

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FROM HYBRID TOWN STUDY STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD AT 7.00PM, ON TUESDAY, 18th APRIL 2023 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, OLD SCHOOL

Present; Councillor Mr G Morgan
 Councillors Mr G Thomas
 Mrs G Hughes
 Mr J Lewis
 Mr D Foster
 Dr P Dickson
 Mr John Deakin
 Dr D Ellis

Mrs Louise Taylor – Community Engagement Administrator

Mrs H March - Llantwit Major History Society (Z)
Mr Jay Jones - Publican White Hart / Tudor Tavern
Mr J Durrant - Bethel Baptist Church
Ms Toni Marley – Llantwit Major Christmas Committee
Mr Ian Hunt - Flico Food Stores
Mr D Jarrett (Z)
Mr M Neate (Z)

Mr Alec Shand – Senior Community Development Officer, Creative Communities
Ms Arabella Calder – Senior Community Development Officer, Creative Communities
Ms Meriad Velios - Place Manager, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Apologies were tendered on behalf of.
Councillor D Powell
Canon Edwin Counsell
Mrs Patricia Lancaster – Llanilltud Fawr in Flower
Mr Christopher Edwards - Vales Town Centre Development Officer
Mrs Sally Hanks – Vale of Glamorgan Councillor

Attended remotely via zoom (Z)

Declaration of Interest Forms.

There were no Declaration of Interest Forms received.

Report of last Meeting held on 8th November 2022, ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 24th November 2022

Committee members had previously been circulated with a copy of the Report of the Town Study Meeting held on 8th November 2022 and ratified at the Full Town Council Meeting on the 28th July 2022. Councillor Foster noted his name was detailed twice under Councillors

present. Councillor Deakin noted that under item 'discussing issues with parking along Boverton Road' he stated that was still an ongoing problem with vehicles parking on the pavement and grass verges and he intended to bring the matter up for further discussion at the next Full Town council Meeting. Noted.

Presentation from Regeneration and Planning Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council

Alec Shand, Arabella Calder and Meriad Velios introduced themselves to the Committee Members.

They informed members that the Welsh Government had introduced Place Making Guides encouraging all Local Borough Councils to develop Place Making plans. If Local Borough Councils adopt Place Mapping Plans then would be eligible for obtaining government funding in the future.

The Place Making Plan would look at each individual town in the Vale of Glamorgan and address the following three areas:

Activity – activities/events that happen in the place

Physical Form – physical setting that make up the place (e.g., landscape, townscape/topography/ecology etc)

Meaning – the unique features of the place (context/identity)

Ms Velios stated that the above is then linked to the Place Making Charter. The Vale of Glamorgan Council plan to sign up to the Charter within the next few months. They will agree to maintain places following the 6 principles:

1. **People and Community**
2. **Movement**
3. **Public Realm**
4. **Location**
5. **Mix of Use**
6. **Identity**

Ms Velios confirmed this would involve a lot of work and collaboration would be needed from the community. The Vale of Glamorgan Council can offer support, guidance and funding to enable towns to complete their Place Making Plans. She stated they have talked to the other towns in the Vale of Glamorgan. They are beginning to work with Cowbridge, have highlighted their key stakeholders and are undertaking the first community mapping project by handing out leaflets at the Kings Coronation Picnic and asking residents of the town '*What they like most about Cowbridge*'.

They are also working with Barry Town Council and have highlighted the need to establish links between the town and beach. At the moment both areas are disconnected. Looking at rebranding the town creating one story depicting one quayside/seaside community.

Mrs March informed members that in 1996 the Town Council had undertaken a similar activity. A forward-looking plan had been created which included the creation of Lorna Hughes Park, Boverton Road Regeneration Project and work undertaken on the Recreation Field. She queried the expense of this Place Making Plan initiative.

Mr Hunt stated that Llantwit Major circumstances have changed since the demise of RAF St Athan and noted that no towns at present have the perfect example of activity/physical form and meaning and the Place Plan could provide a way of providing a different view of the towns.

Councillor Thomas stated that Llantwit Major already had good representation of their culture/history as well as activities (e.g., parks etc) and questioned how much further this could be developed. Mr Shand responded that initial thoughts would be to look at asset-based

developments including creating links between the town/beach and establishing better Youth Facilities.

Mr Durrant said his concerns were for the physical/tangible impact on the town. The people of our town are our assets and we should be concerned with their emotional welfare.

Councillor Lewis noted that concepts like the Place Making Plan were common in many Scandinavian countries and had these been considered as examples when looking in to this concept/tangibility of these plans. Ms Velios stated that they had been looked at however they worked slightly differently as they took the community as a whole and worked via Citizen Assemblies.

It was noted that the Place Making Plan for a town could take up to 18 months to complete.

Councillor Morgan thanked the Creative Communities Team and Place Manager for their attendance and they vacated the Council Chamber.

Update from Town Centres Development Officer

Mr Christopher Edwards sent a written report for the Meeting, dated 18th April 2023, which was read out by the Deputy Town Clerk.

It stated that there were potential possibilities for town centre projects that could be undertaken by the Shared Prosperity Fund. Mr Edwards enclosed a list of project ideas which included Electric Bikes/ Recyclable Bins and new planters at the Train Station. Councillors queried that these projects were the responsibility of the Vale of Glamorgan Council and did not fall under the ownership of the Town Council.

The report confirmed that CCTV cameras were fully operational at Boverton Road and Le Pouliguen Way and the technical issues at Station Road and East Street should now be resolved.

Mr Edwards also reported that a programme of maintenance for the planters at Llantwit Major Station from the Vale of Glamorgan Councils Park Department had been set up for the 2023/24 financial year. This is included maintaining existing shrubs, replanting if required, weeding, litter picking and watering from June til September.

Recommended: An email be sent to Llanilltud Fawr in Flower informing them of the programme of maintenance for the planters at Llantwit Major Station for the 2023/24 financial year.

To discuss Town Study Steering Group Terms of Reference and Agenda Brief re way forward for this group

Committee members were previously circulated with the Town Study Steering Group Terms of Reference and Agenda Brief re way forward for this group. Councillor Morgan addressed members stating that members needed to consider the relevance of this Committee , its aims and goals for the future, particularly as there is no budget available from the Town Council to undertake Projects in the next financial year due to the present economic climate/ cost of living crisis. Councillor Morgan questioned if the Place Making proposal should be considered within this Committee's remit?

Councillor Dr Ellis stated the need for more people from different sectors / organisations / businesses of the town to be included within the group. He also felt the name of the group needs be amended to reflect the purpose of the group.

Councillor Dr Dickson asked members what the Group wanted to achieve and suggested renaming the group to 'Llantwit Major Support Group', thus supporting the development of the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed members that many businesses and organisations were invited to attend the quarterly meetings however (of the current membership) only half the representative came to the Meetings.

Councillor Foster stated that feedback was required from representatives from the town as the way forward. Need innovative ideas but must be aware of the financial constraints of the next financial year.

Councillor Dr Dickson stated that to move forward would it be a good idea to liaise with the Vale Planning Place team and use their expertise.

Mr Hunt stated the Town Study Steering Group has been in place for many years. What we do in the group is interesting and we should use the group as a focus point as to how we can make our town better than it already is.

Mr Neate queried what organisations had been invited to join the group in the past and felt a name change for the group was required.

Councillor Dr Dickson requested that as a way to move forward we invite the 3 representatives from the Vale Place Making Team to meet with Councillors. They then work with us, to look at a way forward, to get the Committee functioning to help the needs of our town.

Recommended: That an email be written to the Creative Communities Team requesting that members from the Place Making Team meeting with representatives from the Town Council to suggest and find ways to move forward with the Town Study Steering Group Committee whilst incorporating the Place Making Plan.

Update from Community Engagement Administrator

The Community Engagement Administrator advised members that she had over 13 food and drink stalls booked on the These3Streams/Food and Drinks Festival on the 10th/11th June 2023. She confirmed that following a meeting with Sarah Jones from the Events Team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council they had agreed to assist with advertising the events on their various social media platforms.

Louise Taylor confirmed that the Town Council had taken over Stradling Park. A large area of the park had been cleared and fenced off by SMK Builders. She stated she was now in the process of liaising and working with local organisations / schools at projects to develop areas of Stradling Park into a community garden for the town.

The Midwell Site, by West Street Pool had been cleared, hedgerows re planted and the next stage of this project would start to be looked at soon.

Louise Taylor stated it was important to look at further ways of promoting events not only in Llantwit Major but neighbouring areas.

Mr Hunt asked if Llantwit Major still had a Town Crier.

Recommended: That all What's on Events (e.g., publicising the Food and Drinks festival) be advertised on Bro Radio, Llantwit Major Hub, social media sites, in the Glamorgan Star. Mr Hunt agreed for leaflets detailing events to be placed in all his stores throughout the Vale of Glamorgan.

To note update on 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 stated they had been successful in gaining a grant to undertake the following Projects:

1. The purchase of an additional blue plaque for Dovecot, purchase of new plaques to replace those that are beyond repair and the refurbishment of the St Illtyds Church Plaque. **The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the plaques were in production with Leander Architectural Design Ltd.**
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. **The Deputy Town Clerk confirm that the Metal Storage Shed and canvas marquee had been purchased and had been delivered to the Town Council. The inflatable Marquee had been ordered and expected delivery date is the end of May 2023. She informed members that the canvas Marquee would be used for the first time at the Food and Drinks Festival in June 2023. The Town Council will be reviewing the policies involved in hiring marquees out to organisations etc for external events over the future months.**

To note further update on CCTV Cameras

Committee members had previously been circulated with an email dated 18th April 2023 detailing the update on the installation and operational usage of the new CCTV cameras in the Town Centre. Noted.

To discuss further Report on State of Pavements in Llantwit Major

Committee members had previously been circulated with a report detailing the state of the pavements in Llantwit Major. Councillor Deakin informed members he had been raising concerns re the state of Llantwit Major's pedestrian pavements since 2018. He thanked Nathan Thomas from the Vale of Glamorgan for his response reference a specific pavement in the town however he felt this made no real difference to the overall issue. He felt strongly that something needs to be done to prevent further accidents to pedestrians.

Recommended: That a copy of Councillor Deakins Report be forwarded to Mr Michael Clogg, Operational Manager Engineering , Vale of Glamorgan Council to continue to raise members concerns about the state of pavement throughout the town.

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.

The Committee Members agreed that the following projects be removed from the Action Tracker:

Digital Notice Board
Electric Car Charging Points
CCTV camera installation

Recommended: That a letter be written to the Vale of Glamorgan Council requesting that formal notices be erected on the Electric Car Charging Points in Llantwit Major stating that vehicle owners will be fined if they park in these dedicated areas and are not charging their cars.

Date of Next Meeting.

The date of the next Hybrid Town Study Steering Group Meeting will be advised following the Annual Meeting held on the 11th May 2023.