ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY 2023

E 86/23: TOWN CLERK’S UPDATE

1. KEEP ABERGAVENNY TIDY

The grant approved previously has been actioned and the printing completed on the 25 vests donated by Monmouthshire County Council. The group had their AGM on 17th July in the Kings Arms, and the Town Council sent a message of thanks to all the volunteers who give their time to keep our town clean and litter free. The group reported back that there has been a significant increase in cigarette butts which they cannot pick up with their litter pickers, so two long handled dustpan and brush sets have been ordered by Abergavenny Town Council to assist them with this. They will be kept in the Town Hall and used on the monthly lotter [picks as well as any other community events. Figures from their monthly litter picks have been circulated for information. They will be carrying out a town wide litter pick on Sunday 30th July towards the Britain in Bloom efforts.

1. ACTIVE TRAVEL

Monday 17th July 2023 the Town Council facilitated a stakeholder meeting for MonLife and WSP to give an update on the proposals for the Active Travel Scheme involving Castle Meadows. 29 attended the meeting held in the Community Room and received a Power Point presentation from Paul Sullivan from the Active Travel Team (circulated for information along with notes taken form the evening). The meeting was chaired by Cllr Laura Wright, and a healthy debate was held allowing everyone the opportunity to ask questions of the Active Travel team and the consultants WSP, as well as Transport for Wales.

On Tuesday 18th July a drop-in session was held from 10am – 1pm in the Mayor’s Parlour for anyone unable to attend the Monday evening session, and for the public to call in and ask questions, as well as receive help if they wished to upload comments to the planning portal on the Monmouthshire website. Again, the Active Travel Officers were in attendance, senior Monmouthshire County Council highways officers, WSP and Town Councillors. There was a steady flow of people who made use of the opportunity to come along and ask more detailed questions of the whole group.

1. SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE FEASIBILTY GRANT

The following has been received from One Voice Wales and details a new Sustainable Drainage Feasibility Grant which may be useful for either the ren project for Castle Meadows, or the Water Moisture sensor project we have now got underway:

The Sustainable Drainage Feasiblity Grant, has been funded £450,000 by the Water Quality Capital Programme to support the development of small-scale sustainable urban drainage schemes or sustainable drainage schemes (collectively referred to as SuDS) in Wales.

**Key information:**

* NRW has developed a fund of £450,000 to be made available for feasibility development grants between £25,000 - £40,000.
* Applicants can ask for up to 100% of the project costs.
* NRW will consider value for money when they make decisions about using public money to deliver our policy.
* Match funding will be viewed favourably. Match funding can include: cash contribution, volunteer time and staff time.
* We're accepting applications from 19 June 2023 on the NRW website here: [**Natural Resources Wales / Current grant opportunities.**](https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/grants-and-funding/sustainable-drainage-feasibility-grant/?lang=en)
* Applicants must apply before midnight 23:59 on 25 September 2023.
* NRW aim to give applicants a decision on their application by December 2023.
* The final claim date will be 28 February 2025.
* Webinars for our external stakeholders and partners will be held on Monday 10th July. [**Register on our website.**](https://ymgynghori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/evidence-policy-and-permitting-tystiolaeth-polisi-a-thrwyddedu/sustainable-drainage-feasibility-webinar-eng/)

**Useful evidence sources:**

* [**Welsh Opportunity Catchments**](https://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/)
* Water Framework Directive (WFD) Regulations Protected Areas - [**river basin management plans 2021-2027: protected area register**](https://publish.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/water-reports/river-basin-management-plans/river-basin-management-plans-2021-2027-protected-area-register/?lang=en)
* Medium or high risk flood areas - [**check your flood risk by postcode**](https://publish.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/flooding/check-your-flood-risk-by-postcode/?lang=en)

**What we will Support with the Funding:**

NRW will fund feasibility studies that align with the following programme objectives:

1. To develop feasibility studies for retro-fit, small scale sustainable drainage/surface water management schemes that would manage rainwater, offer resilience for the sewerage networks and improve water quality.

1. Enhance biodiversity and ecology through nature-based solutions.

1. Provide health, well-being, and amenity benefits.

1. Support/embed collaboration with the community.

1. Include innovative or novel techniques that improve current approaches and provide new evidence.

1. Contribute to reduction of carbon emissions.

The project must also be in Wales - for any cross-border proposals, we will consider only the Welsh element.