

# TEAM ABERGAVENNY

## BETTER, TOGETHER

Report from Team Abergavenny to the North Monmouthshire Area Committee to be held on 22 January 2020.

1. It was noted that some of our previous report was not discussed due to Election Purdah. We would request that those issues be addressed at this meeting as follows:

1.1. Welsh Government has agreed a draft solution to the bus stop required in Park Road by Tesco. We understand that this is now subject to funding being available, and all being well should be completed in the spring. **Have you had further information about this important matter please?**

1.2. Concern was expressed regarding the no left turn sign at the Baker Street end of Princes Street, as it prevents access to Frogmore Street for vehicles and, in practice, the sign is being ignored. It was noted that local views vary regarding the need for the sign.

A Member of the Area Committee stated that she had asked to meet the Highways Safety Manager to discuss this matter further. We hope that any proposal to change the existing arrangements will be consulted upon publicly to ensure that all views are considered. **Is there any progress on this please?**

1.3. The Licensing Department needs to ensure that it is managing the use of street space in Frogmore Street. **It would be useful to have an update on this from the Licensing Officer.**

1.4. The re-development of the town hall is behind schedule due to a delay to the mezzanine piling. We acknowledge that you discussed this at your last meeting and that a response on some details was given to the Vice Chair of the Civic Society. Having seen that response we understand that a number of questions were also put to Mr Peter Davies, most of which were answered. We would identify these two issues as important and which you might want to consider:

*Do you plan any external lighting to celebrate the iconic Town Hall structure?*

*We are interested in the signage strategy for the building. Given the complexity of potential messages about contents of the building, as witnessed from outside, what are you planning for the key signs at entrances to the building? It would be useful to imagine you are a young mother with a pushchair seeking to use the library for the first time in working out the directions.*

2. A meeting has being held with Cath Saunders concerning the redevelopment of King Henry VIII School. The intention was to pass on to her initial broad expectations about the planning and design of the project, including the management of traffic in the surrounding area, and community engagement in the planning process and subsequent involvement at the school. We will await a response in due course.

3. Progress on the action programme of the Town Team's North Monmouthshire Community Plan (2017) has been briefly assessed. Considerable progress has been made on some actions, while delayed, modest or slow progress has been made on others. Progress has been least under the 'Encouraging Business Success' theme, and this is being addressed as below. It is hoped that the revision of the Local Development Plan will open the way to progress on some environmental matters. Overall we feel that the plan remains valid, but there needs to be acceleration in, for example, public transport improvements before another review in 2021.

4. Following a recent meeting concerning the LDP and economic development, it was clear that MCC and Welsh Government do not have facilities in place to attract incoming employment creation opportunities, which are essential to balance up any further residential development. There is a focus on the M4 corridor but this area is not seen as a priority. Team Abergavenny has focused

its attention on creating prosperity in the Abergavenny area and we are exploring an option to engage a sales and marketing team to attract new employment to the area. We see this as an important element of reducing travel for local people as well as improving the prosperity of the area. We are meeting with the Health Board representatives about the Maindiff Court Estate and we are preparing to approach significant local players to try to develop an initiative to attract suitable businesses or academic interest to the area. Further information will be provided when it is available.

11/1/20