

ABERGAVENTNY TOWN COUNCIL

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

1. EVENTS UPDATE

- Black Mountain Jazz Festival will be taking place 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November at various locations around the town. Mike Skilton has been in touch, requesting the sponsorship payment for this year's event. A report from the last Festival is attached for your information (Appendix A)
- Pride 2023: After the success of this year's event, the small group of organisers are looking at all options for the event in 2023, including the possibility of taking this to Bailey Park, or staying at the Priory for another year. A request has been made to bring a report to ATC as soon as the date is decided upon for next year to enable better organisation of suitable decorations around the Town Hall. It is likely a grant request or sponsorship application will be submitted for your consideration towards the end of this year.
- ATC have been approached to consider organising community dance night once a month in the Market Hall. Although not practical at present, it may be something to consider approaching the Borough Theatre about in future when they reopen.
- Race Across Cycling Event 2023 is hoping to gain support from ATC, local businesses and MCC to enable the event to happen and utilise Abergavenny as a start point for phase 3 of the race, plus a 24-hour check-point for riders to rest, shower, eat and sleep before taking on the next phase of the 2500km race.
- The Town Clerk is looking to facilitate an online Events Meeting again shortly, to bring together event organisers to see how summer has gone, what's planned for autumn/winter, and to get forward planning on 2023 events for the town. This is usually a one-hour online meeting to enable as many businesses and event organisers to take part early evening – MCC officers from ESAG, Visit Monmouthshire team and other related departments are also invited if they wish to attend.

2. Sight Loss Awareness Training:

At the last P&C meeting ATC received a presentation from Esther Weller about Abergavenny becoming a Sight Loss Friendly Town. Training was offered, either online or in person. Please can you indicate to the Town Clerk if you would be interested in this training, and in which format, to enable arrangements to be made for this to take place as soon as possible.

3. Breast Cancer Awareness Day Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

A presentation from Emma Wilkins from ABUHB about increasing the profile in Abergavenny of Breast Cancer Awareness, and she asked if we would consider promoting this by asking businesses to go pink on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Emma indicated

that previously other towns have encouraged this by offering a prize for the best dressed Pink Window. With time being tight for this to be properly rolled out, it is suggested that for this year we simply put out a request to businesses to consider dressing their windows Pink for this date, and we can ask the Borough Theatre Technician if we are able to turn the town hall windows/mezzanine level pink with lighting as we have for other national initiatives.

#### 4. Shopmobility Visit

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> and Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, Dave Overland from Shopmobility has arranged for Felicity Baker to take out up to 4 Councillors at either 9:30am or 2pm to experience the benefits and issues that scooter users encounter. This is in response to the Promobility Group presenting to the committee to highlight the work they do in tackling issues they have in and around the town. This visit to Shopmobility will also be covered by The Chronicle to show what an important facility is provided by Dave and his team of volunteers.

#### 5. Twinning enquiry

In August, Abergavenny Rotary Club hosted visitors from Jaroslaw Rotary Club from Poland. Abergavenny Rotary have been working with their counterparts in Jaroslaw to ship out supplies to Ukraine as the town is on the border. At one of the events which representatives from ATC were invited to attend, it was asked if Abergavenny would consider twinning with Jaroslaw in the future. Cllr Anne Wilde has brought this to the attention of the Town Clerk, but at this point it must be stressed this is simply an enquiry as to whether this would be a possibility and if we would support this in a civic capacity as we do with twinning committees/working groups for Beaupreau, Ostringen, and Dombashawa.

#### 6. Fire Station Recruitment Drive

Station Commander Mike Hill has been in touch to ask for ATC's assistance to raise awareness of the on-call fire station we have here in Abergavenny. They have started a new recruitment drive, and asked if we would be willing to share and promote this for them. MCC Cllrs Powell and McConnel have already agreed to share information in their respective newsletters to residents.

#### 7. Changing Places Toilet Provision

ATC had discussions and investigated in late 2021 the possibility of where a Changing Places toilet facility could be located in Abergavenny. To date MCC are unable to suggest a suitable location, however there is a fully equipped Changing Places facility in the My Day My Life building on Tudor Street. It is unlikely that the facility is going to reopen. In the meantime, ATC have been contacted by a family whose daughter requires the use of such a facility in order to be able to visit town, be it for a shopping trip, or one of the many events now back up and running in the town. In England, funding is provided to set up such a facility. The funding in Wales is not available at present. Beth Foden kindly shared her daughter's story with ATC – please follow this link:

<https://www.changing-places.org/news/view/bethan-and-lowris-campaign-for-changing-places-in-nottingham>

Beth and her daughter, Lowri, have offered to share their story and experience with us, including the way in which they raised awareness of the benefit of such facilities in the Principality Stadium, St David's Shopping Centre, and the one they have in the Senedd. They have offered to visit ATC and explain how this facility would benefit the town.