

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE MELVILLE CENTRE, ABERGAVENNY ON WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllr T Konieczny (Chair)
Cllr R Harris
Cllr S Burch
Cllr D Simcock
Cllr N Tatam
Cllr T Davies
Cllr G Jones

Absent without apologies

Cllr M Lewis

In attendance:

J Lee (Town Clerk)
Oliver Barton (Chair Friends of Linda Vista Gardens) for part of the meeting

Public Session

No public session

ENV61/19	Receive and approve apologies for absence Apologies were received from Cllrs M Harris and L Van de Vyver and it was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.
ENV 62/19	Receive Declarations of Interest Cllr R Harris is a member of MCC Planning Committee. He took no part in the decision making and voting on planning applications and acted, where required, in a factual advisory capacity Cllr Konieczny declared a personal interest in the planning application DM/2020/00198 as he holds the position of Vice Chair of the Friends of Gunter Mansion and the planning application relates to a retail unit within the Gunter Mansion building.
ENV 63/19	Receive a presentation from Oliver Barton, Chair of Friends of Linda Vista Gardens

	<p>Members received an informative presentation from Oliver Barton on the activities being undertaken in Linda Vista Gardens to restore and enhance the formal garden and create wild areas. Points to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friends arrange regular work parties on a Thursday morning • Section 106 monies from Knoll Gardens development expected to be spent on repair to the machine store roof and repurposing of the interior including a cafe. Expecting confirmation of funding in April. MCC will undertake these works • Desire to reopen toilet block • Ongoing plans by Friends include more tree labelling and noticeboards to raise awareness and educate • Re planting of the bank below the house • Extend composting area • Approx 10 active volunteers • MCC pledged £300 a year to the Friends but this hasn't been paid since 2018/19 • MCC contract with Greenfingers for mowing and MCC empty bins and undertake some pruning • Gardens have suffered from some anti-social behaviour <p>Cllr Konieczny requested that Friends of Linda Vista Gardens continue to share their plans with the Town Council as the Town Council has a duty under Section 6 of the Environment Act to enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Oliver for his presentation and the work that Friends of Linda Vista Gardens undertake.</p>
ENV 64/19	<p>Receive and approve minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2020</p> <p>Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 29th January 2020</p>
ENV 65/19	<p>Receive the Town Clerk's Update</p> <p>Update noted</p>
ENV 66/19	<p>Consider and make recommendations regarding the following planning applications</p> <p>DM/2020/00133 – Recommend refusal as this infill development is not in accordance with the Infill SPG which states that the infill site should be large enough to accommodate the additional house and provide sufficient on-site parking and garden space similar to the provision of existing houses in the area. From the details submitted for this outline planning permission it does not appear that this consideration can be satisfied. The proposal to build a dwelling on this limited plot is likely to affect the privacy of neighbours and unlikely to satisfy the Council's normal privacy standard for new development that there should be minimum of 21m between directly facing elevations containing main habitable windows (i.e. bedrooms and living rooms).</p>

	<p>DM/2020/00145 – Recommend approval with the comment that the landscaping scheme could be revisited (or conditioned) to incorporate planting that increases biodiversity</p> <p>DM/2020/00080 – Recommend approval</p> <p>DM/2020/00086 – Recommend approval</p> <p>DM/2020/00198 – Recommend approval</p> <p>DM/2020/02068 & DM/2020/02069 - Recommend approval</p> <p>Resolved to write to MHA regarding DM/2020/00145 and more generally regarding increasing biodiversity.</p>
ENV 67/19	<p>Receive and approve the draft Heritage Fund application for the restoration of Bailey Park Gates and contribution of £10,000 from reserves</p> <p>Chair thanked the Town Clerk for her work in completing this application. Cllr Burch requested that the public concern about the current state of the gates is more strongly articulated.</p> <p>Resolved to contribute £10,000 from reserves towards this project.</p>
ENV 68/19	<p>Receive progress on the Protect and Enhance the Environment and Economically Thriving Town Action Tables</p> <p>Update noted</p>
ENV 69/19	<p>Consider additional actions for inclusion in the action tables</p> <p>Resolved that the Chair and Town Clerk should meet with Jeff Davies re the Greenspaces leaflet and bring a report back to the Committee</p>
ENV 70/19	<p>Report from Councillors attendance at external bodies relevant to this Committee</p> <p>The Town Clerk reported that the CCTV working group was held on 20th February with no representation from Abergavenny Town Council.</p> <p>Cllr Konieczny referred to several incidents of anti-social behaviour caused by a group of teenagers.</p> <p>Resolved to ask the Town Clerk to contact Andrew Mason, Community Safety Officer, MCC to discuss action being taken.</p>
ENV 71/19	<p>Report from County Councillor on matters affecting Abergavenny relevant to this Committee</p> <p>Cllr R Harris informed the meeting that MCC Full Council will be considering the LDP Preferred Strategy at the meeting the following week. There will also be a second call for candidate sites.</p>

	Cllr Jones asked Cllr R Harris whether MCC was adequately prepared to respond to the flooding. Cllr R Harris suggested that it was difficult to be prepared for flooding of the scale encountered but MCC has supported the communities throughout the county.
ENV 72/19	Items for consideration at the next meeting 25th March None

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.37pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN DATE