



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT DUFFRYN HOUSE, DUFFRYN BUSINESS PARK,
YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH JANUARY 2008 AT 7.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Bevan - Chairman
Community Councillor C. Roberts - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

J. Bevan, D. Bolter, Mrs. A. Collins, N.S. Dix, C.P. Mann, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard,
Mrs. B.M. Toomer, A.S. Williams

Aber Valley	- Mrs. E. P. Prendergast, Mr. J.S. Humphreys (Clerk)
Argoed	-
Bargoed	-
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-
Blackwood	- Mrs. V. Owens
Caerphilly	- Mr. K. Williams (Clerk)
Darran Valley	- C.R. Roberts
Gelligaer	- Mrs. C. Mortimer (Clerk)
Llanbradach	- Mrs. E.A. Reed, Mr. W.M. Thompson (Clerk)
Maesycwmmmer	- Mrs. J.H. Rao, Mrs. G. Thomas (Clerk)
Nelson	- Mrs. B. Miles
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	- Mrs. A. Nash, Mrs H. Treherne (Clerk)
Rhymney	- D.T. Williams
Rudry	-
Van	- Mr. J. O'Brien (Clerk)

Together with

M. Sprague (Development Officer for Older People), T. White (Team Leader Waste Management), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. E.M. Aldworth, P.C.W. Bailie, C.P. Duggan, L. Gardiner, G.G. Hibbert, M.H. Newman, Mrs. D. Price and G.R. Price, Community Councillors Mrs. U. Newman, D. Roberts, D. Woodman and Mrs. E. Macey, Mr. G. James, Mr. J. Dilworth, Mr. D. Allinson, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. G. Williams and Mr. A. Hoskins (Clerks of Argoed, Bargoed/Rudry, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen, Blackwood, Darran Valley, Maesycwmmmer and Nelson Community/Town Councils respectively).

1. CLERK TO PENYRHEOL, TRECENYDD AND ENERGLYN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that Roger Williams, who was present for his last meeting, had stood down from his role as Clerk to Penyrheol Trecenydd and Energlyn Community Council and those present wished him well in his retirement.

Members then welcomed the new Clerk Mrs. Helen Treherne to her first meeting of the Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee.

2. MINUTES - 17TH OCTOBER 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th October 2007 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted. There were no matters arising.

3. 50+ POSITIVE ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Members received a presentation from Ms. M. Sprague (Development Officer for Older People) on the 50+ Positive Action Plan and the work already being undertaken to ensure the county borough implement the Welsh Assembly Governments National Older Peoples Strategy, which complemented the report presented to Cabinet on 11th December 2007 (a copy had been sent to each Member).

Ms. M. Sprague highlighted the details contained in the report which provided an update of the progress of 50+ Positive Action in the last year, reported the initial findings of an evaluation of the implementation the Older People's Strategy within the Caerphilly County Borough in the last three years and highlighted the funding announcement from the Assembly on 19th November 2007.

It was noted that the internal review has taken place alongside a national review of the strategy for older people in Wales 'Living Longer, Living Better' which had been out to consultation from the Welsh Assembly Government until 28th October 2007. Specific reference was then made to the evaluation method used, the results of the survey, the review of roles, funded projects and strategy and policy developments.

Ms. Sprague pointed out that the 50+ Positive Action work supports the council's aim to implement the Welsh Assembly Government's Older Peoples Strategy. The 50+ Positive Action strategy is now one of the "cross cutting" themes of the community strategy and needs to be considered as an integral part of strategies relating to regeneration, education for life, health, social care and well-being and the living environment.

It was noted that there is a growing realisation across the county borough and amongst other organisations that issues relating to the 50+ age group need to influence the way services are provided. There is a growing understanding that in order to make a tangible difference to services, older people need to be actively engaged in the debate. However these issues and the change needed are not, as yet, part of the mainstream culture and therefore continued effort and support is needed if the 10 year WAG Older People's strategy is to be implemented fully across the county borough.

Ms. Sprague then detailed the 50+ Positive Action brand and highlighted specific campaigns to promote its initiatives (Health Happy and Horny', 'Here to Help' events and the Bill and Babs cartoon calendars) and other projects being funded. A copy of Newline which had been distributed in October 2007 was tabled and Members noted the number and variety of initiatives detailed therein and the services and advice available to assist those who require it (both by the county borough council and voluntary organisations) and the collaborative working across the partnerships.

Members were then given the opportunity to raise any issues that had been highlighted over and above those already discussed during the course of the presentation and a general discussion ensued on the benefits of the services which provide assistance in completing application forms and the range of voluntary organisation which offer help, advice and support.

In closing Ms. Sprague reiterated the need to get people involved in the programme and in referring to the Caerphilly 50+ Forum website help and advice section indicated that she would be more than happy to supply specific information to be included in community/town council newsletters if required.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Sprague for her informative presentation and for responding to queries raised by the Member during the course of the debate.

TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS LIAISON COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the following items raised by the community/town councils.

4. FUTURE RECYCLING PROVISION

Members received a presentation from Mr. T. White (Team Leader Waste Management) in relation to future recycling provision which complemented the reports presented to the Living Environment Scrutiny Committee in relation to the reprocessing of recyclables and future Welsh Assembly Government waste management targets.

It was noted that at present, the Authority is achieving a recycling/composting rate of circa 25% via a combination of kerbside recycling, bring sites, civic amenity sites, commercial recycling collections and garden waste collection services and still landfills 60,000 tonnes of residual refuse. Mr. White detailed future targets suggested by the Minister and, in making reference to the challenging targets that have been set (52% by 2012/13 - of which 15% must be food derived compost) indicated that whilst there will be changes to both collection and residual disposal, the levels will be difficult to reach. Officers are presently reviewing the current collection systems and plans are being developed to improve performance in recycling even further.

Reference was made to the number of waste management facilities already provided (kerbside recycling collections, civic amenity sites, summer green waste collections, commercial recycling collections, bulky green waste collections) and to the disappointing targets begin reached in certain areas (fortnightly collections - approx 2.5 tonnes with 45% participation, weekly collections - approx. 5 tonnes with 55% participation and weekly collections trial with brown bin - approximately 10 tonnes with over 70% participation). Mr. White referred to the requirement to increase public participation in recycling and the number of campaign messages about being cleaner and greener and encouraging people to participate by minimising their waste and recycling.

Mr. White then referred to Project Gwyrdd (consortium of South East Wales Local Authorities), which has been working jointly to initiate the procurement of a regional waste treatment facility in South East Wales. He reported that it is developed and structured to maximise landfill diversion by providing a solution for residual wastes that cannot be practically recycled or composted and noted that Officers are working collaboratively and a detailed report will be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Members were then given the opportunity to raise any issues that had been highlighted over and above those already discussed during the course of the presentation and a general discussion ensued on the need to increase public participation. It was suggested that regular articles should appear in Newsline (or in Council tax letters) and that a more proactive

approach should be undertaken where participation is low. Mr White indicated that Waste Advisory Wardens do target individual properties and that articles are produced on a regular basis.

Concerns were expressed at the amount of fly tipping and to the frustration that on occasions, the offender will have passed a civic amenity site to reach their destination. Mr. White indicated that where the identity of the perpetrator can be proven, legal action will be taken.

The Chairman thanked Mr. White for his informative presentation and for responding to queries raised by the Member during the course of the debate.

5. COMMUNITY CENTRES - RESIDENTIAL QUALIFICATION

Following an enquiry with regards to the residential qualification to be a member of Community Centres Management Committee, it was noted that the residential qualification clause has recently been tightened up following challenges towards committee members at the Twyn Community Centre. Members noted the following relevant clause from the community centre's constitution which is part of a raft of amendments being adopted throughout the network over the coming year.

Except for the first election of the Management Committee no person shall be eligible to become a Committee member unless he/she has lived within the area of benefit for at least one year immediately prior to the Annual General Meeting. Should a shortfall in nominations exist for vacancies on the Management Committee consideration may be given to allow a person/s residing outside the area of benefit (or who has not resided within it for a twelve month period) to stand for election to the Committee provided that it is the opinion of the Committee that he/she has a close connection with the social, cultural or recreational activities of the area of benefit. Such a person if elected shall serve for the normal three-year term of office whereupon they shall retire and only be eligible for re-election if a similar shortfall in nominations still exists.

It was noted that the 'areas of benefit' (specific ward) exist to enable control over who may vote at the Annual General meetings of community centres. Unless specified differently, for ease of administration, the county ward in which the centre is situated is recognised as being the 'area of benefit'.

With regards to funding it was noted that there is likely to be no growth in the budget for 2008/09. With budget efficiency expectations and the poor settlement there may be a need in line with all Council services to find a budget efficiency saving of approximately 2% but the decisions on this will not be made until the overall budget position for the education and leisure service and the Council becomes clearer.

Reference was then made to the Task and Finish Group (set up to investigate the management and usage of Community Centres in the County Borough) and it was noted that several representatives had taken part in a recent workshop and it had been indicated that time that they would have the opportunity to view the draft report prior to its final presentation.

6. CCTV SYSTEM

Consideration was given to the report which gave an overview of the CCTV system and provided details of camera locations, the number of cameras at the locations. It was noted that since 2004 a number of "minor schemes" have been implemented and 7 re-deployable CCTV cameras (OSCARS), which are currently positioned at various "hotspot" locations throughout the borough, have been utilised.

Members were advised that the CCTV cameras have been strategically placed on buildings or purpose made poles, in a carefully planned overlapping network designed to prevent, deter and detect acts of crime/disorder and anti-social behaviour. Their deployment also seeks to reassure the public and assist the Police by gathering evidence to assist the investigative process. The control rooms have the ability to provide "live CCTV footage/pictures" of incidents as they are occurring to the Gwent Police Control Room and have live audio communication with that Control Room. During the last two months CCBC CCTV Control Room has received 73 requests to monitor incidents from the Gwent Police Control Room. Additionally CCBC CCTV Control Room has reported a further 53 incidents to Gwent Police.

7. ROADWORKS

Reference was made to a request for information relating to road works carried out throughout the county borough and it was noted that this detail is included in a Roadworks Report which is posted on the Internet and updated each Friday. The report includes all of the major highway works being undertaken by the Council, the Public Utility Companies and any other private development where works are affecting the highway network.

Co-ordination meetings are held with the utility companies on a quarterly basis where all existing and forward programmes are discussed/co-ordinated to ensure that disruption to the highway network is minimised.

8. A SHARED COMMUNITY - CONSULTATION ON RELATIONSHIP BUILDING MEASURES AND CHARTERS FOR UNITARY AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY/TOWN COUNCILS

Details of the response submitted by the county borough were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.