

ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 23RD FEBRUARY 2022

TOWN CLERK UPDATE

1. SLA with MCC – Town Centre Toilets.

An email with a letter of complaint attached was sent to Paul Matthews, Chief Exec for MCC, on 1st February 2022. An email response acknowledging receipt of this complaint was then received from Paul Matthews that evening, stating the complaint will be looked in to by Deputy Chief Officer Frances O'Brien. No indication of timescales were given, and no further communication has been received.

The £16500 invoice for 21/22 toilet provision has been credited as it was issued to us in error. We are still awaiting any communication on what costs we are likely to face for this provision going forward.

2. Nature Isn't Neat – Pilot Area

On 10th February 2022 Cllr Tony Konieczny and the Town Clerk met with Stacey Delbridge and Elliot Waters from MCC to discuss how we can support the project. They have chosen Abergavenny as the target community in Monmouthshire in which to focus community engagement, raising awareness of the pollinator decline and the benefits of altered management of greenspaces. This project will be running across the whole of Gwent with a target community in each county. The project runs until March 2023, and Stacey wanted to look at how to approach various stakeholders in the town to open dialogue with them and engage through workshops and activities in the community.

Cllr Konieczny shared information on projects we have had success with, and the active Friends groups we have in the town. Cllr Konieczny also wanted to encourage involvement with schools, speaking about the Seed to Fork project at Our Lady and St Michaels, their Peace Garden, and how they would like to do more forest school activities, maybe with a 'Nature Isn't Neat' Woodland area. There is a lot of social capital in the town who would approve of improving the planting environment. Stacey and Elliot are still assessing areas around Abergavenny to see where they can have the most impact, and are considering looking at possible public consultation around Belgrave Park. They will be visiting Swan Meadows, the Community Orchard, and grassland on Ross Road in the coming weeks, and will come back to ATC when they have a better idea of what they want to look at in more detail.

3. Bailey Park – Byelaw enforcement for dogs on leads

An email was sent to various officers in MCC in Grounds, Waste and recycling, ASB and Community Partnership, and Enforcement, to ask for some support in enforcing the dogs on leads byelaw. Nigel Leaworthy is happy to look to resite signs if the current ones are not in prominent positions. However, Huw Owen, who is working on the PSPO consultation across all Monmouthshire regarding dog controls, has advised he is not aware of any byelaw in place for Bailey Park, and has not come across this in the 30 years of working in Monmouthshire. There is work ongoing for

new PSPO's to be consulted on in the coming months, which he feels will cover this issue.

4. Give Dog Fouling The Red Card Campaign

The Town Clerk attended the latest group meeting for this with other TCC's and representatives from MCC to discuss the ongoing campaigns across the county. They asked for suggestions on targeted action, and it has been decided to have a Day Of Action on Thursday 31st March 2022 at Castle Meadows, to include Llanfoist Fawr as lots of dog walkers come from new estates in that direction. This area was decided on due to the number of requests ATC receive for dog bins on the Meadow itself, and the rise in numbers of dog owners walking dogs here. Sue Parkinson and Helen Gomm from MCC will be present, and the Clerk would like to ask for support from Friends of Castle Meadows and Keep Abergavenny Tidy groups. Should anyone be available to assist on the day, please note we will of course be in Pre-Election Period by that point. Any publicity from this action will be worded as such to reflect the involvement of ATC as a whole.

25th March – 10th April is Spring Clean Cymru so this is also why we are holding the Action Day within this timeframe.

New dog waste collection contract is not out for tender just yet but when this goes out there are at least 3 companies which will be bidding, including the current provider, and MCC hope to have the new contract in place by June 2022. Our current costs go up to £6.50 per bin from 1st April 2022. Invoices now include VAT as of 1st December 2021.

Sue Parkinson is able to purchase spares for the Earth Anchor Bins if we would like to repair any of our current stock, to increase their lifespans. Sue has also asked if we would like to purchase dog bags at a cost of £40.70 for boxes of 5000, which may be useful to have for the Day Of Action to give out to dog owners.

Our dog bin provision will be going up to 39 shortly, with the installation of two new bins in conjunction with MHA at Ysguborwen, and the bin we will be inheriting from Llanwenarth Citra. Our invoice will be for 38 as MHA will be meeting the cost of the collection from one of the two new bins being installed.

5. Replacement Local Development Plan Update and Second Call for Candidate Sites Register.

MCC have issued an update on the current position and to notify us of the publication of the Second Call for Candidate Sites Register. Consultation on the RLDP Preferred Strategy took place in July and August 2021. Since that time, the Council has been considering the consultation responses received, in particular the Welsh Government's Planning Division response which raised some significant concerns regarding the proposed level of growth and the Strategy's 'general conformity' with policies 1 and 33 of the Future Wales: the National Plan 2040. On 14th December 2021, MCC officers took a report to a special meeting of the Council's Economy and Development Select Committee to invite Members to consider the implications of the Welsh Government Planning Division's proposed prescribed maximum growth level on Monmouthshire's communities and on addressing the locally evidence-based outcomes and objectives. The Planning Policy team is continuing to liaise with Welsh Government officials regarding these concerns and over the coming months

will be considering options for progressing the RLDP. These discussions, together with feedback from the Select Committee meeting, including input to that meeting from stakeholders and interested parties via the public forum, will help inform the Council on how it proceeds. A future report to Council in late Summer 2022 will present options for progressing the RLDP and will seek a Council decision on how to proceed.

Second Call for Candidate Sites Register :

The Council has compiled a register of candidate sites that were submitted during the Second Call for Candidate Sites which took place alongside the Preferred Strategy consultation in July – August 2021. The Candidate Sites Register is available to view on MCC's website. A paper copy is also available to view at County Hall, Usk, subject to Covid-19 restrictions*. Please note that the Register is for information purposes only and comments on the candidate sites will not be accepted at this stage. There will be an opportunity to comment on the Candidate Sites Register, and associated site assessments, at a later stage in the RLDP process. If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact the Planning Policy Team: Email: planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk Tel: 01633 644429

6. Green Infrastructure Landscaping project at Castle Street Car park.

Jane Clarke, Green Infrastructure Project Officer at MCC/MonLife has shared the latest proposals for Castle Street Car Park (Appendix 1). A community questionnaire was open for feedback on the latest proposals from the 15th – 21st February. The project is being funded by the Transforming Towns Project which is mostly being funded by Welsh Government.