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Y Rhadyr
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NP15 1GA

County Hall
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NP15 1GA

5th June 2024

Notice of meeting / Hysbysiad o gyfarfod:

Severnside Area Forum

**Thursday, 13th June, 2024 at 5.00 pm
Remote Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Election of Chair.	
2.	Appointment of Vice Chair.	
3.	Apologies for Absence.	
4.	Declarations of Interest.	
5.	Verbal update on flood defences along the Severn Estuary (Richard Derrick - Natural Resources Wales).	
6.	Verbal update regarding flooding around the Severnside Area (Ross Price).	
7.	Update regarding the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation (Ian Bakewell).	1 - 4
8.	Community Speedwatch (County Councillor Peter Strong).	
9.	Date of Next Meeting.	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive / Prif Weithredwr

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

Jill Bond
John Crook
Lisa Dymock
Tony Easson
Rachel Garrick
Angela Sandles
Maria Stevens
Jackie Strong
Peter Strong
Frances Taylor
Phil Murphy
Paul Griffiths

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

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.

Our purpose

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Objectives we are working towards

- Giving people the best possible start in life
- A thriving and connected county
- Maximise the Potential of the natural and built environment
- Lifelong well-being
- A future focused council

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

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.

Gypsy & Traveller Site Identification Briefing Note

Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to update the Severnside Area Forum on the current position in respect of the Council's work to identify suitable sites to meet the pitch needs identified by the Council's Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment, that identified the need for 13 pitches.

Introduction

All Councils in Wales have a duty under Part 3, Housing (Wales) Act 2014 to undertake a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Assessment every five years. Where unmet need for mobile home pitches is identified, the necessary pitch provision needs to be facilitated. The last [Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Assessment](#) was adopted by [Cabinet](#) on 6th January 2021. The summary conclusions identify a need for 13 pitches for families already living within Monmouthshire, which can be broken down as an unmet need of nine pitches under the assessment period 2020 to 2025 and a further unmet need of four pitches over the remaining length of the Replacement Local Development Plan (2026-33) to accommodate family growth as children become adults and require their own pitch.

The Council has been implementing a process to evaluate all Council owned land i.e. 1500 assets, to meet the identified pitch need and provide suitable homes in a sustainable

location to meet the identified pitch need for Monmouthshire. The vision is small sites, ideally for individual families, well-designed and sensitive to existing communities.

On 4th October 2023, Cabinet received a report and approved a number of recommendations including:

- The commencement of a public consultation exercise on the following Council owned sites, for the potential provision of up to six Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pitches each:
 - Bradbury Farm, Crick, Caldicot
 - Oak Grove Farm, Crick, Caldicot
 - Langley Close, Magor
- Further exploration of the 19th July Place Scrutiny Committee's request to support households wishing to self-serve on existing sites which, subject to the necessary permissions, would reduce the number of new pitches needed.

In addition to the public consultation and running alongside the consultation, it was considered appropriate to commission site evaluation surveys to also help inform suitability. External specialists were appointed to undertake the following:

- Noise assessment
- Land contamination assessment (not including Oakgrove)

- Air quality assessment (not including Oakgrove)
- Transport assessment
- Ecology assessment

Current Situation

The following provides an update on the current situation:

- **Public Consultation** – 9th November 2024 a 6 week consultation exercise was co-ordinated by Grasshopper Communications on behalf of the Council to seek the public views about the suitability of the three sites. The consultation centred around three drop in events and the availability of a Feedback Form. The drop in events were held in Portskewett and Magor. The third was at County Hall and aimed at the Gypsy & Traveller Community. The Feedback Form was available online and in hard form. The consultation was supplemented and promoted by dedicated webpages on the Council's website, media and social media releases and posters displayed locally.
- **Site Evaluation Surveys** - Surveys have been commissioned and completed where applicable (on the advice of Environmental Health, it wasn't necessary to undertake Land Contamination and Air Quality Assessments for Oakgrove on the basis of their locations). These surveys have all been completed and individual reports have been received providing information that helps to determine suitability.

All of the surveys have been shared with the applicable internal services (Environmental Health, Highways and Ecology) who have been asked to consider the site evaluation surveys and to provide further evaluation, comments and recommendations. This internal feedback has now been received.

- **Households Wishing to Self-Serve on Private Sites** – the Council has been liaising closely with a local household and their appointed planning agent to acquire planning permission on their privately owned land. The Council has and continues to provide direct support to the applicant in respect of their application. A planning application has been received which is currently being consulted upon and the aim is to schedule for Planning Committee after the impending election.

Officers are currently considering both the consultation feedback and the site evaluation surveys in order to draw conclusions and determine potential suitability of each of the sites, which will inform the recommendations of the impending Cabinet Report and which sites would be put forward for inclusion in the emerging Replacement Local Development Plan. The feedback received through the public consultation is both varied and extensive. In general the content of the site evaluation surveys is technical and complex. It, therefore, has been necessary to give time to consider and understand both the information and draw conclusions.

Current and Anticipated Next Steps and Timeline

Officers are currently working to the following actions and provisional timescales, some of which still needs to be finalised:

Current Actions

- Continue to analyse consultation feedback and site evaluation surveys in order to draw conclusion on suitability.
- Consider the need for basic site designs for the three sites.
- Liaise with other LA's about site development
- Continue to liaise with the local household in respect of their current planning application

13th June

- Update to Severnside Area Forum on site identification progress

16th July

- Planning Committee – private householder planning application being considered

End July to Early September

- 25th July Place Scrutiny Committee
- Cabinet – suitable dates currently being identified

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