

FULL COUNCIL 14th APRIL 2021

ABERGAVENNY ADOPT A GARDEN SCHEME PILOT

1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide more detail on the operation of the adopt a garden scheme pilot

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Abergavenny Adopt a Garden Scheme project has been in the Town Council's Strategy & Action Plan for some time but has not been implemented. This is due to the potential complexities around identifying participants, safeguarding and administration requirements.
- 2.2 The recent Allotments and Community Gardens Scheme highlighted potential homeowners with a garden to share and injected new impetus into establishing this pilot.

3. WAY FORWARD

- 3.1 There have been several recent developments which potentially provide solutions to enable this project to go ahead. These are as follows:
- [Our Monmouthshire](#) platform provides an opportunity to manage the pilot online and to undertake background checks on participants. For individuals that do not use or have access to IT, the Town Council can set up a sub account. The Town Clerk has discussed this pilot with MadeOpen staff who manage the Our Monmouthshire platform and a way forward has been agreed.
 - Listing on Our Monmouthshire would include details of the scheme and ground rules. There would also be a specially developed online form for participants to fill in on to provide more details of the garden/gardening types.
 - There is capacity in the Admin Assistant post to undertake monitoring of the pilot, ie checking in with participants to ensure that there are no issues
- 3.2 It is suggested that Town Clerk in conjunction with Made Open, MCC officers and Volunteering for Wellbeing staff develop the ground rules, a participant agreement setting out what is expected from the different parties and an online form to gather information and launch the pilot as soon as it is feasible to do so.
- 3.3 The pilot scheme would run for 12 months. If the use of Our Monmouthshire is successful, the scheme could be rolled out across Monmouthshire with different C&TCs/organisations undertaking the management role. For this reason, it will be called Abergavenny Adopt a Garden scheme from the outset.
- 3.4 The scheme will be promoted through social media, existing networks eg Abergavenny Community Trust and through printed media.
- #### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS
- 4.1 To approve the use of Our Monmouthshire platform to advertise and manage the Abergavenny Adopt a Garden pilot