

# TEAM ABERGAVENNY

## BETTER, TOGETHER

Report of Team Abergavenny to the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee on Wednesday 16 May 2018

1. This is an update on our previous report in March
2. Environment Group/Moving Around Group
  - a) Discussions are on-going with the County Highways Department on the Lion Street Redevelopment. A meeting was held on 19 March to update on progress. Further work on Traffic plans for the town will be developed in due course.
  - b) Meetings are being held with an MCC Designer and Landscape Architect with a view to planning the long term redevelopment of the town and establishing guidance within the LDP. Cooperation is being set up with the Town Council on this
  - c) Allotments in the Abergavenny area are becoming a live issue. Alternative land is being sought both in Abergavenny and Llanfoist.
3. Spreading the Word Group

The main focus of the group is making the most of publicity, attractions and facilities, including new ones, to encourage locals and visitors to increase their use of them, including by:

- a) supporting the Y Fenni Business Community, the councils and others in prompting shoppers at supermarkets to visit the rest of the town, making the area more pleasant for pedestrians and improving footfall to businesses (some short-term disruption underway which is causing concern)
- b) developing walking trails in the town for distribution by the Tourist Information Centre and other outlets: two trails have been prepared recently and have been well received, several others are in the pipeline (also improving signage for both pedestrians and drivers/cyclists)
- c) making the most of the annual calendar of Festivals, including but not only the Food, Cycling and Writing Festivals but also the Arts Festival which is being held for the first time at the end of June
- d) encouraging support for the two theatres (the futures of both of which are not yet settled), increased facilities at the Castle and the Gunter Mansion, and the development of the markets calendar.

Enabling Communities to thrive

#### a).Bailey Park

Since the progress meeting on 12 March a number of public consultation exhibitions have been arranged to take place in the park during events and at other times to attract regular users. A list of possible improvements and developments has been produced and members of the public will be invited to indicate their priorities for work to be done in the park before a Stage 1 Lottery Bid is put together in the autumn.

#### d).Town hall redevelopment.

Since the exhibition of plans for the development of the Town Hall, a planning application has been lodged. We are concerned that the planned open space on the first floor to allow maximum flexibility of use has been compromised by the re-insertion of a number of existing internal walls, and the inclusion of a number of small cupboards and toilets. We believe that this provision of dedicated facilities is unnecessary and runs counter to the principle of trying to optimise the use of space.

## 5. Encouraging Business Success

a) The Y Fenni Business Community are being included in attempts to move this forward A meeting with Owen Wilce to discuss whether under the Well Being Act any help or direction can be given that will improve the position took place, and recruitment of potential volunteers is being progressed..

### b) Agri/Urban Liaison

The Integrated Action Plan was submitted to the EC in April 2018 by The MCC Deputy Leader and Mayor. A Pilot Foodhub collaboration with Belgium is one of the four projects in the Plan and funding has been applied for to support a coordinator and office support for this. A further meeting on the future direction of the project will probably be held in June.

## 6. General Comment

We have concerns that yet another significant housing development is being brought forward on the west of the town but there does not seem to be any interest in developing new jobs in the area. All this will do is to aggravate the dormitory town status of Abergavenny and increase non-sustainable travel for people seeking work elsewhere.

Team Abergavenny 8 May 2018