

TEAM ABERGAVENNY

BETTER, TOGETHER

Report

Report of Team Abergavenny to the Area Management Committee on Wednesday 25 July 2018.

1. The Environmental Theme Group

a. Is working with the Highways Dept. on Phase 3 of the Frogmore Street/Lion Street/Baker Street works which are expected to start January 2019. Fortnightly Liaison meetings have been arranged to ensure that the specification of the works are completed by September. There are important ongoing matters, particularly about buses travelling westward along A40 (Park Rd). According to Highways the new bus stop suggested on the side of Tesco's, going to North Abergavenny is not feasible.

b. Street furniture.

Environment Theme Group have possibly the beginnings of some rules about space usage for retailers/businesses in Public realm – to be agreed with them. Charging is a separate matter.

c. We are awaiting further information on the development of the Town Hall design developments. It is noted that accommodation for the police in the One Stop Shop is already under construction.

d. There is considerable lobbying going on connecting with MCC Highways to WG, re: Active Travel to improve pedestrian and cycling routes to connect north Abergavenny to the centre and southward, and also on an east-west axis across the Meadow from Llanfoist across the bridge to the Station and the far eastern estates of housing near the Hardwick Roundabout. A considerable process of public consultation about this will of course be set in train once things move to a stage where priorities on Active Travel funding within MCC and Highways are made clear.

e. There is also a need for clarity on long-term funding maintenance of public realm planters (currently being organised by Abergavenny Community Orchard and Gardens CIC under the direction of Sarah Price and her assistant Kerri). This is unlikely to be sustainable in the long term although Sarah Price must always be involved if possible given the increase in numbers with Phase 3. This needs co-ordinating with the Town Council's developing policies and contract arrangements over Abergavenny In-Bloom.

- f. We need some clarity about the MCC procurement programme dates for the new schools projects in Abergavenny. It is vital that 'active travel' transport infrastructure decisions, and site strategy decisions are part of a wide public debate that include many stakeholder in the town, well before any brief is issued to potential contract tenderers. We need to understand timescales.

2. Business Group.

- a. Research in to town signage. Although it has been identified that the signs in town need to be updated we are in danger of missing the opportunity to install new signs within the current public realm programme. The Council should take the lead and establish the implementation with a time scale.
- b. St John's Square. A letter seeking to support the retention of benches in St John's Square was sent to the appropriate Select Committee.
- c. Car Parking Charges. We are also concerned that the increase in parking charges is not a round figure and all it will do is to annoy motorists even more. Also it is unfair that there is not a level playing field county wide on car parking charges.
- d. Attending the Community Network Event. Team Abergavenny joined a number of other voluntary groups at the recent event in the Market Hall. Although we did not have many people interested in volunteering we hope that we have found someone who could assist in helping to fund raise. Also we did find it useful to network with a number of other local volunteer groups.

3. Agri- Urban Future.

The EU Agri-Urban Abergavenny Integrated Action Plan (IAP) next phase is ongoing. John Prosser has stepped down from chairing it. The Abergavenny Food Forum (new chair- Pamela Mason) is the new driving body for the project:

The four parts of the IAP plan now have 'champions'. (The Abergavenny in the Forum title is purely because that is where the EU project focussed initially, and the town has a good food profile due to the Food Festival. In practice the area focussed on, will be much wider to embrace all surrounding communities.)

The four parts are:-

- a. Deserie Mansfield and the RDP are pushing forward the Food Hub for local producers and processors, plus securing a coordinator.(also

this could embrace young farmer support/education and chef training/education).

b. Elaine Blanchard: Food/Diet education Schools and local food procurement for Schools.

c. Patrick Hannay: Access to Land.

d. Jeremy Gass: Food Vision / Policy for Monmouthshire.

At the last Monmouthshire full Council meeting, the JUST FOOD draft of a Food Justice Manifesto was presented and adopted by the Council. This will lead hopefully to a full Food Policy for Monmouthshire, overarching all the four items above.

At the same Council meeting, promotion of principles aiming for a “Plastic Free Monmouthshire” were also adopted.

4. Bailey Park. Some work is going on to temporarily improve the surface of the old tennis courts to accommodate the existing users. There is some frustration that the future management of the Park is not clear as MCC seem to want to off-load it onto a local group. If they are willing to consider it, the Town Council would be the obvious group to take this on, but that is not an option at present. This may delay any further attempts to make a Lottery Bid.

Team Abergavenny 9 July 2018

