

NORTH MONMOUTHSHIRE LIAISON COMMITTEE – REPORT to AREA COMMITTEE

The NMLC met on 24th June 2019.

The Liaison Committee would request formal responses from the North Mon Area Committee on the following matters:

1. An update on the status of the Stagecoach bus stops in Abergavenny Town Centre. In particular, progress on the stop planned for westbound services on Park Road at the rear of Tesco.
2. Traffic Orders – an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the significant delays experienced as a result of the recent consolidation of County wide traffic orders.

For information, the following matters were discussed at the meeting on June 24th

All Councils - External Audit requirements

A new Practitioners Guide is to be issued in July / Aug 2019. Wales Audit would be taking responsibility for council audits from 2021 and it is likely that audits are to be more rigorous as 1 in 7 councils were considered at risk. It was also noted that the basis for asset valuations will be subject to change.

All Councils except Llanover – Dog Waste

A working group meeting with Mon CC is to take place soon. In the meantime, an initiative to educate dog owners regarding the options for disposing of dog waste by the use of stickers on dog waste bins is widely supported.

Abergavenny TC

Abergavenny Hub - work seemed slow but was still on target for completion at the end of November / early December. Redundant furniture was auctioned in May and meetings at alternative locations seemed to be working well.

Abergavenny Town Crew - process to recruit a town team is ongoing. It is noted that a number of voluntary groups are working well together to improve the Town. Vandalism remains an issue with the community orchard and various plant beds being randomly targeted of late.

ASB – anti-social behaviour in the Fairfield car park is being better controlled by the regular locking of the barrier at night.

In Bloom - competition was being well supported. Judging was on July 1st and an award is hoped for. Planters in St Johns Square had been adopted by the TC from Mon CC and there would be additional large planters to accommodate small trees installed in Lion Street (near Morrisons) and Frogmore Street.

Destination Management Initiative Abergavenny TC is to participate in the Destination Management Partnership which is an initiative driven by Mon CC to improve tourism in the county using specific campaigns for major towns such as Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth.

A special Council meeting is to take place under the guidance of Paul Egan of OVW to consider implementation of a delegated system of Council. The objective is to make decision making for the TC more efficient with less onerous meeting obligations for Members.

The location of new Stagecoach bus stops in Abergavenny town centre was discussed at length. There is concern that the current unofficial arrangements (Park Road) are causing problems for

both passengers and through traffic. It was reported that residents of Llanfoist and Govilon frequently use this stop for Stagecoach services to the villages and the current arrangements are not at all satisfactory. It was observed that the provision of adequate bus stops should be regarded as a priority to promote the use of public transport and could be regarded as an obligation via the Future Generations Act. It was agreed that this matter be formally raised with the NMAC for an update on the status of the new bus stop to be located at the rear of Tesco.

Llanfihangel Crucorney CC

SWTRA – A465 access to field - It was reported that a letter sent to SWTRA in January 2019 had only recently received a response referring the matter to BBNPA.

Waste Collection - a slight improvement in collection efficiency was reported and the support of the Ward's County Councillor was acknowledged.

Traffic Management - a two year struggle to paint double yellow lines at the Skirrid Pitch was reported. Whilst an original traffic order had been agreed by Mon CC for implementation in May 2019, it had subsequently been deferred until Sept 2019 due to delays arising from the county wide consolidation of civil enforcement traffic orders.

The CC is considering the provision of bus shelters along the A465. Advice and guidance on potential costs and the requirement for planning consent is being sought.

Llanfoist Fawr CC

Councillor Vacancy - a casual vacancy for the Llanfoist Ward remains.

Work is due to commence soon to upgrade the play equipment at Govilon Recreation Ground.

A scheme of new village signage is well advanced with 10 new signs to be installed across the Wards of Govilon, Llanfoist and Llanellen.

An application has been submitted to the Brecon Beacons National Park Sustainable Development Fund to part fund a major refurbishment of the Salisbury Community Hall in Govilon.

Goetre Fawr CC

S.106 Monies – Mon CC is still to make a decision regarding the distribution of circa £200k of S.106 monies. Goetre Fawr CC has made a bid for £120k for a MUGA but there are circa £312k of bids in total.

Public Conveniences - the lighting in the public conveniences is to be upgraded to provide sensor controlled LED's.

Electric Car Point - feasibility work is underway to consider providing an electric car charging point in the village.