

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 15th JANUARY, 2019 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL, WINE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR.

Present; Councillor Dr D Ellis (Chairperson)
 Councillors Mr D Powell
 Mr G Morgan
 Mr J Evans
 Dr P Dickson
 Mr G Thomas

Mrs B Field Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mr Jason Harvey Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Participation Worker
Mrs H March Llantwit Major History Society
Mrs Claire Ingram Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade
Mr Christopher Edwards Vale of Glamorgan Council Town Centre Development Officer
Mrs G Price
Mr John Deakin

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;

Mr J Durrant - Bethel Baptist Church
Mr A Ecclestone - Llantwit Major Boys Brigade
Mr W Norman
Miss Tia Allen – Llantwit Youth Council
Ms Jacquie Jenkins – Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade
Ms Alex Thomas - Vale of Glamorgan Council Youth Participation Worker

Councillor Dr Ellis welcomed everyone to the Town Study Steering Group Meeting and especially the three new members to the group Mr J Deakin, Mrs Barbara Field and Mr Jason Harvey.

Declaration of Interest Forms.

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

Report of Meeting held on 19th October 2018

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 19th October 2018, which had been ratified at the Full Town Council meeting of 25th October, 2018. Noted.

Committee Members asked if any further progress had been made re Llantwit Major becoming a Dementia Friendly Town

Recommended: That the Deputy Town Clerk liaise with the Chamber of Trade to discuss the position that Llantwit Major have reached in their aim to become a Dementia Friendly Town. Bring findings back to next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

Update from Town Centres Development Officer

Mr Christopher Edwards informed Committee Members that the Welsh Government has announced that from April 2019 there will be opportunities for local companies with business rates below £50,000 to be able to obtain a reduction of up to £2500 from their annual rates. Mr Edwards also stated that for businesses with less than £9000 rateable value the business rate could be reduced to zero. Mrs B Field ask what percentage of businesses in Llantwit had a rateable value under both categories.

Mr Edwards stated that all businesses and organisations were being asked to complete a Public Conveniences consultation document, to assist with the Vale of Glamorgan strategy for the future of Public Conveniences within town centres.

Mr Edwards confirmed that the Vales theme for tourism this year was 'Year of Discovery'. He stated this was to be discussed further at the next Destination of Management Meeting. Councillor Dr Ellis stated that the 'Celebrating St Illtud's' Group were looking at the untold story of St Illtud's and the attraction of the unseen and unspoilt heritage coast and 'Year of Discovery' would fit well within this theme.

The Committee noted that the only representative at present from Llantwit Major that sat on the Destination of Management Committee was the Town Clerk. All agreed further representation was required.

Recommended: Mr C Edwards to find out what percentage of businesses in Llantwit have under £9000 and £50,000 rateable business values. Bring findings back to next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

Further

Recommended: Mr C Edwards to provide Llantwit Major businesses with more details of the Welsh Government reduced business scheme, when published.

Update on Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

Mrs Claire Ingram informed Committee Members that Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade had at short notice managed to put up the Christmas lights around the Town. With the assistance of a Town Council Grant of £2500 the Chamber of Trade managed to purchase £500 of new lights and install and take down the lights (weekend 19th/20th January 2019) at a cost of £2000. A raffle held on the Lighting Up Event had made £400 to assist with the costs of the Christmas lights for 2019/2020. Mrs Ingram confirmed that due to comments on Social Media a Public Meeting had been called on the 18th February 2019 at 7pm in the Town Hall to discuss the way forward and improvements that can be made to the Christmas lights. Mr Deakin offered his support and stated he would be attending the Public Meeting.

Update on Sculpture Project

Gwyneth Price updated Committee Members on the Sculpture Project. Mrs Price stated that she had concerns re the thickness and installation of the Sculpture and would like to discuss this matter with Alun Griffiths personally as to the best way forward. She stated that the additional cost if the thickness of Sculpture was increased from 10mm to 15mm was £468 exclusive of vat. Plus there would be a cost for producing the CAD Design of £100 and Plaques detailing the Sponsors and Designer of the Sculpture (i.e. AP Engineering, Alun Griffiths Ltd & Gwyneth Price). The Deputy Town Clerk stated that Alun Griffiths Ltd had kindly agreed to pay for the 10mm Steel at £1017 and arrange for the installation of the Sculpture so she was not prepared to go back to the Company to ask for additional funding. She also confirmed that the £1000 which had been set aside for this project, she had hoped could be utilised for other Town Study Projects, as Alun Griffiths Ltd donation would have covered the Sculpture and installation cost. Committee Members further discussed funds, costings and thickness of the Sheet Metal.

*** Recommended:** That Gwyneth Price be given permission to liaise personally with Alun Griffiths Ltd re the installation of the Sculpture and an additional maximum spend of up to £500 to cover the CAD and plaque cost.

** This resolution was superseded at the Full Town Council Meeting held on 31st January 2019 (Minute Number 328)*

To discuss Agenda Brief re placing Flags around the town to promote Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously been circulated with a report detailing the cost and designs for flags and posts to be distributed around the town. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that Treganna Designs had kindly agreed to design the image to be displayed on the flag free of charge. The Deputy Town Clerk showed the Committee a post that had been inserted into the existing Christmas tree brackets above businesses and shops when the 2012 Olympics were held. Committee Members discussed whether the flags would be kept up permanently or just put up during the Summer months. Mrs H Marsh raised concerns that the flags would get tatty very quickly and had the Committee considered the additional maintenance cost of replacing and erecting the flags. Committee members further discussed costings.

Recommended: That permission be granted for the Deputy Town Clerk to purchase 1 flag once the design has been finalised. Review the quality of the flag and how easy it is to install.

Further

Recommended: That the Deputy Town Clerk bring back to a future Meeting realistic costs for purchase of flags/poles and include installation costs, storage costs and contingency to cover cost of replacement flags.

Further

Recommended: That a maximum spend of £500 be made available to cover Town Study Steering projects.

Further

Recommended: The Town Council be asked to carry forward the £1000 Town Study budget from 17/18 to the next financial year to cover the cost of the above 2 projects.

To discuss Agenda Brief re Front Garden Competition

Committee Members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief re organising a Front Garden Competition. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Horticultural Society had agreed to assist with judging the Competition and would be delighted to hand out the winning trophy at their Annual Horticultural Show. Committee Members discussed the cost of purchasing trophy/prizes for the winners and how best the competition could be promoted.

Recommended: That the Front Garden Competition be launched in March 2019. The Town Council to produce posters to advertise the event and copies be placed around the town, on Notice Boards, on social media sites and a report be placed in the local Gem Newspaper.

Further

Recommended: Councillor J Evans to donate a trophy for the best Front Garden Competition. The Deputy Town Clerk to write to local Garden Centres/ Garden Shops asking for prizes for the winning gardens.

To discuss Agenda Brief re producing Postcards of Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief re producing Post Cards of Llantwit Major. The Committee discussed producing Postcards for sale at the Town Hall. All proceeds going to funding additional post card production and any profit being given to the Town Mayors chosen charities. Mrs B Fields queried if postcards should be offered for sale at local shops as well. Committee members discussed costing.

Recommended: That a decision re producing Postcards of Llantwit Major be deferred, until the next Meeting, when final costings for the Sculpture have been determined.

To discuss 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.

Mrs H Marsh again voiced her frustration at the untidy land in the Old Town and the lack of action being taken reference this matter.

Mr John Deakin queried if any further action had been undertaken re repairs to the pavements around Llantwit Major, noting in particular the pavements along Llanmaes Road and Bedford Rise

Recommended: That a letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Highways Department asking when the next inspection of the pavements is scheduled and request a representative from the Town Study Steering Group can attend.

To discuss frontage of shops, buildings around the Town

Councillor G Morgan updated Committee members on his concerns re the general condition and appearance of the shops, buildings around the town. He stated that the condition of the buildings did not create a good impression for tourists visiting the town. Councillor Morgan distributed photographs of the buildings he felt were in need of maintenance. These being:

The Gable ends of Greggs and the Sports shop
White Lion Public House
Kings Head
The Coach House
The Cottage (adjacent to Bens Barbers)
The Age Concern Building
The Police Station
The upper floors of 3-4 Commercial Street

Councillor Morgan also raised concerns to Committee Members re the need for an additional zebra crossing at the junction between Le Pouliguen Way and Boverton Road. He stated that there was already in place dropped kerbstones for wheel chairs/pushchairs so there would be very little costing to place a zebra crossing at this site to create a safer crossing for the residents of Llantwit Major

Recommended: That letters be written to all landlords of the above properties asking if they would improve/repair the appearance of the frontage of their buildings to create a better impression to tourists visiting the town.

Further

Recommended: That a letter be written to the Vales Highways Department requesting they consider installing a zebra crossing at the junction between Le Pouliguen Way and Boverton Road. Thus creating a safer crossing site for the residents of Llantwit Major.

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

Councillor Dr Ellis informed Committee Members he would like to see a Town Crier again in Llantwit Major. He also stated that there was a Public meeting to held in the Galilee Chapel at 6pm on Thursday 17th January 2019 to discuss reforming the Town Twinning Committee. He hoped to see over 20 people in attendance at the Meeting and confirmed the Le Pouliguen were very keen to re-establish twinning links with Llantwit Major.

6.

Councillor Dr P Dickson raised concerns re the state of the roads along Cowbridge Road with the ongoing housing development 'Heritage Gate'. He stated the mud and debris left on the road is a danger to pedestrians, cyclists as well as motorists. Committee members discussed what action could be taken and agreed that a letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Highways Department requesting that they write to Persimmon Homes, the building contractors for the Heritage Gate development requesting that Cowbridge Road is regularly cleaned to ensure the safety of the general public.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be held on the 16th April 2019 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.