

Lower Wye Area Committee

SUBJECT: Whole Place Update

DIRECTORATE: Enterprise

MEETING: Area Committee

DATE: 13th January 2016

WARDS All wards in Monmouthshire

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 9th & 12th 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

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