e.g. with businesses or the wider community

After 1 year, this will be compared against the baseline to measure the level of change.

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Integrated Impact Assessment document

(incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio Economic Duty)

<p>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation Hazel Clatworthy</p> <p>Phone no: 01633 644843 E-mail: hazelclatworthy@monmouthshire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</p> <p>That Council sign up to the Deforestation Free Champions Charter (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>That officers develop and implement an action plan setting out the steps that we will take as Deforestation Free Champions both to understand and reduce our impact on tropical deforestation and to champion the importance of these issues in our communities.</p>
<p>Name of Service area</p> <p>Policy and Performance</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>21st November 2024</p>

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Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Becoming deforestation free champions will benefit Indigenous people of all ages in tropical regions. This project has been led by young people and by responding to their concerns we are validating their opinions and listening to them.	No impacts known at this time.	Not applicable
Disability	No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Gender reassignment	No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Marriage or civil partnership	No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Pregnancy or maternity	No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Race	Buying deforestation free products protects the interests of Indigenous people in tropical regions. Fairtrade products guarantee zero deforestation and ensure that farmers and producers across the world are treated fairly.	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Religion or Belief	.No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Sex	Fairtrade promotes gender equality and gives women a say in co-operatives and farming	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable
Sexual Orientation	.No impacts known at this time	No impacts known at this time	Not applicable

2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice	Social justice is a key component of deforestation free communities, as it ensures that forests are protected not just for the environmental value but as a home for Indigenous people. Buying Fairtrade and ensuring that we are not contributing to deforestation reduces the socio economic disadvantage for these people.	No impacts known at this time.	Not applicable.

3. Policy making and the Welsh language.



How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:	Describe the positive impacts of this proposal	Describe the negative impacts of this proposal	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts
Policy Making Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language no less favourably	We comply with the Welsh Language Standards. All resources are available bilingually.	No impact known at this time	Not applicable
Operational Recruitment & Training of workforce	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Service delivery Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	Resources produced by Size of Wales are bilingual and staff are also able to offer workshops to schools and community groups in Welsh and English	No impact known at this time	Not applicableNo




4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below? Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p>A prosperous Wales Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>An important part of deforestation free communities is promoting locally grown foods, which brings money into the local economy.</p>	<p>Officers from different council departments are collaborating closely on this project to ensure that local farming is central to this work.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales Maintain and enhance biodiversity and land, river and coastal ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)</p>	<p>Protecting tropical forests is essential for biodiversity, being home to enormous numbers of species. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and are a crucial carbon sink for the planet.</p>	<p>As well as considering tropical biodiversity, local food work has included mentoring local farmers in Monmouthshire on regenerative farming techniques, ensuring that local biodiversity is also maintained and enhanced.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>Reducing consumption of the commodities that contribute to deforestation is also good for health as some of these products are commonly found in unhealthy ultra processed foods.</p>	<p>Any changes to the school menu have to go through vigorous processes to ensure that the nutritional value of school meals is maintained.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected</p>	<p>Working on Deforestation free is something that communities in Monmouthshire are proud of, and are working together on. In Monmouth strong links have been developed between schools, Fairtrade Monmouth, ACE Monmouth, Monmouth Town Council etc.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>A globally responsible Wales Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Protecting people and environments across the globe are key drivers for this work. Protecting tropical forests protects habitats and homes of indigenous people. Promoting Fairtrade means that farmers in less developed countries are paid fairly and also ensures good environmental stewardship.</p>	<p>Monmouthshire schools benefited from a visit from Ugandan coffee farmer Jenipher Sambazi in September 2024, which helped children hear first hand the difference that Fairtrade is making.</p>
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>Resources are all available in Welsh and English. Wales has developed strong connections with projects overseas through their work on</p>	<p>None.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	deforestation, so it is good to be able to foster these cross-cultural connections through this project.	
A more equal Wales People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	Protecting communities overseas and ensuring that Indigenous people's homes, livelihoods and way of life is protected is key to developing deforestation free communities in Wales. Giving a voice, equality and the chance to have a say on what is impacting their communities is central to this work.	None

5. How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Long Term</p> <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p>	Protecting tropical forests is essential for the long term wellbeing of our planet. By investing time into thinking about where our food comes from, we are investing in our childrens' future.	Year 6 children at Osbaston school are training up younger year groups about deforestation, ensuring that awareness and action continues longer term once the children have moved up to comprehensive.
 <p>Collaboration</p> <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p>	The work done to date has been done in close partnership with Size of Wales. We would anticipate this continuing and as well as working with schools and community groups, to roll this out further will involve collaborating more with suppliers, businesses and other partners.	We will give consideration to whether there is value in setting up an informal steering group/network for deforestation free, to ensure that all partners know what is happening and are working together effectively.

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="141 480 297 507">Involvement</p> <p data-bbox="349 256 517 443">Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p data-bbox="544 256 1317 443">Children have driven this work from the outset. Their views have been heard by Council officers and members, and they have worked with the Council to help design a meal for the new school menu. As this is rolled out, we will need to continue to involve them and seek their views.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 256 1429 284">None</p>
 <p data-bbox="152 759 293 786">Prevention</p> <p data-bbox="349 520 506 818">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p>	<p data-bbox="544 520 1328 679">Working to prevent tropical deforestation will help to prevent climate change and protect biodiversity and homes for indigenous people. Promoting regenerative farming locally also helps to protect our local landscape and rivers.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 520 1429 547">None</p>
 <p data-bbox="159 1102 300 1129">Integration</p> <p data-bbox="349 858 517 1121">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="544 858 1294 962">.This project has been developed with other organisations in an integrated way, ensuring that contribution to all the Wellbeing Goals is maximised.</p>	<p data-bbox="1350 858 2078 986">We will give consideration to whether there is value in setting up an informal steering group/network for deforestation free, to ensure that all partners know what is happening and are working together effectively.</p>

6. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	All work carried out in schools is done in line with Monmouthshire County Council and Size of Wales safeguarding policies.	None	Not applicable
Corporate Parenting	Not applicable	None	Not applicable

7. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?

The deforestation free communities pilot has been developed by Size of Wales, based on their data and evidence of the scale of deforestation and the commodities that are driving this.

Development of the chickpea korma for school menus has been informed by detailed nutritional data, cost data and feedback from children, and uptake and any potential impact on the uptake of free school meals will be closely monitored.

8. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?

Becoming a Deforestation Free Champion contributes positively to all wellbeing goals in the Wellbeing of Future Generation Act, but in particular the Globally Responsible goal, as well as a Resilient Wales and a Prosperous Wales. There are no negative impacts on any of the wellbeing goals. Involvement and Collaboration have been intrinsic to the decision to become a Deforestation Free Champion, as the Council have listened to and involved young people in the decision, and worked closely with the Size of Wales, local Fairtrade Town groups and community groups like ACE Monmouth. The decision also embeds Long Term thinking and Prevention as a way of working, since preventing deforestation will make a significant difference to reducing climate change and protecting Indigenous communities now and for the long term.

9. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Consider whether there is value in setting up an informal steering group/network for deforestation free.	2025	Hazel Clatworthy

10. VERSION CONTROL: The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

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Version No.	Decision making stage	Date considered	Brief description of any amendments made following consideration
1	Council	12/12/24	

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MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

SUBJECT: CHARTER FOR FAMILIES BEREAVED THROUGH PUBLIC TRAGEDY (The Hillsborough Charter)

MEETING: County Council

DATE: 12.12.24

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To outline 'The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy' (Hillsborough Charter) and to seek Council's agreement to adopt and commit to the outlined principles in the response to a major incident.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council adopts The Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy (Hillsborough Charter) and champions the transparent and supportive environment for families bereaved by public tragedy as outlined in the Charter.
- 2.2 That the charter is embedded into the Monmouthshire County Council Emergency Management Plan and other appropriate major incident response plans to ensure the principles captured can be easily referenced, monitored and adhered to during a response.

3. REASONS:

- 3.1 The Hillsborough Stadium disaster on 15 April 1989 cost 97 people their lives. The Government has published its response to Bishop James Jones' report on the experience of the Hillsborough families in the aftermath of the disaster. There was a myriad of failings which should never be repeated. Bishop James-Jones, the Home Secretary's advisor on Hillsborough, provided a thoughtful and considered report that shared the experiences of the Hillsborough families, and raised important recommendations which included the creation of the 'Charter for Families Bereaved through Public Tragedy'. The charter is a series of commitments by public bodies to change, each related to transparency and acting in the public interest.
- 3.2 Public bodies are asked to commit to the Charter and its six commitments:
- In the event of a public tragedy, activate its emergency plan and deploy its resources to rescue victims, to support the bereaved and to protect the vulnerable.
 - Place the public interest above our own reputation.

- Approach forms of public scrutiny — including public inquiries and inquests — with candour, in an open, honest and transparent way, making full disclosure of relevant documents, material and facts. Our objective is to assist the search for the truth. We accept that we should learn from the findings of external scrutiny and from past mistakes.
- Avoid seeking to defend the indefensible or to dismiss or disparage those who may have suffered where we have fallen short.
- Ensure all members of staff treat members of the public and each other with mutual respect and with courtesy. Where we fall short, we should apologise straightforwardly and genuinely.
- Recognise that we are accountable and open to challenge. We will ensure that processes are in place to allow the public to hold us to account for the work we do and for the way in which we do it. We do not knowingly mislead the public or the media.

3.3 The Strategic Director, Learning, Skills and Economy was invited to a pan-Wales event where all Category 1 organisations¹ were asked to sign up to the charter and pledge to meeting its commitments during a major incident. This initial event was organised by South Wales Police who are championing the charter and coordinating all Welsh response agencies to sign. A subsequent event was hosted by South Wales Police on October 1st providing an opportunity for response partners to hear first-hand the experience of victims from 4 major incidents; all relating their stories to barriers they faced as part of the response and the importance of the Charter in relation to their own stories. The speakers (and Major Incidents they were victims of) at the event were as follows:

- Jeff Edwards – Aberfan Disaster October 21st, 1966 – where 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives following the coal waste tip slipping down the mountainside engulfing Pantglas Junior School and surrounding properties.
- Margaret Aspinall – whose son James died in the Hillsborough Stadium Disaster in Sheffield on April 15th, 1989. In total 97 people lost their lives due to failure of crowd control – with an influx of supporters entering the stadium pens resulting in overcrowding and a fatal crowd crush.
- Ed Daffarn was a survivor of the Grenfell Tower Disaster which claimed the lives of 72 people on June 14th, 2017. He lived on the 16th floor of the tower block and was rescued by a fire fighter.
- Paul Price – who sustained life changing injuries and lost his partner Elaine McIver following the terrorist attack and bombing of the Manchester Arena on May 22nd 2017 – where 22 people lost their lives.- All told very powerful personal stories of loss and suffering during these horrific incidents – but always brought it back to how they

¹ Category 1 organisations: –

Police forces • British Transport Police • Fire authorities • Ambulance services • Maritime and Coastguard Agency • All principal local authorities (i.e. metropolitan districts, shire counties, shire districts, shire unitaries) • Port Health Authorities Health bodies • Primary Care Trusts • Acute Trusts • Foundation Trusts • Local Health Boards (in Wales) • Any Welsh NHS Trust which provides public health services • Health Protection Agency • Environment Agency • Scottish Environment Agency

were treated by public bodies which also added to their individual trauma.

- 3.4 There is an aspiration that all response partners will seek to sign up to the charter across Wales by Spring 2025, although it is recognised that each organisation must seek to agree this via their own governance arrangements. The aspiration is '*One Charter for Wales*' with all signing. In demonstrating how MCC can meet this aspiration and in relation to the points outlined in the charter, there is significant evidence in place that such principles are already being met. This evidence is outlined below.
- 3.5 Monmouthshire CC has a robust and because of several incidents over recent years, well-rehearsed 'Emergency Management / Response Plan'. Monmouthshire CC also sit on the Human Aspects Group within the Gwent Local Resilience Forum area and have signed up to the 'Human Aspects Response Framework' that is currently in its final stages of development. It summarises the methods by which organisations can provide a co-ordinated, prompt and appropriate humanitarian response to incidents within the Gwent Police boundary – supporting victims, the families of the bereaved and those vulnerable because of a major incident.
- 3.6 More specifically, within the Gwent Police area, the 5 local authorities and Gwent Police have signed up to a joint Crisis Support Workers Scheme. The Scheme maintains a pool of suitably trained Crisis Support Workers (CSWs) to work alongside Gwent Police Family Liaison Officers (FLOs) who have been deployed to families (resident within the Gwent Police boundary area) directly bereaved as the result of a major incident. Working in partnership will ensure that alongside the necessary police investigation, affected families are provided with the information, care and support they need during this time in a sensitive and compassionate manner. CSWs can provide initial care and practical support to the family and also provide signposting to individuals and organisations that can help meet any longer-term needs.
- 3.7 MCC has for many years adopted the key core values of openness, fairness, flexibility, teamwork and kindness with a priority being the protection of vulnerable people. These align directly with the ethos of the charter.
- 3.8 In support of the various Emergency Response plans in place, MCC also ensures that the council puts in place appropriate training and exercising – so staff know their roles and responsibilities and how to deal compassionately with those that have been involved in major incidents. One example of this is the 'Live' Care Centre exercise that has been scheduled at Caldicot Leisure Centre on November 6th this year - providing staff from Monmouthshire County Council, Gwent Police and Third Sector Organisations with an opportunity to work together in establishing and operating a Survivor Reception Centre, following procedures currently set out in the Monmouthshire Care Centre Handbook.
- 3.9 If all partner organisations who have a role in major incident response sign up to this charter there will be this clear set of principles that can be referred and adhered to with more positive outcomes for all those impacted by such disasters.
- 3.10 In addition to all of the above, and, as outlined by the Prime Minister, there is a move to put legislation in place that would compel public bodies to co-

operate with investigations into major disasters or potentially face criminal sanctions. This is currently being referred to as the 'Hillsborough Law' that will formally introduce a *Duty of Candor* on public bodies. This is because of a long-fought campaign by families of the Hillsborough Disaster to focus on the victims and individuals touched by such an event and 'protect' those that have been directly impacted. The law will seek to prevent public bodies 'closing ranks' and be made directly accountable for their actions and changes to some current cultures.

- 3.11 Prior to any such legislation being formally put in place the current aim and next steps is for all response partners to collectively sign a single Charter for Wales and accept this Charter as a moral obligation in line with organisational values as opposed to needing or waiting for such legislation to be adopted.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

5. CONSULTATION:

Will McLean, Strategic Director, Learning, Skills and Economy
Senior Leadership Team
Cabinet

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:



Copy of the Charter
for Bereaved Families



Hillsborough_Report
Rev James Jones.pdf

7. AUTHOR:

Ian Hardman
Emergency Planning Manager

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

MEETING: Council

DATE: 12 December 2024

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To appoint councillors to represent the authority on the Joint Council for Wales and the board of Y Prentis.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To approve the appointment of the Cllr Ben Callard to the Joint Council for Wales, alongside Cllr Phil Murphy.
- 2.2 To approve the appointment of Cllr Paul Griffiths Cabinet member for Planning and Economic Development and Deputy Leader to the Board of Y Prentis.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The resignation of Catherine Fookes as councillor for the Town ward created vacancies on two external bodies.
- 3.2 The Joint Council for Wales (JCW) is an all-Wales forum where the Local Authority Employers in Wales and the relevant Trades Unions meet on workforce issues of mutual concern and interest. Each local authority has two seats on the JCW. The majority of local authorities now nominate their Cabinet member as one of these members and this vacancy creates an opportunity to appoint Cllr Callard to the group alongside Cllr Murphy who is a long-standing member.
- 3.3 Y Prentis is an apprenticeship scheme focused on the construction industry. It was set up by the authority and Melin Homes and funded by the Construction Industry Training Board and the Welsh Government. Its focus is on supporting the development of young people into the construction industry to ensure we have a sustainable pipeline of young talent for the future. The Council has a seat on the Y Prentis Board.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 4.1 None identified

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Not applicable

6. CONSULTEES

Political Group Leaders

7. AUTHOR

John Pearson, Local Democracy Manager

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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