

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT IF TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2013, AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL, WINE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR

Present;	Councillor	Mrs A Matthews (Chairman)
	Councillors	Mrs S Geary Mrs P Lancaster Mr G Ingram Mr M Mason Mr J Evans Mrs P Percy Mr R Jenkins Mrs S Hanks Mr M Marsh
	Mrs T Benfield	Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
	Mrs H March	Llantwit Major History Society
	Rev H Butler	Rectorial Benefice of Llantwit Major

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;

Councillor Mr K Geary
Councillor Mr E Hacker
Councillor Mr G John
Councillor Mr E Williams
Pc C Malone

Declaration of Interest Forms. There were none.

Report of meeting held on 13th November 2012

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the meeting held on 13th November 2012, which had been ratified at the Full Town Council meeting 29th November 2012. Noted.

To receive Peter Thomas, Vale of Glamorgan Council Conservation Officer. To discuss the possible removal of power and telephone cables around town centre.

Councillor Mrs Matthews introduced Mr Peter Thomas.

Mr Thomas informed Committee members he was here to give support of the Poles and Wires project. The support he had to offer was moral and unfortunately not financial. It is hoped that a good bid can be put to Western Power and British Telecom. Mr Thomas confirmed that he had no experience in this kind of project, but after speaking to colleagues there appears to be very few successful bids in the Conservation areas, there is however some in areas of outstanding natural

beauty, Plas Llanmihangel for example had recently been successful in putting a bid to move wires. Mr Thomas stated that after speaking to other Conservation Officer we believe this to be good project and it is very welcome to see that a Town Council is grasping this kind of project and going with it.

Mr Thomas concluded that not only will having the Poles and Wires moved improve the view, but also possibly help with tourism and have an economic impact. These should hopefully encourage Western Power and British Telecom to put funds towards the scheme.

Councillor Jenkins asked would the Vale of Glamorgan Council be able to contribute any funds towards this scheme. Mr Thomas replied that he obviously can't speak on behalf of the Council, but perhaps Councillor John would be the best person to approach regarding this.

Councillor Jenkins queried what is in this for British Telecom and Western Power. Mr Thomas informed him that in his opinion it was goodwill.

Councillor Mrs P Lancaster reported to Committee members that at the last meeting of the Town Study Steering Group she was one of the members chosen to look further into the project and prepare a package to submit to the appropriate utility companies. Councillor Mrs P Lancaster continued that at present a feasibility study was being undertaken by herself, Councillor Ingram and Mrs Marsh into the possibility of having the overhead wires and poles removed, as they are visually unattractive and detract from the character and appearance of The Square in the old part of Llantwit Major. The mainly wooden poles support electricity cables, BT cables and Vale of Glamorgan street lights, although not all necessary on the same pole.

Councillor Mr G Ingram added that in order to progress the scheme it is proposed that the area edged in red on the attached map (Councillor Ingram circulates copies) forms the boundary, and forms the subject area for undergrounding. In the next couple of weeks a larger scale plan will be produced annotating the ownership and use of each pole. A document is currently be prepared by the History Society detailing amongst others, a historical time line, information on the Conservation Area and the number of listed buildings within the area outlined in red. This document would then be submitted to the various utility companies.

Councillor Mr G Ingram continued the Vale Tourist Board will be asked for the potential impact on tourism and the improvement it will make on raising the towns profile, the Chamber of Trade will also be approached for its views on the impact on businesses. As the Galilee Chapel is due for completion in late 2013, St Illtud's Church will be asked for an input. Mr Peter Thomas will also be consulted continually along the way. This is not an exhaustive list of proposed contributors to the document. All residents and businesses in the area will need to be consulted at an early stage to assess their wishes and to obtain an indication of their support (or otherwise) for this scheme.

Councillor Mr G Ingram concluded that once the document had been completed and approved by the Town Study Steering Group and the Town Council, it will be sent to the various utility companies inviting their representatives to a presentation in the Council Chamber, followed by a site visit to

obtain their initial reaction. As a 'fall back' there is always the tidying up of the area and the removal of any redundant poles and wires to look at.

Mrs Marsh circulates a timeline produced by the History Society.

Councillor Mr M Marsh enters the Chamber.

Reverend Butler informed Committee members that at present the Galilee Chapel project was in the process of putting a BT line into the Church, but there will now be a need to look at putting the line underground. This will enable the Galilee Chapel project to say they are committed to supporting this scheme.

RECOMMENDED: That Councillor Mr G Ingram, Councillor Mrs P Lancaster, Mrs Marsh and the Deputy Town Clerk be given permission to progress with producing the document to be presented to the utility companies.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That Reverend Butler writes and supports the scheme due to the opening of the Galilee Chapel.

Mr Thomas suggested that the Welsh Assembly Government and CADW be approached for their support.

RECOMMENDED: That the Deputy Town Clerk contacts Mr Thomas and he will forward details of who to write to in the Welsh Assembly and CADW.

Further

RECOMMENDED: That Mr & Mrs Beer of Plas Llanmihangel be contacted to discuss their project and see if they have any suggestions for this scheme.

Update regarding Blue Plaques. Situation regarding renewal/refurbishment

This item had been discussed at the previous Town Study Steering Group where the Town Clerk had been asked to make enquiries into the repair of the blue plaques to Plymouth House and Court House. The Town Clerk informed Committee members that she had no more details than those reported at the last meeting, but she did think it was unfair that the Town Council had to cover the bill for removing and replacing the plaques, when they did not own or order them in the first place. She concluded that the History Society had their name on the plaques so perhaps they could look into the refurbishment. Mrs Marsh added that she felt the plaques were a benefit to the Town and a lovely tourist attraction, but the History Society would not be in a position to contribute towards the refurbishment of the plaques. The Town Clerk queried who owned the plaques as the Town Council did not purchase them, neither did the History Society or owners of the properties. She believes the money came from Clare Evans, Tourism Department of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

RECOMMENDED: That Town Clerk writes to Clare Evans, Vale of Glamorgan Council, to seek clarification as to who purchased the plaques, and who wrote to the property owners to obtain permission to install the plaques.