

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 11TH MARCH 2020

TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive updates on actions arising from the previous meeting

2. UPDATE

Welsh Language

- 2.1 Outstanding action to send text for translation to Alan Burkitt, MCC

Invitation to Cllr J Pratt

- 2.2 Outstanding action for the Chair to send a letter to Cllr Jane Pratt

Feedback from Small Grants Recipients

- 2.3 Feedback has been received from the majority of grant recipients so a report will be available for the April Committee

Budget Virement

- 2.4 The virement from the Projects fund to the Christmas Lights Switch On Event has been completed

Local Government & Boundary Commission – Community Review

Monmouthshire

- 2.5 OVW Chief executive has sent a letter to Paul Matthews, Chief Exec, MCC



Letter CEO MCC
Review.docx

Mr Paul Matthews, Chief Executive,
Monmouthshire County Council,
County Hall,
The Rhadyr,
Usk,
NP15 1GA

2nd March 2020

Dear Mr Matthews

Community Boundary Review Monmouthshire

You will recall in May 2015 Monmouthshire County Council decided to postpone its Community Boundary review until after the elections in 2017 when it was understood that the newly elected Community & Town Councils would be given a further opportunity to comment on the draft proposals.

However, in May 2018 the draft proposals were ratified by the County Council without any further consultation with the local councils, who were then misinformed that the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission Wales (LDBCW) would consult with them prior to issuing its' final report.

This resulted a number of Community and Town Councils holding back their comments on the proposals erroneously waiting for LDBCW to consult with them.

As you can imagine those Community and Town Councils waiting to submit comments were incensed when in January 2019 the LDBCW published its report on the Review.

At that time One Voice Wales was advised by LDBCW that the only course of redress for Community and Town Councils was for them to submit their comments to the Local Government and Democracy Team of Welsh Government in the same way any member of the public had the right to comment on the LDBCW report within 6 weeks of it being published.

I understand a number of Community & Town Councils did at that time submit comments to Welsh Government.

Then at a meeting organised by LDBCW at the Rhadyr on 16th January 2020, to inform C&TCs of the process for a forthcoming Electoral Review of Monmouthshire, those Community and Town Council representatives present were informed that the Minister for Housing and Local Government, Welsh Government would be signing off the LDBCW Report on the Community Boundary Review of Monmouthshire and issuing an Order, without any changes.

This incensed a number of C & TCs who felt the Review to be undemocratic and flawed and so on behalf of the local councils I contacted Shereen Williams, CEO, LDBCW who informed me "As the review has now been completed and an Order to appear shortly, the options of recourse are limited. If a community/town council, or group of councils, is not happy with their community boundaries their first point of recourse under the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013 (the Act which superseded the 1972 Act) is to request that the Council conducts a fresh review".

Given that a number of Community and Town Councils had already made representations regarding their frustrations to my officers I canvassed the Monmouthshire Community and Town Councils to ask if they wanted One

Voice Wales as their national representative body to request on their behalf that your Council carry out a fresh review of the Community Boundaries.

A significant number asked that we do so emphasising their feelings of frustration over the way in which the review, published in a final report by LDBCW in January 2019, was conducted, a number of others whilst sharing the frustrations of those Councils who wish to request a fresh review were of the opinion that any request whilst desired would not be accommodated.

I would be happy to meet with you or speak with you regarding this matter and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Lyn Cadwallader, CEO

cc Shereen Williams, MBE, CEO, Local Democrat and Boundary Commission Wales.

Abergavenny Food Festival

- 2.6 Signing to be arranged between the Mayor and Chief Exec, Food Festival

Mobile Phone

- 2.7 Purchased, mobile number is 07473 977041 which is different the original number that was circulated. The landline in the Town Hall is forwarded to the mobile.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Report to be noted