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Date: 13th March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Blackwood Town Centre Management Group** will be held in the **The Lounge, Blackwood Miners Institute, Blackwood NP12 1BB** on **Tuesday, 20th March, 2018** at **3.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chrissy', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Christina Harrhy
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To receive apologies for absence.	
2 Declarations of Interest.	

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To receive and note the following minutes: -

3 Minutes of previous meeting 19 September 2017. 1 - 6

To receive and note the following updates: -

4 Updates on matters relating to Blackwood Town. 7 - 10

5 Audit. 11 - 18

Circulation:

Councillors N. Dix, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, G. Simmonds, T.J. Williams, S. Morgan, D.T. Davies and Mrs C. Forehead

Town Councillors

Other Organisations



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

T. Williams, K Etheridge, N. Dix, A. Farina-Childs, S. Morgan

Together with:

Town & Community Councillor B. Baber & Mr J Hold (Clerk)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), P. Hudson (Marketing and Events Manager), & A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr Highway opened the meeting and requested nominations for Chair.

Councillor Dix nominated Councillor T Williams and was seconded by Councillor S Morgan.

The vote was 2 for and 2 against. Councillor Morgan had the casting vote under the Terms of Reference and nominated Councillor Williams.

Councillor Williams thanked members for nominating him and accepted the post and took over the meeting as Chair.

Councillor Williams invited members to nominate for Vice Chair.

Councillor S Morgan nominated Councillor A. Farina-Childs this was seconded by Councillor K Etheridge.

Councillor Etheridge raised changing the Terms of Reference to allow Town Councillors to be appointed to Chair and Vice Chair posts

Councillor Etheridge was advised by Mrs Sullivan that Town Councillors cannot be appointed under the Terms of Reference and if this was to change it would need to go to all Town Centre Management Groups for approval. If the five Town Centre Management Groups approved the change the next step would be for the matter to be referred to the appropriate Scrutiny committee and then onto Cabinet.

Mr Highway advised that the group could take a vote and Councillor Williams offered to place this on the agenda for the next meeting if the Group wanted it.

The Chair invited the group to vote on the matter, it was agreed to place the item on the agenda for the next Blackwood TCMG meeting

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D T Davies, Community Councillor D. Jones & Mr H Edwards (Blackwood Retail Partnership)

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read.

Matters arising on page 4. The group were advised that there was an update on the Red Lion in the report to follow.

There were no further matters raised.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

5. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO BLACKWOOD TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Blackwood town centre

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to the time of meeting. Mr J Hold requested that the time be changed to 5pm. The group discussed changing the time but a majority agreed for the time to remain at 2pm.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report on Unique Places. Mr Highway provided information on the new document and advised that a hard copy would be available, the document would also be included in welcome packs to new businesses.

The Chair requested that copies be provided to the group. Mr Highway confirmed he would arrange that.

Councillor Dix stated that it was a good idea and will assist in future regeneration Councillor Morgan also agreed.

Councillor Morgan asked if this was circulated to commercial estate agents. Mr Highway confirmed copies are sent to agents if requested. Councillor A Farina-Childs requested copies for the Town Council too. Mr Highway confirmed he would arrange to send copies to the town council and Mrs Sullivan will arrange for pdf copies to be sent to clerks.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report on the 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway informed the group that there were already 30 offers which is a good response.

Councillor Dix stated that retailers need to support the scheme and seize the opportunity to promote their business.

Mr Highway thanked Mr Wilcox for all his work. The Chair thanked Mr Highway.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report on Red Lion Site. Mr Dallimore advised the group that the site will be on agenda for quite some time.

Mr Dallimore advised that a planning application granted in 2017 is for two blocks of flats. Contracts hopefully are to be exchanged next month, with a start date on site later in the year.

Mr Hudson raised issues with noise from the flats being next to the Miners Institute.

Councillors raised concerns over the loss of car parking spaces and asked if the car park would remain open when development works are taking place.

Mr Dallimore responded that he was not sure whether the car park could still be used and would get a method statement from the contractors and put any views forward.

The Chair asked if it would be possible for a site meeting to be arranged with the developer.

Mr Dallimore agreed that a pre commencement meeting with the contractor/client could be arranged and would advise on a date at a future meeting.

Mr Highway advised that car parking is on a programme for Regeneration and Scrutiny.

Mrs Sullivan advised that a report on the matter will be going to future meeting of the Regeneration and Task & Finish Group.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report on Barclays Bank Site.

Mr Dallimore advised that consultation took place 18 months ago to discuss what would go on site, but at the time this was not financially viable.

The Authority is in dialogue with Welsh Government but unable to give any further information at this time.

The group were concerned about illegal parking in the bay outside the windows retailers (next to Barclays bank). Mr Dallimore advised that a traffic order would need to be in place to remove the bay and he would speak to colleagues in Traffic Management about the Traffic Regulation Order.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report on Toilet block. Mr Dallimore read out the following update provided by Michael Jones (Principal Enforcement Officer)

I am now able to inform you that notice under Section 215 of the Planning Act have been issued and served on those persons we believe to be the owners of the land. Those notices will come into effect on 12th October 2017 (at least 28 days has to be allowed between the date the notice is issued and before the notices are effective to allow the recipients the opportunity to appeal against the notice.) The notice requires that all the overgrowth is cut back and the resulting material together with any litter, rubbish or debris present is removed from the land and that the windows and doors of the building are secured shut. They have one calendar month to complete the works.

Mr Dallimore advised that Mr Jones has had a productive dialogue with the owner.

With reference to the sites future, Mr Dallimore requested that if the group have any ideas for the site please would they contact him.

Councillor Dix wished to thank Mr Dallimore and Mr Jones for their hard work.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report on summer and Christmas Events.

Mr Hudson advised that there are two key Council led events in the Blackwood town centre events programme The Beach Party and Christmas Market.

The group were advised that both events are well attended with over 10,000 visitors and no issues have been raised.

Mr Hold advised that the Town Council organise entertainment stages and put on dances, music, Christmas sleigh & light and they will be looking to explore with officers how to integrate with the two events.

Mr Hudson confirmed that retailers were supportive and took an active role.

The Chair thanked Mr Hudson for his update.

Members were referred to update 8 in the report on 'Choose the High Street' Retail Property Index.

Mr Highway confirmed that this information is available as a PDF document on Caerphilly Council Website.

Mr Highway would arrange to send copies to the Town Council and requested that if anyone wanted any further information to contact either himself or Mr Wilcox.

Members were referred to update 9 in the report on Procurement of a new Footfall Counter.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that feedback on the figures generated would be available once the new system is verified and calibrated. The Chair thanked Mr Wilcox the update.

Members were referred to update 10 in the report on Aldi.

Mr Highway advised the group that the property has been purchased by DWP and work is ongoing to convert the unit into office space.

Members were referred to update 11 in the report on former Poundstretchers site.

Mr Highway advised that the Insurance claim is still to be settled.

Members were referred to update 12 in the report on Parking Enforcement.

Mr Highway read out the update in the report.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that this will be going to Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in October and again in March. The consultation is a long process and involves five Local Authorities.

The group discussed the interim arrangements and were advised that the Police will still be dealing with any parking enforcement for the foreseeable future.

Mr Highway advised the group that the report provided is a in new a style and if members of the group would like any items listed for future meetings please would they let him know.

Councillor Etheridge and other members of the group raised concerns over Relay taxi drivers parking on pavements and other vehicles parking in loading bays.

Mr Highway confirmed that he would raise these concerns with the Police Inspector.

Councillor Morgan advised that possibly CCTV cameras could be checked to help to identify these issues too.

Mr Highway confirmed that he would clarify this with Mr Carl Nesling whose teams monitor the CCTV cameras.

Mr Hold wished to inform the group of an event where the Blackwood Historical Society in 2020 will be the bicentenary of first houses being occupied in Blackwood. Mr Dallimore advised that the authority may have some historical maps in their records which could be provided.

6. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

Litter bin fires. Councillor Dix was concerned that this is now a weekly occurrence on a Friday evening with youths taking retailers bins and setting them on fire. The Fire Service is called out regularly and the Council's Cleansing team also attend to clean up the area of rubbish and melted plastic.

The group were advised that this will be monitored.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 15:16pm

CHAIR

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BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP – 20TH MARCH 2018

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO BLACKWOOD TOWN

REPORT BY: TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. CLARIFICATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The Chairman will be selected from those County Borough Councillors who are eligible to attend. Each County Borough Councillor will have one vote selecting the Chair. In addition, the Cabinet Member will be entitled to vote, in the event of a tie the Cabinet Member will have the casting vote. The selection of a Chairman will take place in May and run for a period of twelve months. An existing Chairman may stand for re-election.

2. BUSINESS REPORT

- 2.1 During 2017 Blackwood town centre continued to evolve as a district centre and as part of this saw some longstanding 'pop-up' shops replaced by independent retailers. Among those who have opened and in doing so invested in the appearance of their premises are: *Le Beau*, *H&W Insurance*, *Woodies* and *Tailor Made Travel*.
- 2.2 The presence of *The Maxime Cinema* on the High Street is seen as an opportunity by businesses to cater for customers visiting Blackwood to see a film. Well known High Street names *Pizza Hut* and *Papa Johns* both opened franchises last year and in the autumn independent café bar *McKenzie's* opened directly opposite the cinema providing a dining experience which added value to the evening economy.
- 2.3 Following its change of ownership *The Market Place Shopping Centre* embarked on a proactive letting strategy which saw a number of long standing vacant units being let. New tenants included *Clear Sky Recruitment*, *Welsh Air Ambulance* and independent children's boutique *Little Things*. The ongoing refurbishment the former *Somerfield* store was given fresh impetus with the letting of some of the space to a lifestyle gym.
- 2.4 There remains in the town centre two sites which potentially provide an opportunity to extend Blackwood's retail/service offer. The owners of the former *Store 21* building continue to assess how the site could be used in the future. Whilst the agents for the former *Poundstretchers* site remain optimistic this may soon be brought back into a beneficial use following the fire.
- 2.5 In the next year it is expected that the current vogue for more experiential shopping will continue to grow. In the County Borough's town centres there remains a strong emphasis on core retail and service provision which may lessen the impact of any consumer migration towards the leisure sector. Looking ahead, there are some wider issues, such as the rise in interest rates and the implications of Brexit, which are expected to have an impact on consumer's ability to maintain their present levels of spending in 2018. Any reduction in consumer confidence will impact directly on the retail sector both independents and multiples.

The concern is that these economic factors will begin to influence the long-term commitment of some multiple retailers and banks as they reassess their need to retain a presence in smaller town centres. The other challenge which makes town centres vulnerable in 2018 is the continued growth in online shopping and its focus on low price points.

Blackwood Business Comparison			
	2017	2016	LFL Comparison
Businesses Opened	17	13	4 more businesses opened
Businesses Closed	6	9	3 fewer businesses closed

Blackwood Footfall Comparison			
	2017	2016	Difference
Highest Number	48,571 (18/12/17)	46,230 (19/12/16)	+2,341
Lowest Number	21,889 (25/12/17)	23,259 (25/01/16)	+1,370
Average Footfall	28,450	29,141	-691
Note:	Footfall data was unavailable for 11 weeks during 2017 due to the changeover in provider and equipment.		

3. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS VOUCHER BOOKLET

- 3.1 The 2017 “Choose the High Street Christmas Voucher Booklet” saw a total of 105 offers being presented from retailers across the five managed town centres and beyond. An initial print run of 25,000 was distributed across the County Borough with the generous aid of the Council’s Community Safety Wardens. Following the positive reception of the booklet and a larger number of Caerphilly retailers wishing to distribute the booklets during the Pwll-y-Pant roundabout works, an additional 5,000 booklets were printed.
- 3.2 A feedback survey was sent to all participating businesses in January 2018. 96% of respondents feel that schemes such as this highlight the importance of shopping locally and 83% would consider taking part in this (or a similar discount scheme) in the future. One new business added “As a struggling new business, we found the booklet brought customers to us didn’t know we were here”.
- 3.3 During previous years, a variety of publicity methods have been utilised to promote the scheme. These have included bus advertising, billboard posters, adverts in local press and posters for participating retailers. In light of budgetary pressures across the Authority and the departments MTFP savings, publicity of the scheme was done primarily by social media, some online advertising and the Council’s Newsline publication during 2017. As a result, 52% of businesses didn’t feel the scheme was well-publicised, with six businesses specifically commenting that they didn’t see any publicity this year and feel the scheme needs better promotion.
- 3.4 Should the scheme be run again in 2018, a balance between budgetary constraints and the need for publicity and promotion of the scheme will need to be carefully balanced in order to address the concerns of last year’s participants. In general, the scheme is growing year-on-year and continues to be positively received by businesses and residents of the County Borough alike.

4. SITE VISIT RED LION – SITE VISIT ORGANISED 20TH MARCH 2018 2PM

- 4.1 Site visit organised 20th March 2018 at 2pm.

5. POUND STRETCHERS

- 5.1 Officers continue to maintain an active dialogue with the persons acting for the owners of the former Poundstretchers site in High Street in Blackwood town centre. At present the situation remains unchanged with negotiations over the site continuing with the insurers following the fire which destroyed the Poundstretchers building.

6. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

- 6.1 A Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) 'Stage 1' report was presented to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on the 12th December. Members provided recommendations to be reported to Cabinet that they were in favour of adopting CPE and that the authority should retain in-house enforcement and collaborate with one or more other local authorities (LA's) to provide the back office support. The report and recommendations are being presented to Cabinet on 28th February.
- 6.2 A meeting took place with Gwent Police prior to Christmas to discuss the current situation with regard to parking enforcement. Gwent Police confirmed that they would continue to provide the service until December 2018 and that they hoped LA's would be in a position to transfer powers at that point in time. They also stated that they would work with any LA's who could not meet this date.
- 6.3 If Cabinet grant approval to proceed with transfer of powers, officers will undertake the relevant procurement exercises needed to try and meet the January 2019 deadline. There are many aspects that need to be taken forward but the two main requirements will be a full review of the existing Traffic Regulation Orders along with putting together an application to the Welsh Government to request a transfer of the relevant powers to the authority.

7. CAPITAL REGION UPDATE

- 7.1 There are a number of separate regeneration initiatives that the Council is playing an active role in progressing. The highest profile of which is the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal which involves £1.2 billion worth of investment. The City Deal aims to deliver up to 25,000 new jobs and secure £4 billion of private sector investment. Whilst not every town or village may benefit directly, the region itself will benefit from more jobs, better transport, increased skill levels and more assistance towards businesses growth.
- 7.2 Central to the Cardiff Capital Region is the METRO scheme led by City Region Transport Authority. METRO will bring a more efficient rail service to the South Wales valleys with trains running at fifteen minute intervals and linking with an improved bus service as ticketing and timetables are integrated.
- 7.3 The 'Our Valleys Our Future' project, led by a Welsh Government Ministerial Taskforce, aims to empower people in communities throughout the South Wales Valleys.
- 7.4 Finally, a Foundation for Success, currently in draft form, is the Council's new regeneration strategy (2018-2023) setting out how the County Borough can economically transform over the next five years.

8. EVENTS – BEACH PARTY

- 8.1 Stall applications have been sent out for the Blackwood Beach Party and staff are currently processing application forms prior to allocating pitches for the event. Blackwood Town Council are in discussion with the event officers to agree the location of a music stage within the event site for the two days of the event.

9. FIRST WORLD WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN

- 9.1 Blackwood Town Council and British Legion have both made a promise of a financial commitment to this project. However given the somewhat astronomical cost quoted by CCBC for their assistance with this project the Town Council are now actively seeking alternative quotes.

The front runner at the moment being Groundwork Caerphilly.

We will of course be looking to get the local schools involved and make this a real Community Project.

Urban Renewal officers met with local members and representatives of the Town Council on site in October at Gordon Road to consider the options for some form of commemorative landscaping scheme. Following this meeting officers developed an initial brief which was provided to the Town Council in January. The cost identified in the brief was an indicative one based on a provisionally understanding of the type of commemoration the Town Council was looking for and the constraints of the site. Officers now await conformation of the available budget in order to design a suitable scheme within budget.

10. BICENTENARY EVENT 2020

- 10.1 Proposed Bi Centenary Celebrations planned for 2020. Blackwood and District Heritage Association have been in discussion with several local individuals and organisations and have received positive responses regarding involvement in the celebrations in some form.

It is hoped that the Association will meet with Town Council within the next month for a further update and perhaps we will then be in a position to report to the next Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Meeting at a future date.

Author: Andrew Highway – Town Centre Development Manager
Steve Wilcox – Assistant Town centre Manager
Allan Dallimore – Team Leader Urban Renewal
Paul Hudson – Events & Marketing Manager
Mr J Hold – Clerk
Councillor S Morgan – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy,
Infrastructure and Sustainability
Councillor A Farina-Childs

BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – FEBRUARY 2018

DATE	ISSUE	DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS UPDATE
02/10/13	<p><u>Poundstretcher Site High Street</u> Officers continue to work with Poundstretchers in an attempt to rebuild the store and enable the retailer to return to the town centre.</p>	<p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>19/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 26/9 The insurance claim still hasn't been settled, but there is an interested tenant for when the building is rebuilt. 21/11 The insurance claim is still unsettled, but the owner does have a new tenant interested in the property when rebuilt.</p>
16/05/14	<p><u>Toilet Block Enhancement High Street</u> At the TCMG, it was agreed that proposals would be developed to try and improve the appearance of the disused toilet block on High Street. Should the proposals be approved, the Area Forum Budget may fund the scheme.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>19/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 26/9 S.215 notice has been served and works are currently underway. 21/11 The owner has been on site and carried out some cleansing. Issue Closed 21/11</p>

11/04/16	<p><u>Antisocial Behaviour</u> <u>Bus Station/The Market Place</u> At the TCIG, it was noted that there are ongoing problems in the bus station and the surrounding area in relation to antisocial behaviour linked to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol in the area.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p> <p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>26/9 Calls continue to be received and CCTV operators are recording incidents. The problem-solving group will be reconvened shortly to discuss issues on site. 21/11 Calls need to be logged with the Police via 101 or 999 if urgent. A long term solution is being sought via antisocial behaviour legislation as some key perpetrators have returned to the bus station.</p>
23/05/16	<p><u>Car Cruisers Road Closure</u> <u>High Street</u> Following the extensive car cruiser issue, which occurred in the town a number of years ago, a full road closure was implemented on High Street every Thursday night by the Police. In recent weeks this has not been implemented leading to vehicles once again using the street, sounding their horns and playing loud music. This behaviour has led to a number of complaints from residents to local Councillors.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>26/9 There is no longer an issue from a Police perspective. 21/11 There was a recent incident with cars parking in the ALDI car park. The situation will be monitored over the coming weeks.</p>
12/12/16	<p><u>Letting of Former Store 21 Building</u> <u>High Street</u> The closure of Store 21 retail shop has left one of the largest retail floor spaces in the town vacant.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>26/9 The owner continues to look for a long-term tenant. 21/11 The owner is keen to secure a long-term tenant for the building and will be discussing options for the building with officers.</p>

21/02/17	<p><u>Litter Bin Fires</u> <u>Lane off Cliff Road</u> Cllr. Dix has received complaints from local residents that young people are taking large waste bins from the rear of shop units in High Street to the lane that leads to the river bridge and setting fire to them.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>19/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 26/9 This is continuing to be a problem and the Police and CSWs continue to monitor and patrol the area. Commercial bin storage areas are being considered, but residential bins are also being burnt in the area. 21/11 Monitoring is ongoing. Although all CCBC-issued commercial bins are secure, bins from other contractors are not. The last report was on bonfire night and the incident was caught on CCTV.</p>
08/05/17	<p><u>Former Red Lion Site</u> <u>High Street</u> The site is under consideration for a new scheme which would involve demolishing the existing building and constructing new houses.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>19/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 26/9 Planning permission has been granted for flats on the site. 21/11 Commencement of work on the site has been delayed due to problems with the surface water drainage design. Work is now due to start in early 2018.</p>
28/04/17	<p><u>Flyposting</u> <u>Town Centre</u> A complaint has been received in relation to flyposting in the town centre, particularly circus posters in the former Birmingham Balti.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p> <p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p> <p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p>	<p>13/6 Officers continue to look at the issue and remedy where possible. 26/9 Nothing can be done from a Planning Enforcement perspective in relation to posters displayed inside a building. 21/11 All remaining posters remain inside private buildings, so no action can be taken. Issue Closed 21/11</p>

28/04/17	<p><u>“Grot Spot” Cleaning</u> <u>Dragon Circle, Blackwood</u> The area next to ASDA known as the “Dragon Circle” is in need of pressure washing and litter picking.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p>	<p>13/6 The work is on a forward work programme. 26/9 Some work has been done on the site. A deeper clean will be carried out in due course. 21/11 The area is litter-picked every day. A programme of works such as grubbing out will be looked at over the winter period.</p>
22/06/17	<p><u>Bin Storage</u> <u>Gravel Lane</u> A complaint was made to Cllr. Dix in relation to bins being stored directly opposite the café on Gravel Lane, rather than using the designated bin storage area.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p> <p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>26/9 The situation continues to be monitored. 21/11 The problem has now been addressed. Issue Closed 21/11</p>
26/06/17	<p><u>Artwork Maintenance</u> <u>Town Centre</u> Three pieces of artwork in the town centre have been identified for general maintenance. The “Singing Tree” and “Strata” will be cleaned and a damaged stainless steel leaf on the “Torc Gateway” will be repaired.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i></p>	<p>26/9 The work is ongoing. 21/11 Some work has been completed, but the programme will be ongoing over several months.</p>
17/07/17	<p><u>Condition of Bus Station Toilets</u> <u>Interchange Bus Station</u> A complaint has been received from the Town Council in relation to the condition of the toilets on Carnival Day.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p>	<p>26/9 Officers are working with the Town Council to consider a proposal for an attendant. 21/11 Incidents need to be reported to the Plice via 101. There has been very little damage recently.</p>

21/09/17	<p><u>Relay Taxis Parking Illegally High Street</u> Local Cllrs. Have received a number of complaints that vehicles operated by <i>Relay Taxis</i> are parking on the pavement outside their office in High Street and also illegally in the loading bay outside <i>Poundworld</i>.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p>	
21/09/17	<p><u>Feeding of Pigeons The Market Place</u> Businesses have complained that a lady visits the area each day carrying a large sack of grain and then scatters it on the floor attracting a large number of pigeons, which cause a nuisance.</p>	<p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	
12/10/17	<p><u>Dog Nuisance Cheetah Print, High Street</u> A complaint has been received in relation to dogs that roam freely at the rear of the store and sometimes act aggressively to passing pedestrians.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	
17/10/17	<p><u>Civil Parking Enforcement Town Centre</u> Following the decision by Gwent Police to transfer on-street parking enforcement duties to the local authorities across the Gwent area, Council officers are working alongside colleagues in neighbouring authorities and Gwent Police to explore the various options available. Any proposals will be subject to a wider consultation with Members prior to seeking Cabinet confirmation and Council approval.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>11/10 An update was provided to the TCMG. 21/11 A briefing note will be going to Cabinet and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee in December.</p>

26/07/17	<p><u>Vandalism</u> <u>St. Margaret's Church, High Street</u> There have been several acts of vandalism in relation to St. Margaret's Church over recent months causing significant damage.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p>	<p>26/9 Police continue to monitor. 21/11 Monitoring is ongoing.</p>
26/07/17	<p><u>Missing Manhole Cover</u> <u>O/S Tidal's Store, High Street</u> During a heavy storm, water pushed a manhole cover out of its housing. When the water pressure eased, the cover fell into the chamber.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>26/9 The cover has been replaced, but a drainage improvement scheme for the area is currently being implemented. 21/11 The improvement scheme has now been completed. Issue Closed 21/11</p>
12/09/17	<p><u>Traffic Proposals</u> <u>Bridge Street</u> Residents of Bridge Street have approached the Authority with a number of proposals to assist them as residents of the area, which officers are considering and investigating.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>21/11 The proposals have been considered but would be very difficult to implement at the moment. The proposals could be considered as part of a wider regeneration scheme in the future when funding is available. Issue Closed 21/11</p>
11/10/17	<p><u>Broken Glazing</u> <u>Interchange Bus Station</u> Cllr. Dix noted that a pane of glass at the Interchange Bus Station had been smashed in an act of vandalism.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>21/11 All damaged glass has now been repaired. Issue Closed 21/11</p>

13/10/17	<p><u>Homeless Person</u> <u>Gravel Lane</u> Reports have been received of a person sleeping rough behind The Market Place units, just off Gravel Lane.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins O'Keefe</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	21/11 The individual has been approached by support services, but claims to be happy and refuses to engage.
18/10/17	<p><u>Accumulation of Rubbish</u> <u>Pentwyn Road</u> Cllr. Dix received a complaint in relation to the accumulation of rubbish following the refurbishment of the Italian restaurant on Pentwyn Road.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	21/11 The area has been cleaned. Issue Closed 21/11
21/11/17	<p><u>Additional Pedestrian Crossing Point</u> <u>High Street</u> A request has been received from the Town Council for the installation of an additional pedestrian crossing to be installed near Blackwood Miners' Institute.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	
10/01/18	<p><u>Litter Complaint</u> <u>High Street</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs received a complaint in relation to a large amount of litter outside <i>Yummies</i> kebab shop over the Christmas period.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	
10/01/18	<p><u>Dog Fouling</u> <u>Hall Street</u> Cllr. Etheridge has received numerous complaints from a resident of Hall Street about repeated dog fouling outside his property.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	

11/01/18	<p><u>Assault of Homeless Person</u> <u>The Flour Mill, High Street</u> Complaints have been received following the physical assault of a homeless man by door staff of <i>The Flour Mill</i> that was recorded and posted to social media.</p>	<p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins O'Keefe</i></p>	
16/01/18	<p><u>Noise Complaint</u> <u>ASDA, Cliff Road</u> Cllr. Dix has received a complaint from a resident who lives near the rear of ASDA. There is a temporary freezer unit in the rear goods yard that is powered by a very noisy generator that causes disturbance in the evenings.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	
31/01/18	<p><u>Accumulation of Rubbish</u> <u>Lui's Plaice, High Street</u> Due to a lack of bin storage area, the owner of <i>Lui's Plaice</i> is storing rubbish at the rear of the property, which is unacceptable, especially due to the waste being food.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	