ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2024

PC06/24: PRINCIPAL OFFICER’S UPDATE

1. CORRESPONDANCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

With the large number of events we have assisted with and taken part in throughout 2023, we regularly receive emails and online comments which are kept for feedback to help guide future events. This year we received emails from local businesses thanking us for the enabling of such events such as the Christmas Light Switch On and Town-wide Christmas Market, which all contributed to making the build up to Christmas a positive and successful time for many. We also received a letter from a resident in Pandy who had never attended a Street Food Night Market before, and it was of particular note that “you can always tell something is good when ALL age groups attend. The Market looked fabulous, and the regular stalls made their stalls look wonderful. This is an event to be proud of. I will certainly go again.” The same was delivered to the staff at the market. The time taken to write and hand deliver these is very much appreciated, particularly when facing current budget pressures. This evidence helps event organisers show just how successful and appreciated the events are.

1. WAR MEMORIAL

In the build up to the Remembrance Parade, we were contacted by Bryn Probert regarding him stopping a lady going off to ‘clean’ the memorial because of the sorry state it was in. The town team had cleaned the area prior to the build up to 11th November, but the stonework and lettering is in need of maintenance. To that end, the Principal Officer requested assistance from the Cemeteries Officer at Monmouthshire County Council to ask if any memorial masons had the ability to assess what maintenance is in need of carrying out on the War Memorial. The initial quote was considerably higher than expected. On further investigation, quotes had been supplied in previous years, and once these had been put through an inflation calculator, the costs fell between £4000 and £7000. This does not include costs for correcting the subsidence of the whole memorial. Monmouthshire County Council do not have any funds that can go towards this. It is suggested the Town Council Armed Forces Lead and Principal Officer meet with the Abergavenny Royal British Legion and Abergavenny Veterans Hub, plus Rotary and Round Table, to see if the costs could be covered between all parties. The Cemeteries Officer is happy to assist with gathering quotes from suitably qualified companies who are BRAMM registered to carry out such work.

1. YR6 THEATRE MATINEE PERFORMANCE 2024

Last year the Town Council facilitated a sponsored matinee performance, alongside the Rotary and Round Table, which was held in the Borough Theatre for year 6 students to attend giving them the opportunity to experience live theatre. The Community Engagement and Support Officer has been liaising with the Marketing Manager at the Borough Theatre to try and find a company that could deliver something similar again for the same costs (£1000) for this year, but as of yet they have been unsuccessful in finding a company that can do this. It has been suggested to contact Daniel Morden to see if he would be able to do a story telling of some sort, and another similar performer has also been suggested. Cost is a big factor as although hire charges for professional performance groups have been requested most come back at more than the suggested budget of £1000 - £1500. The suggested week of dates was 8th – 12th April which is immediately after the Easter break. It may be that a one-off matinee performance is not worth the while of some groups now noting the increase in overheads.