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Tuesday, 5 January 2016

**Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:**

## **Lower Wye Area Committee**

**Wednesday, 13th January, 2016 at 10.00 am,  
Chepstow Leisure Centre**

### **AGENDA**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1.	<b>Apologies for absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of interest</b>	
3.	<b>To confirm the minutes of previous meetings:</b>  i) 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 ii) 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	1 - 8
4.	<b>Whole Place Update</b>	9 - 12
5.	<b>Vice Chairs Update - Oldbury Power Station</b>	
6.	<b>To discuss £5000 Capital Fund</b>	
7.	<b>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday 16th March 2016 at 10.00am</b>	

**Paul Matthews**

**Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr**

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

A. Webb  
D. Dovey  
D. Batrouni  
G. Down  
P. Farley  
R.J.W. Greenland  
P.A.D. Hobson  
P. Murphy  
A. Watts

## **Public Information**

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### **Welsh Language**

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

# Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

## Sustainable and Resilient Communities

### Outcomes we are working towards

#### **Nobody Is Left Behind**

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

#### **People Are Confident, Capable and Involved**

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

#### **Our County Thrives**

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

### Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

### Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

# Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

## Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

### Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

#### Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

#### Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

#### Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

### Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

### Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

# Agenda Item 3

**NOTES OF INQUORATE Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
The Meeting Rooms, St Arvans  
on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 10:00am**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor: A. Webb (Chairman)

County Councillors: G.L. Down.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr P. Davies	-	Head of Commercial and People Development
Mrs. C. Fallon	-	Head of Economy and Enterprise
Mrs S. King	-	Senior Democratic Services Officer

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms M. Davies	-	St Arvans Community Council
Mrs B. Moore	-	Shirenewton Community Council
Mrs S. Squire	-	Local resident
Mr N. Vincent	-	Local resident

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors D. Batrouni, D. Dovey, P. Farley, P.A.D. Hobson and P. Murphy.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting and we noted the following questions:

a) Mr and Mrs Vincent, Local Residents, addressed the committee:

- Issues of concern had been raised at a previous meeting, which related to dangerous speed limits on the B4235 and it was requested that action could be taken by the committee.

In response:

- We welcomed detailed information that had been contained within emails sent by the residents.
- We discussed information that had been collected following speed surveys and noted that Gwent Police had responded to issues.

**NOTES OF INQUORATE Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
The Meeting Rooms, St Arvans  
on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 10:00am**

- The issue would be considered by members of the Lower Wye Area Committee.

#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

We noted that as the Lower Wye Area Committee meeting was inquorate the minutes would be confirmed at the next meeting.

Members requested clarification regarding the availability of £5k Capital Monies.

#### **5. UPDATE – BROADBAND PROVISION**

We welcomed the Head of Commercial and People Development and were advised that the portfolio incorporated ICT, Digital, Technology, Economic Development and broadband as well as HR.

We welcomed the Head of Economy and Enterprise, responsible for enterprise growth and enterprise strategy, assisting in business growth and introducing new businesses and developing entrepreneurs with schools.

Various Broadband initiatives were in place, which included Super Connected Cities programme. Funding has been extended to include the whole of Monmouthshire, to enable businesses to be connected to superfast broadband through a voucher initiative of up to £3,000 .

There had been some connection issues within Monmouthshire, due to network access and civil works in infrastructures being developed. Officers had liaised with BT and AB internet and data mapping had been used to identify specific issues.

The current position was roll out process in getting people connected and once the infrastructure was in place there was a need to maximise benefit. Additional resource would be considered to ensure provision was maximised and supper connected cities voucher system was promoted.

A variety of schemes were being considered and discussed, which included community internet element e.g. free public WIFI provided on Grass Routes buses. There was a need for information, opportunities and initiatives to be promoted and for awareness to be increased, there was focus on businesses but the aim was to reach communities who needed to know when infrastructure would be in place and updated information was available.

There was a need to ensure that education was offered to those with internet access who did not know how to use it and also to ensure that those who did not use the internet were not left behind.

**NOTES OF INQUORATE Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
The Meeting Rooms, St Arvans  
on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 10:00am**

The Superfast Cymru contract had been awarded to BT, who had a contractual obligation to roll out and deliver to 90% across the whole of Wales. Milestone expected date for targets was identified as June 2016, issues would be discussed between Welsh Government and BT regarding the exchange infrastructure and connection cabinets.

A report was commissioned by Disconnected Wales, which looked at the cabinet exchange infrastructure. Significant gaps had been identified and some areas remained below the superfast speeds. There were options in place to address the shortfall and technologies could be introduced to ensure that appropriate speeds were provided.

Officers were keeping in close communication with BT and Welsh Government, progress was being monitored.

During discussion we noted the following:

- We recognised the complexity of issues and schemes available. It was suggested that communication through Welsh Government with other parties should be increased.
- Members requested specific information regarding particular wards and these issues would be progressed by officers, through BT.
- We reemphasised the importance of appropriate broadband being provided for all businesses and residents within the community.
- The provision of broadband would assist in building communities and help businesses to become established.
- The DCMS programme had been established and areas would be identified which had no mobile coverage in the UK, technology would be developed which would assist these areas, which included Grosmont, Trellech and Devauden.
- Issues were being discussed at Welsh Government level and with major network providers, so that provision of broadband and mobile could be improved.
- We were informed that websites were available which would advise customers of the most appropriate networks for their areas. However, we noted that issues were being discussed at a strategic level and needed to be progressed with Whitehall.
- A report was considered by Cabinet in March 2015 and resource investment would allow digital presence to be created. It was suggested that a leaflet could be produced which would provide further advice.
- We were reminded that the Superfast Cymru scheme could be used in the interim.

We thanked the officers for attending and presenting information.

## **6. CONSERVATION IN LOWER WYE**

The Chairman advised that Officers had apologised as they were unable to attend the meeting.

**NOTES OF INQUORATE Lower Wye Area Committee held at  
The Meeting Rooms, St Arvans  
on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 10:00am**

The item would be added to a future agenda.

**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

We received and noted the Lower Wye area committee work programme.

**8. TIMING OF MEETINGS AND DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

We agreed the date of the next Lower Wye Area committee meeting at Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 10.00am.

**The meeting closed at 11:10 am.**



## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held  
at Mathern Village Hall, Mathern, Chepstow on Wednesday, 9th September, 2015 at  
10.00 am

**PRESENT:** County Councillors: A. Webb, D. Dovey, D. Batrouni and P. Farley

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Richard Cope	Passenger Transport Unit Manager
Edward Holland	Conservation Manager
Sarah King	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mike Moran	Community Infrastructure Coordinator
Christian Schmidt	Transport Planning and POLICY Officer

### **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors G. Down, R.J.W. Greenland, P.A.D. Hobson, P. Murphy and A. Watts

#### **1. Election of Chairman**

We elected County Councillor A.E. Webb as Chair of the Lower Wye Area Committee.

#### **2. Appointment of Vice Chairman**

We appointed County Councillor D. Dovey as the Vice Chair of the Lower Wye Area Committee.

#### **3. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **4. To receive the notes of the inquorate meeting dated 29th April 2015**

We received the notes of the inquorate meeting dated 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

#### **5. Conservation matters in the Lower Wye Area**

The committee welcomed the Conservation Manager, who had been invited to discuss conservation and heritage with members.

Issues were raised in relation to the following areas:

- High Trees
- Rosedale
- Garden City
- Mount Pleasant
- Shop Signage

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Mathern Village Hall, Mathern, Chepstow on Wednesday, 9th September, 2015 at 10.00 am

The officer welcomed site visits with local members to discuss issues and confirmed that further information would be obtained and each case considered individually.

Concerns of the committee related to decisions being made in areas, which affected the look of the town. There was a need for a clear approach to conservation and related issues, with the local authority and town councils.

We thanked officers for attending and noted that an update would be provided on issues raised.

#### **6. Chepstow Bridge**

We welcomed Mr John Burrows, who presented information regarding the 200 year celebration of Chepstow Bridge, which included the prominence and importance of the bridge within the town.

The committee were informed that in celebration and to mark the significance of the bridge, members were encouraged to attend the event, which would be a re-enactment of the original opening ceremony.

The event would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016.

Members welcomed the information and recognised the importance and history of the bridge.

We agreed that the issue would be discussed with group leaders and Mr Burrows invited to address the next County Council meeting.

#### **7. Lower Wye Area Transport and travel update**

We welcomed the Passenger Transport Unit Manager and the Transport Planning and Policy Officer.

The committee were updated regarding recent bus service changes to the 74 service and how services were being managed in the interim. The services were currently running approximately every two hours and it was anticipated that this would be reduced to only one hour between services.

In response to concerns raised by members regarding demands for people to attend hospital, we were advised that there was a service to Newport and the Grass Routes services could also be utilised for this.

The authority were restricted in some aspects, as the 73 and 74 services were commercial.

Members recognised that many fascinating and complex issues were being addressed by officers. Officers welcomed information from members regarding any co-financed projects, as there could be funding available.

The Vice-Chair highlighted that the Strategic Transport Group had been set up for issues, which would be considered on a Countywide basis. It was important that this was utilised as a method of managing and centralising any transport issues.

## MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of Lower Wye Area Committee held at Mathern Village Hall, Mathern, Chepstow on Wednesday, 9th September, 2015 at 10.00 am

We thanked officers for attending and updating the committee.

#### **8. Caerwent Offsite recreation fund**

The Community Infrastructure Coordinator presented a report, the purpose of which was to consult with members of the Lower Wye Area Committee and members of Caerwent Community Council on proposals for the allocation of the off-site recreation funding made available by the County Council as a result of the development of new housing at Merton Green, Caerwent.

The County Council had agreed for funds to be used for off-site recreation projects that benefit the community of Caerwent. An amount of the sum was used as a contribution to the new regional 3G pitch in Caldicot.

The report contained recommendations as to how the funding should be allocated (3G Contribution, Crick Environmental Group, Old Gym Community Centre and Caerwent Playing Fields Association) and members were invited to express their views prior to recommendations being considered and final decision being made by Cabinet.

Members recognised the importance of consultation and recommended that local member views should be obtained.

We received and noted the report.

#### **9. Whole Place Update**

We received a paper which presented the Format for Delivering Whole Place.

The committee highlighted the need for all members to be part of the Whole Place process and welcomed further information regarding Whole Place in Lower Wye.

Clarification was requested regarding the £5000 funding and whether this would be allocated by the area committee.

#### **10. To agree the Lower Wye Work Programme for 2015-16**

Items suggested for the future work programme, included:

- Police
- Cyclist Group

#### **11. Date and time of next meeting**

We agreed the date and time of next meeting as Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 10.00am.

**The meeting ended at 11.50 am**

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## Lower Wye Area Committee

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Whole Place Update</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>Enterprise</b>
<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>Area Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> January 2016</b>
<b>WARDS</b>	<b>All wards in Monmouthshire</b>

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

To update members on current issues from the Whole Place Team

### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members note and comment on progress and issues

### 3.0 Whole Place Update

#### 3.1 Lower Wye

3.1.1 Work started on early consultations with various community groups in the Chepstow area in September 2015. Views are being sought on “What Matters” to people where they live, work and play. To-date we have seen just over 300 people with more groups booked in for January.

3.1.2 Following completions of consultations we will be compiling a questionnaire around what people have told us to glean further information. The questionnaire will be circulated as widely as possible in Lower Wye area. This work is estimated to be carried out during February and March of this year.

Once the results have been collated the Whole Place Team will draw up a draft Whole Place Community plan and then hold public meetings to discuss the plan in order to ascertain if there is an appetite for people to get involved in driving the plan forward.

An action plan will then be developed and groups set up to deliver the proposals.

#### 3.2 Severnside

It is now over 2 years since the Seven for Severnside plan was first established, hence during September and October 2015 a review of the plan took place. A sub group was formed to review both the plan, the work and the make-up of the programme board. A short questionnaire was sent out to as many networks and communities as was possible to make sure the plan remained current and still reflected the issues that were important to people when creating the plan. Approximately 350 responses were received.

The plan has now been reviewed and additional themes added.

The programme board is running themed meetings to make sure issues such as Health and Transport are discussed and to create working groups for these themes.

### 3.3 Severnside Projects & Events

#### 3.3.1 Christmas Lights

Caldicot Events Committee and the Town Team held a very successful event for switching on the Christmas lights despite the poor weather

#### 3.3.2 Markets

The Town Team throughout the year has been working with Monmouthshire Markets and held 4 markets throughout 2015 which has attracted additional stalls and therefore more footfall to the town centre

#### 3.3.3 Health Event

The programme board supported a health event being held in the Community Hub in November. At the programme board meeting on health several different partners and agencies pulled together to help support the event. 16 Organisations took part and the door counter registered 286 entries

#### 3.3.4 Visioning Project

The Visioning project that forms part of the work to look at regenerating Caldicot town centre

is now well underway. Consultants are looking at what opportunities there are for Caldicot Town Centre. Public consultations are being held on 9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> January in Caldicot Town Centre so ideas can be shared and public view gained.

#### 3.3.5 Linkage Scheme

Plans for the linkage scheme that is looking at enhancing the route from ASDA store to the town centre is still under discussion.

There has been some delays with this project due to unforeseen circumstances but it is hoped work will commence as soon as possible.

### 3.4 Bryn Y Cwm

Similar work to that of Severnside is currently being addressed for the Better Bryn Y Cwm Plan. A working group has discussed the membership of the board to ensure the correct people are involved in progressing the plan that was developed.

#### 3.4.1 The town team continues to work with the council on plans for regenerating the high street.

#### 3.4.2 The Eisteddfod will be held in Abergavenny in July/August this year and the Town Team are looking into what can be done to promote Abergavenny during the event.

#### 3.4.3 Themed groups have been set up to address the actions points within the plan.

#### 3.4.4 A questionnaire has been conducted with the community of Llanelly Hill to create a sustainable Business Plan for their village hall and the results of that are currently being share with GAVO colleagues to identify future funding and events.

#### 3.4.5 We were successful in securing Vibrant & Viable Places Loan funding from the Welsh Government. The first application has been processed through the Abergavenny Loan Board and will be presented to Cabinet in January

#### 3.4.6 A number of other projects have been ongoing with regards to antisocial behaviour through working with the Community Safety Action Team, Highways, Youth Service, School and Local Policing.

### 3.5 Central Monmouthshire

Although Whole Place will not be commencing engagement plans until September 2016 work continues to support existing groups and networks

- 3.5.1 The work of the Partnership and Rural forum continues and we work with said forums to ensure local engagement and information sharing continues in the area.
- 3.5.2 St. Thomas's church hall were fortunate to secure a grant of £340K for refurbishment of their hall in December. Whole Place officers offered assistance with grant advice and access to demographics for the area as well as meeting with Welsh Government with the committee.
- 3.5.3 MOD Community Covenant grant projects – Poppy Trail/walk – This project will be completed in 2016.
- 3.5.4 Raglan Village Hall Association  
The group has been very active in working up grant applications, talking to large funders and consulting with the public that live in the Raglan area. Whole Place officers have been working with this group offering advice and helping with access to information required for the larger grant applications
- 3.4.5 Whole Place officers worked with event organisers in December to make sure the Usk Christmas market could overcome some operational issues. A working group has now been set up in Usk to look at future events.

### 3.5 Whole Place Team

We have a new member of the team starting at the end of January as a replacement for the member of staff we lost in November.

Work continues across Monmouthshire following through with the concept of Whole Place in helping to create sustainable, resilient communities. The social capital in our county is amazing and communities are embracing the concept of working together and focusing on what the priorities are in a given area. Work with our partners such as Health, housing and Transport continues.

Some projects/issues are dealt with quite quickly whilst others take longer than anticipated, sometimes this is because of working through council policy and others it is about working with the pace that the community wants to work at.

As with any new concept it takes time to bed in and for people to fully understand the concept before committing themselves to getting involved.

Continued support from Members and Communities are welcomed to ensure that “what matters” is delivered at a local level within the available resources.

## 4.0 Background papers

Electronic files containing the detail of all of the above issues can be obtained through the Whole Place Manager.

## 5.0 Author

Debbie McCarty, Whole Place Manager

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