ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

PC05/24: EVENTS REPORT

1. REMEBRANCE PARADE 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

The event was well attended despite poor weather, with over 40 wreaths being laid around the War Memorial. Road closures carried out between our own stewards who carried out the town centre closures, and Monmouthshire Highways operatives who looked after the A40. First aid cover provided by St Johns Ambulance, who dealt with the gentleman that collapsed outside the Town Hall quickly and efficiently. Radios hired for the event worked well. Security cover to ensure safety of MP professionally carried out. Refreshment offer in Town Hall was very well attended by both participants from the parade and observers, if offered again may want to reconsider how this is laid out to enable better flow of people around the space in the community rom and mezzanine floor in the library. Complaint from MP regarding protestors at the parade dealt with swiftly and effectively by the Royal British Legion Abergavenny Branch.

1. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON EVENT 18TH NOVEMBER 2023

Team of 20 stewards to cover event plus 3 St Johns Ambulance personnel, 2 security and 2 SparkX staff worked well. A pre-event safety briefing was well attended and helped all volunteers to know who was going to be looking after what section of the parade and to receive important code words in the event of any emergencies. Veterans being the ‘Santa Squad’ was fantastic and alongside the hired security enabled the safe transition between each switch on point. More radios will be required if a similar route is proposed for 2024. Switch on at St Johns Square was disappointing on the light front – no reindeer meant the trees wrapped in lights didn’t give much impact, may be worth considering some sort of light projection onto Post Office Building with their permission for 2024. Once at Town Hall, need to consider moving vehicle away from the front of the stage once Santa and The Mayro alight so more of the crowd can get closer to the stage to enjoy the festivities. Brilliant idea from Round Table to use rope and crowd to create barriers to allow space for vehicle to get through, just needs to be longer for the vehicle to then move away. Issue at gates outside the Angel when attempting to allow the tow vehicle and sleigh to safely leave the pedestrianised area, with a 4x4 trying to enter the pedestrianised area and nudging the senior steward with their vehicle. All the stewards present encouraged the driver to follow an alternative route to get to the restaurant behind the Market, but this is a safety concern to consider when carrying out the risk assessment for 2024. Debrief in the community room after the event allowed feedback to be gathered and a chance to thank those who gave up their time.

1. 2024 EVENTS:

Abergavenny Writing Festival – 19th & 20th April 2024

ATC Community Dinner – 25th or 26th April 2024 TBC

Monmouthshire Markets Toy Fair – Monday 6th May 2024

Abergavenny Rotary Steam Rally – 26th & 27th May 2024

D-Day Anniversary – Thursday 6th June 2024

Abergavenny Art Festival – Saturday 15th June 2024

Abergavenny Pride – Saturday 29th June 2024

Wales in Bloom judging – first week July 2024 TBC

7Corners IYE Festival - 13th July 2024

Open Air Concerts – summer dates and venues TBC

Wales in Bloom Ceremony – Friday 13th September 2024

Abergavenny Food Festival – 21st & 22nd September 2024

Wall to Wall Jazz Festival – 27th – 29th September 2024

Greener Abergavenny – Sunday 20th October 2024

Abergavenny Town Council’s 125th Birthday – 1st November 2024

Remembrance Parade 2024 – usually held the second Sunday in November – 10th November 2024 TBC.

Christmas Light Switch On – 16th or 23rd November 2024 TBC