

TEAM ABERGAVENNY

BETTER, TOGETHER

Report of Team Abergavenny to the North Monmouthshire Area Committee Meeting on 20th March 2019.

Since the last meeting we are disappointed to say that little progress has been made on key issues identified in our previous report.

Our outstanding concerns are as follows:

1. Frogmore Street redevelopment. There is no news of whether the bus stop alongside Tesco will be permitted or when it might start. Everyone agrees that this is a very important issue but still no news.
2. Town Hall. The “kiosks” around the support pillars inside the entrance are still not resolved. Traders are very much against them, as are we, because they will limit the flexibility of space in that area and close in the entrance way. There does not seem to be any acknowledgement that consultation on the internal layout with all stakeholders together would be worthwhile either.
3. King Henry VIII re-provision. We have written twice to Mr McLean asking if he would be prepared to talk to us about how the new school will work with the local community but so far no reply. This is an important area in which the community has a vested interest, with long-term repercussions if it is not done in the best way possible.
4. Local Development Plan. We are concerned that the MCC Strategy for jobs does not have any solid basis to attract new work to the north of the county. Most attention seems to be on the south and the Cardiff Area, with this area being ignored. Abergavenny has always been a dormitory area to some extent, but failing to find ways of bringing in employment other than lower level service industry jobs, means that people are being obliged to commute quite long distances which runs counter to the need to reduce our carbon footprint over time.. We are recommending that Planning should give a greater emphasis to building a sustainable and balanced economy in this area.
5. We are now engaged in checking why the police do not consult in advance with the community on matters involving their public duty to the community.

This report is regretfully quite negative, but we feel obliged to point out that once again that in this area community involvement is not being fully supported or being followed through to achieve meaningful results.

If the Area Management Committee is to be more effective we would like to suggest that replies and responses at a meeting should be completed in time for the next meeting.