

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT OF TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 21st JANUARY, 2020 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL, WINE STREET, LLANTWIT MAJOR.

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

Mr Christopher Edwards Vale of Glamorgan Council Town Centre Development Officer
Mrs H March Llantwit Major History Society
Mr John Deakin
Mr J Durrant - Bethel Baptist Church
Mr W Norman
Ms Toni Marley – Llantwit Major Christmas Committee
Ms Sue Beams – Llantwit Major Christmas Committee
Mr Andy Ecclestone – Boys Brigade
Mrs Barbara Field – Llanilltud in Flower
Mr Ian Hunt – Filco Food Stores / Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade
Canon Edwin Counsell – St Illtyds Church
Mrs G Price

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;
Councillor Mrs G Hughes
Mr Jay Jones - Publican White Hart / Tudor Tavern

Councillor G Morgan welcomed everyone to the Town Study Steering Group Meeting and updated members on some of the achievements the Committee, local organisations and the Town Council had completed in 2019. Councillor Morgan noted the flower displays throughout the town , ‘Love Llantwit Major’ merchandise, the Citizen Awards event, water refill outlets, the installation of the Sculpture and the success of both the Events Group and Christmas Committee in putting on the Christmas event for the town. Councillor Morgan also noted the Welsh Government Grant that the Town Council had been awarded which had assisted with funding the resurfacing of four tennis courts, lighting around the recreation ground and a Bowls Pavilion extension.

Declaration of Interest Forms.

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

Report of Meeting held on 15th October 2019

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 15th October 2019, which had been ratified at the Full Town Council meeting of 31st October 2019. Noted.

Mrs March informed the Committee how pleased she was to see the carpark in the COOP had been repainted and disabled spaces allocated. She felt it was a great improvement.

Recommended: That a letter be written to Mr Hunt, Filco Food Stores Ltd thanking him for arranging for the COOP Car Park lines to be repainted, following a request by the Town Study Steering Group in 2019.

Update from Town Centres Development Officer

Mr Christopher Edwards informed Committee members that Llantwit Major still had the lowest vacancy rates within the Vale of Glamorgan. He stated he had walked around the town and noted that two vacant retail units are now occupied, and he was very impressed with the vibrancy of the town. Mr Edward stated that with the assistance of a Welsh Government Economic Stimulus Grant the Vale of Glamorgan Council had worked closely with the Town Council and Christmas Committee to support the purchase and installation of Christmas lights for the town. The Grants was also funding a footpath heading along the top cliff towards the beach.

Update on Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

Mr Hunt stated the Chamber of Trade had held their first meeting in Mid-October since the new Committee had taken over. They now had hold of all the Minutes and Banking details so were looking at holding a social/networking event for the businesses of the town in Mid-February. They were hoping to have two guest speakers during the evening. The aim of the newly reformed Chamber of Trade was to review contact and encourage new members but also to look at a way to move forward/ rebrand the Chamber of Trade. Mr Hunt informed members that businesses in Llantwit Major were facing very difficult trading conditions at present.

Update on Sculpture Project

Committee members had previously been circulated with emails and photographs re the Sculpture project.

Gwyneth Price was delighted to report that the Sculpture had been installed along the verge, by the roundabout next to the entrance of the Northern Access Road (off the B4265). Mrs Price wished to thank everyone involved in the project for their support.

Recommended: That a letter of thanks be written to Neil Evans (Alun Griffith Ltd) for all their assistance with the funding and installation of the Sculpture.

Further

Recommended: That a photo shoot at the location be organised with The Mayor, Gwyneth Price and members of the Town Study Committee. Copies of photographs/report be sent to the Gem Newspaper and updated on the Town Council Social Media sites.

Update on Cotton Bags and Car Stickers

Committee members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief detailing an update on the selling of the cotton bags and car stickers depicting 'Caru Llanilltud Fawr'. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that at present 118 bags and 40 car stickers had been sold. Total revenue to date £543.00. Members discussed purchasing additional stock from the revenue from sales so far.

Recommended: That 50 additional bags be purchased from the £543.00 income from the sales of bags and stickers

Update on Flags around the town to promote Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief detailing the purchase of additional flags and flags poles for around the town to promote tourism during the summer of 2020. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that an additional 10 flags and poles would cost £501.83 exc. vat. Members discussed purchasing additional flags/poles from the proceeds of the sales of the bags and stickers.

Recommended: That the remaining proceeds from the sale of bags and stickers (once the additional 50 bags have been purchased) be used to purchase as many flags and post for display around the town.

To note letter re litter bins in the town centre

Committee members had previously been circulated with a letter dated 5th November 2019 from the Vale of Glamorgan Council acknowledging receipt of our letter requesting additional litter bins around the town. Committee members noted their disappointment that no response had been received re the Youth Councils Litter report of the town and the continuing concern re the accumulation of rubbish around the town. Members noted that with the introduction of the new recycling waste scheme the amount of rubbish being placed in the litter bins was increasing.

Recommended: That a further letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Council requesting an update on our letter dated 1st November 2019 and request a Vale Councillor also to chase up our concerns directly with the Visible Services and Housing Department of the Vale Council.

To note letter sent to Vale of Glamorgan Council re condition of pavements in Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously been circulated with a letter dated 2nd January 2020 from Mr Michael Clogg from the Vale of Glamorgan Council in response to a letter dated 28th October 2019 from the Town Study Steering Group re the state of the pavements and

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comments to our concerns raised regarding this matter. Members discussed the response to the letter and a way forward.

Recommend: That Mr John Deakin review the pavements within the town and give a list to the Deputy Town Clerk of the pavements in the worst condition. These will be forwarded to Mr Clogg and his team who will investigate and respond to our concerns.

To further discuss Finger Post signs for Lorna Hughes Park

Committee members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief detailing the cost of producing a finger post sign to be placed on an existing bollard in Lorna Hughes Park detailing the direction to the train / bus station. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed the costing would be approximately £30.00 excluding vat and fitting. Mrs Barbara Field queried if it should be Bus Station or Bus Terminus. Members stated that the sign must be bi-lingual. Councillor Powell suggested that Transport for Wales be approached to purchase the sign.

Recommended: That a letter be written to Transport for Wales asking if they would provide a bi-lingual directional sign showing the way to the train/bus terminus for Lorna Hughes Park.

Further

Recommended: If Transport for Wales decline to make the sign recommend that the Town Council purchase and install a sign (to be inserted onto the existing concrete bollard) in Lorna Hughes Park. Approximate cost £30.00 excluding fitting.

To note update on Welcome to Llantwit Major Signs

Committee members had previously been circulated with an Agenda Brief detailing the approximate cost of cleaning and repainting the four welcome to Llantwit Major Signs. Quotations varied from £1000 to £2000. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that she had received some good news from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Monies were remaining from the Economic Stimulus Fund and agreement had been made to undertake the following signage improvements within the town:

- a) New Tourist Welcome to Llantwit Major Beach Sign and Beach / camping directional signs on road leading to beach
- b) New highways directional signs showing Town Centre from the beach
- c) New Sign and removal of old signs at roundabout at top of Boverton Road (by Rugby Club), to Town Centre & Railway Station.

If any monies remained after completion of a,b and c the Deputy Clerk stated the cleaning and repainting of the Welcome to Llantwit Major signs may be able to be included within the Economic Stimulus Funding. The Deputy Town Clerk will report back at the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

To further discuss documentation re the Great British High Street Awards

Committee Members had previously been circulated with the Great British High Street Town Centre Personality Test that the Deputy Town Clerk had completed. It has concluded that Llantwit Major was a 'specialist' town. The Deputy Town Clerk added that she did not see how this could assist with Llantwit Major entering the competition or what category would be suitable for our town.

Mr Edwards stated the competition was an excellent way of raising the town's profile.

Ms Barbara Field stated she felt the project would benefit from being business led and may be something the Chamber of Trade could take over and run.

Mr Durrant informed members that consumer and business surveys need to be undertaken to find out further analysis of our town (e.g. performance indicators, what increases sales / footfall to our town). These measures need to be undertaken to measure the health and wellbeing of our town.

Recommended: That Mr Edwards pass on details of the criteria and guidelines for the Great British High Street Awards to Mr Ian Hunt (Chamber of Trade).

Further

Recommended: That Mr Edwards forward all category entries of the Great British High Street Awards once officially released.

To note minutes from Fair Trade Forum Meeting on 7th November 2019

Committee members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Fair-Trade Forum Meeting held on 7th November 2019. Councillor Gant informed members that they had a very productive meeting on the 16th January 2020 with Mrs Aileen Burmeister, Coordinator for Fair Trade in Wales. Councillor Gant confirmed the Fair-Trade Forum Committee were beginning the process to renew the Fair-Trade Status for the town. Councillor Dr Ellis said he was very impressed with the amount of Fair Trade products sold within the town and plans were in place to further promote Fair Trade during the Fair Trade fortnight, school garden competition and creating a leaflet of all shops/business stocking Fair Trade products.

To further discuss cinema evening in Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously with an Agenda Brief re ideas for holding an Open-Air Cinema Evening in the Town Hall Car Park in the Summer. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members the approximate cost would be £1395.00 and asked the thoughts of the Town Study Steering Group. Members queried whether this was the best location and may be the Recreation Ground would be a better alternative. Canon Counsell suggested that the Deputy Town Clerk investigate what the Vale Film Festival could offer the town. He suggested they could be approached to put a film on in Llantwit Major

Recommended: That the Deputy Town Clerk investigate and bring findings back re the Vale Film Festival

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 within the Town Study Steering Group.

Mr Will Norman distributed a document detailing an idea for a Medieval Festival within the town. He stated he thought this would make a very successful event and provide an alternative/additional event for the town. Mrs Field stated the event would need a lot of commitment and volunteers but thought it was an excellent idea. Mr Norman stated this was only his initial thoughts, would need an organisation to take on and run and was not expecting any form of medieval event to be undertaken this year.

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

Ms Toni Marley of the Christmas Committee introduced herself to members and thanked the Committee for inviting her to attend the meeting. She stated the Christmas committee were pleased with what they had achieved in 2019. They were so impressed with the community spirit shown and were looking in 2020 to continue fundraising, including running an animal show. They hope to reinstate Santa being driven around the villages, a festival of floats and continue developing the memory stars. She confirmed that next year's Christmas Switch on event would be held on the 28th November 2020.

Councillor Dr Ellis stated he would like to see the Town Crier re-established in the town to cover events and important occasions.

Mr John Deakin updated members on the Town Twinning Committee. He confirmed since they were formed last year, they had held many fundraising events, were in a good financial position and looking at taking a party out to Le Pouliguen Summer 2020 with a reciprocal visit the following year. Mr Deakin said the AGM would be held on the 12th March 2020 and they were hoping to encourage more younger members to join the group.

Canon Counsell informed the Committee that he was looking at progressing further Mental Health and Wellbeing within the community. Canon Counsell stated he was hoping to run two Mental Health week workshops each year. The first being week commencing 18th May 2020. He feels strongly about raising the profiles of issues such as better work/life balance, gaming addictions around both businesses and the community.

Councillor Dr Ellis raised concerns also re the care of the older generation in our community. Members agreed there needs to be one point / coordinator where all ages and groups could obtain information on groups, help lines etc within the town. Members agreed to see if they could think of ideas for an information point (suitable for all ages) and bring back to a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting is Tuesday 14th April 2020 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.