

**LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL**

**REPORT OF TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL, WINE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR.**

Present;                    Councillor                    Mrs J Norman (Chairman)

                                 Councillors                    Dr P Dickson  
                                    Mr G Thomas  
                                    Mr G Morgan  
                                    Mr J Evans  
                                    Mr D Powell

Mrs T Benfield	Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mr. J. Durrant.	Bethel Baptist Church.
Mr A Ecclestone	Llantwit Major Boys Brigade
Mr C Edwards	Vale of Glamorgan Council Town Centre Development Officer
Mrs Bethan Watkins	Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Participation Worker
Gethin Punter	Llantwit Youth Council
Mrs G Price	Llanilltud Fawr in Flower

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;

Councillor Mr A Clark  
Mrs H March – Llantwit Major History Society

Councillor Mrs J Norman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

**Declaration of Interest Forms.**

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

**Report of Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, which had been ratified at the Full Town Council meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. Mrs Tina Benfield asked if there had been any further response from the Police re installing a movable rather than existing fixed safety camera in the Town Centre Precinct. The Deputy Town Clerk to follow this action up with the Local Police. Noted.

**Update from Town Centres Development Officer**

Mr Christopher Edwards informed Members of the business vacancy rates for 2017 for Llantwit Major. He noted to members the following figures:

Llantwit Major Town Vacancy rates – 9%  
Average Wales Town Centres Vacancy Rates – 12.5%  
Average UK Town Centres Vacancy Rates – 9.4%

## 2.

Committee members discussed the increase in vacancy rates from 2016 to 2017.

Mr Edwards informed the Committee again of the benefits that both Penarth and Barry Town Centre had found from introducing late night shopping prior to Christmas and the Shop Locally Initiative. Mr Edwards informed the Committee that the Vale of Glamorgan Town Centre framework funding schemes would look favourably if such initiatives were adopted within Llantwit Major. He suggested various Grants available including the Innovative Grant Fund and the Stronger Communities Grant which covers individual and new events within the community. Mr Edward suggested a trial late night shopping scheme could be undertaken when the 2018 Christmas Light Switch on is held.

Councillor Dr P Dickson stated it would be useful to know what type of shops had positive feedback from the late night shopping in Penarth as they have a far more diverse selection of retail units.

Bethan Watkins stated that Barry held a Shop Local Family Fun Day last year where all shops had events within their units (e.g. wine tasting, face painting etc.). This was a very successful event which increased the footfall to the town.

Councillor Morgan noted that Llantwit Major had a large number of Independent Shops and he would support a shop locally scheme within the town. However he stated he would like to see the Markets held within the town moved to the old part of town (e.g. Town Hall Car Park or Old School Car Park). This would encourage tourists to visit the old part of Llantwit Major.

Committee members noted that unless the Chamber of Trade were involved within these ideas none of these initiatives could be moved forward.

**Recommended:** That the Deputy Town Clerk write to the Chamber of Trade detailing the initiatives and grants available for late night shopping / shop local schemes. Request that a member of the Chamber of Trade Committee attend the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting to discuss these recommendations further.

### **Update on Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade**

No member of the Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade Committee was available to attend the Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

### **To note letter from Vale of Glamorgan council re untidy land**

Committee Members had previously been circulated with a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 from the Vale of Glamorgan Council Planning Department detailing an alleged breach of untidy land and building. The letter stated that correspondence had been sent to the owner of the property to improve the appearance of the front garden however no further action will be pursued through the planning system. Noted.

### **To finalise ideas for how to use the £1000 available from Vale of Glamorgan for funding Town Improvements (as discussed at the Town Study Steering Group Meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017)**

Mr C Edwards confirmed to Committee Members that the £1000 funding opportunities was no longer available for the financial year ending April 2018. However funding opportunities

3.

should be available for the 2018/2019 year and encouraged Committee Members to put forward ideas to him.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Committee Members that at the last Town Study Steering Group Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 it had been recommended that ideas for Town Improvements should be forwarded to her to obtain preliminary costings, at present no recommendations had been put forward. Committee Members discussed various ideas including GDPR training for the Chamber of Trade (local businesses), late night shopping and funding towards the Nations Tributes Weekend.

**Recommended:** That Committee Members bring funding ideas for Town Improvements/ Town Events to the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting for forwarding to Mr C Edwards, for further consideration.

#### **Update on Sculpture Project**

Gwyneth Price updated Committee Members on the Sculpture Project. Mrs Price distributed two designs produced by a Sixth Form Pupil of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Committee members discussed the designs and felt production costs of this detailed design would be too expensive and a simpler design would be required depicting just a few figures (e.g. a Surfer and a Cyclist).

Mrs Price was worried about asking the pupil to redesign the Sculpture at present due to the pupil's exam commitments over the next few months.

**Recommended:** That Mrs Price liaise with the Art Teacher of Llantwit Major Comprehensive School and the Deputy Town Clerk to discuss the way forward with the Sculpture Design and bring recommendations back to the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

#### **To receive update on Defibrillator being placed in the Square**

Committee Members had previously been circulated with a poster detailing a Community Defibrillator Seminar at 6pm on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2018 in Llantonian Hall following the installation of the Defibrillator in the phone box on the . There are up to 50 spaces available. The Deputy Town Clerk asked Committee Members to let her know if any of their organisations would like places on the course.

#### **To note correspondence re Train Services in Llantwit Major**

Committee members had previously been circulated with a letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 from Welsh Government Rail Project Manager re train services in Llantwit Major.

Committee Members were all in agreement that it did not answer the queries put forward by the Town Study Steering Group Committee to Mr Ken Stakes AM, in a letter on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

4.

**Recommended:** That the Deputy Town Clerk write a further letter to the Welsh Government Rail Project Manager requesting again a response for consideration to our request for additional train services to run through Llantwit Major. State the letter sent to the Welsh Government on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 did not answer this question.

**To discuss email re Air Quality in Llanmaes Road Llantwit Major**

Committee Members had previously been circulated with an email from Specialist Services Officer for Bridgend, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Council re the Air Quality on Llanmaes Road, Llantwit Major. Councillor Dr P Dickson stated that it was a very informative email, stating there was no need for concern re air quality but a useful contact for future queries re pollution in Llantwit Major.

**To note updated details on Nations Tributes Celebrations for Llantwit Major**

Committee Members had previously been circulated with Minutes from the Nations Tribute Celebrations Committee Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Councillor Mrs J Norman updated Committee Members on the latest plans for the Nations Tribute Celebrations on the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

**To note Action Tracker detailing all Projects undertaken and outstanding within the Town Study Steering Group**

Committee Members had previously been circulated with an Action Tracker detailing all projects undertaken and outstanding by the Town Study Steering Group. Mr J Durrant requested that two additional projects be added to the Action Tracker. These being the further extension to the footpath down the beach and the ongoing project of encouraging community engagement. Mr Durrant requested that the Action Tracker be updated prior to each Town Study Steering Group Meeting. Noted.

**For information – Update on Water Refill Points throughout the town and formation of a Small Committee to further research recycling issues within Llantwit Major**

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Committee Members that businesses within the Town Centre are now displaying stickers stating that they are Water Refill Points. The Town Hall has a sticker in its window showing it is a registered water refill point. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the Town Council and Chamber of Trade were hoping to form a small committee to look at other recycling suggestions for reducing the plastic waste within the town. Committee Members discussed various ideas including Plastic Only Recycled Bins and a Drinking Water Fountain in the town. Bethan Watkins stated that the Youth Council and the Local Scouts Group would be very interested in taking part in further recycling projects within Llantwit Major. Councillor Dr P Dickson stated that the Rotary Club have also expressed an interested in being involved in recycling within the town.

**To further discuss Committee Members ideas for improving Llantwit Major Town and Community**

Councillor Mrs J Norman informed Committee Members that the Water Fountain and the Recycling Bin should be looked into further as ways to improve Recycling within the town.

Councillor Mrs Norman again raised concerns re the pots holes in the COOP Car Park.

Councillor Morgan stated that the Town Council are at present looking into area of roads within the town that need resurfacing but he stated that the Vale Council should also be reviewing some of the pavements in the town, particularly Stallcourt Avenue which is filled with pot holes.

Mr John Durrant raised concerns with regard to cars parking on grass verges around Llantwit Major. Councillor Mrs J Norman informed the Committee that there is a Parking Enforcement Officer that patrols the town on an ad hoc basis.

**Recommended:** That the Deputy Town Clerk write again to Mr Ian Hunt, owner of the Car Park by COOP, reference the pot holes and danger to pedestrians from the poor conditions of the tarmac surface.

Further

**Recommended:** That a letter be written to Mr Michael Clogg, (Operational Manager Highways and Engineering, Vale of Glamorgan Council) reference the poor condition of the pavement along Stallcourt Avenue and request if the path could be repaired.

**Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next meeting will be in July 2018. The exact date and time to be confirmed after the Annual Meeting to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

Councillor Mrs J Norman thanked everyone for attending her last meeting as Chair of the Town Study Steering Group Committee. Committee members vacated the Council Chamber.