

MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 8 July 2024 at 6:00 pm at Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Nick Simmons, Peter Adamson, Chris Hill, Josh Rawcliffe and Ralph Henderson.

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk)

Apologies: Rob Phillips, Mark Lewis.

Absent: None.

Other: Neil (TAFY/Town in Bloom contractor)

25. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Rob Phillips and Mark Lewis.

26. Declarations of interest or dispensations

Ralph Henderson – Member of Abertillery Aspirations (item 5b)

Chris Hill – Member of Abertillery Aspirations (item 5b)

27. Minutes – 10 June 2024

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes, with the amendment of the start time from “18:00 am” to “18:00”, are a true and correct record.

28. Town in Bloom TAFY Update

Neil provided a document giving an update on TAFY’s recent activities, and discussed this with the Committee.

- a. Neil confirmed that all of the tubs have now been planted and apologised for the delay. He also discussed actions still outstanding: moving the tubs from Aberbeeg roundabout to new locations, moving a tub from Royal Oak to a new location, and re-planting four tubs at Gelli Crug free of charge (which were accidentally emptied despite being community tubs).
- b. Neil provided costs for new tubs:
 - Basic half barrel planters - £45
 - Soil, feed & watergel - £16
 - Plants (annual cost) - £42
 - Delivery & Maintenance - Included in contract
- c. Neil confirmed that all of the hanging baskets had been filled with soil and would be planted this week. They will begin hanging them w/c 15th July at the latest. A new water bowser and extendable lance had been acquired to water these baskets. Neil also stated that Blaenau Gwent CBC will be providing baskets on Somerset Street, meaning there will be spare ALCC baskets that can be positioned elsewhere.

Initials:

Date:

- d. Neil confirmed that TAFY will re-plant the four tubs at Gelli Crug free of charge. The Committee discussed issues with communication regarding community tubs and **RESOLVED** for all Town in Bloom issues to be reported to the officers to be dealt with by them, not by individual Councillors.

Neil Hirst left the meeting.

29. Town in Bloom

- a. The Committee **RESOLVED** to reduce the annual maintenance cost of £75 per tub by a quarter for the four tubs at Gelli Crug, bringing the allocation down from £300 to £225, since TAFY will be re-planting them free of charge.

Cllr Chris Hill and Cllr Ralph Henderson left the Chambers.

- b. The Committee **RESOLVED** to remove the four tubs in storage from the central contract, and to move them to St. Michael's Church for Abertillery Aspirations to adopt.

Cllr Chris Hill and Cllr Ralph Henderson returned to the Chambers.

- c. The Committee **RESOLVED** to fit ALCC plaques to any tubs missing them.
- d. The Committee **RESOLVED** to defer discussing plans for new hanging basket locations until a definitive list of current baskets has been provided by TAFY.

30. Defibs

Molly Jones confirmed that two new defibrillators were installed in June – one at Caffi Tyleri and one at Aberbeeg Tyres. The installations went smoothly and they have been advertised on social media. Due to this, the defibrillator allocation for 2024-2025 has been fulfilled.

The Committee questioned whether to begin discussing possible locations for next year. The Clerk encouraged this as the proposed locations can be presented to the Finance Committee during the budget-setting process. The Committee requested a map of current defibrillators to facilitate this discussion.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to action the officers to create a map of all 24/7 publicly accessible defibrillators in the area and to publicise this.

31. Bleed Kits

Molly Jones provided information about providing publicly-accessible bleed kits in the community. They are suggested to be positioned in areas with a high risk of blade crimes, and need to be easily accessible due to the speed required for treatment. The Committee would also need to consider ways to provide training to the public.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to action the officers to investigate the costs involved, the lifespan of the kits and other relevant information to feedback at the next meeting.

32. 20mph roads

The Committee discussed the best approach to providing feedback to Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council during the initial consultation in September. It was debated whether to proceed via suggestions from the 20mph Working Group, or whether to gather public opinion on the issue.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree a motion to publicise a general consultation to gather public opinion on roads in the area that should change from 20mph to 30mph, and

Initials:

Date:

that the consultation must make it clear that our Council is not responsible for making these changes.

33. Car Scheme Update

Molly Jones explained that the £1,000 given to the Bridges Car Scheme is being used to subsidise journeys for passengers in the Council area. A 25% subsidy is being applied to these journeys. In June, this resulted in 5 passengers receiving the subsidy over 8 journeys, resulting in a total of £24 saved.

The Committee asked if the scheme was being advertised in local GP practices. Molly Jones confirmed that the scheme co-ordinator was beginning to do this now there are more drivers to meet demand. The Committee requested to see the leaflets used for this, which the officers will request from the co-ordinator.

34. Planning (standing item)

No planning issues were reported.

35. Date of Next meeting

Monday 2nd September 2024 at 6pm.

Minutes produced by Molly Jones, Deputy Clerk.

The meeting ended at 7:21pm

Signed as a correct Record by the Chair.....

Date.....

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Date: