ABERGAVENNY TOWN COUNCIL

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY 2024

PC34/24: PRINICPAL OFFICERS UPDATE

1. GREENER ABERGAVENNY

A letter of thanks has been received for the financial support granted by Abergavenny Town Council for the event held in October 2023, detailing stats from their surveys to show feedback from stall holders and attendees. This will be circulated to all Councillors. Date confirmed as 20th October 2024 for this year.

1. THE LONG WALK PROJECT

Veteran Darren Foote has contacted the Town Council to ask for support in facilitating the final leg of his marathon journey to highlight the sacrifice of soldiers at Mametz Wood by marching from there to Bailey Park, where many of the soldiers mustered before travelling to Mametz Wood in the First World War. The 38th (Welsh) Division suffered heavy losses while driving German forces out of Mametz Wood as part of the Battle of the Somme in July 1916. Darren is hoping to walk from Mametz Wood in July this year, completing his journey here in Abergavenny in early August.

With the possible coverage this could attract, it is hoped to gain support from Monmouthshire County Council, as there will be requirements for rolling road closures as he enters the county at Monmouth, to enable the safe accompaniment of Darren by cadets and veterans who will be joining him on certain parts of the journey. The whole event is to raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. Darren will march the 395 miles from the Dragon Monument at Mametz Woods in military kit and aims to do this in 10 days. He would like our Town Council to link up at the start of the journey with the Mayor at Mametz Woods, to launch the start of his journey, and again when he reaches Abergavenny. Darren would like to mark the day he reaches Abergavenny and completes the challenge by hosting an event in Bailey Park, either with bands playing on the band stand, stalls showcasing charities that support veterans, and bringing the local cadets to do drills and displays, which he needs assistance with in organising. The Media Agency has been approached directly by Darren Foote to assist with coverage of the entire walk.

1. SUMMER CONCERTS

Friends of Bailey Park have approached Keith Davies (Abergavenny’s Elvis) to ask if he would do a concert in Bailey Park, which he is happy to do. No further discussions on dates or costs have been had at this stage.

Borough Band have asked to do the same as last year with a concert at the Band Stand in August, so dates are being discussed. It is hoped to invite choirs again to support this, and to have it as ‘Picnic in the Park’.

Linda Vista Gardens would be a good venue to hold a similar event in, with discussions to be had with the Borough Band to find out if they have capacity for two summer concerts, or to look at other local groups who may be interested. Please email the Principal Officer with any suggestions and relevant contacts.