

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 28 May 2025
AT 5:36 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

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

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk), Erika Davies (Deputy Clerk) and Molly Jones (Deputy Clerk).

Absent: Mark Lewis, Rob Phillips and Nick Simmons.

Other: Ivor Beynon.

Note: There was an issue with Mark Lewis trying to join the meeting via a video link, the meeting could see and hear him but he could only see the meeting and not hear it. He explained his position concerning the moving of the tubs for Wales in bloom, that they should be put back after Wales in bloom was completed. He left before the meeting had started.

12. Apologies for Absence

Rob Phillips

13. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

14. Minutes 14 April 2025

The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes were a true and correct record.

15. Wales Bloom

Ralph Henderson gave a brief update on the progress across the whole of the Council area.

The Committee **RESOLVED** the following:

- To move the tubs for the Wales in Bloom project as per the attached report, so that tubs are clustered along the Wales In Bloom judging route.
- The Officers to find out the cost of TAFY doing the move
- The location of the tubs will be considered after Wales In Bloom when a full review of all tubs locations will be carried out.

16. Parking Issues at Abertillery Comprehensive

Councillors Barrie Page and Rob Phillips had met with the Vicki Whitefoot (Deputy Head of the school) and Katherine Rees (BGCBC traffic management and road safety) The school had already tried various solutions.

Tried to set up cycle proficiency classes to encourage pupils to cycle to school.

They had tried a “walking bus” which was successful at the beginning when it was managed by school staff but there was then a lack of parental volunteers to carry this on.

Initial:

Date:

School times were being staggered but that raised an issue with younger/older siblings not entering and leaving school at the same time.

The school saw this as a matter for parental education about the impacts of parking at the school.

Chris Hill asked if Jackson Powell (Youth Councillor) could feed back to the Abertillery Learning Campus Senedd, so that information could be relayed back to parents.

It was stated by the Clerk that the Community had no powers to make any changes to highways and could not employ its own traffic wardens to help with the issue. Josh Rawcliffe asked the officers to look into if having the General Power of Competence would give us any further powers to help with this issue.

Whilst it was acknowledged this was an impossible issue to deal with as there is a culture of parents driving their children to school, it was pointed out that pressure could be brought to bear on BGCBC to increase the number of traffic wardens (currently 2 for the whole borough area) if people reported formally any parking violations they saw direct to BGCBC.

The Chair advised that any illegal or dangerous parking should be reported via the Police's Operation Snap website. The Council will ;publish this information in our next newsletter and on social media.

17. Parking at Abertillery Job Centre

Erika Davies gave a brief update following a reply we had received from the Job Centre Manger that the Car Park was for staff only and was not open to visitors. The Committee **RESOLVED** that the Officers would contact DWP at a higher level above the Centre Manager, to see if there was any national guidelines for the use of DWP car parks for its customers.

18. Abertillery Railway Station Update

There was brief discussion about the continuing need for a railway station in Abertillery. The Committee **RESOLVED** to invite Nick Smith MP and BGCBC borough Councillors to a specific meeting with this Committee to discuss the provision of an Abertillery Railway Station

19. Date of Next Meeting

As needed.

The meeting ended at 6:30 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

Signed as a correct record by the Chair:.....

Dated:.....