

TEAM ABERGAVENNY

BETTER, TOGETHER

UPDATE ON TEAM ABERGAVENNY FOR BRYN Y CWM MEETING 20 April 2016

- 1.. We have formally launched Team Abergavenny at St Michael`s Centre from 3pm to 9pm on 15 February. Altogether for both afternoon and evening sessions we had well in excess of 100 people come to see what it is all about and about 50 showed interest in joining us. It was an open session with two formal presentations, and a number of good questions and points were raised.

We hope to collect more ideas and support from local people when we have an OpenTalk Session on 7 May in the Family Church Hall in the afternoon. The idea is to stage a completely open session with no specific agenda other than what is raised by those who attend. We want as wide a spectrum of attendees as possible.
2. Structurally we are reviewing the way we work so that different work-streams can progress in parallel. We are conscious that at present many of the Team are hand-picked, and as one of the points raised at the Launch was about our accountability and constitution, we will aim to have an open public meeting in the autumn. to review progress and to open up places on the Team for election by people who have registered as members. The important thing is that anyone who joins the Team will be expected to do something positive to contribute to our objectives.
3. We have actively encouraged participation of a number of interested groups in the redevelopment of the central streets in Abergavenny, and that project has been fully embraced by MCC, with the scheme now well under way. Now that this is back in the hands of MCC and the contractor, we are aiming to continue a Public Realm Group to look at possible future schemes and to have them prepared and ready to go if and when funding becomes available.
4. The Green Spaces Group has stalled over the past few months due to a number of factors. The aim is still to prepare a Lottery Bid in the next couple of months. We are bidding for funding to continue with Stage 2 which will be the detailed design and commissioning phase once the outline project has been submitted and hopefully approved. This is running in parallel with another bid led by Transition Town which focuses on the ground rather than the structures that go with it.
5. We are trying to arrange a meeting with the MCC Markets Team to promote and increase the range of events that can be held in Abergavenny, particularly using the Market Hall and Brewery Yard. The Market Hall is one of the biggest indoor spaces in SE Wales outside the main cities and it needs to be exploited as much as possible without losing the important local markets.
6. The Catering College project is still on the agenda to offset the shortage of skilled chefs in the area, but at present there is still substantial work to be done with other agencies.
7. Since the last update a brand new project has been started which has exciting possibilities for the area. It is a European Project, the Agri-Urban Project, which is intended to share knowledge and expertise between a group of ten towns and cities across Europe with a view to developing closer links between the towns and their surrounding rural areas, particularly in the process of local sourcing of food. This has a good fit with our overall objectives and by the time you receive this the first briefing session on the first meeting in Cesena, Italy, attended by our delegation will have been carried out. The scheme proper starts in June – we came into it very late as we were invited to

participate rather than having to compete for a place.

8. A number of people including Town Councillors and Team Abergavenny members took part in a Shape My Town Modelling exercise on 9 April. The sponsors were the Design Council for Wales and Cardiff School of Architecture, and a report on the outcome of the exercise will be delivered in due course. The idea was to look at possible future developments in Abergavenny from a variety of perspectives represented by those present.

9. Finally, one of the ideas put forward at the Launch was the idea of having a ten-year plan for Abergavenny. Several of the threads reported on above link to this idea and we are agreed in principle that a joint exercise between the Town Council and Team Abergavenny should be developed to take this forward. It is likely that this will need to take in surrounding Communities during the discussions as the Town does not exist in a vacuum.

11 April 16