

**LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL**

**REPORT FROM REMOTE TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2021**

Present;                   Councillor                   Mr G Morgan (Chairperson)  
                                  Councillors                   Dr D Ellis  
  Mr G Thomas  
  Mr R Gant  
  Mrs G Hughes

Mr David Williams - Vale of Glamorgan Council Principal Regeneration Officer  
Mrs H March - Llantwit Major History Society  
Mr John Deakin -  
Mr J Durrant - Bethel Baptist Church  
Ms Toni Marley – Llantwit Major Christmas Committee  
Mr Jay Jones - Publican White Hart / Tudor Tavern  
Mrs Patricia Lancaster – Llanilltud Fawr in Flower  
Member of the public

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;  
Councillor D Powell  
Councillor Dr P Dickson  
Mr W Norman  
Canon Edwin Counsell – St Illtyds Church  
Mr Ian Hunt – Filco Food Stores / Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

Councillor G Morgan welcomed everyone to the Town Study Steering Group Meeting, the first to be held in 18 months due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Declaration of Interest Forms.**

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

**Report of last Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020, ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Mrs March stated that under ‘Town Centre Development Officer’ it should read ‘Upgrading the Footpath’ rather than as stated ‘funding a footpath’.

Councillor Dr Ellis informed members that under the items re the Fairtrade Forum he confirmed that Llantwit Major had now successfully renewed their Fairtrade status.

Councillor Dr Ellis also stated that under item ‘Committee Members ideas’ he stated that there were ongoing discussions taking place with representatives from CF61, Age Connect and Jane Hutt MS re coordinating facilities for the older generation of the town. Noted.

### **Update from Town Centres Development Officer**

Mr David Williams introduced himself to Committee Members. He informed Members he was the Principal Regeneration Officer for the Vale of Glamorgan Council and was standing in for Mr Edwards who was on annual leave.

Mr Williams stated that over the last 18 months their principal role has been to distribute Grants packages (funded by both the Welsh Government and Vale of Glamorgan Council) to local businesses.

Mr Williams stated that when the first lockdown restrictions were eased the Vale Council commissioned the company 'Jam Jar' to produce a strategic marketing campaign for all the Vale towns. This was put on hold, with the introduction of further lockdowns, however it is hoped the campaign will be reintroduced now restrictions are again being eased and non-essential businesses reopening. To provide a social media/publicity drive to encourage people to shop and eat locally.

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

Mr Hunt sent his apologies as was unable to attend due to prior commitment.

### **To note minutes of the Fairtrade Forum Committee and update on activities undertaken during Fairtrade Fortnight and future plans**

Committee members had previously been circulated with the minutes of the Fairtrade Forum Committee Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and ratified at Full Town council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Councillor Gant informed members that during Fairtrade Fortnight (Feb/March 2021) Vale Schools had taken part in a Schools Fairtrade competition. There had been 50 entries in total, four of which were from Llantwit Major.

Councillor Gant stated that local organisations had also taken part in virtual coffee mornings / afternoon tea / wine tasting sessions promoting Fairtrade products.

Councillor Gant said that future plans, once lockdown restrictions permitted, included completing the survey of all local businesses confirming what Fairtrade products they use/sell. Also plan to continue to promote Fairtrade via social media sites and Bro Radio and to look at costings to get Fairtrade signs installed in the town centre.

### **To note correspondence and maps detailing update re station carpark improvements including banners and flags to promote Llantwit Major**

Committee members had previously been circulated with correspondence and maps detailing update re station carpark improvements including banners and flags to promote Llantwit Major.

Mr Williams informed members that as a consequence of the Covid 19 pandemic monies had become available from Welsh Government to put towards improvements to Vale Towns. Following dialogue with local businesses etc the following improvements were agreed for the Station Car Park in Llantwit Major:

1. Resurfacing ramps/steps up to Station Platform. Resurfacing area around benches (adjacent to zebra crossing)
2. Refreshing / repainting lines in carpark / carriageway markings

3. Jet wash areas in carpark
4. Renewing and repainting railings / ramps /steps over bridge. Paint in Heritage Coast pallet colour scheme
5. Installation of 10 banners on lighting columns in Station Car Park
6. Obsolete notice board removed from carpark.
7. 3 benches refurbished and new bench (steel /timber framed) installed where notice board removed). Bins refurbished.
8. Planter to be installed on site which will be managed by Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Mr Williams stated that the budget for the project was £80,000 and it is hoped work would commence next month with a completion date, weather permitting of between 4 to 6 weeks.

Mrs Lancaster queried whether planters were also being erected in the Precinct as originally suggested. Mr Williams stated this would not be included in this phase however he was hopeful for additional funding in the next financial year 2021/22.

Councillors Mrs Hughes asked that with the notice board being removed was there plans for new notice boards/directional signage to show people the way to the town, old town and beach from the Station Carpark. Mr Williams noted that this was not part of the remit however could be considered as a future project. He was hoping to hold a Resilience Forum Meeting with Llantwit Major next month where these matters could be discussed further.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that under the original remit there was funding available for 20 flags to be erected around the town based on the 'Love Llantwit Major' Design. The company that tendered for the production of banners and flags were unsure if the flags would be fit for purpose and therefore rather than 20 flags being produced it was agreed with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to purchase 3 test flags to be installed on the Town Hall. If these prove workable, it was agreed (when further funding becomes available), additional flags can be purchased and installed.

Councillor Morgan requested that they also consider refurbishing the Railings that lead from the Station onto Llanmaes Road when new funding opportunities arise.

Councillor Morgan thanked Mr Williams for this update and Mr Williams vacated the Meeting.

### **To note letter re litter bins in town centre and Lyc Bin installed on the Recreation Field Llantwit Major**

Committee members had previously been circulated with letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020 re litter bins in the town centre. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that due to the coronavirus pandemic no response had been received from the Vale of Glamorgan Council re additional litter bins in the town centre. She asked for an update from members on litter in the town over the last 12 months.

Mrs March stated that there was a problem with litter behind the church, heading up towards Hillhead. Mrs Lancaster endorsed these comments and felt that if larger bins were place in Church Lane and West Hill Street this would solve this issue.

Mr Deakin stated that the litter problem encroached beyond the town centre with overflowing bins located at Bedford Rise and Bedford Rise sites. Disposable face masks are often just discarded along Boverton Road and Ham Lane East/Ham Lane South Road.

Members also raised concerns re overflowing litter bins at Stradling Park, Eagleswell Road junction onto Llanmaes Road and Eagleswell Road by Crawshay Drive.

**Recommended:** That a letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Council requesting that they consider putting larger bins at the following sites to assist with the litter issues in the town:

Church Lane  
West Hill Street  
Bedford Rise  
Fairfield Rise  
Stradling Park  
Eagleswell Road junction onto Llanmaes Road  
Eagleswell Road by Crawshay Drive.

Ask that they provide the Committee with a rota of when the bins are emptied at all locations around Llantwit Major

#### **To further discuss conditions of pavements in Llantwit Major**

Committee members had previously been circulated with an email dated 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 re the condition of the pavements in Llantwit Major. Mr Deakin updated members of his continuing concerns re the condition of some of the pavements throughout the town. He noted the various pavements had been marked for repairs however some of the markings seemed illogical and he informed members that he had been notified of a Runner falling and injuring themselves due to the uneven surface. Councillor Gant stated he had seen CentreGreat undertaking work on the pavements in the last two days. Councillor Thomas stated that the Vale of Glamorgan Council based an unsafe pavement slab on the depth of the crack. He noted that undulating pavements should also be considered, as this is particularly a hazard for wheelchair users, mobility scooters etc.

**Recommended:** That a letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Council requesting the Program of Works planned in Llantwit Major for repairing the pavement's in the forthcoming year. Request that they consider undulating pavement's when reviewing the safety of pavements throughout the town.

#### **To discuss Agenda Brief re Electric Charge points for the town**

Committee Members were previously circulated with an Agenda Brief re exploring options for putting an electric vehicle charging point in the town. The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that initial investigation were being undertaken by the Town Council to look at installation / charging times and costings of Electric Charging Points. The Deputy Town Clerk asked if any members had any expertise / interest in assisting with this project. Mr Durrant

stated technology was changing rapidly (i.e., standardising plug points and reducing charging times).

**Recommended:** That members bring any findings re electric charging points back to future Meetings.

**To note letter sent re Finger post sign for Lorna Hughes Park**

Committee members had previously been circulated with a letter sent to Transport for Wales re putting a finger post in Lorna Hughes Park directing the general public to the Train / Bus Station. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that no correspondence had been received from Transport for Wales and she asked if members still wished a signpost to be installed on the site. She confirmed that permission had been granted for a sign at a Full Town Council Meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Members discussed if the sign was still necessary. Members noted that the initial idea was from Councillor Dr Dickson and as he was not able to be present at this Meeting a decision be deferred to the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

**Recommended:** That a decision re installing a Finger Post Sign for Lorna Hughes Park be deferred to the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

**To note projects undertaken by Town Council 2020/21**

Committee members had previously been circulated with a list of projects undertaken and planned for 2020/21. Mrs Lancaster and Mr Deakin expressed their thanks to the Town Council for all their work over the last year.

Councillor Morgan informed members that a Town Council Newsletter had been published and copies could be picked up from Filco Food stores. He also advised members of the Birth/Deaths and Marriage Notice board that had been set up in the Precinct to advise residents of family notices. This has been put in place since the demise of the local Gem Newspaper. Noted.

**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.

Councillor Dr Ellis requested that the Committee consider looking again at entering the Best Hight Street Awards.

**Recommended:** That the Deputy Town Clerk investigate if the Best High Street Awards is running in 2021. Liaise with Mr C Edwards, Town Centre Development Manager for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to find out additional information re this award. Bring findings back to next Meeting.

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

Toni Marley from the Christmas Committee confirmed that plans were underway for the 2021 Switch on. She hoped if lockdown restrictions permitted to be able to hold a lantern parade and switch on ceremony. Councillor Morgan thanked the Christmas Committee for an excellent job in putting up the Christmas lights throughout the town in 2020, despite the problems re the coronavirus pandemic. Toni also updated members on positioning of the Christmas trees throughout the town and businesses paying £50.00 towards the installation of lights outside their premises.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated members on the Town Councils plans for producing a book on the town experiences during Covid 19. She confirmed the Mr Hunt, from Filco Food Stores had kindly donated money towards the production / publication of the book.

Councillor Gill Hughes and Mrs Lancaster informed members that St Illtyds Church (to help raise funds, due to the reduction of income due to the coronavirus pandemic) had organised an Easter Egg Hunt around the town for children and was also planning a Zoom Bingo Night.

**Date of Next Meeting.**

The date of the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting will be held in September 2021. Date, time, and venue to be confirmed dependent upon latest Coronavirus Legislation.