

PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP A TOWN CENTRE FORUM/PARTNERSHIP FOR ABERGAVENNY

BACKGROUND

The town of Abergavenny is a historic market town in the north of the county of Monmouthshire.

The town centre has the lowest vacancy rate of any town centre in Monmouthshire at 4% and below the Welsh average (13.4%) and UK average (10.3%). The town centre has recently been pedestrianised which has allowed for some cafes and restaurants to introduce outside seating bring colour and vibrancy to the town.

The time is right to ensure that the town capitalises on the many positive aspects and its 'new look' so that it continues to be a vibrant and prosperous town. Success will be limited if organisations work alone, however by working in partnership each partner brings different skills, perspective and funding.

The proposal to set up a Town Partnership is based on the rationale that there are opportunities to be had if efforts can be co-ordinated and opportunities for joint working identified.

NAME

The name of the partnership/forum to be agreed.

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

The scope of this partnership will initially be limited to the town centre. A boundary will not be identified.

PLAYERS

The **main** players and their main roles & responsibilities to the town are listed below:

- Businesses – to be responsible for their premises including contribution to the streetscape. To attract customers. To arrange for the removal of waste.
- Y Fenni Business Community – Arranges events, provides a contact point for public bodies to liaise with.
- Monmouthshire County Council – to keep the streets clean, to provide street lighting, to provide car parking, to provide and empty litter bins, to encourage visitors to the town, to be one of the partners in the provision of the Tourist Information Centre, owner and manager of a number of buildings including the Market Hall. Authority responsible for planning, licencing, civil enforcement etc.
- Abergavenny Town Council – partner in the provision of the Tourist Information, pays for CCTV in the town, significant contribution towards street cleaning, Christmas lights, bunting in the town centre, maintenance of replanting of planters, Abergavenny in Bloom, significant contribution to ensure public toilets in the town, financial sponsor of town festivals, organises events.
- Abergavenny & District Tourism Association – members promote the town through information available to guests at the accommodation, promotion of Abergavenny through the Visit Abergavenny brochure printed annually and Visit Abergavenny website.

AIM OF THE PARTNERSHIP

All partners have the same aim which is to ensure that Abergavenny continues to be a vibrant and viable town.

All partners are involved in activity that contributes to this aim. By working together and pooling resources whether this is people &/or financial resources more will be achieved.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERSHIP

- To exchange information and promote understanding
- To jointly identify and collaborate on new initiatives
- To plan an annual programme of events and associated promotion
- To increase understanding of individual organisations and what each can bring to the partnership
- To troubleshoot town centre issues
- To communicate the work of partnership
- To avoid duplication of effort & clash of events
- To provide a contact point for other organisations wanting to discuss town centre issues or run events in the town centre

OPERATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP

The partners will meet quarterly. Meetings will take place in the Town Hall. Time to be agreed.

The Chair of the Partnership will rotate on an annual basis. The Town Council will provide the secretariat.

MEMBERSHIP

As the purpose of this partnership is to make things happen, it is proposed that the core membership should be limited to enable the meetings to be focused and outcome driven. Other organisations and individuals can be invited to become involved on specific projects/topics.

Core membership is proposed as:

- Abergavenny Town Council – Town Clerk, Chair of Environment Committee
- Y Fenni Business Community – Chair & Secretary
- ADTA – Chair & Secretary
- Monmouthshire County Council - Officers? Councillor – which one suggest Cabinet member?

Other possible membership perhaps topic based rather than core?

- Tourist Information Centre – TIC officer
- Civic Society
- Team Abergavenny – does this include groups such as Spreading the Word?