ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

E22/24: PRINCIPAL OFFICER’S UPDATE

1. ABERGAVENNY IN BLOOM/WALES IN BLOOM

The next Abergavenny in Bloom meeting will be held on Friday 1st March 2024 at 2:30pm, and all Councillors have been invited. A rough agenda has been circulated to help us work through the next steps for all the groups which are submitting on their own and as part of the wider In Bloom entry. The Wales in Bloom entry fee has been held at £165 for the Town Category which we still fall under.

John Woods met with the Principal Officer and representatives from Abergavenny in Bloom to visit the Angel Hotel to discuss the award ceremony for 13th September. Due to limited capacity, numbers will be restricted to 156 in total. This includes 12 for Wales in Bloom, and 24 for Abergavenny in Bloom. Ticket costs for the award ceremony will be £22.50 per person. This includes a £2.50 fee which Wales In Bloom ask for on top of the cost for the meal and other sundries we need to cover. Sponsorship ideas have been coming in, and will be discussed further at the next Abergavenny in Bloom meeting.

As part of last year’s submission we launched the water monitoring scheme, and the water butt has now been ordered which will be installed outside Morgan’s Solicitors. It will have a 380ltr capacity and will have a planter on the top to help stabilise it:

<https://www.ecosure.co.uk/acatalog/Big-City-Water-Butt-Planter---Sandstone.html#aBIGCITY_2dSS>

The water sensor dashboard is now live on our website for anyone to access via the Abergavenny in Bloom page:

<https://abergavennytowncouncil.gov.uk/live-dashboard/>

As a result of the sustainability award and this project, the Principal Officer has been invited to join a panel at the Smart City Conference in Wrexham on 15th March to talk about the benefits of the project, alongside Blaenau Gwent CBC and Conwy CBC, which will help to showcase how the minor authorities can have as much of an impact as larger when using such technology.

1. PLANNING AID WALES

The Principal Officer will shortly have access to the back office portal to assist Councillors who are struggling to complete the training “Introduction to Planning”. The following link was sent to all Town Councillor’s emails:

\*In order for us to comply with GDPR regulations, you will first need to complete and agree to sharing your data with us.

Please click the link to complete: <https://planningaidwales.org.uk/data-agreement/>

Once you have completed and retuned this GDPR form, you then get sent a log in for your portal, which is accessed via:

<https://training.planningaidwales.org.uk/my-account/>

So far, the following have completed the training:

Maurice Barnes

MaryAnn Brocklesby

Anne Wilde

Jax Postoyalko

Those who have signed the GDPR form but not signed into their portal:

Sara Burch

Martyn Groucutt

Kyle Eldridge

Jay Shipley

David Simcock

Gareth Wilde

Gethin Jones

James George

This does not take into account anyone who may have signed up using their own personal email. If anyone has done this, please inform the Principal Officer as soon as possible so records can be updated.

Those who have signed up but not completed the training, can request a reset of their log in by emailing Deb Jeffries at Planning Aid Wales:

Deb Jeffreys - Community Engagement & Development Officer

Tel: 02920 625004 email: [deb@planningaidwales.org.uk](mailto:deb@planningaidwales.org.uk)

This training is modular, it does not have to be completed in one sitting, and once completed a certificate is issued to acknowledge this.

Should anyone be struggling with this training, please contact the Principal Officer and a session can be arranged in the Mayors Parlour to help everyone complete the course.