



## **VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE – 4TH DECEMBER 2013**

**SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR**

**REPORT BY: HOWARD LLEWELLYN – TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS REPRESENTATIVE**

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### **TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCILS UPDATE**

1. Recently the Welsh Government has made available a grant to all Town and Community Councils to enable them to obtain a web site. This is a one-off grant for this year only and each town and community council can obtain the web site from either the Caerphilly County Borough Council or any other provider. In future years no grants will be available for the on-going maintenance or host of the website, as this will have to be paid from the Town or Community Council funds. The Welsh Government is doing this to encourage Town and Community councils to be able to more readily make their minutes and accounts available to the public.
2. At our last meeting of the Town and Community Council liaison with Caerphilly County Borough this was discussed, and it was decided that at each of our forthcoming meetings the item would be agendered in order to ensure that each member had received sufficient support to enable them to achieve this goal. Further updates will follow.

Author: Howard Llewellyn – Town & Community Councils Representative

## **Latest Press Release:- 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 from the Welsh Local Government Association**

### **New agreement for county, town and community councils**

The Welsh Local Government Association and One Voice Wales have signed a formal agreement outlining how they can work together to support local democracy and improve public services in Wales.

At a national level, One Voice Wales and the WLGA work together to encourage partnership working and the sharing of best practice between local councils.

The Memorandum of Understanding reflects the principles of partnership that feature in the local agreements already signed between many Welsh local authorities and their counterpart community and town councils, and establishes a framework for how One Voice Wales and the WLGA can continue to work closely together in the future.

Councillor Bob Wellington (Torfaen), Leader of the WLGA said:

“This agreement will ensure that local authorities continue their long-track record of working constructively in partnership with their community and town councils. The pressures being placed on Wales’ local public services are significant, and within this hugely challenging environment the relationship between local authorities and their town and communities councils is a vital one.”

Cllr Mair Stephens, Chair of One Voice Wales:

“The role of town and community councils is growing in importance in Wales, with recent legislation having already set a framework for the delegation of a range of new powers. Many local authorities in Wales are discussing how some local services could be delegated to local community and town councils, and this agreement establishes a framework that will allow us to develop a joined up and effective response to the challenging and rapidly changing public sector environment that we now find ourselves operating within.”