

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

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

TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

1. COLLABORATION WORK WITH MCC GROUNDS TEAM

A meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> October to sit down with Head of Grounds Nigel Leaworthy and his team from Llanfoist depot to discuss progressing projects at the Bus Station and Gabb Square. The original plans were drawn up based on designs from Sarah Price Landscapes so these will be looked at with MCC in order to ascertain whether there is merit in carrying them out as planned, and in what timeframe.

2. A40 BUS STOP ALTERATIONS

Paul Keeble and Mark Hand have been invited to deliver an update to Abergavenny Town Council on the proposed changes to the bus stops on the A40 by Penypound/Tesco. The tender proposals and final designs should be finalised this month, so they will likely give a verbal update either at Full Council on 12<sup>th</sup> October or at Environment on 26<sup>th</sup> October.

3. BUS STATION

Complaints had been received in the TIC regarding the lack of any bus timetables at the Bus Station, and after emails being sent on to Richard Cook from Passenger Transport an update was received to say new signage is being installed from 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Staff in the Hub have access to timetables but no communication or information was made available to ourselves or the TIC to inform where we should direct people. This has been fed back to MCC.

4. DOG EXERCISE ZONE, BAILEY PARK

The Town Clerk had a meeting with the Head of Grounds regarding the item from a previous Environment Committee meeting about a fenced in dog exercise area in Bailey Park. The area ATC asked about is the former Lido site. This is currently used by the 7Corners outreach on a Friday and Saturday night, where they bring in their caravan and set up here to work with the youths in the park. Ange Sampson had asked MCC if there was any way the mural wall and the garages could be allocated as urban art spaces for her to work on projects with those who may otherwise cause damage elsewhere by tagging street furniture and walls in other parts of the town. Nigel Leaworthy has agreed to this in principle, as there are no funds to turn that area into a dog exercise field.

With the PSPO consultation and likely changes to where dogs will be allowed in the park, this is seen as a more achievable project for this area. A report on this proposal is due to be presented to People and Communities in November.

5. 20MPH ZONES

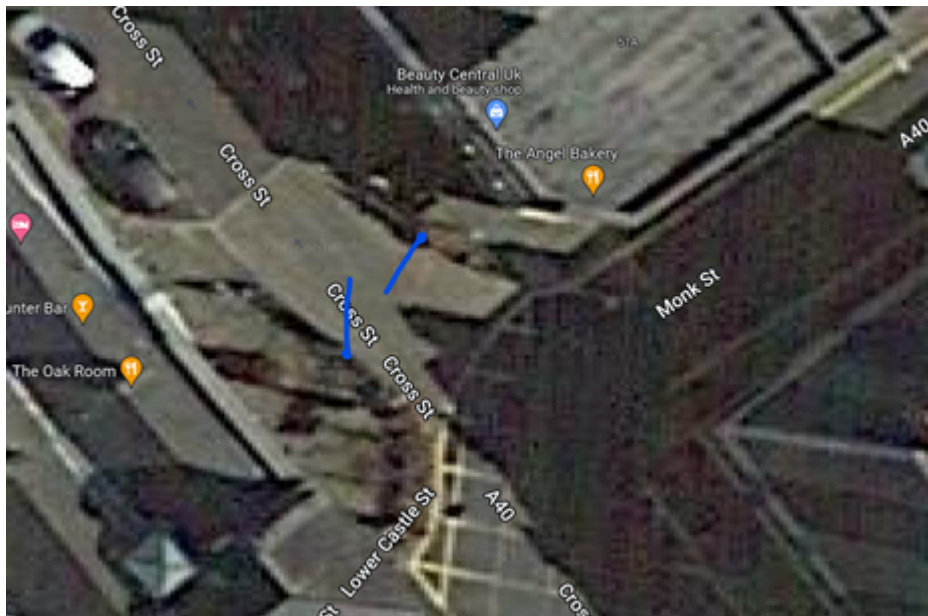
A report had been circulated showing the pilot will now be rolled out across Wales. There are powers for unitary authorities to assess if roads need to remain at 30MPH.

The Clean Air Act is the main reason behind this policy, and a link to the Tyre Collective website was also shared to enable Councillors the opportunity to read evidence behind the improvements to air quality when speeds are reduced. Pinch-points around the town have been improved by the 20MPH zones.

## 6. ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

An update has been requested from Paul Sullivan, Nick Tulp and Duncan Thompson at MCC / MonLife regarding the implementation of the Active Travel plans for Abergavenny. It is understood the planning permission for the bridge will expire in March 2023, so an update has been requested on this plus news on any investigations into gates and surfaces for Castle Meadows as per the meeting held with stakeholders back in July.

We have been asked if, in principle, we would support a change to the gates at The Angel Hotel on Cross Street (see picture below):



The provisional thought was to not change the gates, but to have them slightly ajar leaving a 1.5m gap, and as such only very minor works (installing a second drop bolt onto the gate) are needed to implement the scheme – this is to combat the nuisance of these barriers for cyclists and therefore the conflict caused by bikes having to mix with pedestrians if they have to mount the pavement either side of these gates when they are closed. This has not formed part of the formal consultation at this point. Feedback has been requested.

## 7. RIVERS RESPONSE

ATC received a presentation from Kim Waters on the state of the River Usk and it was proposed a response be discussed. Kim offered to take Councillors on a walk of the affected areas to help ATC better understand the issues, which would be beneficial before formulating a response. The Town Clerk would like to have any expressions of interest so that this can be arranged and work can be carried out on the response to these issues from ATC.