

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FROM HYBRID TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 2022 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL

Present;	Councillor	Mr D Foster
	Councillors	Mr G Thomas
		Mr D Powell
		Mrs G Hughes
		Mr J Lewis
		Mr D Foster
		Dr P Dickson

Mr Christopher Edwards - Vales Town Centre Development Officer
Mrs H March - Llantwit Major History Society
Mr Jay Jones - Publican White Hart / Tudor Tavern
Mrs Patricia Lancaster – Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mr J Durrant - Bethel Baptist Church
Mrs Sally Hanks – Vale of Glamorgan Councillor
Mr G Benfield, GVS
Ms Toni Marley – Llantwit Major Christmas Committee

Apologies were tendered on behalf of;
Councillor Graham Morgan
Councillor John Deakin
Councillor W Norman
Councillor Dr D Ellis
Mr M Neate
Representative from Llantwit Major School
Canon Edwin Counsell
Mrs Louise Taylor – Community Engagement Administrator

Councillor D Foster stated that due to illness Councillor Morgan could not attend the Meeting therefore a vote would need to be taken to appoint a chair for the meeting.

Recommended: That Councillor Foster take the Chair.

Councillor Foster thanked everyone for their attendance.

Declaration of Interest Forms.

Declaration of Interest Forms was received from:

Pursuant to the requirements of this Councils Code of Conduct, Councillor Mr D Powell declared an interest under Item 10, To discuss issues with parking along Boverton Road.

Report of last Meeting held on 12th July 2022, ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 28th July 2022

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 12th July 2022 and ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 28th July 2022. Noted.

Update from Community Engagement Administrator

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Committee Members on the Community Engagement Administrator activities for October 2022. These included:

1. Organising/promoting the selling of the Pantomime Tickets for 5th January 2023.
2. Continuing working with the Youth Council on various project, including litter picking.
3. Liaising with various organisations including the More than Food Hub and Dementia Friends
4. The Digital Notice Board for the town has arrived and installation is being arranged.
5. Applying for Grant Applications and liaising with various external parties reference funding / plans for Stradling Park.
6. Starting to organise a Food and Drinks Festival for the town to run in conjunction with 'These 3 Streams Festival' on 10th/11th June 2023.

Update from Town Centres Development Officer

Mr Christopher Edwards introduced himself to Committee Members.

Mr Edwards stated that the commercial vacancy rates had been reviewed in June 2022. Llantwit Majors commercial retail vacancy rate was now 6.9% an increase of 3.93% since June 2021. However, he stated that this was still lower than UK's vacancy rate of 14% and Wales vacancy rate of 16.7%. Mr Edwards stated that with the increasing utility bills costs other notably statistics included:

Footfall into towns 12% lower than last year
 Sales in Wales less than the UK by 25%
 63% of shoppers look for value for money from their retail shops
 35% shoppers only buy essential items

Mr Edwards stated the importance of retailers learning from the issues faced from Covid. Town Centres faced a challenging time and will need to look at ways of becoming multi-functional in their future approach.

Mr Edwards stated that the Supplementary Guidance Plan detailed key points re retail and town centres. There was a Consultation period re this plan and he stated he would send the link to the Deputy Town Clerk for anyone wishing to comment on this document.

Mr Edwards confirmed he envisaged obtaining future funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and had asked the 5 town centres in the Vale to provide lists of potential projects they would like to undertake in their areas. He stated he was unsure of the timescale for this fund. The Deputy Town Clerk informed Committee Members the project ideas that she had forwarded to Mr Edwards included:

Water refill point for town
 Electric Bikes for town
 Litter Picking Groups
 Recyclable Bins
 Tourist Guide for Llantwit Major

Food Festival Event
 Open Cinema Event
 Funding to provide Planting and Maintenance of Planters at the Train Station

Councillor Dr Dickson queried if funding was weighted according to councils' budgets and facilities. He also asked who decided who would be allocated the funding within the five town centres? Mr Edwards stated he had only been asked to accumulate potential project ideas and was unsure what level (i.e., Vale of Glamorgan Council/Welsh Government) would determine who was allocated the funding.

Councillor Powell asked Mr Edwards what impact he thought Lidl would have on Llantwit Major town if they went ahead and built a store on the outskirts of Llantwit Major. Mr Edwards stated he had been able to consult on the Planning Application.

The Town Clerk stated that the Vale Town Centre Facebook page is consistently updated with publications from Cowbridge, Penarth and Barry. She stated the last time anything was posted about Llantwit Major was on the 29th July 2022. Committee members further expressed their disappointment that Llantwit Major always seems to be last in line when it involves Vale initiatives/projects.

Mrs Lancaster wished it expressed that she was extremely disappointed with the state of the planters at the Train Station. She stated that she had raised concerns previously that the Vale Council would need to undertake at least a twice-yearly planting program as well as a regular watering/weeding timetable to ensure that the planters are maintained. Mr Edwards stated he had forwarded these concerns to the relevant Vale Council Department.

Mr Edwards also stated that the footfall counter that had been installed in Wells Pharmacy was still not operational due to ongoing issues with broadband access/ownership.

Recommended: That Mr Edwards liaise again with the relevant parties within the Vale of Glamorgan Council to look into the clearance of the weeds, overgrown plants from the Planters at the Railway Station and that a regular maintenance program is put in place.

Update on Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade

No update on Llantwit Major Chamber of Trade and no representative was present at the Meeting.

To note update re CCTV Cameras situated throughout the town

Committee members had previously been circulated with emails detailing the delay in the final installation phase of the new CCTV cameras in the Town Centre due to delays with BT

and updating the Fibre Link. Toni Marley stated she was disappointed that CCTV is not installed around the town especially after last year's vandalism to the Christmas light decorations. Councillor Lewis stated that a time scale for answers as to when the CCTV will be up and running in Llantwit Major is needed.

Recommended: That Mr Edwards to liaise with the Community Safety Team re the latest update on when the CCTV cameras will be operational in Llantwit Major. Request updated information within the next four weeks.

To note update re Litter Bins at Llantwit Major Beach

Committee members had previously been circulated with emails detailing a request for enclosed bins to be installed at the beach so the existing concrete bins no longer need to be utilised. At present gulls continually pull rubbish out of the open concrete bins. Committee members asked if there was any progress in getting new bins being installed in the beach area.

Recommended: That the Community Engagement Administrator enquire again with Adam Sargent from the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the latest position re getting enclosed bins installed at Llantwit Major Beach.

To note update from Town Council Meeting with Miles Punter and Emma Reed, Vale of Glamorgan Council Officers, re Litter / Weeds around the town, Boverton Road, Electric Car Charging Points, Condition of Pavements throughout the Town and the Town Hall Car Park

Committee members had previously been circulated a report of a Meeting the Town Council had with Miles Punter and Emma Reed, Vale of Glamorgan Council Officers, re Litter / Weeds around the town, Boverton Road, Electric Car Charging Points, Condition of Pavements throughout the Town and the Town Hall Car Park.

Councillor Foster stated topics discussed included cleanliness of the town. The Vale of Glamorgan Council stated that it was their statutory responsibility to undertake cleanliness of the town. Ms Emma Reed had stated at the Meeting that a Vale of Council employee is contracted to empty the litter bins and litter pick for 3 hours over weekends. Ms Emma Reed had also stated she would look at getting voluntary litter picking organisations set up around the town.

Councillor Foster stated they had confirmed that the company employed to install Electric Bikes in the Vale had no proposals to bring electric bikes to Llantwit Major.

The Electric Charging Points have been installed in the town but they are now waiting for them to be connected to the main electrical grid.

Councillor Foster stated that the Vale Officers had also confirmed they were looking into a proposal to widen the path to 3m along Boverton Road from Ham Lane East Junction to the entrance of the Rugby Club.

To note letter sent to Transport for Wales re Footbridge

Committee members had previously been circulated with a letter sent to Transport for Wales requesting the refurbishment of the Footbridge at Llantwit Major train station. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed no response at present had been received. Noted.

To note Stronger Communities Grant Fund applied for to refurbish blue plaques and purchase marquees

The Deputy Town Clerk updated committee members on the Stronger Communities Grant Fund she had applied for and was awaiting a response from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

She stated the following projects had been submitted for the Vale Councils consideration:

1. The purchase of an additional blue plaque for Dovecot and the refurbishment and cleaning of the existing 13 blue plaques situated around town.
2. The purchase of a large canvas and inflatable marquee for events/weddings. Flooring for the marquees and a metal storage container to store the marquees and accessories in.

To discuss issues with parking along Boverton Road

Councillor Powell declared an interest.

Committee members discussed the issues with parking along Boverton Road specifically during school drop off/pick up times at Schools and during weekend Rugby matches. Councillor Foster informed members that the matter had been discussed at October's Full Town Council Meeting and PC Williamson was going to review and liaise with the schools regarding the parking issues along Boverton Road.

Committee members stated that due to Councillor Deakin being unable to be present at today's Meeting the matter would be deferred for discussion until the next Town Study Steering Group Meeting.

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.

Heather March asked if the planter at Odney Brook had been removed. The Town Clerk confirmed that the broken wooden planter had been removed and the new wooden planters had been installed under the Welcome to Llantwit Major sign and had been potted up with winter bedding plants. Noted.

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

The Deputy Town Clerk asked members for ideas for potential events/projects that the Town Study Steering Group could undertake. She stated the need for ideas to be brought to this Meeting for the Town Study Steering Group to meet its purpose and fulfil its objectives as stated in its Terms of Reference.

Mr J Durrant suggested that the path along Boverton Road from Ham Lane East Junction to Shakespeare Drive could be removed of street furniture, some signage and electricity poles to make it safer for pedestrians and access easier for those using push chairs/wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Hybrid Town Study Steering Group Meeting will be held on 7th February 2023 at 7pm, Council Chamber, Old School, Llantwit Major.