ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2024

ENIRONMENT COMMITTEE

E57/24: PRINCIPAL OFFICER’S UPDATE

1. Gwent Green Grid Project Car Park Green Space Proposal

Concept design has been received from GGGP for consideration and feedback. There will be public consultation on this on 14th June in the entrance to Morrisons Supermarket where the project is going to be installed alongside their car park on the vacant MCC land. Engagement and feedback encouraged. Initial enquiry regarding funding for sculpture or bug hotel proposed.

1. Town Signage

A response has been received from SWTRA regarding the new signs. An assessment is needed to check the condition of the posts to ensure they are safe to be used for new signs. A design Team contact from SWTRA will be contacting the Principal Officer to look at the materials and what is to go on the signs, which will then be sent for approval and be costed. Timelines have been requested, but it is not a fast process, which they have apologised for.

The signs not on A-Roads/Trunk Road can be looked at, and new signs for each of the parks might be a worthwhile project to help showcase the green spaces around the town centre.

New directional arrow signs (currently blue/white) are needed throughout town as these are out of date and looking very tired. Suggest these are considered as part of Place Making.

1. Tourism maps and display boards

Local business volunteers have been in touch requesting they would like to carry out maintenance on three of the map cases around the town centre to smarten them up for summer. The paint number has been requested along with permission from MCC, and it is estimated the materials would cost £100-£150 to provide for the work. The volunteers would like to do this on Tuesday 4th Jue 5pm – 7pm and ask for any Councillors who wish to help out, to meet them on St Johns Square that day. This falls within National Volunteering Week, and is an idea local business owners wanted to do, to give back to the town.

The maps are out of date in the cases, and the ADTA have been asked to get costs of replacements to go in each of the boards, and get an electronic version to go on the screens. Once cost have been sourced, they will present this to Council for assistance with purchasing these. Previous boards were paid for by the Rural Development Project Team at MCC, which no longer exists.

1. Friend of Bailey Park

A request has been received to release the 24/25 funds to the group as soon as possible. A report will follow in September, along with a proposed renewal of the agreement. As they are regularly posting updates on their Facebook page of the projects they are working on and who they are working with, it is proposed that this is sufficient evidence to show ongoing progress of their projects to allow funds to be released to them.

1. Friends of Castle Meadows

A new website is under construction to transpose data from their old site onto a new platform, which is being designed by The Media Agency. This alongside more regular posts on Facebook are helping to get more information out to the wider community. They have recently been granted National Forest Status by National Forest Wales for the Copse and Woodland Tunnel, which is a huge accolade for the volunteers who look after the Meadows. New signs will be provided by National Forest to inform people of this important status. <https://www.wales.com/visit/national-forest-wales>

1. Active Travel Update

An email has been received with a press release from the Active Travel Team at MonLife, detailing the latest consultation which will be open until 28th June 2024. All details and links have been circulated and the information will be shared via the town council’s platforms to encourage engagement and participation with the latest consultation.