

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 10th OCTOBER, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL, WINE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR.

Present; Councillor Mrs J Norman (Chairman)

 Councillors Mr A Clark
 Mr G Thomas
 Mr D Powell
 Mr G Thomas
 Mr G Morgan

Mrs. H. March. Llantwit Major History Society
Mrs T Benfield Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mrs G Price Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mr. J. Durrant. Bethel Baptist Church.
Mr A Ecclestone Llantwit Major Boys Brigade
Mr I Hunt Llantwit Major Retailer
Mr C Edwards Vale of Glamorgan Council Town Centre Development Officer

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;

Councillor Dr P Dickson
Councillor Mr J Evans
Mrs Claire Ingram – Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

Councillor Mrs J Norman welcomed everyone to the Meeting and introduced Mr Andrew Ecclestone. He had been invited to join the Committee as a representative from Llantwit Major Boys Brigade.

Declaration of Interest Forms.

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

Report of Meeting held on 11th July 2017

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 11th July, 2017, which had been ratified at the Full Town Council meeting of 27th July, 2017. Noted.

Update from Town Centres Development Officer

Mr Christopher Edwards informed Members that he had been working on a Staff Discount Scheme for Vale of Glamorgan Council employees to support local traders. The 5500 workforce would need to display a valid Vale of Glamorgan Card in shops in the Vale. He hoped to encourage local people to use local facilities and increase the footfall to the Vale of Glamorgan Town Centres.

2.

Mr Edwards advised the Committee that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had introduced a Strong Communities Grant Fund that was available to voluntary organisations and Town & Community Councils. The Grant would look at providing funds for any new and innovative event that would encourage footfall to the Vale Towns.

Mr Edwards stated that he had written a draft sponsorship letters for the Chamber of Trade in trying to obtain funds for the Christmas Lighting Up Event.

Mr Edwards discussed the reduced opening times of Llantwit Major Lloyds Bank and the impact this will have on local businesses within the town. Councillor A Clark informed members that the Principality Building Society had increased their opening hours and Mr Ian Hunt stated that the Post Office had banking facilities which provided an alternative for local businesses needing to have access to a local bank.

Recommended: The Deputy Town Clerk to contact the Chamber of Trade to see if they still require copies of sponsorship letters.

Further

Recommended: That the Chamber of Trade send an email to local businesses and advertise on the Llantwit Major Hub the banking opportunities still available in the town for Llantwit Major.

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. Mr Ian Hunt informed the Meeting that the Chamber of Trade now had 60 paid up members.

To note letter from Vale of Glamorgan Council re Public Toilets in Llantwit Major Town Hall Car Park

Committee Members had previously been circulated with a letter from the Vale of Glamorgan Council dated 18th August 2017 re the Public Toilets in Llantwit Major Town Hall Car Park. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that the Vale of Glamorgan Council had given permission for the Town Council to paint the exterior of the Toilet Block. The Town Council have agreed to fund this project as they felt that the toilets were looking very shabby and did not create a good impression for residents and tourists visiting the town. Noted.

To discuss further correspondence re two new Llantwit Major Tourists Information Boards.

Committee members had previously been circulated with correspondence confirming that the S106 Monies for Public Art in Llantwit Major of £2834.46 had been authorised to part fund the installations of two new Llantwit Major Tourist Board Signs along the B4265 road.

3.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed to members that one Tourist Board had already been erected along the B4265. The second tourist board had the poles installed but was awaiting the completed sign to be fixed onto the posts. Photographs of the newly installed signs will be sent to the local GEM Newspaper.

To note update on letter from Vale of Glamorgan Council re Untidy land

Committee Members had previously been circulated with letters dated 15th August 2017 and 6th September 2017 from the Vale of Glamorgan Council re Untidy Land in Church Lane and Barons Close. Mrs H March informed members that although the land had been tidied in Church Lane the letter still did not tackle the main issue that had been expressed numerous times before regarding the caravan on the site. She stated that the caravan had been used as temporary living accommodation for over 4 years. She felt this spoiled the outlook of this historic area for tourists visiting the town. Committee members endorsed these comments and discussed how to further proceed with this matter.

Recommended: That a further letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Council emphasising that the Committee feels that it is unacceptable for a caravan to be kept on the site for over 4 years. State the caravan was only ever meant to be a temporary living accommodation . Request copies of the original Planning Application for the site and conditions and correspondence regarding the temporary accommodation.

To note letter from Lloyds Bank re opening times

Committee Members had previously been circulated with the revised opening times for Lloyds Bank in Llantwit Major. Noted.

To further discuss correspondence received re quotations for a wild flowerbed in Boverton, Llantwit Major

Committee Members had previously been circulated with quotations and correspondence re a wild flowerbed at the Boverton Road, B4265 junction. Committee members noted that even with the kind donation offered by Boverton Nurseries of £200.00 towards the purchase of the seeds there was still a shortfall of £980.00 to fund the project. Letters to other organisations for sponsorship had not been forthcoming and there were additional costs of £275.00 that would be incurred yearly on the maintenance and upkeep of the area. Members discussed alternative sites for the wildflower bed including roundabouts and the grass verge by the bus station/train station. Mr C Edwards informed Members that he had a small fund for town improvements of £1000 that needed to be used by the end of the financial year. Members questioned whether this project would be suitable use for this money or whether it could be put to better use within the Town Centre.

Recommended: Committee Members bring suggestions back to the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting in January 2018 on what they think the £1000 should be spent on in the town.

Update on Sculpture Project

Mrs G Price updated members on the art sculpture project to be undertaken by two students at Llantwit Major Comprehensive School. She confirmed to members that the Sculpture would be made out of thick steel, be approximately 6 feet high and should last for around 50 years. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that funding of £1000 was available from the Town Council however if any additional costs were incurred maybe sponsorship from a local business/organisation could be considered.

Mrs Price stated that if the site for the Sculpture was the Rugby Club bank along Boverton Road she would like to see the bank have a small area cleared and may be a small wall built to encase the Sculpture.

Mrs March suggested an alternative site for the Sculpture could be the gates leading into Seaview Park.

Mrs Price informed members the two students undertaking the project was Catlin Dolman and Robin Ashford.

Recommended: That Catlin and Robin meet with the Small Sculpture Committee prior to Christmas 2017 with their proposed designs. The designs be brought to the Town Study Steering Group Meeting in January 2018 where the final decision on the Sculpture(s) can be agreed.

To discuss rubbish that accumulates in the Precinct

Committee Members had previously been circulated with a letter dated 27th September regarding the increase in litter in the Precinct and Flowerbeds in the Town Centre.

Councillor Clark informed members that there is an accumulation of rubbish, broken glass along Boverton Road particularly after the weekend. Mrs Tina Benfield stated that Llanilltud Fawr in Flower were becoming increasingly frustrated with having to pick rubbish out of the flower beds. She also said that businesses had apologised to her for having to put their business waste out for collection on a Friday evening/Saturday afternoon as there rubbish is collected at 7.15am on a Monday morning. She stated this causes more issues with rubbish being dispersed through the town over the weekend.

Mr Hunt stated the bin by the entrance to the Precinct and the one near the Principality Building Society were both on Public Ground and the property of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Mr Hunt stated that the centre of the Precinct was an alcohol free zone and both the COOP and Greggs had clauses in their leases regarding the clearing up of rubbish from their premises.

Councillor Mrs J Norman read out an email from a concerned resident regarding her frustration at the lack of recycling bins in the Town Centre.

5.

Recommended: That Mr C Edwards write an email to Mr Colin Smith (Highways Department of the Vale of Glamorgan Council) requesting the following points are looked into:

1. Additional litter bins required in the Town Centre to deal with the increased litter problem.
2. Request look into purchasing some recycled litter bins for the Town Centre.
3. Request altering the time of the business waste collection in Llantwit Major Town Centre on a Monday morning from 7.15am to 9.00am thus preventing commercial rubbish being left out in the Town over the weekend.

Further

Recommended: That Mr Hunt as landlord of Greggs and COOP Food Stores remind both Businesses of the clause in their lease to ensure all their litter is cleared and removed from the Precinct

Further

Recommended: That the Deputy Town Clerk talk to the local Police Force re additional patrols to ensure that the Precinct is an alcohol free zone.

To receive update on a Defibrillator being placed in 'The Square'

Committee Members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief re a Defibrillator being placed in the Square. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that after liaising with Community Heartbeat the Red Phone Box in the Square was to be decommissioned by BT. The Phone Box will be refurbished within the next two months and a Defibrillator and 999 emergency phone installed. The project is funded by both Community Heartbeat and the Town Council. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that Community Heartbeat would also be putting on a Community Awareness Training Course.

To receive update on Neighbourhood Watch in Llantwit Major

Committee Members had previously been circulated with information on the Vale of Glamorgan Neighbourhood Watch. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that a Public Meeting was being held on Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 6pm in the Llantonian Hall where representatives of the Vale of Glamorgan Neighbourhood Watch Committee would be present to tell residents more about Neighbourhood watch and how to get involved in setting up a Watch in the area.

To discuss email re paving slabs in the precinct and disabled parking

Committee Members had previously been circulated with an email dated 27th September 2017 from a concerned resident detailing a problem with the paving slabs outside the COOP

6.

Store and non-blue badge holders parking illegally in disabled parking slots. Mr I Hunt confirmed to members that he regularly inspected the paving in the Precinct and was not aware of an issue outside the Store but would ensure this matter was looked into. Mr C Edwards informed members that the Vale of Glamorgan Highways had an online facility where any incident of illegal parking could be reported. The reported incident is then forwarded onto all relevant parties. Members had not heard of this online facility.

Recommended: Mr C Edwards to forward information on the Online 'Park Tidy' Campaign to the Town Council and Chamber of Trade. This will then be publicised throughout the Town

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

Councillor Mrs J Norman informed members of a Dementia Friendly Training Course she was holding in Llantonian Hall on the 23rd October 2017 from 6 to 7pm. She stated as Mayor of Llantwit Major this was one of her chosen charities and she was hoping to make Llantwit Major the first Dementia Friendly Town in the Vale. She asked all members to publicise this event and hoped many would be able to attend.

Mrs H March said the Phone Box outside the White Lion was in a state of disrepair and either needed refurbishing or removing from the Town. The Deputy Town Clerk check with BT re what is happening to the Phone Box outside the White Lion Public House.

Mrs T Benfield stated that there had been 4 incidents of vandalism to the flower beds outside the Wellbeing Chemist Shop. The camera that overlooked this area was fixed so the vandals had never been apprehended. She questioned if the camera could be changed so that it rotated rather than at present a fixed mechanism. The Deputy Town Clerk write a letter to the local Police Force

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be at 7pm on Tuesday 16th January 2018 in the Council Chamber of the Old School, Llantwit Major.