

# TEAM ABERGAVENNY

## BETTER, TOGETHER

### **Report of Team Abergavenny to the North Monmouthshire Area Committee Meeting on 16th May 2019.**

1. We are pleased to say that since your last meeting there has been some progress on the issues we brought to your attention. The following outlines the information available to us:
2. Bus stop. We understand that there was to have been a meeting in week commencing 29 April to determine if the proposed bus stop is a safe proposition where it has been located, adjacent to the pedestrian crossing. We understand that this was cancelled. We sincerely hope that this will eventually bring the prolonged delay to a satisfactory conclusion, but in the event of it not being approved, we are concerned as to whether there is a Plan B. Business at this end of Abergavenny is continuing to suffer and it is by far the most important outstanding issue with the pedestrianisation scheme. It would be really helpful if pressure could be brought to bear on Welsh Government to resolve this issue.
3. Town Hall. There were concerns about the rather draconian rules being applied to stall-holders both during the works and afterwards, but subsequently we are aware that a high-level meeting was arranged and with some compromise on both sides a satisfactory way forward has been agreed. This includes the removal of the “kiosks” at the entrance to the market which allows a more flexible use of the space. We understand that the Traders have been invited to contribute to the development of a business plan for the Market Hall in the future and that is also to be welcomed.
4. King Henry VIII new school. Since your Committee agreed last time to invite Mr McLean to present proposals to you, we have not pursued this further. We look forward to his presentation.
5. Local Development Plan. Our concerns that the MCC Strategy for jobs does not have any solid basis to attract new work to the north of the county has been taken to the Welsh Government and a dialogue opened with a senior officer there. We are now seeking to identify potential sites for employment development in the context of the LDP, with particular reference to high-value, low foot-print businesses who may be attracted by the location, communications and labour pool already here. This work is on-going.
6. The Team is also engaged via its Spreading the Word Theme group in the preparations for this year’s Abergavenny Arts Festival. Following its success last year we hope that this will be consolidated this year.
7. Finally, we must report that our highly regarded Chair, Alan Michie, has decided to step down. We very much regret his decision, which we totally respect, and we are currently seeking a new Chair to take the Team forward.