

NORTH MONMOUTHSHIRE LIAISON COMMITTEE – REPORT to AREA COMMITTEE

The NMLC met on 30 April 2019. The following matters were discussed:-

Relationship with BBNPA

At a recent meeting organised by One Voice Wales the Park Authority agreed to attend ad hoc meetings to discuss particular current topics but declined to attend regular meetings with representatives of Town and Community Councils because this arrangement had been curtailed in the past due to poor attendance.

It was suggested that the Park Authority discuss with neighbouring Unitary Authorities a joint plan to deal with the hot topic of Climate Change, eg by planting trees and improving biodiversity.

LDP training

The Clerk to Abergavenny Town Council had previously circulated a draft Evaluation Report which was approved. The Report referred to workshops provided by Planning Aid Wales which had been held at Pandy, Gilwern, Abergavenny(2) and Llanddewi Rhydderch in February and March and highlighted local planning issues, how to improve relationships with the Planning Authorities and the need for organisations to work together on planning issues in North Monmouthshire.

Waste Collection

It was apparent that the roll out by Monmouthshire CC of its new Waste Collection Service had been “patchy”. Local Councillors had received numerous complaints of failure to collect on due date or at all in spite of chasing telephone calls. Also some of the new Waste Collection vehicles were too big for some of the lanes they had to negotiate and they did not appear to have greater capacity than the vehicles they had replaced. Further, more time and money appeared to have been spent on the literature circulated to residents and businesses announcing the proposed changes than on the actual planning for the roll out. Hope was expressed that the roll out of the next set of changes due in September will be better organised

Local Issues

Abergavenny – work has started on the development of the Town Hall to accommodate the new Hub incl. library. The Town Council will have to find a new venue or venues for its meetings while the works are in progress and this will give the opportunity for the Council to reach a wider audience by using the town’s various community centres. The Council is planning to build up a team including paid and unpaid workers to improve and maintain the town’s infrastructure such as painting of the Park benches, the cost of which will be shared by the Town and County Councils.

Llanfihangel Crucorney - their Play Area project is nearing completion. Concern was expressed that a new housing development has gone ahead without adequate sewerage infrastructure being put in place. This means that there have been numerous incidents of overloading and flooding with which Welsh Water have had to deal as and when they have occurred.

Llanelly – new environmentally friendly footpaths are to be installed at Gilwern Playing Fields. Plans are being progressed for a new Multi-Use Games Area. The roadworks on the A465 are continuing to cause problems. One of the latest ones is the improper use of a new footbridge over the road by off-road bikers. The completion of the Works is now anticipated not to take place until October 2020, which means that Costain have to find new headquarters for the last year of the project which is currently over £160M over budget.

Llanover – The project of digitalising the 4 village halls in this area are well advanced. The halls can now provide state of the art facilities for organisations wishing to hold meetings, courses and workshops which will hopefully benefit not only the local community but also communities and businesses outside the area, eg by skype.

Llanfoist Fawr – a well supported litter pick has recently taken place. The proposed Pedestrian bridge over the River Usk is being delayed because NRW have refused to licence it because of the flooding risk. Monmouthshire CC are appealing this decision.

Goytre – planned development is being delayed by the need to replace 67 metres of sewage pipe. Bids are in for the Multi-use Games Area being provided through S.106 monies.

Hugh Candler Clerk to Llanover CC

3 May 2019