ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

E34/24: PRINCIPAL OFFICER’S UPDATE

1. NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

The Principal Officer is working with Kim Waters form Wales Rivers Union to track down and contact the most appropriate person to address Council on their issues around the health of the River Usk. The Council may wish to consider holding a meeting for other groups to attend and address with questions submitted in advance, to enable more concerned parties the opportunity to address a representative form Natural Resources Wales. With permission the Principal Officer would like to investigate this further, and report back in due course.

1. Floodplain Meadow Talk

Caroline O’Rourke has approached the Gwent Green Grid Partnership to do a talk about her floodplain meadow project to the LNP members in Gwent. Friends of Castle Meadows have been contacted as an interested party, and we have been approached to assist in facilitating a hybrid meeting as this may be hosted online by Elliot Waters from Monmouthshire County Council (Nature isn’t neat Project Officer). This will enable those who are not confident with technology to join as a group here in the parlour or community room. The dates being discussed are 17th or 18th April at present, at 5/6pm. Once this has been confirmed, the Principal Officer has asked for the invite to be extended to all Town Councillors who may also be interested in attending.

1. Keep Abergavenny Tidy

The volunteers at Keep Abergavenny Tidy have always been covered by Keep Wales Tidy’s public liability insurance for their litter picks. This came to an end 29th February 2024, and they were not informed of this change until after the policy change had come into effect. The group contacted the Principal Officer, and using delegated powers, representatives went to a local insurance broker to get a quote for an annual policy to cover all the volunteers to continue carrying out their litter picks. The cost of £130 was deemed acceptable, and this will be processed by provision of powers under the litter act1983 ss5, 6.

1. Abergavenny in Bloom

Through the water sensor project that launched in June 2023, Abergavenny Town Council were invited to participate in the world’s first Smart Town Conference in Wrexham on 15th March 2024. The Principal Officer and Cllr Bowyer attended, and made some useful contacts with members of Welsh Government and other smart technology providers.

The power point slides and case study have been circulated for your attention. Our thanks to Menter Mon who were our hosts, Owen Davies Consultancy who also presented, and SenseAbility who supported our presentation.

Possible projects to consider in future are air quality monitors which can be built by school children then installed around their schools to monitor air quality at peak times, and the information around weather stations and their accuracy.