

SUBJECT: Shaping the Area Committee Workplan

MEETING: Bryn y Cwm Area Committee

DATE: 15th November 2017

DIVISIONS/WARDS AFFECTED: All

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an oversight of issues emerging from engagement with the community and other evidence that could help shape the future work programme of the committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to use this information to identify the issues of greatest relevance to the Bryn y Cwm area and use it to inform their work programme.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The role of Area Committees is to provide a clear link between cluster areas and local authority decision making. It provides an opportunity for communities to have a voice and participate in local democracy. In March 2017, the Authority approved the piloting of a new model in Bryn y Cwm, whereby Area Committees will be retained as the sole structure to support joint working and adopting a strategic approach to coordinated funding opportunities.
- 3.2 Area Committees are a way to support and ensure Monmouthshire's communities are resilient with a clarity for purpose when seen from a community perspective. The committee needs to be citizen focussed and be able to influence at the interface between strategic and local decision-making ensuring that resources are directed to local priorities.
- 3.3 The proposed terms of reference for the committee include championing the area by raising issues of concern to residents, organisations and businesses with the Council and other organisations, and influencing how services are delivered and spending plans for the area. It should also support the co-development of area-based plans and respond to the issues and need of Monmouthshire's Well-Being Assessment and other key legislation and policies.
- 3.4 This paper brings together some of the issues emerging from a variety of evidence sources including: outputs from the Committee's September workshop (appendix 1); issues raised on the doorstep during the May elections and the issues that are dealt with most frequently by the local authority at community hubs and its contact centre (appendix 2) and the well-being assessment (appendix 3), The committee can help bring an understanding which of these are particularly pertinent for Bryn Y Cwm.

4. REASONS:

- 4.1 To ensure that the committee is able to champion the area by raising issues of concern to residents and influencing how services are delivered.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6 EQUALITY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications identified as a result of this report.

7. AUTHOR:

Matthew Gatehouse, Head of Policy and Governance
01633 644397 / 07785556727
matthewgatehouse@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Responses following workshop on 13th September

Two responses received to date.

Top 3 Priorities for your ward?

Parking; litter and dog-mess; speeding (x2); road maintenance; broadband

Your suggested name for the pilot Area Committee/Cluster Group?

North Monmouthshire

How can the Area Committee ensure that they provide a forum for local councillors to engage with residents about local issues?

You said:	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Ensure flexibility of timings to accommodate all	Try different meeting times to see which is most popular
Publish attendance figures to hold councillors to account	Publish on-line
List action points/outcomes against councillors who have said they will take up the issue	Use an 'in-touch' leaflet and publish on-line
Support attendance of public and let people know written statements can be read out	Notices outside town hall and village notice boards
Report activities/discussions in local press and minutes put on Town and Community Council websites	Appoint a press officer
Make elected Members accountable	Encourage all members to attend
Publish availability of open forums via social media/press etc.	Appoint a press officer
Help make representation to clerk	Be available for public questioning

How can the area committee ensure that it enables Members to have influence over decisions that are specific to their local area?

You said:	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Decisions to be reported back to Cabinet	Forward to the appropriate Cabinet Member
Voting rights	Report to county council
Hold Councillors to account	Encourage presence at meetings
Scrutiny to look at area committee issues	
Open forum debate	Encourage the public to ask questions
Cabinet Members in attendance	...when their remit is being discussed

How can an area committee ensure that it develops and oversees the delivery of localised plans?

You said:	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Reporting of plans to MCC	
Accountable and outward looking	Consulting with local groups and community councils
Representation on bodies	
Regular reporting back	

How can an area committee ensure that it harnesses and channels community energy to deliver improved outcomes for the local area and its community?

You Said	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Must be proactive and reactive, issues dealt with and response give	Notification of schemes and ideas
Identify local champions (not elected members) who can support community plans and engage locally	Listening to their ideas and views
Linking with issues raised via social media	Discussion
When there are clear outcomes, regular feedback and dialogue	Feedback via media and 'in-touch' leaflets
Public Meetings – invite public to themed meetings	
Enthuse elected representatives to take more interest	
Ask what each person would be able and interested in doing	
Keeping them in the communication loop	e-mail and press

How can area committees ensure that it brings together partner agencies to focus on locally specific issues?

You said:	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Lobby agencies	
Keep a mailing list	
Who is out there?	
Making them accountable for their actions	
Notice of local issues are relevant	Hold open meetings and ensure that press are notified

How can the area committee ensure that it engages with representatives of Town and Community Councils?

You said:	
Discussions that are relevant to local issues	
Regular feedback/Q&As	
Representatives of County, Town and Community Councils at meetings.	As often as meetings allow

How can the Area Committee ensure that it gives local communities a stronger and more direct voice in decision making in their local area?

You said:	Your ideas for how we could achieve this
Voting Rights	These should be in place for community and town councillors
Hold meetings in all areas	
Encourage public to have a say	
Committee members to have a brief	
Road show at Community Hubs	
Residents at Meetings	

The issues that matter locally

These are county-wide lists. At present the analysis has not drilled-down to community level.

Issues raised on the doorstep during County Council elections

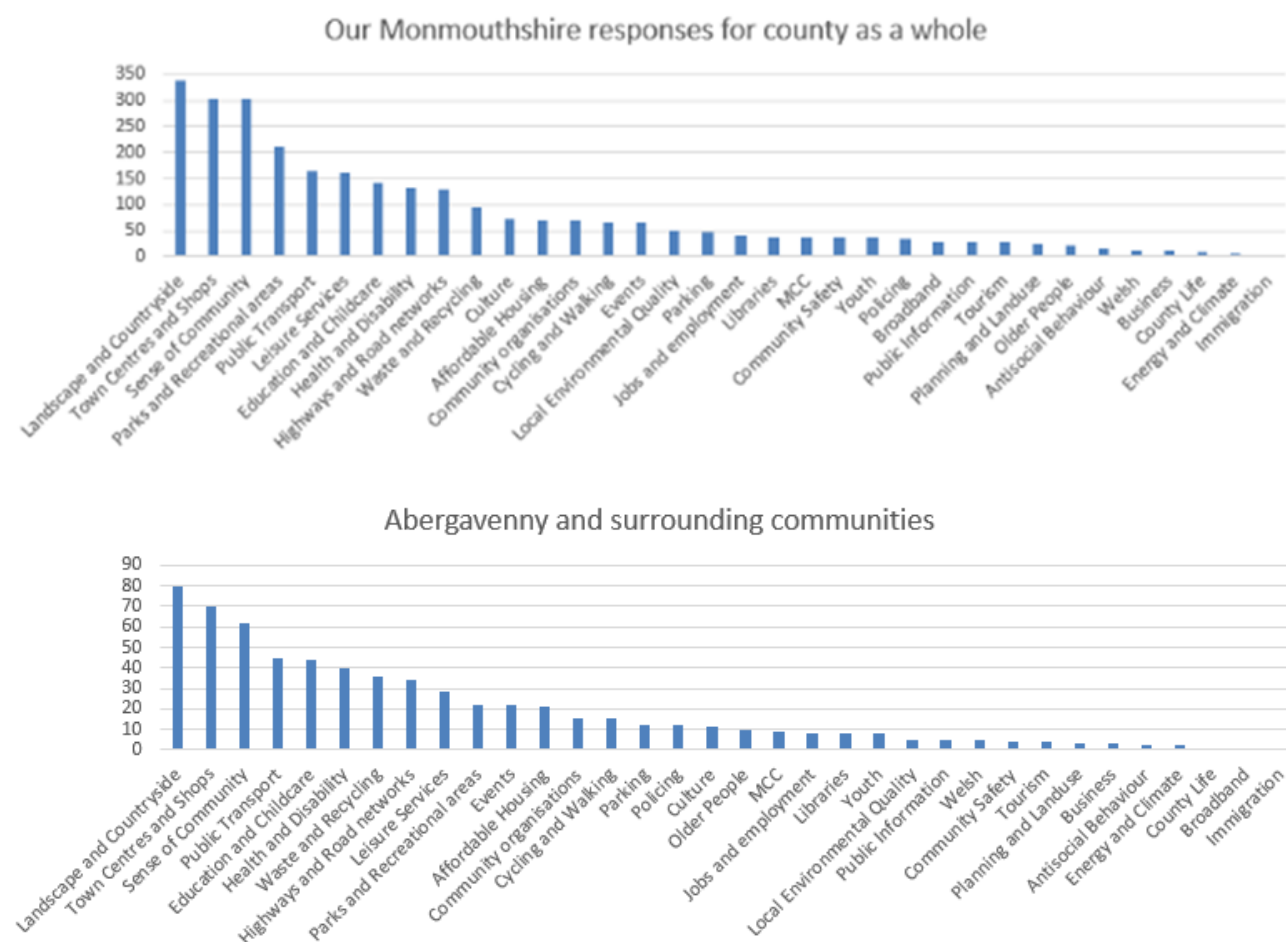
- Road safety and speeding
- Highways
- Traffic and parking
- Infrastructure and regeneration
- Litter
- Education

Top Ten Issues reported through app, hubs and contact centre (numbers in brackets show interactions during the 6 months to 23/10/17)

- Council Tax (2,926)
- Register for waste collection (1,736)
- Replacement waste bags (1,519)
- Highways, roads and transport (1,244)
- Missed Bins (1054)
- Replacement waste permits (625)
- Grass-Routes Bus cancellation (583)
- Fly-tipping (325)
- Trees and hedges (275)
- Foodbank Voucher (264)

Themes raised during engagement on the well-being assessment

The following charts show the topics that were being discussed during the engagement carried out as part of the well-being assessment (Our Monmouthshire). The first chart shows county-wide analysis and the second shows the data for Bryn y Cwm only.



The challenges and opportunities highlighted in the well-being assessment included:

- Low wages and high property prices (*wages for local jobs are below the Wales average, property prices are above the UK average making it hard for families to live and work here*)
- Limited public transport and impact of car journeys on air pollution (*journey times on public from rural Monmouthshire to nearest facilities can average over 2 hours, we have high levels of out-commuting and pollution from private cars*)
- Reducing physical activity and resulting rising obesity and type 2 diabetes
- Pressure on health and care services from an ageing population (*the proportion of over 85s will increase by 184% over the next 20 years*)
- Inequality between communities and within communities (*eFSM attainment gap in education; worse education, employment and housing outcomes for care leavers, employment and big gap in wages between local jobs and those earned by out-commuters, largest male:female wage differential in Wales at £149 per week*)
- First thousand days of a child's life and reducing adverse childhood experiences (*Public Health Wales research shows that adverse childhood experiences can alter how children's brains develop and they are more likely to adopt health-harming behaviours*)
- Positive impact of Arts and culture on emotional health and well-being (anecdotal but widely held view)
- Air pollution is a significant contributor to premature deaths (*Monmouthshire has high levels of private car journeys and a high carbon footprint per residents compared to other areas*)

For a full list of challenges see pages 111-112 of the [well-being assessment](#). An analysis for the Bryn y Cwm area is available on page 73 of the assessment.