

TEAM ABERGAVENNY

BETTER, TOGETHER

Report of Team Abergavenny to the North Monmouthshire Area Committee Meeting on 24th July 2019.

1. There have not been any major new issues since our last report to you, but the following are worthy of note:
2. Bus stop. We understand that Welsh Government have finally decided to turn down the proposal for a bus stop alongside Tesco on Park Rd. This is a major disappointment in relation to the actual decision and the time it has taken to reach it. The design qualities of the phase 3 were utterly dependent on the installation of that vital public service. We understand that a further urgent meeting is being arranged with WG officials on site and we hope that by the time your meeting takes place there will be some good news to report. The rest of the Phase 3 Town Centre scheme is very nearly finished and seems to be receiving support from the public. Planters, street signage and public seating is still to be installed, but they are due soon.
3. Town Hall. At the time of writing we are not aware of any further developments on this scheme although work is seen to be progressing. It would be useful to know in detail what is intended for the furnishings and internal layout before any purchasing commitments are made so that all the stakeholders who will be using the first and ground floor have confidence that their detailed needs have been accommodated effectively.
4. King Henry VIII new school. Since your Committee agreed last time to invite Mr McLean to present proposals to you, we have not pursued this further. We look forward to further information in due course on the proposed layout of the site and its intended uses. We assume, in line with current Welsh Assembly planning procedures that pre-app consultation based on strategic options for a masterplan will be fully consulted on with the public ahead of any discussion with planning officers. Having a timetable for this pre-app consultation would be invaluable at this stage.
5. Local Development Plan. Our concerns reported last time, that the MCC Strategy for jobs does not have any solid basis to attract new work to the north of the county is addressed in the work being done on the LDP, with the publishing of the 8 different options for growth at various levels. We remain concerned that housing without jobs will simply confirm the dormitory status of Abergavenny, thereby ignoring the need for reductions in travel to work and we are concerned that sufficient lower-cost housing is factored in to ensure some balance for the population of the town. Now that MCC have formally declared a Climate Emergency an obvious immediate target is to reduce by any means possible the volume of commuting by car to work through the provision of a convincing employment strategy for the North Monmouthshire area.
6. The Team has been engaged via its Spreading the Word Theme group in the preparations for this year's Abergavenny Arts Festival. The Festival took place when the Cycling Festival was in progress and on the day of the revived Carnival. It is possible that next year there may need to be a slightly different approach to avoid too much happening on the day.
7. We are now considering how we should go forward. The Team has as its main focus the prosperity of the Town and surrounding area, and we will be looking at our plan to see where we should focus our efforts in future. This will include further projects being developed and consulted on for the public realm in order to have shelf ready projects available should funding suddenly become available.