

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATE

1. TOWN TEAM

Cllr Konieczny and the Town Clerk met with the three members of the Town Team on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to have an overview of the first 12 months of the team being in post. Ivan, Mark and Dennis have established themselves as a close-knit team that work well around the town centre and have been able to provide a reactive service, tackling some problem areas and taking on projects that would not have been possible without the formation of this team.

Currently the team empty 130 bins on a Mon/Wed/Fri and have ad hoc days Tues/Thurs. They have moved some bins where they can see it would work better in a more prominent location, and replaced older bins with new where they can. At the adventure park on Old Hereford Road two bins have now been installed – one inside by the picnic benches, one outside by the gate – to combat constant issues with broken glass and litter. The public that use the area have thanked the team for this work and the improvements it has already made. One point raised by the Town Team is the large variety of colours the bins are around the town. They asked if they should all be painted one colour, and would like feedback on what this should be.

Drains: The pedestrianised areas have narrow drain gully's built in to take away surface water into larger drains below, but these have never been properly maintained. The Town Team will start a rolling programme of assessing and cleaning these on earlier shifts to enable the flushing through over the winter months. Once this has been completed, annual maintenance and checks will be scheduled.

Street Furniture: A rolling programme to remove and refurbish the benches around town will be started shortly. Some of the older benches with blue metalwork need repainting and the wooden slats may need replacing on some. The larger 'sleeper' benches around Brewery Yard will have to be worked on in situ where possible.

Discussions will be held with MCC as to where this work can be carried out.

Training: Ivan and Dennis have their manual handling training on 27<sup>th</sup> Oct, Mark is already up to date in his. They have requested first aid training and to have a more comprehensive first aid kit on the work van as they have had a few incidents where they have assisted members of the public that have had falls. Jet wash training has been requested to enable use of more powerful equipment which will be of use when working on the drains. Flail Arm and chainsaw training has also been listed to enable larger jobs to be carried out or faster reaction to emergencies like trees coming down during inclement weather.

The team have a £10k budget factored into the agreement we have with MCC to enable them to purchase items needed to carry out jobs around the town. This includes purchasing the necessary equipment which they have a store for in town. ATC will check how much is left in this year's budget to enable the Town Team to come up with a wish list which can then be prioritised. We can then monitor this to enable the team to allow for review and to look at when to purchase larger items or equipment.

## 2. DOG BINS / DOG FOULING

When talking to the Town Team it was brought up that there has been a significant increase in dog fouling incidents throughout the pedestrianised areas in the town centre. The Team get challenged daily by the public as to why they aren't 'picking this up', which they do clear incidents as and when they spot them, and have challenged individuals early morning which seems to be a key time that this is happening. MCC had a new poster campaign which highlights that 'any bin will do' so this may be worth having displayed on the electronic notice boards in town and possibly asking for korex board signs to be put in certain locations for a short length of time.

The dog bin contract has been out to tender and through the first round of mediation and assessment. Further information and clarification has been requested from the two submissions, but it was discussed if this doesn't give MCC the information required to oversee the contract it will have to be re-advertised in three months' time. 8 companies showed an interest, but only two made submissions, so the Procurement Team at Cardiff can look to see what may have been a barrier to some in making a submission. In the meantime, we can continue month to month with our current provider.

The Dog Fouling Working Group will be meeting Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 online so an update on the PSPOs and its next phase of consultation should be available for update at the next Environment Meeting.

## 3. TOILETS SLA

No further information has been forthcoming from Debra Hill-Howells (Head of Property, Fleet & Facilities) at MCC on the final draft of the SLA since our meeting with her on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The spread sheet provided by the Facilities Managers, Jan Baldwin and Anthony Berrington, which was requested to enable ATC to see what our contribution goes towards, is likely to need updating again with the increase in costs across the board, including the imminent wage rise as well as materials. An email asking if we had received anything further was received from Jan Baldwin on 28<sup>th</sup> September and she was going to chase this again with Deb Hill-Howells. The invoice for £45k plus vat remains unpaid due to the agreement that this would not be processed until ATC were in receipt of a SLA.

There has been an increase in vandalism in the toilets, including graffiti, which gets reported but not removed. There is no mechanism to show how or when anything gets reported by a cleaner on site, and we receive no communication back when we report something ourselves. One recent incident at Bailey Park Toilets saw a child have their forehead cut by a lock which fell off a door onto them, in front of a cleaner, who simply said that faults are reported but nothing ever gets done. An update on this being investigated has been asked for but not yet received.