

**Minutes of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee Meeting  
Held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Abergavenny  
on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 2.00 p.m.**

**PRESENT:** County Councillor D.L. Edwards (Chairman)

County Councillors: R.G. Harris, M. Hickman, S.G.M. Howarth,  
D.W.H. Jones, M. Powell, J.L. Prosser and K. Williams.

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms. K. Beirne	-	Chief Officer, Enterprise
Mr. S. Burch	-	Chief Officer, Social Care and Health
Mrs. D. Hill-Howells	-	Head of Community Delivery
Ms. J. Boothroyd	-	Head of Adult Services
Mr. R. Williams	-	Democratic Services Officer

**BRYN Y CWM COMMUNITY FORUM**

Mr. P. Bowyer		
Mrs. J. Barnes		
Mr. D. Haswell	-	Bryn y Cwm Community Forum and Abergavenny Development Forum

**TOWN / COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

Councillor M. Skinner	-	Llantilio Pertholey Community Council
Mr. P. Johns	-	Clerk, Abergavenny Town Council
Mr. H. Candler	-	Clerk, Llanover Community Council

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

1. We elected County Councillor D.L. Edwards as Chairman.

**APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

- 2.- We appointed County Councillor M. Hickman as Vice-Chairman.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 3.- Apologies for absence were received from County Councillors R.F. Chapman, S. Jones and S.B. Jones, and from Councillor C. Woodhouse (Abergavenny Town Council).

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.- There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

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**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

5.- The Chairman invited members of the public present to put questions to the Area Committee, or to raise issues of concern:

**Abergavenny Town Centre – Key Projects for the Public Realm**

David Haswell, representing the Abergavenny Development Forum, provided Members, for information, with the following key projects for the Public Realm that could be undertaken over the next five years:

1. Central Zone – Paving and trees, shared space.
2. Frogmore Street – Resurfacing, reduced parking, tree planting, some shared space.
3. Lion Street – Traffic calming, some shared space.
4. Cross Street – Reduced parking, wider pavements, tree planting.
5. Baker St. Square – Shared space, link to the library, extended paving.
6. St. John's Square – Shared materials, comfort zone, café quarter, market stalls.
7. Lewis Lane – Paving and trees, café quarter.
8. Fairfield tree belt – Extension to Bailey Park.
9. Green Gateway – Avenue tree planting.
10. Lower Cross Street – Pavement upgrade.
11. Castle Site – Car park improvements.
12. Monk Street – Shared space with trees, traffic calming.
13. Lower Castle Street – Shared space, traffic calming.

The Chairman thanked David Haswell for the information. It was noted that a public discussion regarding the Public Realm would be held in due course and the information provided will be useful when such discussions are held.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

6.- The minutes of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee meeting dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

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**ABERGAVENNY COMMUNITY HUB / LIBRARY**

7.- We received a verbal update on progress by the Head of Community Delivery regarding the Abergavenny Community Hub / Library.

In doing so, the following points were noted:

- All 60 internal members of staff had been interviewed.
- Community Hub managers had been appointed for the North and south of the County.
- Senior assistants had been appointed, as well as a library lender.
- There was a vacancy in the Abergavenny Hub and also in other hubs. These posts would be advertised.
- There will be 16/17 voluntary redundancies and 7 compulsory redundancies. These members of staff will leave the authority in August / September 2015.
- Minor works in the buildings in Chepstow and Monmouth will be undertaken.
- Designs were ready for the Town Hall building which would require some internal reconfigurations.
- The Richards Building was also being considered and engineers were investigating potential adaptations.
- A consultation exercise will be undertaken regarding the merits of all potential buildings within Abergavenny with a view to presenting the findings to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Having received the verbal presentation, the following points were noted:

- In response to a Member's question, it was noted that the contact centre would contain the telephony centre and would also provide face to face contact with the public.
- It was noted that the proposed changes were required in order for the Authority to continue to provide a good service to the public. It was necessary to maintain service provision for the

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future and being realistic about what the Authority was able to afford.

- Details regarding footprint and access information would be available in due course.

**We resolved:**

- (i) to receive the verbal report and noted its content;**
- (ii) that the Head of Community Delivery would email the Area Committee Members outlining the details presented in the verbal update.**

**EISTEDDFOD – PROGRESS UPDATE**

8.- We received an update report by the Head of Community Delivery on the work being undertaken for the Monmouthshire and district 2016 Eisteddfod.

Members were informed that the focus in recent months has been on the hosting of the Proclamation Ceremony which took place at Caldicot Castle on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015. The event commenced in the town centre with a host of performances from local groups, followed by hundreds of dignitaries and members of the public processing with the Gorsedd into the castle. The Proclamation Ceremony had been well received.

The last main strand of work involves working within communities to support their fund raising activities. The Whole Place and Equalities Officers facilitated the establishment of local fund raising committees and continue to provide support where required. To date, pledges of £30,000 and £10,000 have been received from Abergavenny and Caldicot Town Councils respectively and they have banked £14,276. The total target is £300,000.

Having received the report, the following points were noted:

- Officers have developed a communications strategy with a view to encouraging repeat visitors to Monmouthshire.
- Flood mitigation measures were being investigated.
- The provision of aluminium paths were being investigated by the Countryside Manager for Castle Meadows.
- Four separate fund raising committees were in place and were on track with regard to fund raising targets. However, it was noted that it would be beneficial if the town and community

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councils within the Bryn y Cwm area were able to further contribute financially.

On behalf of the Area Committee, the Chairman thanked officers for the work that has been undertaken to date.

**We resolved to receive the report and noted its content.**

**SOCIAL CARE REQUIREMENTS IN THE BRYN Y CWM AREA**

9.- We received an update by the Head of Adult Services which outlined the current review of Mardy Park which shared the timelines around decision making and conclusion of the current review.

The current review of Mardy Park was established to critically evaluate the current service model and more importantly to assess the role that Mardy Park Resource Centre should play moving forward. Overall, the emphasis of this review was on the future.

Early on in the review a framework was established for development; building on the conclusions that Mardy Park should remain an integrated services hub for the next 10 years.

Having received the update, the following points were noted:

- Partnership working with health services has been successful but it was recognised that there was a need for a rehabilitation centre.
- Community coordination work has been key.
- A recent development has led to Mardy Park receiving people with dementia with Mardy Park moving into a more community endeavour.
- Mardy Park has developed via the Health and Well-Being Pathway, namely:
  - The role that Mardy Park has to play to support the community to support itself to stay well through facilitation of groups, hosting events, improved access and information.
  - The development of enhanced intermediate care services that support people in the short term.

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- The enhancement and development of longer term support services aiming at best practice in the provision of health and social care services.
- The development of an enhanced and consistent end of life care pathway.
- The Authority is committed to Mardy Park remaining as a social care hub.
- Planning permission for a car park at Mardy Park had been refused at Planning Committee recently. However, a modified planning application had been submitted and considered by Planning Committee yesterday and the application had been approved.
- The mezzanine would not be built due to financial constraints.
- Mardy Park was regarded as providing professional high quality support.
- There will be 24/7 care in one of the wings at Mardy Park where there will be seven beds provided.
- In response to a Member's question regarding referrals, the Head of Adult Services stated that third party organisations could join but space was an issue. Therefore, it was necessary to establish older people's need first. There was an interface at Mardy Park to provide support for a range of age groups.
- It was noted that the Adults Select Committee would be visiting Mardy Park on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and would be holding its meeting there.
- Concern was expressed by a representative of CAIR that the proposed changes might lead to the end of in house care with the coming together of health services and social services. The representative provided the Area Committee with a website: [patientstories.org.uk](http://patientstories.org.uk) which referred to Gillian's Story, in which she suffered with M.S. and the care facility mentioned was Mardy Park. A number of issues had been raised in this story regarding Gillian's care. The Chief Officer, Social Care and Health stated that the Directorate wanted to be informed of any issues relating to poor standards of care and that as we move into new integrated ways of working, it can be more complicated. Therefore, there needed to be a better way of communicating so that people were able to better understand the changes.

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- The Health and Social Care integration was all part of the integrated delivery of service and that Mardy Park was currently in a transition stage.
- Staff were receiving training to support dementia patients.
- Concern was expressed that further clarity was required regarding the number of rehabilitation beds, respite care and the changes regarding dementia care. Also, how would the car park affect the local environment?
- Members were informed that a comprehensive report regarding Mardy Park would be presented to Cabinet in September 2015.

On behalf of the Area Committee, the Chairman thanked officers for presenting the report and wished Simon Burch, Chief Officer for Social Care and Health, a happy retirement.

**We resolved to receive the update and noted its content.**

**TEAM ABERGAVENNY – PROGRESS TO DATE**

10.- We received a presentation by Team Abergavenny regarding progress to date regarding Whole Place Community engagement. In doing so, the following points were noted:

- A wide range of potential projects had been identified.
- There were limiting factors such as:
  - Resources, funds, people.
  - There were many organisations in the area.
  - Little communication between groups.
  - None focussed on prosperity.
- Focussing on a vision for the area and on key targets.
- Working with and through other organisations.
- Raising funds for projects.
- Focus Groups / five interest groups:
  - Tourist and Events Team.
  - User Friendly Town Group.
  - Open Spaces and Parks Group.
  - Town Hall Group.

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- Business Development Group.
- Liaison and Communication Group.
  
- Tourism and Events:
  - Ice Rink and Christmas Fayre.
  - Event coordination.
  - Creating more pride within the town.
  - Refurbish the town centre for August 2016.
  - Prepare a coordinated landscape design for the town.
  - Working with BID.
  
- The Town Hall Group was securing the long term future of the Town Hall.

Having received the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Abergavenny Rail Station needed to be included in the list of potential projects. It was noted that Abergavenny Town Council had written to Network Rail requesting an update on progress regarding potential improvement works.
  
- The addition of cycle racks throughout the town would be beneficial.

**We resolved to receive the presentation and noted its content.**

### **GREEN SPACES IN ABERGAVENNY – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**

11.- We received a report presented by representatives of Team Abergavenny regarding proposed improvements to green spaces within Abergavenny. The report outlined a number of proposals.

Members were informed that Team Abergavenny was preparing a bid for lottery funding. The report would also be presented to Abergavenny Town Council this evening for consideration. It was the intention of Team Abergavenny to present the report to the community councils within the Bryn y Cwm area in due course.

Having considered the report, reference was made to the poor condition of the landscaping around Abergavenny Castle and it was suggested that this matter be added to the list of proposals contained within the report.

**We resolved to support the report in principle.**



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**WORK PROGRAMME**

12.- We resolved to receive the work programme of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee.

In doing so, the following items / amendments would be added to the work programme:

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

- Progress report on the Eisteddfod.
- Update report on progress to date from Team Abergavenny.
- Conservation Review update.

**10<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

- RDP Funding on the Local Development Plan

**Remove the following items from the Work Programme**

- Pollination Group.
- Abergavenny Volunteer Bureau.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

13.- We resolved that the following meetings of the Bryn y Cwm Area Committee would be held at 2.00pm, as follows:

- 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Llanddewi Skirrid Village Hall (subject to availability).
- 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 – Council Chamber Town Hall, Abergavenny.
- 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – Llanfair Kilgeddin Village Hall (subject to availability).

**The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.**