ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 2024

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

E59/24 B: SUGAR LOAF CCTV PROJECT

1.PURPOSE

1.1 To consider proposal for supporting the new CCTV project at the Sugar Loaf Car Park.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Residents of Llanwenarth Citra Ward have been plagued for many years with anti-social behaviour from drivers accessing the sugar loaf car park, which gets particularly difficult when weather is good and people want to access the national park.

2.2 During Covid this became particularly troublesome due to people wanting to get out into the countryside, with congestion blocking in the residents, and leading to a serious assault of a resident.

2.3 A dossier of evidence was presented to Cllr Burch in May 2022 to highlight the ongoing issues that residents had faced in previous years.

2.4 The Sugar Loaf Partnership began meeting online to discuss issues affecting the area, consisting of BBNPA, National Trust, Gwent Police, MCC, and ATC. Residents were invited to give their feedback on how situations were on the route up to the car park, and these were fed into consideration for tackling the issues which continued to happen on the route.

2.5 Residents regularly email Cllrs Burch and Holland when they are faced with cars blocking their drives, stopping them from getting out of their properties, as they feel they no longer get a response from Gwent Police when they attempt to call in about issues they are faced with.

3. PROPOSAL

3.1 After meeting with a new CCTV company who had kit which could be positioned in remote areas which traditionally had been used to monitor compounds and workplaces. The suggestion to try this at the Sugar Loaf was considered, and all parties at the meeting were keen to try this for Summer 2024. Due to issues around data going in to the Control Room at SRS in Blaenavon, the CCTV company offered to take on the control room aspect and monitor the cameras as and when required.

3.2 National Trust offered to contribute £1500 toward the costs of £800 per month for the installation of the unit, if Abergavenny Town Council would match this.

3.3 A submission was made to the Shared Prosperity Fund at MCC for £2800 to cover the remaining costs, plus the production of communications for the residents to be delivered to them to explain about the initiative. This will include all contact details for Gwent Police and South Wales Fire and Rescue, plus details of the partners working on the project. Evidence was submitted and considered by SPF, and agreed to approve the request. As the request came form Cllr Burch as Ward Councillor for Cantref, Abergavenny Twon Council will be the point of contact for the project.

3.4 The CCTV unit was installed on Friday 24th May and a video produced in which Cllrs Burch and Holland explain about the importance of the project.

3.5 Regular reporting reports will need to be submitted to the Shared Prosperity Fund will be required, with an assessment of the success of the project at the end of the 6 month period.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 To agree to the £1500 match funding for the unit to be installed.

4.2 To consider messaging for residents about the project.

4.3 To propose which partner organisation should be the point of contact to communicate with the CCTV company when the car park needs checking. National Trust Warden, Gwent Police Neighbourhood Team, or South Wales Fire and Rescue.