

Public Document Pack

Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG

Ty Penallta,
Parc Tredomen,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed CF82 7PG



www.caerphilly.gov.uk
www.caerffili.gov.uk

For all enquiries relating to this agenda please contact Rebecca Barrett
(Tel: 01443 864245 Email: barrerm@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Date: 13th May 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee** will be held in the **Sirhowy Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 19th May, 2015** at **5.30 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A G E N D A

	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.	
To approve and sign the following minutes: -	
3 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Minutes - 31st March 2015 (minute nos. 1 - 11).	1 - 8

A greener place Man gwyrdach

Correspondence may be in any language or format | Gallwch ohebu mewn unrhyw iaith neu fformat



- 4 Consideration of any matter referred to this Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.
- 5 To receive a verbal report by the Cabinet Member(s).
- 6 To receive and consider the following Cabinet reports*: -
1. Velothon Wales 2015 – 25th March 2015;
 2. Velothon Wales 2015 – Proposed Road Closures – 29th April 2015.

** If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Cabinet reports to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Rebecca Barrett, 01443 864245, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 18th May 2015.*

To receive and consider the following Scrutiny reports:-

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 7 | Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Action Plan. | 9 - 56 |
| 8 | Improvement Objective: Carbon Management - Reduce Our Carbon Footprint. | 57 - 68 |
| 9 | To record any requests for an item to be included on the next available agenda. | |

To receive and note the following information items*:-

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 10 | Bryn Compost Liaison Group Minutes - 13th January 2015. | 69 - 72 |
| 11 | Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee Minutes - 18th March 2015. | 73 - 78 |
| 12 | Grants To The Voluntary Sector Panel Minutes - 25th March 2015. | 79 - 82 |
| 13 | Bargoed Town Centre Management Group Minutes - 11th March 2015. | 83 - 86 |
| 14 | Blackwood Town Centre Management Group Minutes - 20th March 2015. | 87 - 90 |
| 15 | Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group Minutes - 24th March 2015. | 91 - 96 |
| 16 | Risca Town Centre Management Group Minutes - 31st March 2015. | 97 - 100 |
| 17 | Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme. | 101 - 104 |

** If a member of the Scrutiny Committee wishes for any of the above Information Items to be brought forward for review at the meeting please contact Rebecca Barrett, 01443 864245, by 10.00 am on Monday, 18th May 2015.*

Circulation:

Councillors Mrs E.M. Aldworth (Vice Chair), J. Bevan, Mrs A. Blackman, C.J. Cuss, D.T. Davies (Chair), N. Dix, C. Elsbury, R.W. Gough, Ms J.G. Jones, S. Kent, Ms P. Leonard, M.J. Prew, Mrs D. Price, A. Rees and Mrs E. Stenner (unless otherwise amended at the AGM)

And Appropriate Officers

This page is intentionally left blank



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON
TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH 2015 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chair
Councillor Mrs E.M. Aldworth - Vice-Chair

Councillors:

J. Bevan, C.J. Cuss, R.T. Davies, N. Dix, C. Elsbury, R.W. Gough, Ms J.G. Jones,
Mrs P. Leonard, M.J. Prew, A. Rees, Mrs E. Stenner

Cabinet Members:

D.V. Poole (Community and Leisure Services), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and
Engineering)

Together with:

S. Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive), M.S. Williams (Head of Community and Leisure
Services), M. Headington (Principal Officer Outdoor Facilities and Bereavement Services),
J. Morgan (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), C. Forbes-Thompson (Scrutiny
Research Officer) and R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A. Blackman, S. Kent and Mrs D.
Price, together with Cabinet Member K. James.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of
the meeting.

3. JONATHAN JONES – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Chair advised that Jonathan Jones, Democratic Services Manager, had accepted a position with the Welsh Ambulance Service, and would therefore be leaving the Authority shortly. Members wished Mr Jones all the best for the future and asked that their appreciation for all the work he had carried out on behalf of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee be placed on record.

4. MINUTES – 17TH FEBRUARY 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17th February 2015 (minute nos. 1 – 11) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

6. REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBERS

The Scrutiny Committee received reports from Cabinet Members D.V. Poole and T.J. Williams. Councillor Poole also delivered a report on behalf of Cabinet Member K. James.

The report from Councillor K. James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, advised Members that the six-week public consultation exercise in respect of the Draft Preferred Strategy for the Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) has been concluded. The public exhibitions have been very well attended and there has been a significant response to the consultation document. The Planning Team are now in the process of analysing all the responses received and a report will be presented to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council in due course to highlight the key issues that have been raised.

Members were informed that tree-felling at Cwmcarn Forest Drive in respect of larch disease has now commenced. Another leaflet will be issued around the area to emphasise that it is only the forest drive road itself that would be closed, with all other facilities remaining open for business.

Members referred to a formal response to the LDP that had recently been received from a local MP and they were advised that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning would be best placed to comment on the matter.

Councillor T.J. Williams, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering, presented his report, and advised Members of recent developments in relation to highways improvements. The tender launch for a 'Velocity Patcher' is set for the end of this month, which will significantly increase the Authority's existing rate of pothole repairs, and also has significant proven benefits of implementing non-intrusive highway repairs that prolong a carriageway surface by reducing water ingress. Delivery of this vehicle is planned for October with a prioritised list to trial and complete before Winter 2015. Members were also informed of highway drainage improvement works in Crosskeys, which will address the flooding below the railway bridge during periods of heavy rain. The works are currently progressing to programme and are due to be completed by the end of May 2015.

The Cabinet Member informed the Committee that in response to the Welsh Government's (WG) invitation for 2015/16 transport bids, Officers have prepared and submitted a number of bids in accordance with the priorities identified in the Council's Adopted Local Transport Plan. These relate to local walking, cycling and public transport schemes, the Safe Routes in Communities scheme and road safety schemes and training initiatives. An announcement from WG on the outcome of the bids is expected shortly and this information will be brought back to the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

Members advised that a number of the Safe Routes within the county borough have become overgrown. The Cabinet Member requested that details of the affected routes be passed to him so that this information could be actioned by the relevant Officers.

Councillor D.V. Poole, Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services, presented his report and informed Members that he had recently attended the eleventh annual Disability Six Nations tournament at the Ystrad Mynach Centre of Sporting Excellence. Over 125 schoolchildren participated and the event was once again a huge success. Members were encouraged to view video highlights of the event on the Welsh Rugby Union's (WRU) website.

Members were informed of the date of the annual Caerphilly 10K Race, which will take place on Sunday 21st June 2015. Entries opened in February 2015 and to date, 614 applications have been received, with the aim to secure over 2000 entries. Prior to the main 10K race, there will be a children's 2K race, which has been developed following interest received from children last year.

The Cabinet Member advised the Committee that the Authority has received a tentative enquiry from the WRU in relation to the Ystrad Mynach Centre of Sporting Excellence hosting its first Rugby International match (Wales Under-16s vs England Under-16s on 19th April 2015). The Authority are also in discussions with the WRU in relation to the Centre hosting next year's 6 Nations Women's Rugby Union home matches.

Discussion took place regarding the importance of rugby as a national sport and concerns were raised regarding a perceived decline in sporting participation levels by Welsh pupils. A request was made for information in relation to the development of rugby in schools, and the Member concerned was asked to reiterate this request later in the meeting upon consideration of Agenda Item 9 (To record any requests for an item to be included on the next available agenda).

Members were pleased to note the return of the Caerphilly 10K and made reference to the training preparation already underway by a number of race entrants.

The Cabinet Members were thanked for their reports.

7. CABINET REPORTS

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following reports.

8. REVIEW OF EXISTING OUTDOOR RECREATION AND LEISURE FACILITIES

Mark S. Williams, Head of Community and Leisure Services and Mike Headington, Principal Officer for Outdoor Facilities and Bereavement Services, presented the report, which sought the views of Members on a recent review of existing outdoor recreation and leisure facilities across the county borough, prior to its presentation to Cabinet for determination.

This formal review of existing recreational facilities focused a number of elements: Equipped Play Provision, Sports Pitches, Leisure Centres, Allotments, and Amenity Green Space. Members were reminded that Section 3 of the review (Leisure Centres) was considered by the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 28th October 2014. The conclusions and recommendations arising from that section of the review were unanimously endorsed by Members subject to user consultation being carried out and the results included in any future report to Cabinet. The review in respect of leisure centres is therefore the subject of a current consultation exercise with leisure centre users and a report on this section will be presented to Cabinet at a future date.

The remaining elements were examined in the second phase of the review, which was summarised in the latest report presented to the Committee. Members were advised that the aim of this review (attached at Appendix 1 to the report) was to establish a way forward in relation to a future long-term leisure and recreation strategy.

The review attributed a weighting and scoring matrix to assess the quantity, accessibility and quality of the facilities, using recognised national standards where they exist. These assessment methods (which varied according to facility type) were applied to all recreational facilities across each Adopted Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021 (LDP) strategy area of the county borough (Heads of the Valley Regeneration Area - HOVRA, Northern Connections Corridor – NCC and Southern Connections Corridor – SCC).

The review discussed a range of conclusions based on the three LDP strategy areas, and returned thirteen recommendations in relation to outdoor sport, leisure and recreational facilities. These were detailed within the review and summarised within the report presented to Members. In general, the review identified the strategy areas where there was good provision of facilities and, where improvements and expansion were needed to specific strategy areas, made a number of recommendations against each facility type accordingly.

Officers explained that once the long-term leisure and recreation strategy was agreed, any future developer contributions from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) or Section 106 agreements would be channelled into identified gaps in existing provision to help meet the needs/requirements identified in the report.

During the course of the ensuing debate, a number of specific ward enquiries were made by Members. Reference was made to Appendix 3 of the report (Equipped Play Provision Weighting), and Officers were informed that one of the sites listed (Clos Y Pant), which was privately managed, had been closed for approximately 18 months. This information was noted by Officers. A query was also raised regarding Cwmfelinfach Allotments in that they were not listed within Appendix 9 (Overall Scoring for Allotments). Officers confirmed that they would make enquiries regarding this site and advise the Ward Member of the scoring accordingly.

A query was raised regarding Section 4 of the review (Page 58) which listed the condition of three allotments in the county borough as 'unknown'. Officers advised that this information relied on the outcome of questionnaire responses, which had not been received for these particular sites. Members suggested that a follow-up visit could be undertaken by Officers to ascertain the condition of these sites.

Reference was made to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) proposals regarding bowling club provision. Officers advised that these proposals related to asset transfer, which was a separate matter to the review of existing outdoor recreation and leisure facilities, and that the bowling club proposals would be brought back to the Committee for consideration at a future point in time.

A Member referred to Section 1 of the review (Page 9) which outlined the location of Equipped Play Facilities within the county borough and sought clarification on a facility in Rhymney, which was identified as a skate park in the review but was believed to be a multi-use games area. Officers confirmed that they would make further enquiries as to the facility type and advise the Member accordingly.

During the course of the discussions, Officers responded to a number of queries relating to future funding contributions from CIL and Section 106 agreements. Officers confirmed that there were a number of locations within the Caerphilly area of the county borough that had been identified as potentially benefitting from CIL funding, particularly those sites experiencing drainage issues. Officers also explained that there were a number of conditions attached to Section 106 agreements, including a proviso that funded sites be developed for community use. They confirmed that Section 106 agreements have a commuted sum for 25 years, which covers maintenance and repair works.

Officers reiterated that the only capital funding available in relation to the review was £30,000 per year for 3 years to alleviate sports pitch drainage issues. Development of other areas identified within the review would be dependent on future funding from CIL and Section 106 agreements, which in turn were contingent on the development of local community schemes. Such funding would be allocated accordingly in line with the needs and requirements identified in the report and review.

A query was raised regarding to the involvement of Community and Leisure Services within the LDP. Officers confirmed that the department contributed towards the LDP in respect of sport and leisure frameworks, including suitable timelines for their development and implementation. Members referred to one of the main aims of the LDP, which requires development *'to contribute to improving public health, by promoting land use developments that contribute to healthy lifestyles and wellbeing'*. Officers advised that the development of healthy living did not necessarily need to be provided via a structured facility, and if funding could not be secured to develop this strategy, other alternatives (such as the benefits of taking exercise using the countryside and natural landscapes) could be used to promote this aim.

The Cabinet Member for Community and Leisure Services also advised that the matter of public health issues within the county borough would be the subject of a detailed report which would be presented to the Committee at a future point in time.

Members thanked the Officers for their report.

Following consideration of the report, it was moved and seconded that the following recommendation be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. By a show of hands, this was unanimously agreed.

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet that for the reasons outlined in the report, the conclusions arising from the Review of Existing Formal Recreation and Leisure Facilities in Caerphilly County Borough be approved.

9. TAXI TRADE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS AND COMPLIANCE

Jacqui Morgan, Trading Standards, Licensing and Registrars Manager, presented the report, which advised Members of the measures in place to ensure compliance and public safety in respect of Licensing requirements. This report on the monitoring of the taxi trade had been prepared following a Member's request at the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting of 28th October 2014.

The report outlined the legislative Licensing framework in place to ensure compliance and public safety in respect of Licensing requirements. Further detail was provided on the Licensing enforcement and compliance measures carried out in 2014, which outlined the actions taken by Licensing Officers under delegated powers (including vehicle spot checks and other license suspensions), and the role of the Licensing Sub-Committee in the refusal/revocation of driver/vehicle licenses. In addition, Officers outlined the details of two complaints dealt with directly by Licensing Officers in 2014.

The report also outlined taxi licensing enforcement activity carried out by the Trading Standards service, which consists of a mixture of proactive checks of vehicles, drivers and operators, and reactive response to complaints. In addition, the Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) (which delivers passenger transport services across the Education and Social Services directorates) routinely monitors contracts, reactively responds to complaints, and works with Trading Standards and School Transport Officers to examine vehicles and check the compliance of taxi drivers and school escorts.

Members thanked the Officer for her report.

The Member who had requested the report outlined the background leading to this request. He explained that in his local ward, there was a stretch of road where he had witnessed a number of instances of poor driving etiquette by some taxi drivers, including illegal turns in the road, use of mobile telephones when driving and smoking in a licensed vehicle. Officers advised Members that in such instances, they should pass on as much information as possible about the driver and vehicle to the Licensing Department, which would in turn be passed onto the police if appropriate.

A query was raised in regards to the number of vehicle spot checks carried out as a percentage of the overall number of licensed vehicles in the county borough. It was explained that whilst overall, these checks represented a small number of those vehicles licensed, these were additional vehicle checks over and above the usual inspections at the time of licensing the vehicle, and take place as a result of information or complaints received where there are concerns about a vehicle's appearance. Members were reminded that if they had any concerns about the safety of a vehicle, then they should inform the Licensing Department.

Members made reference to traffic congestion in Blackwood, which they believed to be caused by a number of taxis continually parking on the highway in addition to the taxi rank. Officers advised that whilst traffic concerns were a matter for the police, they would pass the information on to Gwent Police and consider if any other action is possible.

Discussion took place in regards to the large number of vehicle taxi driver applications to Caerphilly from persons living some distance from the county borough. It was explained that this has been a matter of concern for the Licensing Department but that a number of policies and controls have recently been implemented which should reduce such applications in the future.

Members discussed the issue of unlicensed taxis and the problems these were causing licensed taxi companies in the area. Officers outlined enforcement techniques relating to the detection of unlicensed taxis and asked Members to pass on to the Licensing Department any information that could help in their investigations.

A Member explained that he had been made aware of instances where some taxi drivers in Cardiff were turning off their meter prior to the start of the journey and setting high prices for journeys to the Valleys. Officers advised the Member that they would raise this matter with Cardiff Council's Licensing department, as they believed that the meter should remain turned on for the duration of the journey.

Members noted the contents of the report and the measures in place to ensure compliance and public safety.

10. REQUESTS FOR REPORTS TO BE INCLUDED ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE AGENDA

Councillor R.T. Davies requested a report in relation to the development of rugby in schools.

11. PRESENTATION TO SANDRA ASPINALL – ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair noted that the last year had seen some difficult decisions being made across the Authority, and thanked Members and Officers for their hard work and assistance regarding these matters.

The Chair then drew Members' attention to the fact that Sandra Aspinall (Acting Deputy Chief Executive) would shortly be leaving the Authority, and that sadly this was the last meeting of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee that she would be attending.

Members paid tribute to the manner in which Sandra has carried out her duties, referencing her busy portfolio, and thanked her for the valued advice and guidance she has provided over the years. She was wished every success and happiness in her future endeavours, and was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the Committee as a token of their appreciation.

In response, Sandra referenced the numerous occasions on which the Committee had praised Officers for their hard work in keeping service areas running, and added that it had given her much pleasure to report this positive feedback to her colleagues in the Directorate of the Environment. She thanked Members for their kind words and sentiments and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2015, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH MAY 2015

SUBJECT: MONMOUTHSHIRE AND BRECON CANAL ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: GROUP MANAGER (STRATEGY & FUNDING)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 During the summer of 2014, members asked for an action plan to be drafted, so they could consider the future direction of investment and activities relating to the Crumlin Arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal. The Plan has now been drafted and was considered and endorsed by members at their Canal Working Group meeting on 26th February 2015. It was also considered and endorsed by CMT on 19th March. The document is now submitted for consideration and, hopefully, endorsement by Scrutiny.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Action Plan sets out the history of investment, maintenance and development of the Canal as a local asset. It also describes a list of potential actions and activities that could develop it further over the years ahead. The actions are not prioritised, but can be used flexibly depending on the availability of funding.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Canal-based activities could contribute directly to the priorities and activities set out in “People, Business, Places”, Caerphilly’s Regeneration Framework and Action Plan and also links directly to the priorities set out in “Caerphilly Delivers”, the Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The drafting of the Action Plan for the Crumlin Arm of the Mon and Brec Canal (attached as appendix 1) was requested by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transportation and Engineering, both of whom sit on the Crumlin Arm Working Group.
- 4.2 The document summarises the views of officers from across CCBC, including Tourism, Urban Renewal, Engineering, Community Regeneration, Countryside, Education and Leisure Services, all of whom have an interest in the Canal. As such it now represents a strategic and operational overview for the Council. Although not a partnership document at this time, the views of partners involved in the Working Group have been sought.
- 4.3 Scrutiny members are invited to read through the draft Action Plan and endorse the content. It should be noted that the actions identified are not intended to be an exclusive list, but represent the collective thoughts of officers at this time. Funding priorities could influence which of the actions are progressed as and when opportunities emerge. For example, the Canal forms part of ongoing work to develop a regional ERDF proposal based on tourism and urban priorities.

- 4.4 Furthermore, the actions include a number of longer term aspirations and funding has not yet been identified and secured to take these forward. A realistic estimate of the total timescale could be in the region of 10 to 20 years.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equalities is a key consideration for any funding proposals. As this report is to endorse an action plan, the Council's full Equalities Impact Assessment process does not need to be applied (although the views of the Equalities and Welsh Language Officer have been sought). That said, any proposals emerging or actions undertaken will benefit a wide range of users and should, therefore be equalities assessed as and when relevant.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The ongoing cost of maintenance of the Canal is identified in Engineering budgets for the foreseeable future. However, each action set out in the Action Plan has a financial cost, so funding needs to be identified in each case, mostly from external sources. This may also have a match funding requirement for the Council to consider. Whilst it may be possible to utilise the existing maintenance budget as match in some instances, officers will need to ensure that the financial obligations for all proposals for external funding are properly considered and agreed with senior management and CCBC Finance before submission.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no personnel implications.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Action Plan has been the subject of a wide consultation across all Directorates.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Members endorse the attached Action Plan as the strategic and operational document for the Canal in Caerphilly County Borough.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 This strategic document can then become the driver for any subsequent canal-based activities and funding proposals.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000. This is a Cabinet function.

Author: A. Bolter, Group Manager (Strategy and Funding)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 of 1: Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Crumlin Arm Action Plan 2015

Monmouthshire and Brecon Canals



Crumlin Arm Action Plan 2015



1

¹ Photos obtained with kind permission from http://www.fourteenlocksetr.co.uk/ETR/Crumlin_Arm_Photos/Crumlin_Arm_Photos.html.

Contents

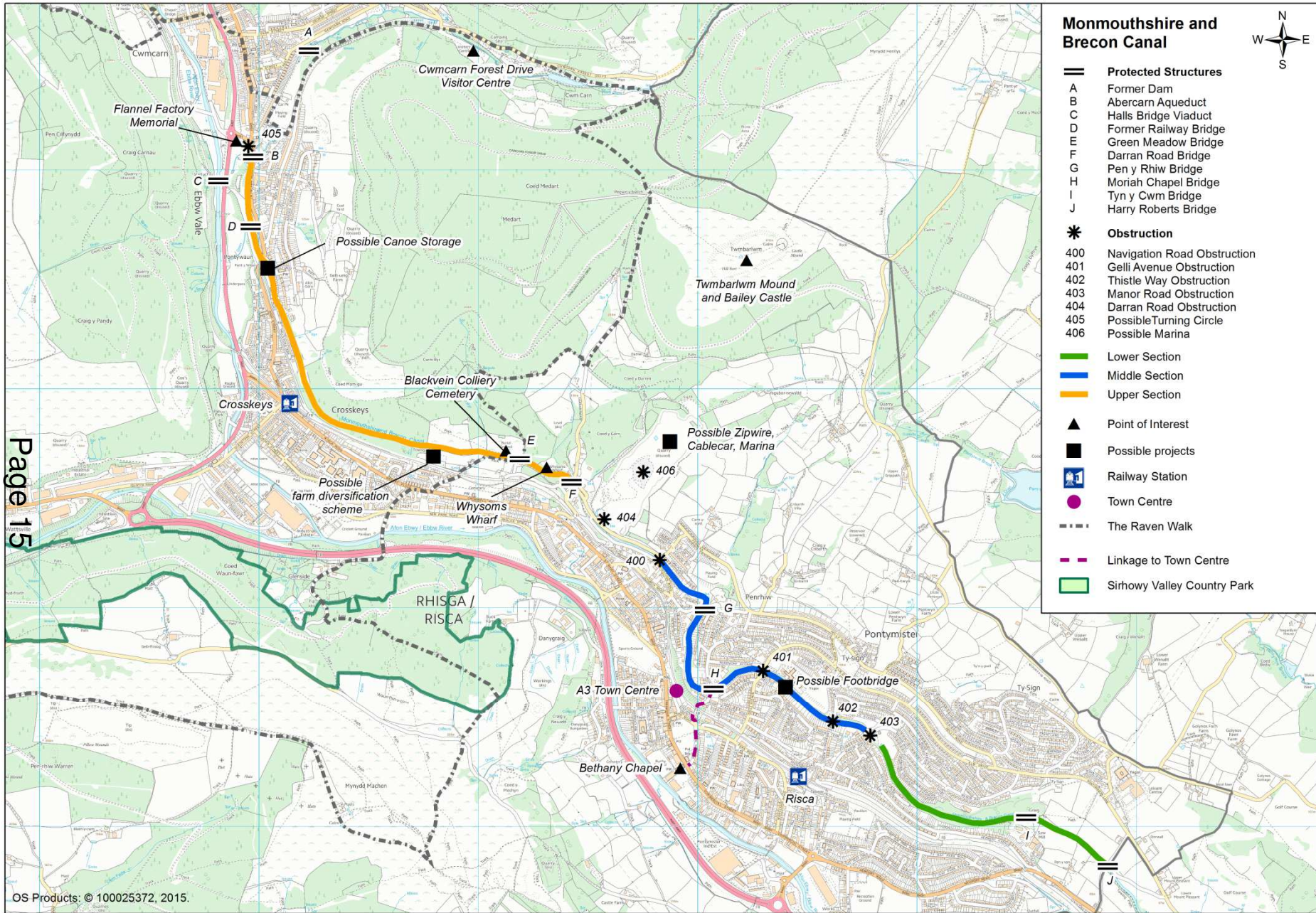
1. Executive Summary.....	3
2. Background	7
3. Geography.....	9
4. Strategic Context	12
5. Asset Value	15
6. SWOT Analysis	16
6.1 Strengths.....	16
6.2 Weaknesses	17
6.3 Opportunities.....	17
6.4 Threats	19
7. Vision and Objectives.....	20
7.3 Opportunities.....	20
7.3 Ambitions.....	21
7.4 Long Term Vision	22
8. Implementation Plan	23
Appendix- Site of proposed canoe store	37
Appendix-Proposed site of community area, footbridge, safe walk to Ty Sign School route	38
Appendix-Turning circle and car park to link the canal to Cwmcarn Forest Drive.	39
Appendix—Gelli Avenue Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £0.5M	40
Appendix –Thistle Way Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £1.2M	41
Appendix—Navigation Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £0.3M	42
Appendix-Manor Road Obstruction-2005 estimate at £1.5M for a Tunnel consider an aqueduct	43
Appendix—Darren Road Obstruction 2005 estimate diverting canal into Adam’s Quarry £4.5M	44
Appendix- Adam’s Quarry Marina 2005 estimate £3M.....	45
Canal Maintenance Pictures of relining work.....	46

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This document sets out the possible strategic direction for the Crumlin arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal that lies within the boundary of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 1.2 Caerphilly CBC is a partner in the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership, whose main objective is to restore the entire canal network from Brecon to Newport and then on to Cwmcarn to full navigation.
- 1.3 In 2005, following a Canal Corridor Study, which set out phases to the canal restoration, the Council agreed to carry out the first phase, which was to repair and maintain the current canal and carry out towpath enhancements. This work is largely complete, and Councillors requested that an officers group be established to consider the options available for the future canal restoration. This document is the result and highlights the following opportunities:
- 1.3.1. A fully restored and enhanced Crumlin Arm, coupled with its close proximity to Cwmcarn Forest Drive would be a viable tourism attraction, and would stimulate economic growth.
- 1.3.2. A fully restored Crumlin Arm would provide improved flood protection, and water management options with the potential to release development land within a current flood risk zone in Risca.
- 1.4 Any agreed strategic direction for the Crumlin Arm could feed into the Local Development Plan and the Destination Management Plan so that any future funding opportunities can be based on a previously agreed set of implementation objectives.
- 1.5 In agreeing a strategic plan for the Canal, consideration should also be given to how the plan is to be managed. A dedicated project officer assigned to co-ordinate activities and funding opportunities is desirable, but may be difficult to achieve in the current financial climate.
- 1.6 This document includes an Implementation plan as a list of possible actions that would restore and enhance the Crumlin Arm to create a four Mile Navigable stretch of Canal.
- 1.7 Each proposal in the Plan can be considered independently, or as part of a joined up approach. There is no order of priorities as this would be influenced by any successful funding proposals. The implementation plan is a fluid document where proposals can be prioritised in accordance with available funding stream criteria. For example, an ERDF bid could contain proposals for restoration to create an enhanced tourism attraction, while an ESF bid may contain a skills program directed at heritage skills. Other small pots of funding may be identified to help progress certain elements.

- 1.8 The implementation plan includes maintenance activities that are compulsory - over the past 10 years these activities have cost approximately £3.5M. Failure to invest in maintenance risks leakages which require high capital investment to protect nearby housing and other assets.

DRAFT



Page 15

OS Products: © 100025372, 2015.

This Page Is intentionally left Blank

DRAFT

2. Background

- 2.1 The Crumlin Arm of the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal (hereafter called the MBAC) is of historic significance, constructed over 200 years ago to transport cargo that helped the coal and steel industries to flourish.
- 2.2 These Canals were initially served by tram roads from the more mountainous areas such as Blaenavon. However, the tram roads and other alternative transport methods became more important and led to a decline in canal use.
- 2.3 More recently, roadways were built which blocked the canal, creating seven short sections of waterway in the Crumlin Arm connected by culverts. The longest section within Caerphilly County Borough is now 1.2km.
- 2.4 In 2001, the Council considered the future of the Crumlin Arm. It was agreed that there would be no further in-filling of the existing canal. Instead, the priority would be work to improve the canal's safety and the establishment of partnerships to explore canal improvements.
- 2.5 Caerphilly CBC is a member of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership consisting of the local authorities of Caerphilly, Newport, Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Powys. The councils work alongside the Brecon Beacons National Park, the Canal and River Trust (formally British Waterways), Islwyn Canal Association and the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Trust (MBACT).
- 2.6 In 2005, a Canal Corridor Study on the Crumlin Arm was carried out by British Waterways. This study identified two options for the future of the canal. Firstly a minimal intervention option to make further safety enhancements to the canal. Secondly, it identified the engineering requirement and benefits of restoring full navigation to the Crumlin Arm. This included creating a tourism leisure hub at Adams Quarry linked with Cwmcarn Forest Drive.
- 2.7 At that time, there was no realistic prospect of restoring full navigation from Brecon to Fourteen Locks and then on to the Caerphilly section, so the minimum intervention option was chosen. This option has cost approximately £3.5m since then, including repairs to leaks in the canal and improvements to the towpaths and signage.
- 2.8 The Crumlin Arm now has seven navigable stretches, adjacent to a good quality towpath. It has a visually attractive setting that attracts canal-side usage in the form of cyclists and walkers. However, only one boat remains on the canal, due to silting of the canal bed and the short length of the navigable stretches.
- 2.9 Since 2005, considerable restoration work has been carried out on the Mon & Brec Canal, within neighbouring Local Authorities, with restoration works planned from Pontypool to Newport and then on to the Fourteen Locks.

- 2.10 The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership, of which CCBC is a partner, is the driving force behind this restoration and has been successful in obtaining funding from a number of sources.
- 2.11 MBACT as members of the Regeneration Partnership have also joined the Network of Inland Waterways Europe (NIWE), to share innovative ideas, which has the potential to submit proposals for transnational funding opportunities.
- 2.12 The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Regeneration Partnership has a vision of full restoration of navigation to the Canal, including the Crumlin Arm and the Partnership intends to apply for EU funding as a regional proposal. The Councils of Caerphilly, Torfaen and Newport are also considering a proposal for ERDF funding (2014-20).

DRAFT

3. Geography

- 3.1 Wales has approximately 200 miles of canal, of which less than half is navigable. Four miles of this, known as the Crumlin Arm of the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, lies within the boundary of Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 3.2 On leaving Caerphilly CBC it travels south towards Newport, before turning northwards through Cwmbran and Pontypool and on to Brecon. These canals are known collectively as the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny canal.
- 3.3 Caerphilly's section of the Canal is at the southern limit of the Valleys Regional Park and is on a key route from the M4 corridor. It follows the natural contours of the land at a relatively constant level.
- 3.4 Its northernmost point, the canal terminus at Cwmcarn, is adjacent to Cwmcarn Forest Drive entrance.
- 3.5 It travels south through Pontywaun, then through Crosskeys and Risca and on to the Newport County Boundary at Harry Roberts Bridge.
- 3.6 The canal passes through urban development and has rural stretches with views of pasture fields, hills and mature trees. The Raven Way trail and the Cambrian Walk include parts of the canal.
- 3.7 Five roadways break the navigation, where the canal has been culverted. The culverts, often backfill with rubbish, which slows the flow of water and leads to silting and flood risk.
- 3.8 The canal runs almost parallel to the Ebbw River, and at one time, many of the river's water sources at one time also fed the canal. These feeders have previously been diverted to reduce the flood risk of the canal but have served to increase the flood risk on the River Ebbw.
- 3.9 The resurfaced level towpath forms part of the National Cycle Route linking Newport to Blackwood, which is used by cyclists, walkers and fishers.
- 3.10 The canal provides an environmental haven for over 150 species of flora (five of which are designated rare), dragonfly, butterfly, birds and at least eight different varieties of fish².
- 3.11 The maximum size of boat that can be used on the navigable sections of the canal is 60' (18.29metres) long by 9' 2" width (2.8metres). The draught of the boat is limited to 4'7" (1.4metres). However, currently silting and low water levels means the canal can become shallower than this in many places.
- 3.12 The Crumlin Arm consists of three distinct sections: The Upper, Middle and Lower.

² 2005 Crumlin Arm-Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Canal Corridor Study –commissioned by CCBC and the Welsh Development Agency—conducted by British Waterways

The Upper Section

- 3.13 The Upper Section runs from Cwmcarn Forest Drive to Whysom's Wharf, and is navigable. Water flow is slow and silting is a major problem.
- 3.14 Mainly steep wooded slopes border the offside of the canal, while the towpath side is bordered with housing and industrial development, as well as narrow stretches of land, which historically held a tramway, but is now fenced off and overgrown with vegetation. Its elevated position allows views across the Ebbw Valley.
- 3.15 The Upper Section of the canal lies in close proximity to two Ancient Monuments, a memorial and a disaster cemetery together with five listed structures
- 3.16 The two ancient monuments are:-
- The former Cwmcarn Dam, (marked A on Map) which burst in 1875 resulting in the destruction of the flannel factory and the loss of 13 lives. The disaster is remembered with the Flannel Factory Memorial.
 - Twmbarlwm Mound and Bailey Castle, The site of an Iron Age hill fort.
- 3.17 The five listed structures include:-
- Abercarn Aqueduct and Bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked B on map). This structure is currently dry as the structure is not watertight. It requires investment and repair.
 - Halls Bridge railway viaduct, a grade II listed structure (marked C on map). This Viaduct spans the River Ebbw and is an impressive visual structure of historical interest in railway engineering.
 - Former railway bridge over the canal outfall, a grade II listed structure (marked D on map). The canal outfall emerges through a high arch as a waterfall. This bridge was to support the tramway that historically ran alongside the canal at this point. This impressive historical and visual structure is almost entirely masked by vegetation.
 - Green Meadow hump backed canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked E on map).
 - Darren Road canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked F on map).
- 3.18 The Blackvein Colliery Cemetery is an historical site linked to the Blackvein Colliery explosion in 1860, which took 146 lives. Sixty bodies were so badly disfigured that they could not be identified. They are now buried in the communal grave in the slope adjacent to the canal.

The Middle Section

- 3.16 The middle section commences after a considerable break in the canal and runs from Darren Road to Manor Road, where the canal is divided into four small navigable sections connected by culverts under roads. The canal is tightly bordered by the built up residential areas of Risca, including the Communities First area of Ty Sign on its offside.
- 3.17 The middle section of the canal runs through the town of Risca, alongside residential housing and a primary school. Users of the canal can access Risca town centre via a number of road routes, the shortest being along Moriah Hill and Station Place.
- 3.18 The canal passes under two hump backed canal bridges which are listed structures.
- Pen Y Rhiw Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked G on map).
 - Moriah Chapel Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked H on map).

The Lower section

- 3.19 The Lower Section runs from Manor Road to Harry Roberts Bridge and is navigable. This section of the canal is rural in aspect with much of it lined by steep wooded banks and views across the valley floor, as the canal travels to the border of Caerphilly and Newport local authorities at Harry Roberts Bridge.
- 3.20 The Lower Section of the canal passes under two hump backed canal bridges.
- Tyn Y Pen Y Rhiw canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked I on map).
 - Harry Roberts canal Bridge, grade II listed structure (marked J on map).

4. Strategic Context

- 4.1 The Crumlin Arm is cited in the Local Development Plan as a potential tourism development³, but the strategic direction of the canal's development and future has never been formalised.
- 4.2 The 2001 census identified that 1.5m people live within 20 miles of the canal, so the potential for day visitors is huge.
- 4.3 When combined with the canal's proximity to Cwmcarn Forest Drive, Navigation Colliery, the Crumlin viaduct and the M4 corridor, it creates the opportunity to develop a tourism hub destination, a substantial landmark for Wales attracting overnight visitors from the UK, Europe and Worldwide.
- 4.4 The Crumlin Arm is located within the South East Wales Capital Region of the Wales Spatial Plan. It lies within the Connections Corridor and links with the City Coastal Zone at Newport. It links the Coastal Zone with other regions at Brecon after travelling through the local authorities of Newport, Torfaen, Powys, Monmouth and the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- 4.5 As early as 2000, UK Government recognised the importance of the inland waterways of England and Wales in its Waterways for Tomorrow policy document. It recognised the benefits of restoring disused waterways to navigation and stated that restoration of canals to navigation has revitalised key parts of the country's transport and industrial heritage, generated jobs, and development and increased opportunities for leisure, recreation and tourism.
- 4.6 Caerphilly County Borough Council is a partner in the Monmouthshire & Brecon Regeneration Partnership, which has been a driving force in significant development and financial investment in the restoration of the canal in other partner authorities, such as the Cwmbran Water Works project and the Newport Fourteen Locks Visitors Centre. The Trust's ultimate aim is to restore full navigation of the canal from Brecon to Cwmcarn.
- 4.7 Recent estimates indicate that approximately 20% of all UK employment is in the tourism and hospitality sectors. Developing an enhanced tourism destination has the capacity to increase employment opportunities within the region. This should be factored into the future skills analysis.

³ TM1.6 – Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, Crumlin Arm-tourism , and in the Risca and Pontymister Town Centre Action Plan 2014-19

Potentially the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is a valuable tourism resource, not only as a working route for boats but for its likely links into a wider waterways network. It is also a thriving nature corridor with towpaths and the Celtic Trail cycleway running alongside. As such there are attractive amenity areas, which are linked together by the proposed route of the canal that will make it an attractive development for tourists.

- 4.8 Regeneration of the canal could contribute to the “20/20/20” Climate/Energy targets⁴, through use of cycle networks, safe walking routes to schools and energy generating outdoor gym equipment.
- 4.9 In 2013 the American Huffington Post ranked the Mon & Brec Canal 6th in the top canals of the world to visit⁵, which indicates that if full navigation can be realised that the canal would be of considerable national significance to Wales.
- 4.10 The canal has the potential with efficient water management to receive much of the eastside feeder water that currently enters the Ebbw River. The canal would therefore act as a drain to reduce the existing flood risk on the Ebbw River, this would release development land that is currently unfit due to its flood risk rating.
- 4.11 Any strategic direction should give due consideration to “Caerphilly Delivers” CCBC’s Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017:
- 4.11.1 A Learning Caerphilly could utilise the canal as a multifunctional space, making use of educational opportunities such as biodiversity research through HE establishments, linking with local schools for environmental education and using seating as storyboards to educate canal users on the historical use of the area. The construction and tourism jobs created by restoration and maintenance activities would offer opportunities to provide skills training through apprenticeship and volunteer programs.
- 4.11.2 A Greener, Healthier and Safer Caerphilly could utilise the Canal and its surroundings (including Cwmcarn Forest Drive) for sport and outdoor activities, using the towpaths for walking, cycling and exercise trail, as well as using the waterway itself for canoe and boat hire, and annual events which encourages community involvement. This would create a pride in the community, which would discourage minor crimes like vandalism and anti-social behaviour. The exercise trail could include green energy exercise equipment, which could power light along safe routes, and feed back into the local energy grid.
- 4.11.3 A Prosperous Caerphilly would benefit from jobs created by enhanced activity and tourism on the Canal. Attracting more day and overnight visitors which would create an increased demand for more accommodation simulating jobs growth in the service industry. The towns of Crosskeys, and Risca with its close proximity to the canal could benefit from tourism retail opportunities. Regeneration of the area by restoring navigation would create employment in the activity itself, e.g. boat trips, boat maintenance and sales. The canal corridor would become a more attractive place to live, encouraging private housing investment, businesses and tourism activities into the area.

⁵ Mon & Brec Canal Regeneration partnership Steering group minutes 10th October 2013, item 3.

⁴ The EU’s Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, the Europe 2020 Strategy adopted in June 2010

- 4.12 The Ty Sign area of Risca is a Community First area and regenerating the canal with all its associated benefits would fit within the Welsh Government priority of Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion.
- 4.13 The development of the canal corridor should include
- 4.10.1. Town centre development in Risca and Crosskeys
 - 4.10.2. Tourism attractions including the Cwmcarn Forest Drive and Visitors centre, Adams Quarry and Navigation Colliery
 - 4.10.3. Restoration to full navigation of the Crumlin Arm linked to restoration of the remainder of the Mon & Brec Canal, from Cwmcarn to Brecon, via Newport.
- 4.11 The Crumlin Arm should be included in Caerphilly CBC's destination management considerations, for prioritising through Visit Wales⁶ and for future European funding applications.

5. Asset Value

- 5.1 The value of the Crumlin Arm is difficult to estimate because it is not just a capital asset. It has natural beauty with protected structures and monuments, which means that the canal has an intrinsic value over and above its monetary value.
- 5.1.1. The Former Dam of Cwmcarn Canal Reservoir is listed as an Ancient Monument of National Importance (marked A on Map). It is an early C18th canal dam with well-preserved remains visible in section and as the site of a major engineering disaster, which informed future practice.⁷
- 5.1.2. The canal is supported by a Grade II Listed structure, Abercarn Aqueduct and Bridge, (marked B on Map). “Listed as an important early C19th canal structure with later modifications of historic interest”.⁸
- 5.1.3. Halls Bridge Railway Viaduct over the River Ebbw and Western Valleys Railway Line is a Grade II Listed structure, (marked C on Map). “Listed for its interest in the history of railway engineering in the western Valley and as an example of standard late C19th railway technology used here on a grand scale and largely unaltered since.”⁹
- 5.1.4. Former railway bridge over canal outfall. A Grade II Listed structure, (marked D on Map). “Listed as a prominent railway structure from the later C19th on a huge scale and with historical associations with the canal”¹⁰
- 5.1.5. Green Meadow Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked E on map). “Listed as an intact bridge from late C18th”¹¹
- 5.1.6. Darren Road Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked F on map). “Listed as an intact bridge from late C18th”¹²
- 5.1.7. Pen Y Rhiw Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked G on map). “Listed as a late C18th canal bridge retaining its character”¹³
- 5.1.8. Moriah Chapel Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked H on map). “Listed as a mainly intact canal bridge from the late C18th”¹⁴
- 5.1.9. Tyn Y Pen Y Rhiw Canal bridge, a grade II listed structure (marked I on map). “Listed as a late C18th canal bridge retaining its character”¹⁵
- 5.1.10. Harry Roberts Canal Bridge, grade II listed structure (marked J on map). “Listed as a late C18th canal bridge retaining its character”¹⁶
- 5.2 If the canal was built in the present day, the capital cost would be in the billions.

⁷ CADW ancient Monument and archaeological areas act 1979 reference CAM1/1/6746, Mm259(CAE)

⁸ Grade II Listing 21001 & 21012

⁹ Grade II Listing 21008 & 21003

¹⁰ Grade II Listing 21009

¹¹ Grade II Listing 21006 & 22509

¹² Grade II Listing 21007 & 22521

¹³ Grade II Listing 22510

¹⁴ Grade II Listing 22511

¹⁵ Grade II Listing 22510

¹⁶ Grade II Listing 22513

6. SWOT Analysis

6.1 Strengths

- Partnership approach across the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canal Region, through the Regeneration Partnership.
- Proximity to existing Tourism attractions including:-
 - Cwmcarn Forest Drive
 - Cwmcarn Forest Visitor Centre
 - Cwmcarn Forest cycle trails (which remain open during the tree felling (see threats))
 - Sirhowy Valley Country Park
 - Twmbarlwm Mound and Bailey Castle
 - Fourteen Locks Visitors Centre
- Good public transport links, bus and rail
 - Close proximity to M4 Corridor
 - On National Cycle Network route
 - On the Raven Walk trail, and the Cambrian Walk
- Proximity to Risca (a principle town within Caerphilly County Borough)
 - Purpose built event site in Risca
- Rural and urban backdrops
- Proximity to Navigation Colliery
- The Newport arm of the canal relies on Crumlin Arm water feed.

6.2. Weaknesses

- Stretches of navigable canal are obstructed by roads.
- Culverts reduce water flow with risk of blocking and causing a flood risk
- Silting of canal/low water flow reduces water use
- Limited existing overnight tourist accommodation
- Limited signage linking the canal to Risca town centre.
- Limited width for mooring points.
- Some of the canal's water feed begins on third party land
- No Wi-Fi in Risca town
- Conflict between towpath users

6.3. Opportunities

- Regional approach to canal restoration and canal corridor development.
 - To apply for relevant funding.
 - To market the canal regionally
 - To encourage cross-valley corporation and movement.
- Replace culverts
 - To increase navigable stretches
 - Reduce flood risk by keeping water moving through the canal.
 - Reduce maintenance cost by reducing silting of canal bed.
 - Navigable tunnels increase interest to canal water users.
 - At Manor Road, an aqueduct would provide a tourism focus
 - Rerouting canal through Adams Quarry to restore navigation (see risk)
- Better water management
 - To ensure sufficient water quantity for water travel through to Fourteen Locks
 - To improve water quality, which is currently stagnant
 - To reduce flood risk on Ebbw River
 - To increase development potential on Ebbw River flood plains.
- Improve link with Cwmcarn Forest Drive
 - Safe crossing point at terminus of canal
 - Green Cycle route from Forest Drive to the canal
 - Improve and diversify the attractions at Cwmcarn Forest Drive

- Improve the links with Torfaen and Cwmbran via Twmbarlwn and Mynydd Maen
 - Long distance cycle routes
- Improve recreation both on and off water.
 - Canoes, private boats and trip boats
 - Fitness walks
 - Health rehabilitation groups
 - Safe walking routes
- Improve canal to town route
 - B3 Risca Town Centre Plan.
 - Movement along Moriah Hill encouraged by improving bridge with canal imagery and links to Risca Park, town centre and Bethany Chapel.
- Potential footbridge and outdoor community/classroom area to rear of Ty-Sign School
 - Safe school walking route, reducing emissions as walking encouraged and quicker than car routes.
 - Community involvement
- Potential marina, or mooring points (see risk)
- Potential ecological and heritage educational opportunities
- Better environment
 - For health
 - For ecological improvements
 - For business investment in tourism and canal-related services
- Housing at A3 on Risca town centre plan
 - Would be more attractive to investors - canal restoration can be linked to house price increase.
- Improve cycle network from town centre to canal and National Cycle Routes
- Encourage annual events to raise the profile of canal and Risca.
- Potential to explore green energy opportunities
 - A waterwheel at Cwmcarn Feeder
 - Heat retention pipes lied under the canal bed
 - Energy generating outdoor gym equipment
- Potential to collaborate with fibre broadband providers, since Crosskeys does not have fibre broadband (utilising towpaths).

6.4 Threats

- Lack of funding
- Weather can affect outdoor tourism /sport
- Perception of Cwmcarn Forest larch tree felling due to Ramorum Virus
- Invasive species impeding navigation and threatening the ecology.
- Unmanaged Tree roots destroying the canal lining
- Unsafe water quality due to stagnant water and rodent infestation
- Conflict between cyclists, walkers, fishers, and waterway users.
- Planning constraints
- Flooding risks
- Fourteen Locks not releasing excess of water
- Sale of Adams Quarry
 - This could impact on the ability to [re-route](#) the blocked section of the canal
 - This would impact on the [potential marina](#), although a new owner could apply for planning permission for a marina.

7. Vision and Objectives

- 7.1. The Crumlin Arm of the Mon & Brec Canal is an under-utilized resource that requires ongoing maintenance expenditure. Investment in the form of time and funding has the potential to create a unique destination within Wales, and assist in flood alleviation in the vicinity.
- 7.2. This forms part of a larger regional approach of the Mon & Brec Regeneration Partnership to restore full navigation to the entire length of the canal and develop the wider canal corridor.

7.3. Opportunities

7.3.1 These opportunities build on the existing facilities with minimal financial outlay

- Continue the existing Mon & Brec Regen Partnership
- Encourage more volunteering
- Tree survey and management
- Invasive plant monitoring and control
- Monitor foot traffic
- Environmental surveys
- Increase foot traffic along the towpaths
- Increase marketing of the canal (across the regional partnership area)
- Improve the link with Risca town centre
- Improve canal side leisure provision
- Exercise equipment
- Increase water traffic on the existing canal (approach canoe and boat clubs to encourage use)
- Forge links with education establishments and develop education programs
- Forge links with local community groups
- Link with Cwmcarn Forest Drive as a tourism attraction.
- Explore energy generating options from water, wind and exercise.
- Explore fibre cabling along the towpath.

7.3. Ambitions

7.3.1. These ambitions build on the existing canal infrastructure to create a safer more desirable location, which will attract more waterway users, assist flood control and create a tourist destination hub with Cwmcarn Forest Drive.

7.3.2. These ambitions would be a catalyst to drive forward other opportunities and encourage inward investment. Due to their nature, these opportunities take longer to complete and require significant funding.

- Restoration of the middle section of the canal to full navigation
 - Creation of a tunnel to remove the [Gelli Road obstruction](#)
 - Creation of a two way tunnel to remove the [Thistle Road obstruction](#)
 - Creation of a tunnel removing the [Navigation road obstruction](#)
- Creation of a safe crossing point linking the canal terminus with Cwmcarn Forest Drive.
- Engage with volunteer, skills and jobs programs
- Creation of safe crossing points where the road obstructs the canal
- Creation of a turning circle, mooring and parking at the [canal terminus](#)
- Enhancement of the activity provision at Forest Drive
- Creation of a community area and safe walking route to [Ty Sign Primary School](#).
- Creation of a canoe/boat store near the [hall road car park](#)
- Encourage more private investment in business and housing

7.4. Long Term Vision

7.4.1. The restoration to full navigation of the canal from Brecon to Newport and then on to an activity hub at Cwmcarn Forest Drive would create a substantial landmark for Wales, attracting overnight visitors from the UK, Europe and Worldwide.

- Restoration of the full length of the Crumlin Arm of the canal to Navigation
- Creation of an aqueduct (or tunnel) removing the [Manor Road Obstruction](#)
- Re-routing the canal through Adams Quarry to remove the [Darren Road obstruction](#).
- Restoration of full navigation down to Fourteen Locks (Newport LA)
- Restoration of Fourteen Locks (Newport LA)
- Restoration of full length of Mon & Brec Canal from Fourteen Locks to Brecon (partnership)

7.4.2. A restored Crumlin Arm would provide a complete water corridor for

- Better water management,
- Reduced flood risk and
- Potentially releasing current flood risk land for development.

7.4.3. In collaboration with Cwmcarn Forest Drive and /or private business.

- Creation of an aerial ropes course
- Creation of a zip wire attraction and/or marina at [Adams Quarry](#)
- Construction of a cable car as a major tourist attraction.
- Creation of an Alpine Roller Coaster
- Re-open Cwmcarn Forest Drive following the tree feeling

7.4.4. In collaboration with Torfaen County Borough Council and Natural Resources Wales.

- Creating a link between Cwmcarn and Cwmbran
- Further strengthening of links as outlined in the Twmbarlwm and Mynydd Maen scoping study.¹⁷

8. Implementation Plan

8.1. The Implementation plan is a list of possible actions that would restore and enhance the Crumlin Arm to create a four mile navigable stretch of canal. Each action can be carried out independently but would be beneficial to the whole. The plan is not set out as a step by step process, as acquiring sufficient funding is a barrier to many of the plan’s actions. The plan should be re-visited as and when funding becomes available, to identify which actions fulfil the criteria of the funding available and prioritised at that time.

8.2. For ease of understanding, the penultimate column in the table has been colour coded as :-

C=Compulsory (requiring continuing revenue expenditure)

R=Realistic (requiring commitment and minimal additional funding)

V=Visionary (requiring significant capital and revenue funding)

Implementation Plan							
Plan	Actions	Action description/ Recommendations	Potential Funder/Partners	Priority			Cost
				C	R	V	
Page 33 Maintenance	Structural Integrity Flooding prevention Safety of areas	The canal requires regular maintenance and monitoring to ensure the structural integrity of the canal to ensure that flood risks from leaks and blockages causing overspill are minimised. The operation of in-flow and overflow methods needs to be operational and activated as required.	CCBC Water board MBACT				
	Water Quantity and Water Quality	The appropriate management and regulation at in-flow and outflow points will not only reduce the risk of overtopping during storm events but also help to maintain an acceptable water level during dryer months to permit safe boat and canoe use. Maintaining water flow will also assist with water quality issues. The control structures that should be considered for upgrading are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nant Carn Feeder o Manor Road Feeder o Cwm Byr Stream o Darran Stream o Coed Y Garn stream o Pontywaun Overflows o Crosskeys Deeps Overflow o Fernlea Overflow o Strathaven Overflow o Gelli Avenue Overflow.¹⁸ 	CCBC (Parks and Engineering) Water Board MBACT				

¹⁸ P56 Canal Corridor study 2005

Maintenance	Invasive Species survey and control	Establish a programme for the eradication of invasive plant species including Japanese Knotweed and invasive in-channel vegetation following recommendations from the Environment Agency and Centre for Aquatic Plant Management.	CCBC (Parks and Engineering) MBACT			
	Biodiversity Enhancements	Some of the land adjoining the canal could be reseeded, and with invasive species control and improved water quality, many native plant species could flourish.	CCBC (Parks) Community groups Land owners			
	Dredging of Canal De weeding	Significant investment to make the seven separate sections of the canal navigable would be required and dredging to remove silt and invasive species control would be required to maintain its navigational status. (To protect what we have now). The silt is classed as waste and is expensive to dispose of due to its biological content. (see farm diversification)	CCBC (Parks and Engineering) MBACT			
	Removal of rubbish	The removal of rubbish in the form of tree branches and discarded waste items is required to keep culverts clear to prevent culvert blockage which increases flooding risk. The involvement of CCBC Community Safety in relation to dog fouling and littering would be beneficial. The use of volunteers or community groups should also be considered, possibly led by CCBC Parks.	CCBC MBACT Volunteers Community groups			
Education	Volunteering Skills programs	The Waterways project in Cwmbran has benefitted from a significant level of volunteer time, through formal sources such as help into work schemes/skills schemes as well as local residents. Volunteers can assist in the regular maintenance and development projects. Skills based work projects can also provide qualifications and experience for NEETs.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Passport/Jobs Growth Wales/Apprenticeships Communities First employment support Groundwork (Peoples Postcode Trust?)			
Maintenance	Tree survey Tree management Plan	The offside of the canal is lined with trees, many of which overhang the canal waterway. The towpath side also has trees as part of the towpath hedge. The maintenance of trees is essential as they can damage the lining of the canal and can be a health and safety issue with a danger of fallen trees/branches onto users of the towpath and waterway. In addition, fallen branches can cause culverts to block and become an unseen barrier to any boat users. Dense trees can also prevent marginal vegetation, which helps bind the canal edges.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership			
	Regional maintenance team	As volunteers are trained and gain experience in canal restoration and maintenance, there is potential for the future maintenance of the canal to be outsourced or managed by a regional team of volunteers and employees. Logs from tree maintenance could be distributed to volunteers, low income	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership			

Maintenance

Page 34

Maintenance

		families or sold.					
	Safe Road Crossing points	Cycle and pedestrian safe crossing points should be constructed at the five canal obstructions where the road breaks the canal, as well as at the origin of the canal where a safe crossing point should be located to link the canal with Cwmcarn Forest Drive. Disabled users should also be considered. If culverts are replaced by navigable tunnels under the road then a safe road crossing point could be under the road alongside the canal if tunnel height permits.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership				
	Broadband cable	The canal towpath has been identified in other regions as a potential site for expanding broadband and TV cabling into hard to reach areas as the towpath offers a direct route through both urban and rural areas. Finance raised through such a venture could be used to fund some of the other initiatives.	CCBC Cabling companies				
Monitoring	Traffic counter	To count the number of pedestrians, cycle users, etc, to establish a baseline of usage and to monitor the impact of any activities.	CCBC				
	Surveys	Traffic counters provide dry, quantitative data, which should be supplemented by qualitative information on where the user lives, works and why they are visiting. Schools could do surveys to support numeracy skills at primary school level and provide geography project data for secondary school pupils.	CCBC/schools				
	Walking logs	Canal users could use apps or websites to record geographical location, mileage etc. Competitions and events could be run nationally for the most canal mileage per age group, family group etc.	CCBC Canal users Communities First (digital inclusion)				
	Twmbarlwm & Mynydd Mean	Improve the links between East Torfaen and Cwmcarn, to encourage walkers, and long distance cyclists to link between the two areas. This would also include the closing of the area, which is subject to landscape crime by motorcycles.	CCBC Torfaen Partnerships Communities Land owners				
	Conflict resolution	Conflict sometimes occurs between cyclists, walkers, anglers and other water users. A system to deal with conflict should be implemented.	CCBC MBACT				

Page 35 of 50

Plan	Actions	Action description/ Recommendations	Potential Funder/Partners	Priority			Cost
				C	R	V	
Education	Educational programs/ Traditional and Heritage skills programs	The Scottish Canals Trust has developed curriculum-linked educational programs around the canals and the experience of applying traditional heritage skills. A similar scheme could be built around any restoration work undertaken, with NEETs and volunteers obtaining skills qualification during the restoration work.	CCBC/Scottish canals trust Schools Welsh Government				
	Educational Labels	Educational labels placed on trees, near flora, and in areas where certain wildlife is expected, will help children, residents and tourists learn as they enjoy the canal environment. If trees have to be felled, age labels could be added to tree stumps, to inspire future environmental scientists.	CCBC School Community Environmental groups MBC Regen Partnership				
	Environmental field trips/ species surveys, Wildlife safari.	Encourage further education establishments, as part of their courses, to carry out environmental studies along the canal, requesting access to relevant study data. Schools, local residents and tourists could engage with surveys and studies by reporting sightings, and numbers to websites via an app.	CCBC / schools FE establishments Community groups Canal users/tourists MBC Regen Partnership				
	Heritage trail	Benches adopted by schools, community fundraising or local businesses could be engraved with the history of the area, eg, details of Thomas Dadford, who designed the canal some 200 years ago, items carried by barge, etc.	CCBC Education Schools History Societies Heritage Lottery				
Page 36	Create a safe route to school, community woodland area and foot bridge at the rear of Ty Sign Primary School	The Tree survey could be used to identify if the area of land at the rear of Ty Sign Primary school is suitable to be converted into a diverse community/school area such as an outdoor classroom, play area, community area. A site survey is required to consider the feasibility of a footbridge and a gate in the school fencing.	CCBC School Community MBC Regen Partnership				

Plan	Actions	Action description/ Recommendations	Partners/Funding	Priority			Cost
				C	R	V	
Town Centre Links	Town centre canal links	<p>P27 B3 of Risca and Pontymister Town Centre action plan 14-19 Increase movement of pedestrians from the National Cycle Network and Mon and Brec Canal to the town centre, encouraging cyclists/walkers to spend time in the town. The route along Station Place and Moriah Hill could be enhanced with interpretation to make it interesting and provide a resting point along a steep route. There is also opportunity for interpretation in Tredegar Grounds Park Risca to promote the canal.</p> <p>P37 1.21 of Risca and Pontymister Town Centre action plan 14-19 The Town is located in close proximity to Cwmcarn Forest Drive and the canal. However, visitors to the town do not benefit from this proximity as the town lacks any signage and visibility to promote these assets.</p>	CCBC Town Centre Management Highways				
Page 37	Refreshment grocery stops	Work with local businesses to provide canal-side advertising and directions to local restaurants, pubs, and grocery and tourist/curiosity shops. Attracting more visitors to the canal will bring a desire to eat, drink and buy souvenirs. The fish and chip shop may be suitable for expansion/change of use to a cafe/grocery point especially if navigation down to Fourteen Locks is restored.	CCBC SME business investment Partnership with existing business				
	Marketing Raising the profile	Engage with local schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular feature on Risca schools Radio Cuckoo FM • Column in schools news letters • Canal group to attend new school entrants parents evenings • Canal ambassadors to be elected at schools Engage with FE establishments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable for environmental and geography surveys • Coleg Gwent has set up a Community Partnership Group to engage with local partners. Engage with local community groups e.g. anglers, cyclist clubs Encourage businesses to sponsor parts of a heritage trail and art boards. Treasure trail leaflets at Cwmcarn Forest Drive, CADW sites and other strategic locations. Publicise pictures of what we have, run events etc. App and Bblog –see below	CCBC Schools Community groups Local businesses Cwmcarn Forest Drive CADW MBC Regen Partnership Newspapers				
Tourism	Treasure trail leaflets/events	Leaflets designed similar to a treasure map could ask the user to solve riddles/use a compass to locate certain objects. There could be several ability levels and events staged around teams racing to find items first. Events could be run in a similar way to orienteering events with card clickers	CCBC Tourism & Events Orienteering groups MBC Regen Partnership				

		to punch cards required or numbers similar to bar codes to be engraved into static objects which participants would need to record in correct spaces on the treasure leaflet.	Cwmcarn Forest Drive			
	Crumlin Arm APP Blog.	Develop an app and blog where treasure trails, heritage trail, events, walking logs, volunteer opportunities, photos, etc can be found. This could be linked to a wider tourism initiative for all major tourism destinations.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership General public			
	Art exhibitions Art boards	Walkers and waterway users pass slowly through the area. Therefore, an outdoor exhibition which could be static or rotated would provide focal points throughout the stretch of the canal. Static art could take the form of sculptures and/or mosaics permanently fixed while display board could provide points for rotated art and business advertising points. Local schools and community groups and/or national competitions could provide the material for these exhibitions	CCBC School Community Gallery in Caerphilly Existing online competitions			
Page 38	Mile markers/Art boards	Mile markers used to exist along canal stretches. Canal River Trust is considering erecting new markers along the canal from Crumlin to Brecon. Art boards could be attached to these markers, some for permanent displays and some for rotating displays. The rotating displays would allow the canal to change displays in line with community themes to create ongoing and cross valley interest	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Community			
	Restaurant boats Static	There is a possible mooring site in the middle section where it may be possible to moor a narrowboat that could be converted to a restaurant boat. This could be as a new business investment, a partnership with a nearby fish and chip shop, or as a community group purchase scheme, (using local labour teaching catering skills)	CCBC SME business investment Partnership with existing business Community group Skills for employment			
	Mobile Restaurant Dinner cruises	If the canal channel in this middle section was extended by removing the road obstructions this boat could offer dinner cruises.	CCBC SME business investment Partnership with existing business Community group Skills for employment			

	Events	The Mon & Brec Regen Partnership arranges an annual Canalathon involving cycling, canoeing and walking over a 35mile route. The Crumlin arm could arrange a similar event, with cycling starting in the Forest Drive and down to the canal, where canoes can be used and carried over the roadway obstructions to the boundary with Newport. It could be extended to Fourteen Locks where walking could commence on toward a further location. Other events such as a duck race could be arranged on a smaller scale depending on community engagement.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Cwmcarn Forest Drive			
Leisure	Cycle hire Stations	Cycle hire stations similar to those in major cities to encourage visitors to hire cycles and visit Cwmcarn forest drive, the six listed canal bridges and Fourteen Locks in Newport area. Cycle stations at Manor Road, Hall Road car park and in partner LA areas such as at Fourteen Locks Newport, Five Locks Cwmbran and at other strategic points en-route to Brecon. This could be part of a wider network of hire and return stations, meaning that returning to the point of origin is not required.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Cycle hire businesses SME investment. British Waterways Cwmcarn Forest Drive			
Page 39	Canoeing Rowing	Encouraging the use of the canal waterway itself through use of canoe and rowboats should be encouraged as regular movement through the water helps with reducing the silt build-up. Engage with local clubs and SMEs to set up canoe and hire stations, linking with the Forest Drive to make it an activity hub. Facilities for disabled canoeists should be made available. Canoe trips with overnight camping could be possible at Cwmcarn and if full navigation was restored canoes travelling 6-8miles per day could leave Brecon and travel to Cwmcarn, which would benefit local campgrounds and businesses (pubs and shops).	CCBC Cwmcarn Forest Drive Caerphilly Adventure Group Local boat clubs SME/ business investment MBC Regen Partnership			
	Waterway regulation/advice boards	There are health and safety regulations applicable to waterway users, e.g. no movement of boats after dusk. Information boards advising canoeists, motorised boats, etc should be erected. Directions to showers, restrooms and other facilities should be included where applicable.	CCBC Local boat clubs			
	Canoe/boat Store	The Hall Road car park has been identified as a possible development site with a strip of land that could house a small canoe or boat store. This is near a boat slip way for ease of canal access. There is a metal church adjacent to this part of the canal which could offer a partnership opportunity between SME boat owner investment and the church where restroom and dry tuition could be delivered. A similar hire point could possibly be sited at Manor Road if full navigation to the upper and middle sections is achieved.	CCBC Metal Church SME/ business investment Local canoe/boat clubs			
	Angling clubs	There are existing angling clubs using various sections of the canal. CCBC	CCBC			

		should encourage closer links with the clubs, and regular cyclists and residents. Consideration should be given to engaging with National Fishery in relation to the fish stock in the canal	Angling clubs Residents National Fishery			
	Segway Tours	The canal towpath would lend itself to novice “segway” users. Tours could be run by SME businesses to link up with heritage, educational, Art exhibitions as well as linking with an off road segway track that could be developed at the Forest Drive	CCBC SME/ business investment Cwmcarn Forest Drive			
	Motorised boats	Privately owned and business boats should be encouraged to the area as their waterways licence brings in revenue. The more attractive and longer the navigable sections the more boats that will be attracted to the area. At present, a trip boat may be viable on the lower (southern section) from Manor Road to Harry Roberts Bridge. Motorised boats on the canal should attract micro-business investment in the form of boat repairer/mechanic workshops. Trip boats, day hire, overnight timeshares, boat hotels, and sea going craft will all be attracted to the area if full navigation could be restored.	CCBC business investment Local canoe/boat clubs			
Page 40	Horse drawn trip boats	In addition to motorised trip boats. Horse-drawn trip boats would provide an added attraction.	CCBC Business investment Local canoe/boat clubs			
	Exercise trail	Exercise equipment at suitable points alongside the towpath, such as pull-up bars, hand bikes and cross trainers. Siting individual pieces throughout the stretch of canal would encourage movement throughout the canal and not just at one location. Equipment can be family and disabled friendly as well as pieces for the serious athlete.	CCBC Community groups Business investment			
	Green Energy Exercise equipment	Exercise equipment such as the cross trainer, rowing machines and hand bikes, amongst others can generate 50-100watts of energy depending on the fitness of the user. This equipment can be used to charge mobile phone and power canal side lights, and possibly, depending on location, send power into the local grid.	CCBC Community groups Business investment Green energy grants.			
	Walking tours Health tours	In partnership with local GPs and Aneurin Bevan Health Board, walks and exercise programs can be developed to offer patients, such as cardiac recovery and other physiotherapy patients, the opportunity to recover in the outdoors.	CCBC ABHB Local GPs			
	Boat Taxi	Encourage a boat taxi from Whysom’s Wharf to the Forest Drive. As the canal is lengthened, boat taxis could operate along the full stretch of CCBC’s canal and also from Fourteen Locks in Newport, stopping at strategic points for tourism and business links.	CCBC Local SMEs MBC Regen Partnership.			

	Energy schemes	Both water and wind energy could be researched. A waterwheel at the Cwmcarn Feeder (under the Former Railway Bridge) to generate energy and raise water up to the main canal is a potential that viability could be explored. Laying horizontal heat retention pipes under the canal bed during restoration works could retain heat that that could be piped to the local grid. The viability of this could be explored when canal beds are dry for restoration work.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership				
Plan	Action	Action description/ Recommendations	Partners/Funding	Priority			Cost
				C	R	V	
Cwmcarn Forest Drive	Enhanced attractions at Cwmcarn Forest Drive	In addition to the existing facilities, which include cycle trails, walking trails, picnic areas, glamping and the visitor centre, the site would lend itself to other attractions which would blend with the natural contours of the land and have little environmental impact. For example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zip Wire • Zip Wire Canopy tour • Zip Wire rollercoaster • Aerial bikes • Leap of faith • Alpine roller-coaster • Aqua ball dry track • Aqua ball on canal/lake-aqua ball football • Aerial bikes (cycle suspended on wire and propelled by rider). Business investment could create such activities, either on an ad hoc individual attraction basis or investment sought from a large enterprise to create and develop it as a whole. An approach to such an attraction by canal all the way from Brecon would enhance the appeal of both the Forest Drive and the canal.					
	Safe crossing point to Forest Drive	At the northernmost end of the canal, a crossing point on Twyncarn Road would link the canal to the entrance of Cwmcarn Forest Drive.	CCBC Forest Drive				
	Green cycle route from the centre to the Canal.	Cycle Route 47 is the nearest current route to Cwmcarn Forest, though this leaves the canal at Crosskeys. The towpath is of good quality and can be ridden to the end of the canal opposite the entrance to Cwmcarn Forest. Cyclists would then need to use the access road to get to the site. A new cycle route to link from the canal to the visitor centre could be constructed. (see safe crossing point above)	CCBC Business investment			£50-70K	

Page 41
Cwmcarn Forest Drive



Page 42	Cwmcarn Activity Hub	This will provide a general sense of arrival and anticipation of what the site will offer, clear signage and banners reflecting the site's varied use. Clear and welcoming site interpretation and directional signage located in two new areas at each end of the car park. Soft landscaping and removal of wooden fencing to be replaced with natural stonework.	CCBC				£100-120K
	Rationalise layout of valley floor	The main proposal involves the moving of the existing campsite as detailed below, the former campsite can then be developed into a family friendly area including family cycling trail, maze, adventure play area, picnic and entertainment space. This will provide much needed recreational space within the valley floor.	CCBC				£300-£500K
	Amphitheatre and viewing platform	An events space located further up the valley floor and serviced by the new improved parking at the pit wheel. A number of recreational improvements could be incorporated in this area including access to existing walking network, outdoor natural play and picnic facilities.	CCBC				£80-100K
	New campsite location	It has been proposed that the campsite be re-located to the slopes further up the valley. This would free up space within the valley floor for further recreational facilities. This development would require major engineering works to create and develop the new site. The new location would provide a better view than the existing valley floor location and hold the sun longer into the evenings. Further study required for exact costs.	CCBC				£2-2.5m
	New pit wheel car park	Parking on site is limited during the summer months with the main car park occupied with mountain bikers. New enhanced parking facilities have been planned for the existing pit wheel location that can link into other proposed enhancements in this area. An estimated additional 40 parking spaces could be created within this quieter part of the site that is a perfect location to access to many walks around the site.	CCBC				£85K
	Additional/improved car parking	Resurface existing main car park and provide additional parking.	CCBC				£70K
	Landscape management	Various improvements throughout the valley floor with regards to persevering the natural environment and control of natural invasive species. Removal of non-required fencing, improvements to surfaces on footpaths (to encourage all use) standardise fencing and furniture around the site & improved signage.	CCBC				£150-200K
	Zipwire Risca Quarry	This is a current proposal that it in negotiations with a private sector organisation. Please note that the sale of Adams Quarry Includes a clause to protect the viability of the re-routing of the canal to restore full navigation of the Crumlin	Private sector				£750k

Page 43		<u>Arm</u>				
	High ropes facility	The nearest similar attraction to that proposed at Cwmcarn is Margam Park that operates with Go Ape. A similar style site could be constructed at Cwmcarn although the site offers the opportunity for longer zip wire length due the heights involved. This could also link into the zip wire concept with one of the longest UK zip wire proposed previously.	CCBC Business investment			£1-1.5M
	Alpine Roller Coaster	It is believed that there are currently no Alpine Coasters in the UK, making the construction at Cwmcarn a UK first and therefore a great attraction. It would require some sort of uplift, which would link it to the cable car project below.	CCBC Business investment			£1.5m
	Cable car	The 2005 canal study suggested a cable car to run from a marina in Adam's Quarry to Cwmcarn Forest Drive near the Twmbarlwm Hill Fort (an ancient monument). This cable car would be 30% longer and twice the height of the "Heights of Abraham" cable car (in Derbyshire) which in 2004 received almost 200,000 visitors. While the development of a cable car would require funding at a minimum of £6m, it would provide jobs and skills growth in the construction itself, together with approximately 12 FTE jobs to run and maintain the cable car without the associated growth of other business and tourism activities. In 2005, the Canal Corridor Study (without the marina and cable car) estimated over 100,000 visitors each year, so a cable car and marina would be expected to increase that number considerably. A conservative estimate at 100,000 visitors to the cable car each paying £10 which would include entrance to Forest Drive has a possibility to yield £1m in revenue income. The running costs (maintenance, staffing etc) estimated at £0.5m would indicate a possible profit of £0.5m annually. This attraction would appeal to cyclists who would utilise the cable car to avoid any uphill cycling.	CCBC Business investment Forest Drive CADW National Heritage Adam's Quarry owners			£4-6M estimate
Agriculture	Farm Diversification	There is a narrow belt of land between Crosskeys and Darren Bridge, which is designated as a special landscape area. It has the potential subject to the necessary permissions to house a farm diversification scheme as long as it is well integrated within the existing landscape. If this becomes viable then the farm could consider making use of the silt dredged from the canal as fertiliser which will reduce the LA costs on waste disposal of the silt. (There may be grant funding if a young farmer (under 40) is setting up for the first time as head of holding).	CCBC Business investment			

Plan	Action	Action/Descriptions	Partner/Funding	Priority			Cost
				C	R	V	
Canal Restoration	Nant Carn Feeder Pontywaun overflow	The Nantcarn Feeder and Pontywaun overflows would need to be improved to ensure sufficient water enters the canal for navigation to be achievable all year. These developments would also provide enhanced flood protection for the length of the canal.					
	Fourteen Locks procedures	Formalised procedures should be agreed with Newport LA who have ownership of the Fourteen Locks to agree flood and guaranteed flow procedures. Both CCBC and Newport rely on each other to regulate water flow in both the CCBC and Newport canal areas.	CCBC Newport LA				
	Tunnel replacing the Gelli Road Obstruction	Navigation Road to Moriah Chapel Bridge is the highest flood risk area. Removal of the Gelli Road obstruction by creating a tunnel to improve water flow and accommodate a narrow boat, would prevent the build up of rubbish at the culvert which has been slowing water flow and causes silt build up. This would help to reduce the flood issue and increase the navigable distance in the middle section. A safe road crossing point could run alongside the canal if tunnel height permits.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement				2005 £0.5M
	Two way Tunnel Thistle Road obstruction	Removing the Thistle Road obstruction will increase the flow of water out of the higher risk areas. The creation of tunnels that would create a two way traffic system would benefit the long term navigational possibilities for the canal. A safe road crossing point could run alongside the canal if tunnel height permits.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement				2005 £1.2M
	Tunnel Replacing the Navigation Road obstruction	Removing the Navigation Road obstruction would create a middle section of canal fully navigable from Manor Road to Darren Road. This would be of sufficient length to run a dinner cruise boat, and encourage other private and commercial boat use. A safe road crossing point could run alongside the canal if tunnel height permits.	CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement				2005 £0.3M

Removing the Manor Road Obstruction	<p>Removing this obstruction would link Risca to Newport LA by water transport. Newport has two bridges that need to be raised within their boundary, which would allow navigation from Fourteen Locks to Manor Road. Removing the Manor Road obstruction would make navigation from Newport LA to Darren Road possible. Removing this obstruction would also encourage water flow into the rural areas to the south of Risca, which would significantly reduce the flood risk to the urban areas.</p> <p>In 2005 a tunnel was considered more appropriate, due to engineering issues with an aqueduct. However, with advances in technology, an aqueduct or other visually unique engineering idea may now be viable, which would attract more visitors as opposed to a tunnel. So the cost of an alternative to a tunnel should be compared with possible tourism revenue. The Neath Canal built a pre-cast concrete aqueduct near Resolven as a cost effective solution while the Falkirk Wheel in Scotland is an example of an innovative idea that has increased tourism revenue.</p>	<p>CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement</p>				<p>2005 Tunnel £1.5M 2014 Aqueduct £?M</p>
Removing the Darren Road obstruction	<p>The Darren Road obstruction would require the canal to be redirected into Adams Quarry, as this is the longest break. It would require substantial funding, but it would open up Adam's Quarry as a possible development site for a marina and other linked tourism needs, so a large business enterprise may wish to invest in this. Removing this obstruction would restore navigation to the full length of the Crumlin Arm.</p>	<p>CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement Business investment Owners of Adam's Quarry</p>				<p>2005 £4.5M</p>
Pontywaun Aqueduct	<p>This is a listed structure approximately 50 metres in length, which currently leaks. In order to create the Canal turning point at the terminus, this structure would need repair. Any work on this structure would need to be with the approval of CADW.</p>	<p>CCBC MBC Regen Partnership CADW</p>				<p>£0.5m</p>
Canal Turning point	<p>Design and build a canal turning point, with mooring points and a parking area opposite the entrance to Forest Drive to provide a destination for boat users, a winding hole and a link to Forest Drive</p>	<p>CCBC MBC Regen Partnership</p>				
Adam's Quarry Marina and car Parking	<p>Adam's Quarry, subject to planning and land ownership, could be a potential site for a marina to house 30 boats and provide parking for 100 cars. This marina could site hire boats, amenities, grocery, tourism shops and encourage local B&B, restaurant and curio shop activity. This could provide sustainable jobs for the locality.</p>	<p>CCBC MBC Regen Partnership Skills development Community engagement Business investment Owners of Adam's Quarry</p>				<p>2005 £3M</p>

DRAFT

Appendix- Site of proposed canoe store

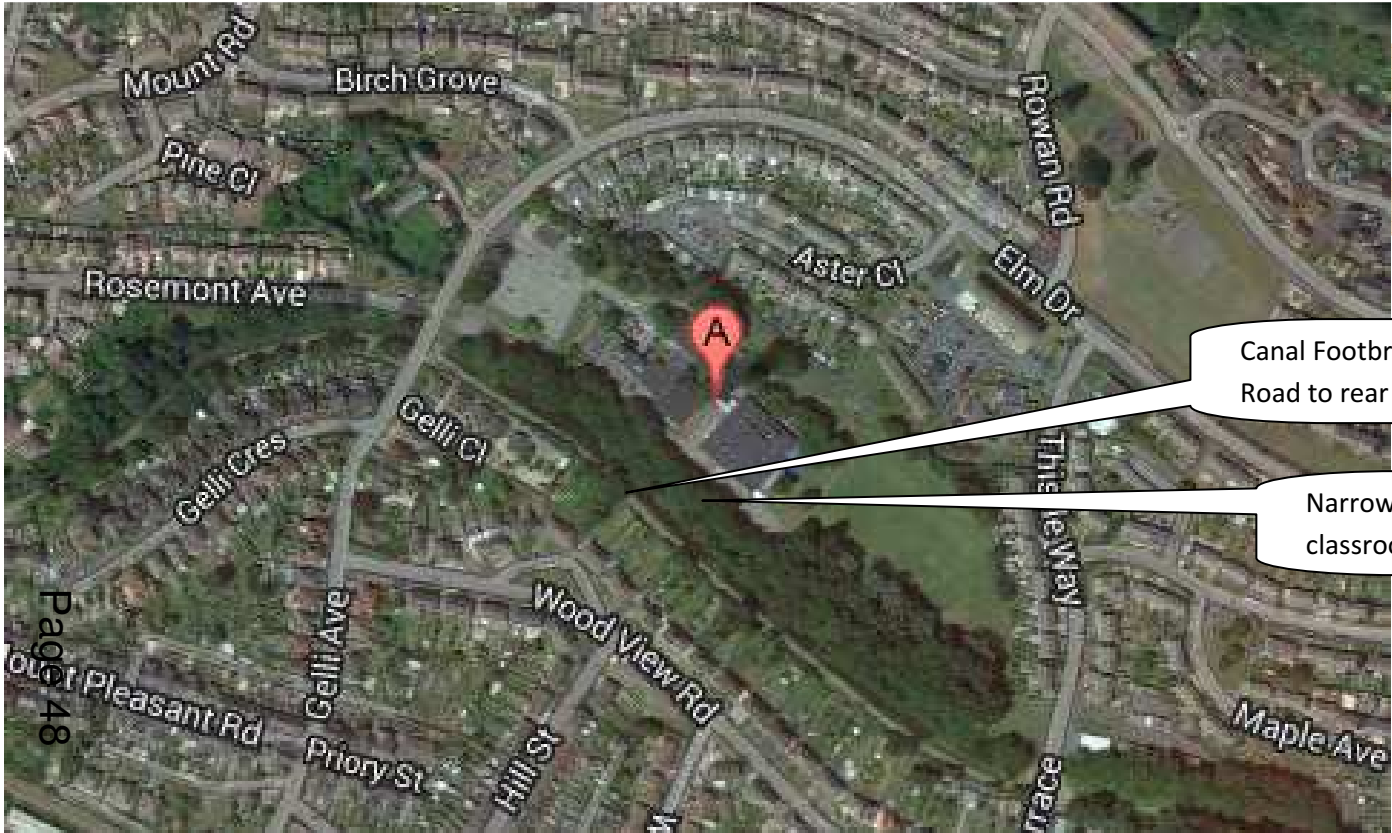


Site of proposed canoe/boat store

Possible partnership with church

Page 47

Appendix-Proposed site of community area, footbridge, safe walk to Ty Sign School route



Canal Footbridge would connect walkway from Wood View Road to rear Ty Sign School

Narrow wooded strip of land has potential as an outdoor classroom, wooded play area, community BBQ site.

Page 48

DRAFT

Appendix-Turning circle and car park to link the canal to Cwmcarn Forest Drive.



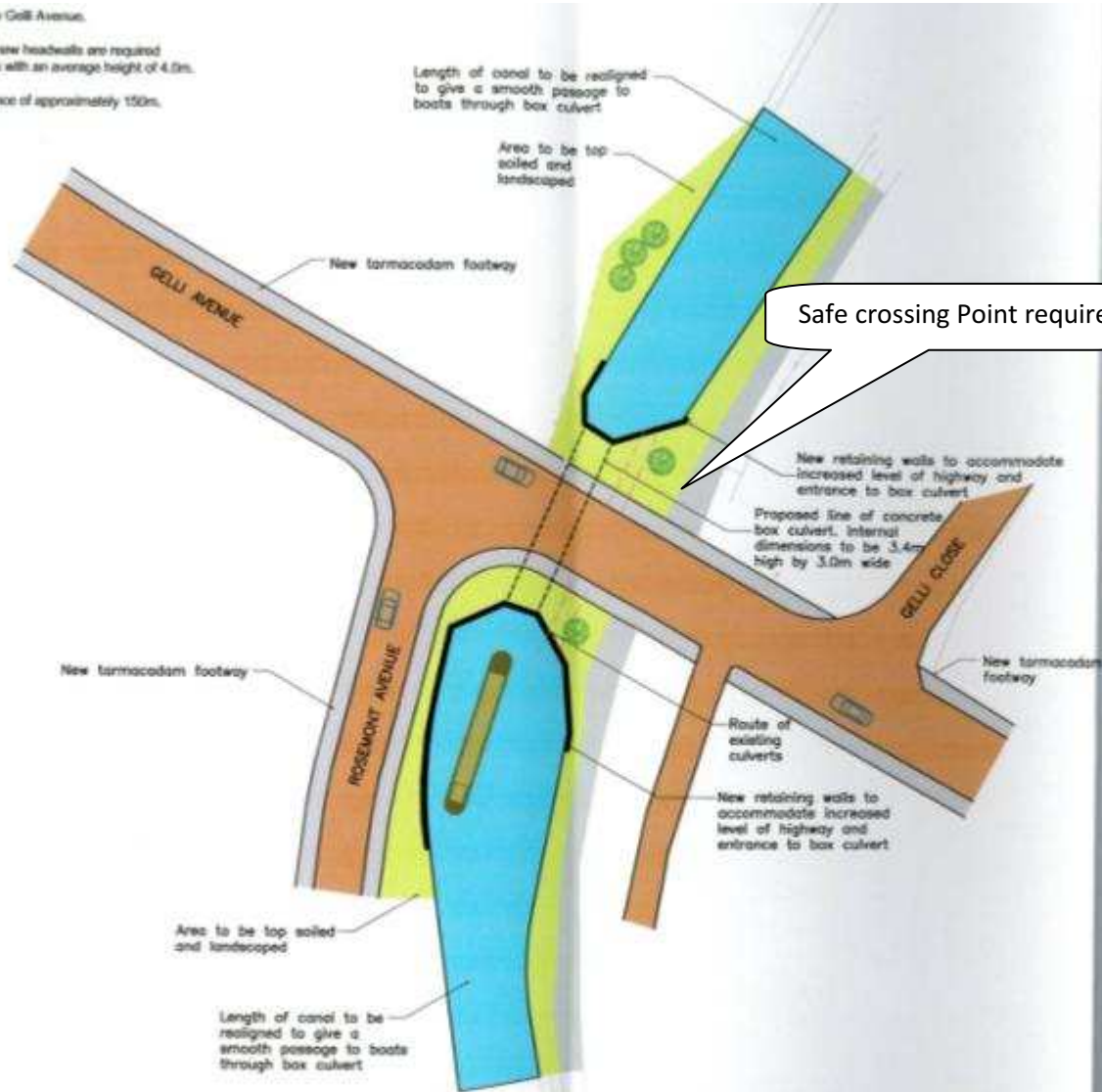
Page 49

	ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY Directorate of the Environment Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE	project title CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY	THIS DRAWING SHALL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE CONSULTANCY GROUP.			
	drawing title OUTLINE ARRANGEMENT FOR A PROPOSED TURNING FACILITY AT PONTYWAUN	scale NTS	date JAN 05	drawn LJ	checked KJK	project ref. TH634
		drawing no. 405		rev.	APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> TENDER <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRACT <input type="checkbox"/> AS CONSTRUCTED <input type="checkbox"/>	

Appendix—Gelli Avenue Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £0.5M

- Provide a 20m length of box culvert to cross below Gelli Avenue.
- To formalise the entrance and exit of the culvert, new headwalls are required together with approximately 50m of retaining walls with an average height of 4.0m.
- Raise the level of Gelli Avenue Road over a distance of approximately 150m.

Estimated Cost = £0.5 million.



Page 50



ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY
 Directorate of the Environment
 Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc
 MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE

project title CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY
 drawing title OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH NAVIGATION AT GELLI AVENUE

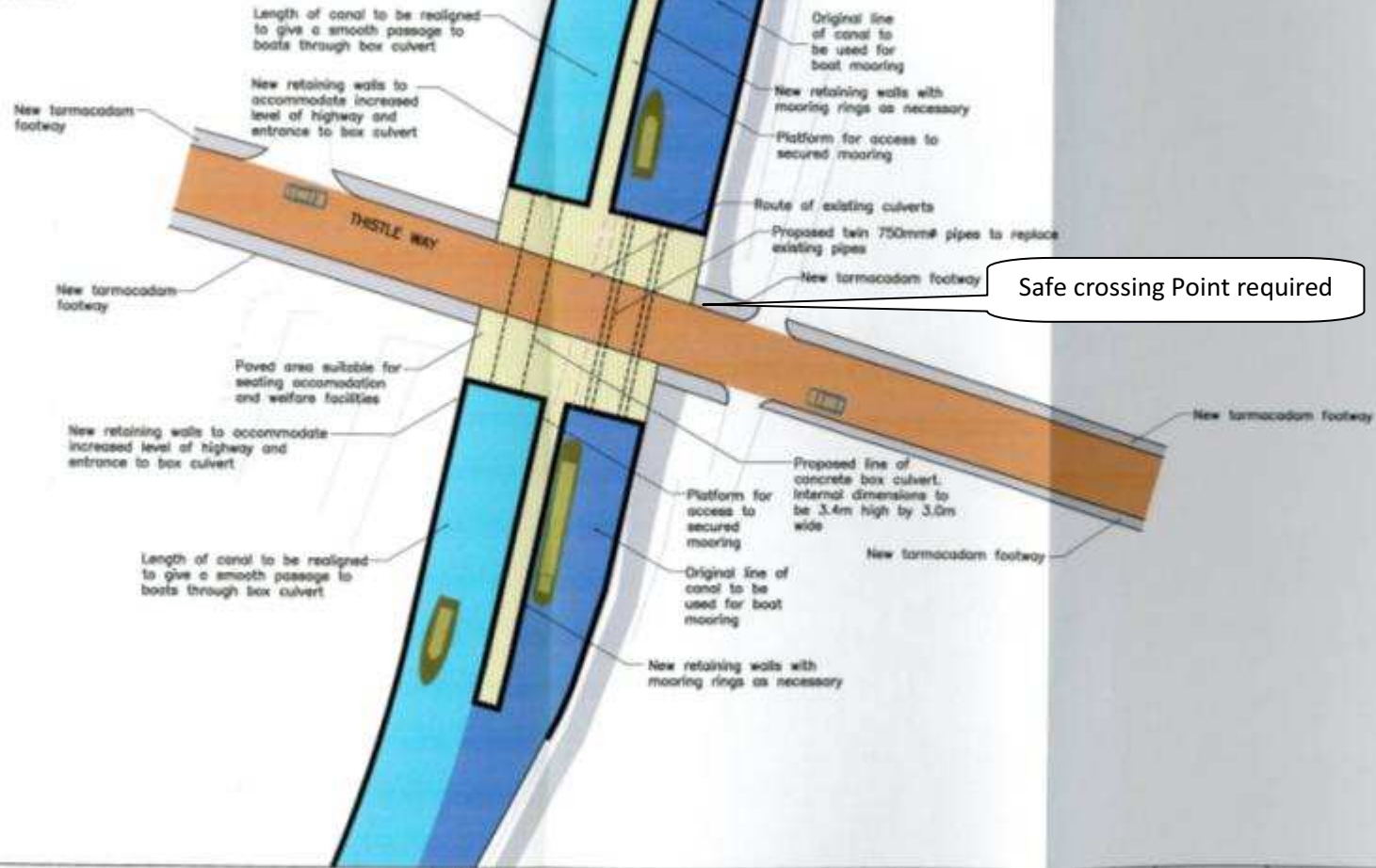
scale	date	drawn	checked
NTS	JAN 05	LJ	KJK
project ref.	drawing no.		rev.
TH634	401		
APPROVAL	COMMENT	INFORMATION	
DRAFT	TENDER CONTRACT	AS CONSTRUCTED	

Appendix -Thistle Way Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £1.2M

To remove the restriction at Thistle Way and restore navigation the following works are required:

- Re-align 150m length of existing Canal.
- Provide a 30m length of box culvert to cross below Thistle Way.
- To formalise the entrance and exit of the culvert, new headwalls are required together with approximately 310m of retaining walls with an average height of 4.5m.
- Raise the level of Thistle Way Road over a distance of approximately 110m.
- Provide 2m wide, 30m long platforms offering secured mooring facilities for boats.
- Provide a paving area on both sides of the carriageway to accommodate seating, toilet facilities and/or a designated area for disabled parking.

Estimated Cost = £1.2 million.



Page 51



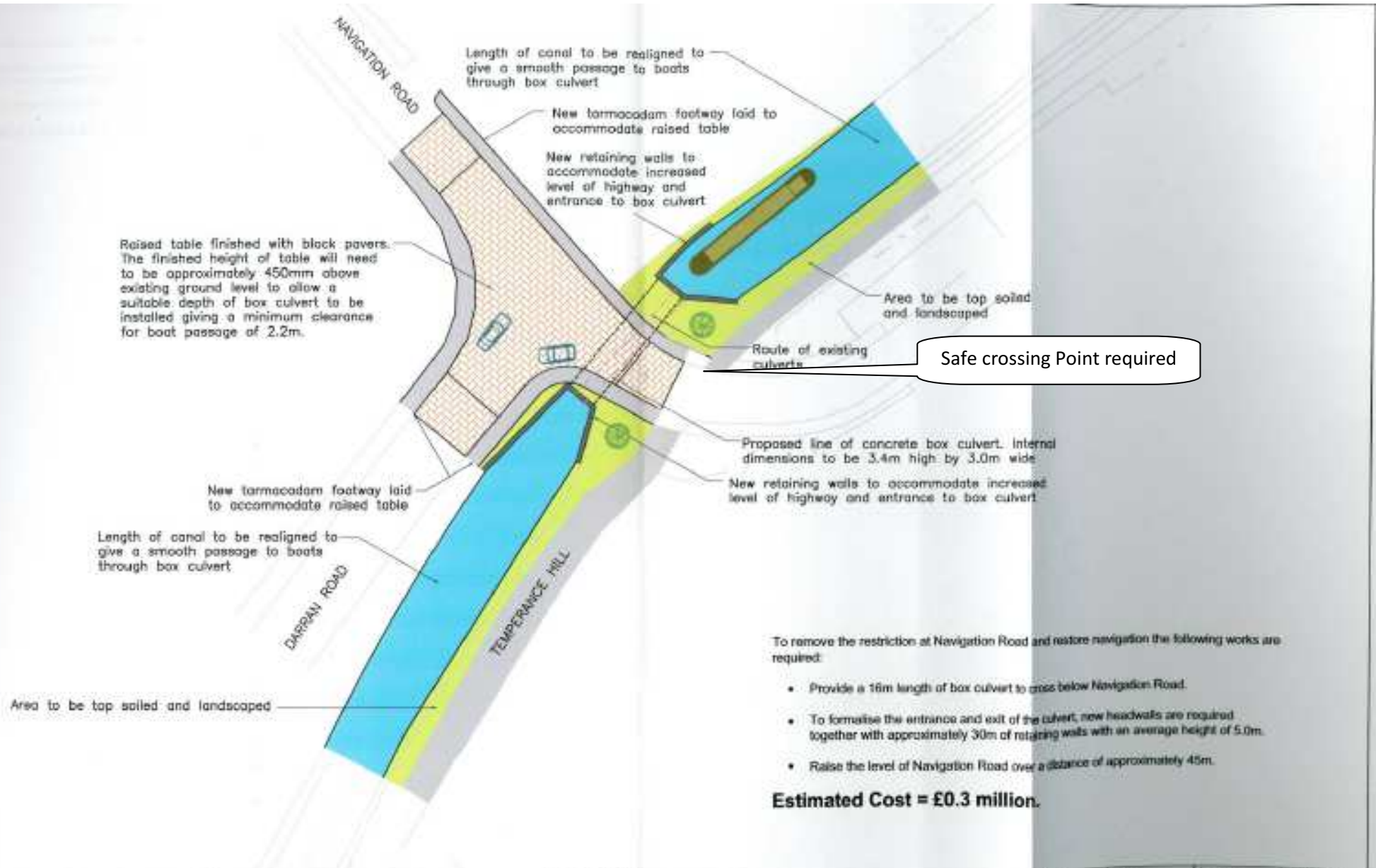
ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY
 Directorate of the Environment
 Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc
 MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE

project title	CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY
drawing title	OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH NAVIGATION AT THISTLE WAY

scale	date	drawn	checked
NTS	JAN 05	LJ	KJK
project ref.	drawing no.	rev.	
TH634	402		
APPROVAL	COMMENT	INFORMATION	
DRAFT	TENDER	CONTRACT AS CONSTRUCTED	

Appendix—Navigation Road Obstruction 2005 estimate £0.3M

Page 52



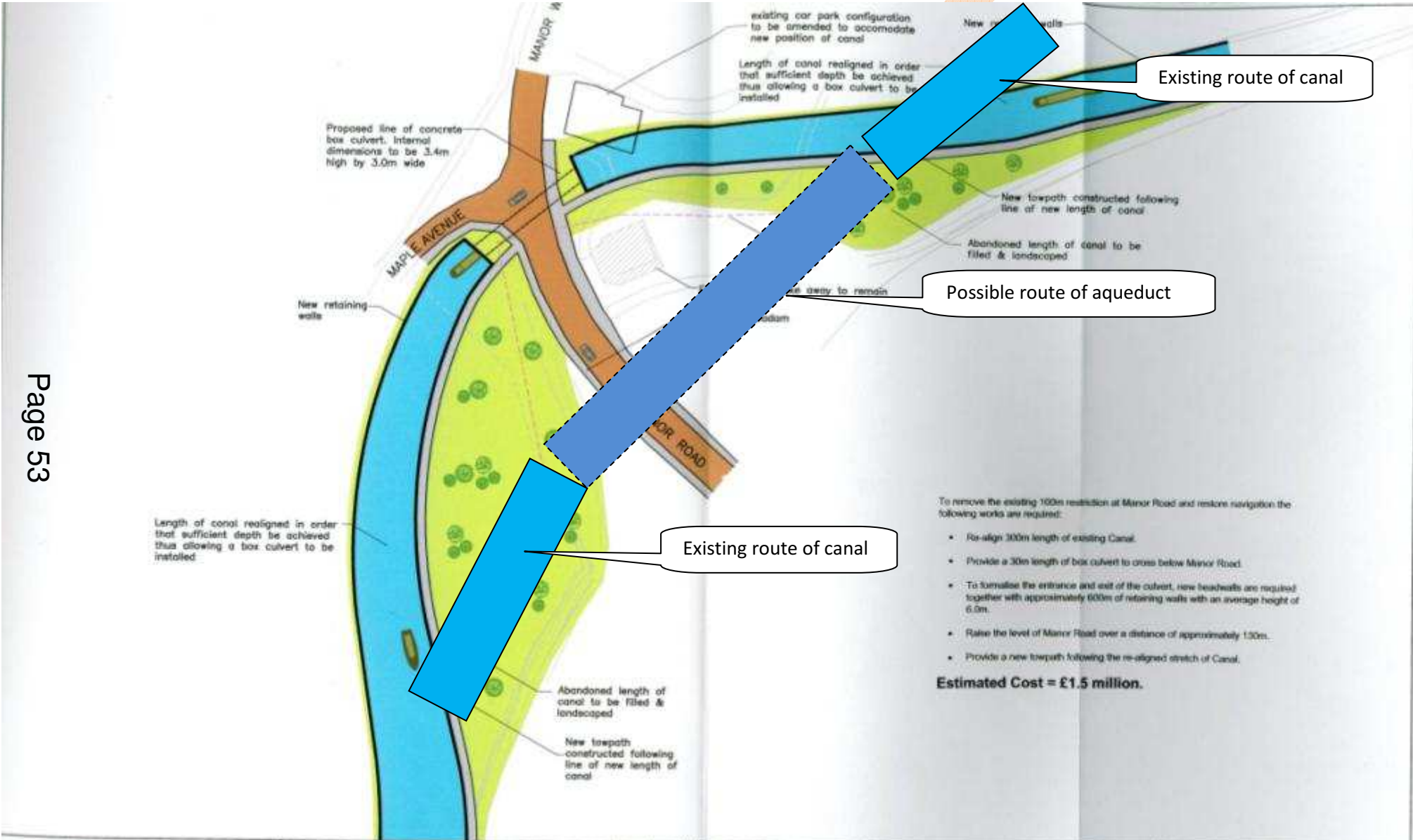
ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY
 Directorate of the Environment
 Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc
 MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE

project title CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY

drawing title OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH NAVIGATION AT NAVIGATION ROAD

scale	date	drawn	checked
NTS	JAN 05	LJ	KJK
project ref.	drawing no.		rev.
TH634	400		
APPROVAL	COMMENT	INFORMATION	
DWT	TENDER	CONTRACT	AS CONSTRUCTED


Appendix-Manor Road Obstruction-2005 estimate at £1.5M for a Tunnel consider an aqueduct



Page 53

- To remove the existing 100m restriction at Manor Road and restore navigation the following works are required:
- Re-align 300m length of existing Canal.
 - Provide a 30m length of box culvert to cross below Manor Road.
 - To formalise the entrance and exit of the culvert, new headwalls are required together with approximately 600m of retaining walls with an average height of 6.0m.
 - Raise the level of Manor Road over a distance of approximately 150m.
 - Provide a new towpath following the re-aligned stretch of Canal.

Estimated Cost = £1.5 million.

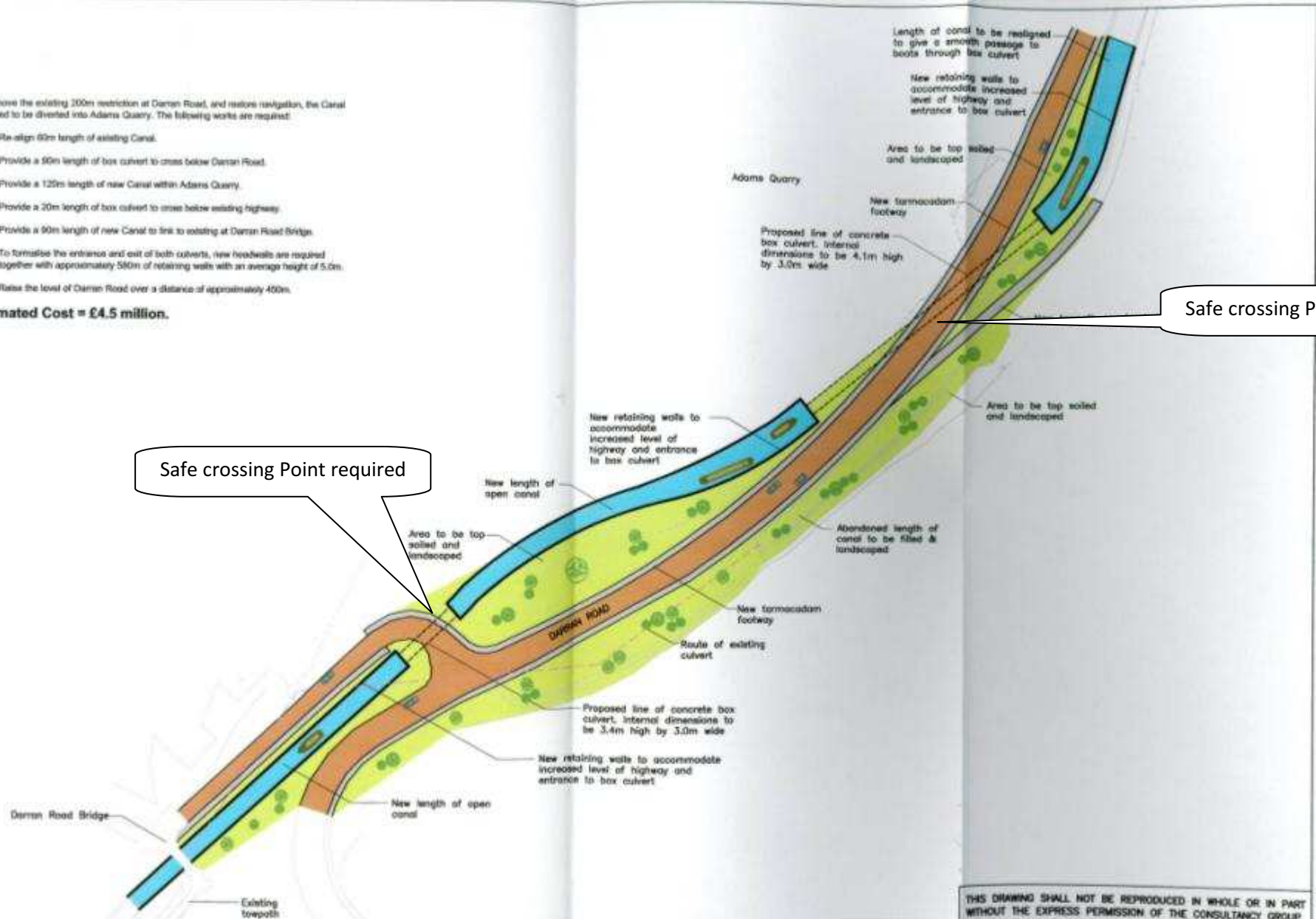
 <p>CAERPHELLY ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY CYMRU / ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY CAERFFILI</p>	<p>ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY Directorate of the Environment Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE</p>	<p>project title CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY</p>	<p>scale NTS</p>	<p>date JAN 05</p>	<p>drawn LJ</p>	<p>checked KJK</p>
		<p>drawing title OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH NAVIGATION AT MANOR ROAD</p>	<p>project ref. TH634</p>	<p>drawing no. 403</p>	<p>rev.</p>	
			<p>APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/> DRAFT <input type="checkbox"/> TENDER <input type="checkbox"/> CONTRACT <input type="checkbox"/> AS CONSTRUCTED <input type="checkbox"/></p>			

Appendix—Darren Road Obstruction 2005 estimate diverting canal into Adam's Quarry £4.5M

To remove the existing 200m restriction at Darren Road, and restore navigation, the Canal will need to be diverted into Adam's Quarry. The following works are required:

- Re-align 60m length of existing Canal.
- Provide a 50m length of box culvert to cross below Darren Road.
- Provide a 125m length of new Canal within Adam's Quarry.
- Provide a 20m length of box culvert to cross below existing highway.
- Provide a 90m length of new Canal to link to existing at Darren Road Bridge.
- To formalise the entrance and exit of both culverts, new headwalls are required together with approximately 500m of retaining walls with an average height of 5.0m.
- Raise the level of Darren Road over a distance of approximately 400m.

Estimated Cost = £4.5 million.



Safe crossing Point required

Safe crossing Point required

Page 54



ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY
 Directorate of the Environment
 Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc
 MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE

project title CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE & BRECON CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY
 drawing title OUTLINE PROPOSAL TO RE-ESTABLISH NAVIGATION AT DARRAN ROAD

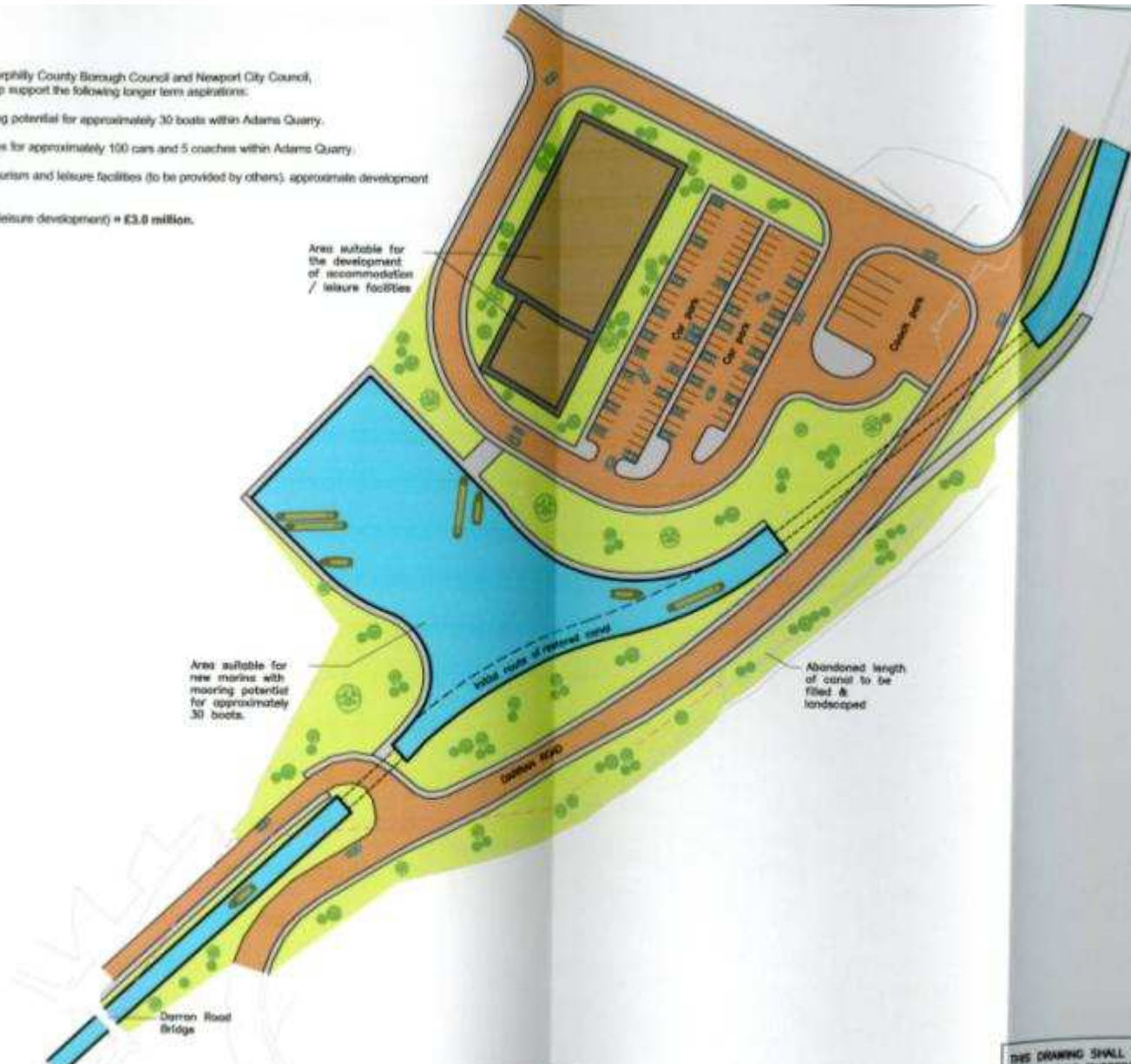
THIS DRAWING SHALL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE CONSULTANCY GROUP.			
scale NTS	date JAN 05	drawn LJ	checked KJK
project ref. TH634	drawing no. 404	rev.	
APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
DRAFT <input type="checkbox"/>	TENDER <input type="checkbox"/>	AS CONSTRUCTED <input type="checkbox"/>	

Appendix- Adam's Quarry Marina 2005 estimate £3M

If the Canal is fully restored within Caerphilly County Borough Council and Newport City Council, and if viability is proven, this could help support the following longer term aspirations:

- A Marina development with the mooring potential for approximately 30 boats within Adams Quarry.
- A highway access with parking facilities for approximately 100 cars and 5 coaches within Adams Quarry.
- An area suitable for development of tourism and leisure facilities (to be provided by others), approximate development area 1500m².

Estimated Cost (Excluding tourism & leisure development) = £3.6 million.



Page 55



ENGINEERING CONSULTANCY
 Directorate of the Environment
 Chief Engineer – David Williams BSc
 MSc DipTE CDipAF CEng FICE

project title
 CRUMLIN ARM – MONMOUTHSHIRE &
 BRECON CANAL
 CANAL CORRIDOR STUDY

drawing title
 ADAMS QUARRY – POTENTIAL MARINA AND
 LEISURE DEVELOPMENT

THIS DRAWING SHALL NOT BE REPRODUCED IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT THE EXPRESS PERMISSION OF THE CONSULTANCY GROUP.			
scale NTS	date JAN 05	drawn LJ	checked KJK
project ref. TH634	drawing no. 406		rev.
APPROVAL <input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/>	
DRAFT <input type="checkbox"/>	TENDER <input type="checkbox"/>	CONTRACT <input type="checkbox"/>	AS CONSTRUCTED <input type="checkbox"/>

Canal Maintenance Pictures of relining work



Page 56



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH MAY 2015

SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVE: CARBON MANAGEMENT - REDUCE OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Local Government Measure 2009 requires all local authorities in Wales to set and publish a set of Improvement Objectives. The Wales Audit Office (WAO) will use these Improvement Objectives to evaluate the council's likelihood of improvement and following that, the level of actual improvement that is achieved for the citizens of Caerphilly.
- 1.2 This report is to provide members with the details of the proposed Council Improvement Objective for 2015-2016 relevant to this particular scrutiny and for members to scrutinise the objective by either accepting or amending the objective (Appendix 1).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council has reviewed its existing objectives and is finalising a new set of objectives for 2015/16 (as listed in Appendix 2).

The objective that is recommended to come to this committee for regular performance monitoring is: **Carbon Management: Reducing our carbon footprint** due to energy usage in our non-domestic buildings and street lighting.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The local Government Measure 2009 requires each authority to publish priorities for improvement called Improvement Objectives.
- 3.2 Carbon Reduction Strategy 2009.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Cabinet has undertaken a review of the 2014/15 Improvement Objectives and has decided to recommend to Council a new Objective for 2015/16 titled **Reduce our carbon footprint**. The Objectives must be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and although not stated in the Measure, informal expectation is no later than the end of the first quarter (June 2015).
- 4.2 Considerations when choosing an objective include the following -

- Relevance – Is this area relevant and identifies where there is an ‘unmet’ need?
- Is this an area where we need to improve upon?
- Consultation – are these areas what citizens want us to focus on?
- Funding – Does the Medium Term Financial Plan affect whether some of these activities can still be delivered?
- Is there any new legislation, demographic or any other changes that need to be taken into account?

- 4.3 The objective is relevant because our climate is undergoing dramatic changes as the direct result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most significant and prevalent GHG is emitted mostly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. The UK Government has committed to take action and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK. CCBC is a large organisation and as such has a large carbon footprint. We have an obligation to take steps to minimise our carbon footprint and the associated negative impact on the environment.
- 4.4 The energy efficiency of our building stock has been improved substantially over recent years. The Salix invest to save fund has been used effectively and this scheme has already reduced the Authority’s carbon footprint by some 2,621 tonnes of CO₂ per annum, with associated lifetime energy cost savings circa £4.5 million. There remains significant scope to make further improvements that would bring several benefits in addition to reducing our carbon footprint, for example, our energy costs would reduce and the environment within our buildings would be improved.
- 4.5 Public awareness of climate change and the link to carbon footprint is high and Caerphilly Borough citizens expect the Authority to take reasonable steps to reduce the energy consumed by its buildings.
- 4.6 Whilst the medium term financial plan (MTFP) will reduce the available funds for asset management, the Salix invest to save fund is still available.
- 4.7 The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory UK government carbon emissions reporting and pricing scheme that applies to all major organisations in the UK. The scheme drives energy efficiency and also levies a charge based upon actual carbon emissions.
- 4.8 Appendix 1 presents detail of the objective, what difference we plan to make, how we will measure success and what resources we have to deliver this objective.
- 4.9 This report asks members to consider if they are content to support this Improvement Objective and planned outcomes. Members will also play a key role in monitoring the delivery of the Improvement Objective via regular updates to Scrutiny Committee.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications to this report that have not been considered or would adversely affect any individual or group who fall under one of the protected characteristics or wider issues as shown in the Council’s Strategic Equality Plan.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Salix invest to save fund was established in Sept 2004 utilising £200k of government funding with CCBC providing £500k. The investments are loans paid back over 0 to 10 years and therefore, funds are available for re-investment in energy efficiency schemes over coming years.

6.2 The Salix scheme is managed by the in-house Energy Team Energy who also provide, training and advice to building managers and collate Authority wide energy usage data. It is confirmed that the Energy Team's costs are allowed for within the MTFP.

6.3 There are no adverse financial implications to the medium term financial plan of this objective. However, improvements in energy efficiency will lead to reduced energy costs which will benefit the MTFP.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personal implications from this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The result of all consultations has been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members support the Improvement Objective(s) detailed and monitor delivery progress.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To gain Members views and approval on the Council's Improvement Objectives for 2015/16.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Local Government Measure 2009.

Author: Ian Raymond, Performance Management Officer
Email: raymoi@caerphilly.gov.uk Tel: 01443 864238

Consultees: Mark Williams, Building Consultancy Manager
Paul Rossiter, Energy & Water Officer
Cllr David Hardacre, Cabinet member for Performance & Asset Management
Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Colin Jones, Head of Performance, Property and Policy
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151
Dave Thomas, Senior Policy Officer, Policy
Ros Roberts, Performance Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

Appendix 2 List of 2015-16 Improvement objectives under consideration

This page is intentionally left blank

Our Improvement Objective – 2015/16

Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint

1. What difference do we plan to make?

Our objective is to take steps to reduce the Authorities carbon footprint and inform and assist others within the Borough to do the same.

The overall objective is to reduce the Authorities carbon footprint of 26,035 tonnes by 45%, by 2019.

2. Why we have chosen this?

Our climate is undergoing dramatic changes as the direct result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the most significant and prevalent GHG is emitted mostly from the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.

The UK Government has committed to take action and has introduced the Climate Change Act with a target to cut carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050, with a minimum reduction of 26% by 2020 across the UK.

CCBC is a large organisation and as such has a large carbon footprint. We have an obligation to take steps to minimise our carbon footprint and the associated negative impact on the environment.

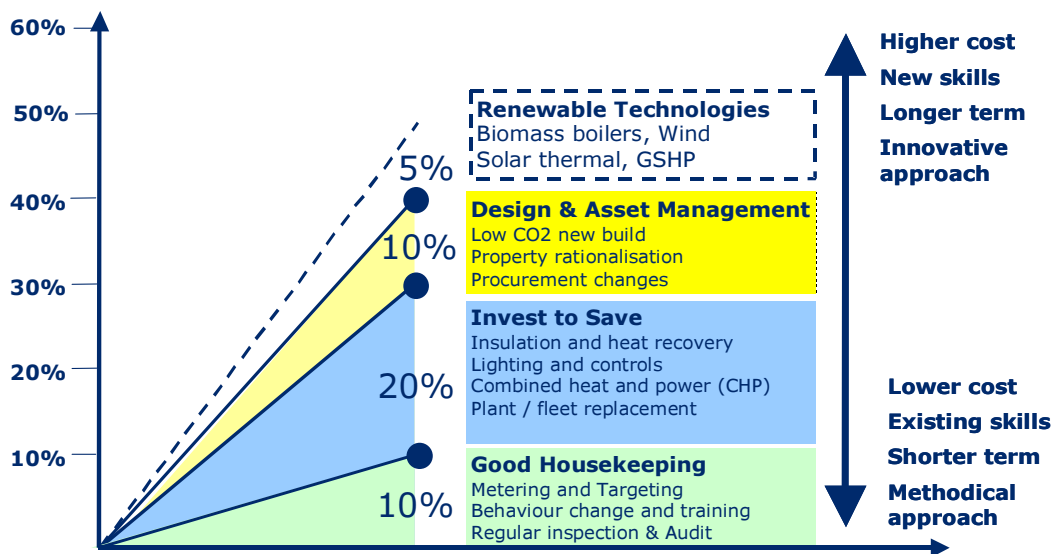
3. Where are we now?

The authority's energy management team, over the last decade, has instigated and registered impressive carbon and energy savings. This has resulted in annual carbon emissions being, 2,621 tonnes lower than where they would otherwise have been. These savings are registered through 220+ invest to save projects. Additional savings have been registered outside of this scheme, all of which result in a much more carbon efficient authority.

Legislative requirements are contributing to effect change, and incur fine/prosecution for non-compliance. Legislative demands assist in raising the profile for carbon improvements.

Our 10-year Carbon Reduction Strategy is due to end in 2019. Where other authorities have outsourced services such as leisure and housing, ours remain in house. This is an important consideration given that the age of buildings stock (fabric and building services) has a direct relationship with energy consumption.

The carbon reduction strategy has four key themes for achieving carbon improvement: Good Housekeeping; Invest to Save; Asset management and Renewable technology.



Good Housekeeping:

Involves behaviour change, ensuring staff are aware that their actions contribute to carbon emissions and encouraging them to turn off lights, computers, or other equipment. These are simple changes that can be made immediately. This relies on raising awareness of issues through; education, training, energy audits or display energy certificates. It is supported by having good benchmarks and data for all buildings. In our schools we will use the Eco Schools programme to continue to raise awareness of the importance of reducing energy use with pupils and staff.

Invest To Save

The application of new technology can reduce carbon emissions. More often than not there is a strong business case for the investment. Caerphilly aims to change street light lamps from 90 watt Sons to a more energy efficient format called Light Emitting Diodes (LED's), which run at 19 watts, this will result in significant carbon reductions. Other standard technologies installed include Building Energy Management Systems, Insulation, Lighting upgrades and controls on equipment. Caerphilly CBC has a proven track record with this approach and compare favourably against other public sector organisations across the UK.

Design and Asset management

Choosing the correct buildings to retain or dispose of can have a significant bearing on carbon emissions and constructing energy efficient buildings, which generate less carbon than the buildings being replaced, also makes a significant contribution. If for example Pontllanfraith House was to be disposed off, the annual carbon savings would be in the region of 409 tonnes, but this would only be a carbon savings if the new/replacement building housing the displaced staff was more energy efficient than the former.

Under occupation of buildings results in increased carbon, this is highlighted where schools heat the whole school for one rooms worth of community evening class.

Renewable technology

There is no authority budget for renewable technology. The correct approach is to implement good housekeeping, invest to save and asset management before looking to incorporate renewable technology. The authority has however, installed some renewables already, are installing photovoltaics on Islwyn Indoor Bowls (early 2015) and will have to install some renewable technology for new build projects as part of the BREEAM standards on Islwyn West Comprehensive.

4. What actions are we going to take to improve?

- Good Housekeeping
 - i. Carbon Reduction Commitment Training
 - ii. General Awareness Raising through various media formats
 - iii. Training key staff e.g caretakers on building energy management systems.
 - iv. Re issue benchmark information to building managers
 - v. Re Issue Energy Audits
 - vi. Workshops, events and training with staff and pupils in schools

Note: – Several actions are unquantifiable in that we cannot always record the carbon emissions that result from taking the actions.

- Invest-to-save on Salix* funded projects e.g: **Salix Finance is an external organisation, which administers the finance on behalf of central government.*
 - i. Various lighting upgrades for primary schools.
 - ii. Various building energy management systems.
 - iii. There is opportunity to replace existing street lighting lamps (90 watts) with high efficiency LED's (19 watts) units.
 - iv. Other technologies being considered include, insulation, voltage correction and controls.
 - v. To promote understanding and benefits of water conservation through consumption management and control across schools, leisure, and other non-domestic buildings.
- Asset Management
 - i Pontllanfraith Offices are being considered for disposal, which has the potential for saving 409 tonnes of carbon per year.
 - ii There are likely to be numerous properties considered for sale or disposal including the old cash office Risca and the old Caerphilly library which may bring some carbon savings
 - iii Training staff to make better use of our buildings e.g advising schools to locate after school activities in smaller buildings rather than use the

main teaching blocks which need more heating and lighting, however carbon savings would be unquantifiable.

- Renewable Technology
 - i. The forthcoming Islwyn West Comprehensive School in Oakdale is likely to require a PV system in the region of 72kwp, which would provide carbon savings in the region of 34 tonnes per year. This will require preparation consideration in 15/16.
 - ii. Further promote internally the benefits and understanding of renewable technology at the carbon group and possibly other forums such as the school budget forum.

5. How will we know we have improved?

Good Housekeeping.

- We will outline who has received carbon reduction commitment training and make the presentation material available
- We will log the number of awareness activities that promote awareness
- We will log specific data distribution events such as issuing energy audits /display energy certificates or other benchmark information
- We will log the number of workshops, events and training with schools
- We will record the number of accreditations to Eco Schools Green Flag and Platinum Awards

Invest To Save.

- We will report all carbon (tonnes) and energy (kWh) savings which result from new technologies being installed through the invest to save scheme.

Asset Management

- We will log where we have provided guidance on the efficient use of buildings particularly those resulting in Co2 savings

Renewable Technology

- We will identify and report on any renewable energy technologies that are installed such as Islwyn West Comprehensive photovoltaic scheme.
- Report annually the merits and benefits the authority has received from existing schemes and outline any potential new schemes or opportunities available to CCBC

6. Who are we going to work with to deliver this objective?

- We will liaise with members of staff across the authority such as head teachers, caretakers, facility staff and those who have a direct link to how energy is consumed within a building.
- We will use tried and trusted processes, suppliers and installers of energy improvement technologies and services to facilitate invest to save projects, such as:
 - i. Designated electrical installer(s)

- ii. Facilities team who deal with buildings
 - iii. Building Energy Management system installers
 - iv. Use existing framework arrangements to procure solar power systems
 - v. Resource Efficient Wales, who replaced the Carbon Trust in Wales.
- Street Lighting department will establish relevant procurement routes and identify appropriate installers to implement the street lighting improvements.
 - We will work with pupils and staff in schools as part of the Eco Schools programme

7. What resources do we have to deliver this objective?

We have a well-established energy team who specialise in this subject, with many years experience dealing with procurement specialists, energy providers, technology providers, property designers, site managers, site caretakers, facilities managers and contractors.

CCBC has been utilising the Salix invest to save scheme since Sept 2004. Salix provide £200k government funding and CCBC have provided £500k. This funding mechanism is used as a loan system across all non-domestic properties to implement energy efficient technologies. This scheme has saved 2,621 annual tonnes of carbon off its current consumption levels. This has also provided lifetime savings of £4.5 million.

Evidence Table

Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint	2014/15 Result (baseline)	2015/16 Target
We will measure how much we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of CRC training events delivered	2	4 groups depending on head teacher accessibility.
The number of building energy audits completed and handed over to building managers.	14	25
The number of Salix projects delivered	12	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for payback rates
The number of renewable energy technologies (claiming Feed In Tariffs or Renewable Heat Incentive) that are installed, and the merits and benefits of existing renewable schemes. Reported to Carbon Group	7 current schemes	As a minimum we will report on the performance of these 7 schemes at carbon group.
The number of Street Lights converted to Light Emitting Diode (LED) format.	New measure	9110
The number of participants attending Eco schools training	91	71
The number of energy awareness sessions delivered to schools	11	15
We will measure how well we are doing using the evidence below		
The number of Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) and advisory reports generated and delivered to building managers	90+	Aim for 100% compliance on DEC's. Total number varies from year to year. Should be 90+ DEC's.
Total lifetime energy savings (kWh) resulting from the street lighting conversions.	New measure	2,500,000 kWh annually (after all light conversions)
% Of our schools which achieve accreditation to Eco Schools Green Flag	71%	73%
The number of our schools which achieve a Platinum award under Eco Schools	15	21
We will measure whether anyone is better off using the evidence below		
The annual carbon (tonnes) saved via the Salix investment projects	2,484 t	No established target as identified projects must be tendered and evaluated for payback rates
The lifetime carbon saved on converting to high efficiency street lighting (tonnes)	New measure	1,235 t annually (12,356 t over 10 years lifetime expectation)

Full Set of Improvement Objectives under consideration for 2015/2016

- Carbon Management: Reduce our carbon footprint
- Raise the standards of educational attainment in identified vulnerable groups
- Tackling Poverty - specifically “Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels”
- Health and Wellbeing – focus on Smoking Cessation and Obesity (still being developed)
- Investment in Council homes to transform lives and communities – (WHQS).

This page is intentionally left blank



BRYN COMPOST LIAISON GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON TUESDAY, 13TH JANUARY 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D. V. Poole - Chair

Councillors:

H.W. David, W. David, G.J. Hughes, J.A. Pritchard, S. Morgan

Together with:

Residents: Mrs A. Gray, Mrs G. Davies, Mr G. Reynolds, Mrs C. Woods

Gelliargwellt Farm: Mr P. Colley, Mr R. Thomas, Mrs J. Morgan

Natural Resources Wales: Mr J. Goldsworthy, Mr. J. Harrison, Mrs E. Roe

Environmental Health: Ms C. Edwards

Officers: R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair opened the meeting and wished the Group a Happy New Year.

It was announced that Mr John Harrison would shortly be retiring from Natural Resources Wales after 41 years of service, and therefore this would be his last Liaison Group meeting. Members asked for their appreciation for Mr Harrison's hard work and efforts to be placed on record, and wished him a long and happy retirement.

Mr Harrison thanked Members and stated that it had been a pleasure to work with the Group over the years, and introduced his replacement at NRW, Mr Jon Goldsworthy. It was explained that Natural Resources Wales was currently undergoing a restructure, with Mr Harrison's remit being shared amongst several officers, but that Mrs Emily Roe would retain responsibility for matters within the Caerphilly borough.

The Chair also welcomed Mrs Jennifer Morgan to the meeting, who was in attendance to observe proceedings as a new employee of Bryn Quarry Ltd.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A. Angel, D. Bolter and M. James, together with local resident representatives Mr J. Cuthbert, Mr M. Davies, Mr W. Griffiths, Mrs P. Lapsa, Mr T. Matthews and Mr J. Szura, and Public Health Wales representatives Dr G. Richardson, Mr H. Brunt and Mrs T. Deacon. An apology for absence was also received from Mr G. Mumford (District Environmental Health Officer).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes of the Bryn Compost Liaison Group meeting held on 25th September 2014 were received and noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Reference was made to the Composting Best Practice Document and NRW explained that guidance was currently being developed on this matter but was not yet ready for general circulation. This document is being prepared by the Environment Agency and NRW advised that it would be made available to the Group once the completed version had been published.

A request had been received at the last Liaison Group for NRW routine inspections to be included in the dataset of odour complaints, and it was noted that this was now being included as part of the dataset reports from NRW.

At the previous meeting of the Liaison Group, a query was raised in relation to odour breaches at the Bryn Compost site. It was agreed at that meeting that information regarding the number of breaches and type of breach recorded against the Bryn Compost site for the current year be forwarded to Members. It was confirmed and noted that this action had now been completed.

6. UPDATES FROM NATURAL RESOURCES WALES (NRW)

The Group were referred to the overview of odour complaint data for Bryn Compost between 1st September and 31st December 2014, with the data reviewed in a daily format and each month displayed on a separate graph. Each set of data detailed the number of calls received by NRW, together with the type of odour detected if NRW officers attended the site in response to the complaint received.

In regard to the September dataset, Mrs Emily Roe of NRW explained that NRW had received advance notification from the site in regards to slurry spreading activities on 9th, 22nd and 23rd September 2014. A number of odour complaints were received on these dates, which were attributed by NRW to these farming activities. In addition, a routine inspection was carried out by NRW on 17th September 2014 which detected farming odours.

A number of odour complaints were received by NRW on 25th September 2014, and officers telephoned Bryn Compost who confirmed that no farming activity was taking place that day. NRW officers attended the site in response to the complaints received but were unable to detect an odour. In response to Members' comments regarding a lack of detectable odour, it was explained that the wind was variable that day and that the odour could have travelled

from farming activities within neighbouring farms. The Group were also advised that odour detection was sometimes a matter of timing and that the odour could have dissipated on this occasion before NRW staff arrived at the site.

Regarding the October dataset, it was explained that a number of calls were received on 2nd October 2014. NRW officers attended site and detected a mixture of farming odours and composting odours. Bryn Compost staff were already aware of the issue and explained that they had switched on the composting aerator that morning when the wind direction was blowing away from Gelligaer. Staff detected a change in wind direction towards Gelligaer and switched off the aerator, and NRW officers explained that the site were therefore not in breach as they had acted in accordance with wind conditions.

November 2014 saw a low level of odour complaints with a routine inspection carried out by NRW towards the end of the month.

With regards to the December dataset, a low level of odour complaints were again received, with routine inspections on 3rd December 2014 and 16th December 2014 detecting farming odours, which were in line with advance notification of farming activities received from the site.

Members' attention was directed to an odour complaint on 4th December detailed on the graph. Mrs Roe explained that NRW had received notification from the site that they were moving compost from inside the in-vessel composting facility down to the outside quarried area. Communications between NRW, Bryn Compost and the complainant determined that whilst the compost odour was detectable, it was not a strong odour. As Bryn Compost were preparing the facility to accept compost waste in over the Christmas period, the complainant was content for the continued movement of the compost down to the quarry, as this would then result in no movement (which could create odours) over the Christmas holidays.

A Member raised a query regarding a complaint made on Monday 1st December 2014. This complaint stated that odours had been detected over the last weekend of November in the Nelson area. Mrs Roe explained that as this call had been received in December, it had been logged against December's dataset, and reiterated the importance of residents logging odour complaints as soon as they detect them in order for them to be attended in a timely manner.

Members' attention was also directed to the two other graphs contained within the agenda papers, which displayed the number of odour complaints over a two year period, and Mrs Roe explained that this graph showed a downward trend in complaints over this period. The other graph displayed the number of complaints over the same period, split into the location of each odour complaint.

The Chair invited questions and a Member asked if they could raise a general question regarding Bryn Compost, which was agreed by the Chair. It was advised that a local resident had found a number of pieces of chipboard, laminated wood and MDF in the area surrounding the Bryn Compost site and farm, and had concerns that these types of wood were being used for animal bedding. NRW officers confirmed that farms were not permitted to use these types of waste wood as animal bedding, and stated that they would arrange to collect these samples from the local resident and investigate the matter accordingly.

A Member referred to the Urdd National Eisteddfod 2015 event which would be held in the grounds of Llancaiach Fawr manor, and queried the progress made on the management plans for the event. Ms Ceri Edwards, Environmental Health Manager, assured Members that the Council's Event Safety Advisory Group were looking at all aspects of the event, including the likelihood of composting odours and slurry spreading activities being detectable during that week. Ms Edwards referenced Environmental Health's good working relationship with the Bryn Compost site and farm, and explained that the site prepared their work schedules in advance. Ms Edwards indicated that she would contact Mr Price in order to explore the possibility that the schedule could be tailored to accommodate the event. **It was agreed that Environmental Health liaise with Bryn Compost to arrange for the possibility of odour releases around the Eisteddfod week to be minimised.**

At the previous meeting of the Liaison Group, it had been agreed that the frequency of meetings would be reviewed, and detailed discussion took place regarding this matter. Members raised a number of concerns regarding the proposal to decrease the meeting frequency. They referred to the latest dataset of odour complaints, and stated that whilst the amount of complaints had reduced, NRW were still receiving calls regarding odours detected around the Bryn Compost site.

Mrs Roe asked Members to note the marked decrease in calls received as a result of composting odours, making reference to the two year dataset of complaints received. It was explained that the cause of the odours were usually attributed to farming activities, not composting activities, and asked Members to bear this in mind. Mrs Roe also reiterated that the spike in odour complaints received in September 2014 was due to farming activities.

A Member raised a concern that residents were becoming complacent regarding detecting and reporting odours within the area. Mrs Roe stated that she did not believe this to be the case, and referred Members to the dataset showing a peak in complaints on 2nd October 2014. It was explained that NRW were still receiving a high level of calls when farming activities occurred and therefore residents were continuing to recognise and acknowledge odours within the area.

Concerns were also raised that it could take up to two hours for NRW officers to attend site in response to odour complaints, by which time the odour could have dissipated. Mrs Roe advised Members that she could be at site in as little as ten minutes if she was on standby. Ms Edwards added that Environmental Health staff were in the area regularly, including during the evening, and could report back on odour issues in the area. In addition, some Public Protection staff also lived in the area and provided feedback on odours within the area. Ms Edwards also stated that a significant improvement in the reduction of composting odours had been detected over the last 12 months.

Members queried the earlier explanation given in that NRW officers had telephoned Bryn Compost to establish the cause of an odour complaint on 25th September 2014. Mrs Roe explained that there were a number of trigger points involved in the process and prior to the number of complaints meeting this point, the site would be contacted by telephone for an explanation of the odour. It was confirmed that visits were generally undertaken following such calls to verify that farming odours, if given as an explanation, were not masking composting odours.

Members gave a number of further reasons for their reluctance to agree to the reduction of the meeting frequency from every three months to every four months. They explained that they had worked hard to establish the Group, and that its role would be undermined if they were to reduce the frequency of meetings whilst odour complaints were still being received. It was explained that Members had developed a good working relationship with NRW and were mindful that this could be affected if the frequency of meetings were to be reduced.

Members of the Group acknowledged the marked improvement in communications between all parties and the significant improvements to the data received regarding odour complaints. These comments were supported by the Chair, who acknowledged the responsibility of the Group in contributing towards a good quality of life for local residents, and welcomed the views of the Group on this matter.

It was agreed that the Liaison Group would meet in three months' time, with a decision to be made on the meeting frequency at that time.

The meeting closed at 2.44 p.m.



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 18TH MARCH 2015 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. Cooke – Chair

Councillors:

Mrs. P. Cook, R. W. Gough, Mrs. P Griffiths, C. Hawker, K. James, A. Lewis, J.A. Pritchard, R. Woodyatt

Together with:

Abbeyfield	-	Mr. P. Jones
Abertridwr Community Church	-	Mr. L. Clay
Age Cymru	-	Ms. S. Brown
Bargoed YMCA	-	Ms. J. Price
Caerphilly 50+ Forum	-	Mr. D. Morgan
Caerphilly Groundwork Trust	-	Mr. R. H. Cooke
Caerphilly Parents & Carers Forum	-	Mrs. B. Helps
Caerphilly People First	-	Mr. C. Luke
Cancercareline	-	Mr. A. Read
Cruse Bereavement Care	-	Mrs. C. Williams
GAVO – Assistant Chief Executive	-	Mrs. E. Forbes
New CLURV	-	Mrs. J. Morgan
SYDIC	-	Mr. M. Bridgman
The Parent Network	-	Ms. M. Jones
The Vanguard Centre	-	Mrs. M. Wade

Also present:

J. Dix (CCBC Policy & Research Manager), J. Elliott (CCBC Senior Research Officer), A. Palmer (CCBC/GAVO), M. Williams (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), S. Crane (ABUHB), H. Llewellyn (Town & Community Council Representative)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Ms. L. Ackerman, Mrs. E. M. Aldworth, J. Bevan, P. J. Bevan, D. G. Carter, A. Rees, Mrs. J. Summers.

Also from, Ms. P. Jones (Caerphilly Care & Repair), Ms. J. Lawton (Caerphilly MIND), Mrs. H. Williams (Disability CAN DO Organisation), Mr. M. Featherstone (GAVO Chief Executive) Mr. G. Mitchell (Graig-Y-Rhacca Communities Partnership), Ms. M. Snowden (Homestart Caerphilly Borough), Mr. K. Viney (The Settlement), Mr. J. Wade (Van Road United Reformed Church), Mr. D. Brunton (VOLUME), Sgt. A. O’Keefe (Gwent Police), Mrs. M. Chapman (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent), Mrs. D. Crossman (South Wales Fire & Rescue Service), Mrs. D. Lovering (Caerphilly Business Forum Representative).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES

Item 4.3 regarding the costs of transport to day services for people with learning disabilities, and the mention of a meeting to be held in February 2015, with Caerphilly People First, The Parent Network and CCBC Social Services, to discuss possible savings on further transport options. It was noted that this meeting has yet to be convened, but that it was possible that the meeting would occur in April 2015.

The accuracy of the minutes of 3rd December 2014 was agreed.

4. VOLUNTARY SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES QUESTIONS – CHRIS BURNS, INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE CCBC

- a) Could CCBC highlight some specific services which require third sector support?
- b) What is CCBC's policy on asset transfer, particularly in relation to library and community services and the role the third sector can play?

Chris Burns noted that since he last spoke to the committee in December 2014 that CCBC Full Council in February 2015 approved the budget, which provided £12.3 million savings. £7 million were made from administrative and back office functions, and £1 million from highways maintenance savings.

The Council is aware that there will be tough times ahead in budgeting not just for 2015-16, but for 2016-17 and 2017-18. The final budget settlement from the Welsh Government to Local Government for 2016-17 will not be known until December 2015. It is estimated that savings for CCBC will need to be in a region of £14 million for 2016-17, and £12 million in 2017-18. The Council will need to shrink by 20% over the next two years.

Discussions with Departments across all Directorates are continuing, with each service looking at reducing management and administrative costs, while protecting frontline services as far as possible. The planned closure of Pontllanfraith House will avoid hitting front line services. Other ways of protecting public services are also being looked at, such as reducing opening hours of libraries. There will be a Members workshop on proposed budget savings options in July 2015, to be followed by a period of public consultation over the autumn.

Mr Burns alerted the committee to the Welsh Government's White Paper for Local Government "Devolution, Democracy and Delivery Reforming Local Government: Power to Local People", which highlights a key role for the third sector around the greater mutualisation of public services, and the role of the third sector in community asset transfer.

Mr Burns noted there is no prescriptive list that can be brought to this meeting, or any future meeting on possible CCBC services to transfer to the third sector. However, he said the Council would welcome and encourage any suggestions for greater co-operative working and taking on services. He noted the Council has transferred assets to the third sector in the past, and is open to further suggestions on asset transfer.

Mr Burns thanked the committee for the opportunity to speak, and informed them that he would welcome the opportunity to come to future meetings to give updates on budgetary issues.

The Chair thanked Chris Burns for his frank presentation on the difficult financial times ahead.

5. COMPACT PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:- DELIBERATE FIRES AND ARSON RELATED ISSUES – MARK WILLIAMS (STATION MANAGER, FIRE CRIME UNIT, SOUTH WALES FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE)

Mark Williams stated that the deliberate setting of fires is a crime. From the PowerPoint presentation slides, the location of each deliberate fire was highlighted for the Caerphilly County Borough Area. These fall into two categories:- Vehicle Fires of which there were 27 in the CCBC area over the last six months. There were also 127 deliberate grass or refuse fires for the same period. These statistics do not show that the CCBC area is any worse or any better than other local authorities in South Wales.

Analysis shows that most car fires are deliberate, and are carried out for a number of reasons. In some cases vehicle crime is related to the stealing of the vehicle keys, and the vehicles, from burglaries of homes or businesses. Others relate to breaking into cars and driving away. These thefts generally can be categorised as being for:- 'Joy Riding', intent to commit crime at other premises, other unlawful purposes e.g. petrol station drive-offs, selling of stolen goods, drug dealing related, or insurance fraud. Typically the cars are burnt out to destroy evidence.

In an attempt to reduce these thefts and fires, the Fire Service is working in partnership with Gwent Police, and much work is being done with the help of Youth Workers in the area. This concentrates on explaining to young people about the dangers involved with the stealing and burning of vehicles. Some work is also being undertaken with Natural Resources Wales (Formerly the Forestry Commission) to ensure vehicular access is made very difficult for some remote forestry tracks. This reduces the possibility of car fires in remote forest locations, which could also set fire to grassland and forest areas.

Local Authorities have cuts to their finances which affects some service delivery. With the reduction in some services affecting reduced refuse collection, particularly of rubbish bags and wheeled bins, there has been an increase in the fly tipping of domestic waste. Fly tipping attracts fines to those carrying out the fly tipping, so the perpetrators, in an effort to destroy the evidence, take the waste to a remote site and set fire to the waste. Fly tipping, if not cleared up just attracts even more tipping at some sites. Depending on the amount of accumulated rubbish, deliberately set fires can be quite large. The Fire & Rescue Service has recently dealt with a Housing Association in Cwmbran, where 15 tons of rubbish was removed from a housing estate. Unfortunately there are signs of more accumulation of rubbish on the same site.

The recent dry weather has encouraged some setting of grass fires already, in this Local Authority area. Mark Williams is working with the project called 'Operation Bernie', which has been operating in South Wales for a number of years. It is an initiative running from the 27th March to 12th April which provides diversionary activities and education for youngsters, on not setting grass fires. Working in conjunction with CCBC, GAVO, Gwent Police, and Youth Groups there are activities at Aberbargoed Fire Station working with children, other youngsters and young people in their 20's, where they are encouraged to dress up as fire fighters and operate equipment etc. It has been recognised that 'Operation Bernie' may need to run for a longer period in future to possibly cover the summer school holidays. If funding becomes available, thoughts have been given to encouraging youngsters to attend soccer tournaments, with notable celebrity soccer players. There is also a big push in the comprehensive schools to better educate pupils on the effect of deliberately setting of grass fires, including not just the costs of extinguishing those fires but the damage it does to wildlife and even farm animals.

Peter Jones (Abbeyfield) asked what equipment the Fire Service uses in remote areas. Mr Williams replied that access to some remote areas can extend up many steep hills and some fire suppression equipment needs to be carried to these often remote sites using a small all terrain vehicle such as the Argocat. The use of helicopters can be effective but is extremely costly and there are difficulties in finding a suitable water source for refilling the

water release device. The Fire Service also operates a 'Wild Fire Team', who will identify overgrown areas, and grass areas regularly targeted by arsonists, sometimes near dwellings. These areas undergo controlled burning. Use is also made of individuals who come under Probation Orders, and working with National Resources Wales, these people assist in cutting fire breaks in undergrowth and in tree plantations.

The Chair thanked Mr Williams for his informative presentation.

6. VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SURVEY – JACKIE DIX (CCBC POLICY & RESEARCH MANAGER)

Jackie Dix introduced this item. She said that although the response to the committee membership survey was disappointing (only 11 of the 46 members of the committee responded) that helpful information was obtained from a variety of Compact Partners to enable improvements to be introduced to the running of the committee meetings. It was agreed that committee meetings would finish before or by 12.15 pm, and that the Chair will be given discretion to extend that time to 12.30 pm if deemed necessary.

Compact Partners were reminded that they should provide written reports in advance to go out with the committee's papers. This is a requirement in the Compact Agreement that all Compact Partners sign up to in becoming a Compact Partner. There have been problems with Compact Partners not submitting these reports, and instead presenting verbally at meetings. Verbal reports tend to take up a lot of the committee's time, and written reports are also easier for committee members to read and understand prior to the meeting. Only one question will be permitted in future on each Compact Partner written report, which are intended as an item of information only.

Following the suggestion of Peter Jones (Abbeyfield) at the December committee meeting budgets will become a standing item on the agenda.

There will be a new slot for open discussion on 'What's happening in the county borough'. This may consider any issues of concern on matters pertaining to the county borough. Consideration will be given to any requirement to hold special committee meetings throughout the year on areas of specific interest e.g. Health etc. Attendance at these meetings could be open to non committee members with an interest in the subject.

7. OPEN DISCUSSION: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH (AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL COMPACT PARTNERS AND COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE KEY ISSUES)

A query was raised regarding recent publicity from the WCVA on funding. The reply was that the WCVA was commissioning a Third Sector funding data collection exercise, arising out of research soon to be undertaken by the Wales Audit Office, on Council funding of third-sector services. In the last survey commissioned by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) in 2009-10, it was found that the total funding by way of grants or payments for services to the third sector by local authorities (councils, police and national park authorities) amounted to £171 million. This is the equivalent of around £57 per head of population.

The Data Unit has been commissioned by WCVA to collect data and report on Local Authority funding of the Third Sector in 2013-14. This is essentially a repeat of the previous collections the Data Unit have undertaken on behalf of the WCVA, the last being for 2009-10. All Welsh Local Authorities have recently been sent a fairly complex survey to complete on funding to the Third Sector, which contains guidance information on providing the data, which the Data Unit will aggregate up to compile a whole Wales picture, from individual local authority submissions.

Cyril Luke (Caerphilly People First) asked if a representative could be asked to attend from Caerphilly Youth Forum given the excellent work of the Forum on issues concerning Compact Partners. Jackie Dix to follow up through officers at CCBC.

8. STANDING ITEM: BUDGETS

It was felt by the Chair and the Committee that this item had been comprehensively covered following the Interim Chief Executive's verbal report in Agenda Item 4.

9. ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMPACT PARTNERS (ONE QUESTION ONLY FOR EACH REPORT – UP TO 15 MINS)

a) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – Neighbourhood Care Networks (NCN'S)

A verbal update was given, with following written report circulated following the committee meeting. Sam Crane apologised for not circulating the written report with the committee papers. She said that she would like to give a presentation at the next VSLC meeting in June.

NCN Annual Reports 2014/15 and Plans for 2015/16

NCNs are in the process of signing off their annual reports which provide details of how they have progressed their NCN plans this year. Achievements to date in the Caerphilly borough include:

- Improvement in Smoking Cessation services support signposting and referrals
- Improved liaison between Primary Care Mental Health Services and the Third Sector
- Increasing referrals from GPs into the Communities First Foodwise Scheme based in the Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre

Once signed off by the NCNs in March, the annual reports will be circulated to stakeholders.

Work is also commencing on developing NCN plans for 2015/16.

Signposting to community services

NCNs across Gwent are scoping the development of an online directory which will improve signposting to third sector, advice, support and information. This has been raised as a priority by both Third Sector Partners and GPs.

Primary Care Funding

NCNs are developing proposals against the new Welsh Government Primary Care funding for NCNs in Wales. The funding focussing on improving the planning of care locally, ensuring access is equitable, improve access and quality of services, and developing a skilled local workforce.

Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre (RIHSCC)

The services provided in Rhymney Integrated Health and Social Care Centre are making a real difference to the communities in the North of Caerphilly County Borough and complements the range of health and social care services currently provided from Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr.

Work is progressing to provide a more integrated way of working between community services and other organisations within the Resource Centre, to anticipate future care needs of patients to promote independence and improve their health and wellbeing.

Integrated Care Funding (ICF) was secured to employ a Band 7 Nurse to help support the RIHSCC Beds. This has had very positive results and it is hoped that funding will continue with the ICF funding proposals that have to be submitted by 26 March.

Building Stronger Bridges (BSB) Facilitators

Meetings are being held with BSB Facilitators to work through a new model of service delivery for this programme.

b) GAVO – a written report was provided with the committee papers. There were no questions raised on the written report.

c) Digest of Committee Reports from Caerphilly County Borough Council – a written report was provided with the committee papers.

Mike Bridgman (SYDIC) raised a question on the surplus in the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget. Cllr. Rob Gough referred to the fact that indeed there was surplus funding in the Grants to the Voluntary Sector budget but the Panel would welcome more applications as numbers submitted were low. Publicity is given regarding this funding from a number of sources including through the GAVO development officers, the Council's Newslines, information in the Grant Schemes Booklet which is available in hard copy and from the Council's web site. Mr Bridgman said there was a need to increase publicity for Voluntary Sector funding.

d) Caerphilly Business Forum – there was no written report submitted.

e) South Wales Fire & Rescue Service – presentation as described in agenda item 5.

f) Police & Crime Commissioner for Gwent – there was no written report submitted.

g) Gwent Police – there was no written report submitted.

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING QUARTERLY BRIEFING – JANUARY – MARCH 2015

Item for information only.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

17th June 2015 at 10.30am in the Sirhowy Room.

Meeting ended 12.10pm.



GRANTS TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH 2015 AT 5.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs G.D. Oliver - Chair
Councillor R.W. Gough - Vice Chair

Councillors:

Ms L. Ackerman, Mrs A. Blackman, A.G. Higgs, A. Lewis, K. Lloyd, M.J. Prew, R. Saralis,
Mrs E. Stenner and Mrs J. Summers.

Together with:

D. Roberts (Principal Group Accountant - Financial Advice and Support), G. Elliot
(Communities First Finance Assistant) and E. Sullivan (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors D.G. Carter, C. Cuss, C. Hawker
and D. Havard and Mr S. Harris (Interim Head of Corporate Finance).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received from Councillors Mrs A. Blackman, A.G. Higgs, R.W.
Gough and G.D. Oliver in relation to Appendix 2, Applications for Financial Assistance -
General Criteria Awards. Details are minuted with the respective item.

3. MINUTES – 26TH NOVEMBER 2015

The minutes of the Grants to the Voluntary Sector Panel held on 26th November 2014 (minute
nos. 1 - 8) were received and approved as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Mr D. Roberts (Principal Group Assistant – Financial Advice and Support) updated the Panel
on the progress of the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

The Discretionary Rate Relief Policy had been presented to the Policy and Resources
Scrutiny Committee in January 2015 for consideration and then recommended to Cabinet on
the 4th February 2015. The Officer confirmed that the only change to the policy presented to
the Panel on the 26th November 2015 was to Top-Up Discretionary Relief. Cabinet had
resolved that this be removed where an organisation occupies one or more rating

assessments properties within the Authority's area, which cumulatively amount to a total rateable value exceeding £100,000. It was noted that two organisations, Ystrad Mynach College and College Gwent, would be affected and both had been informed of the change. The Panel were informed that this would generate £90,000 of savings for financial year 2016/17.

The Panel noted the update on the Discretionary Rate Relief Policy.

5. UPDATE ON 2015/16 BUDGET AND FUTURE YEAR ALLOCATIONS

Mr D. Roberts (Principal Group Assistant – Financial Advice and Support) updated the Panel on current allocations, the 2015/16 budget and future year allocations.

The updated forecast for Discretionary Rate Relief for 2014-15 was estimated as £223,095.00. This left a projected budget allocation of £32,125.00 for Grants to the Voluntary Sector, which combined with the carry forward from previous years of £83,258.00 gave a total allocation of £155,383.00. The Officer confirmed that to date, grant awards for 2014/15 total £15,035.00 with a budget of £100,348.00 remaining for allocation.

The Panel were advised that the indicative budget allocation for 2015/16 had been agreed at £229,048.00 of which the projected Discretionary Rate Relief was £228,592.00. This left a projected budget allocation of £456.00. As previously agreed by the Panel the grants awarded during the 2015/16 financial year will be funded from the brought forward balances.

With regard to the Welsh Church Fund Act Fund, the Officer confirmed that written confirmation had now been received from Monmouthshire County Council. The 2014/15 budget allocation will be £40,084.00 and that underspends from previous years of £132,720.00 can be carried forward, resulting in a total available budget for the current year of £172,804.00. Confirmation had also been received that the provisional allocation for 2015-16 will be £49,334.00 which is an increase of 9,286.00 on this year's allocation and the carry forward of unspent allocations will be allowed.

The Panel noted the amounts awarded and discussed how to raise awareness of the grants to encourage a greater number of applications. The Officer confirmed that the grants administration could be looked at and although there was no flexibility for change in the award process, there would be for the award amounts. Officer's agreed to look at the award process in other authorities and provide feedback to Members.

During the course of debate reference was made to the best way to signpost prospective applicants to the different grants available. The Chair and Vice Chair reminded Panel Members to be mindful of the code of conduct when discussing grant award amounts with individuals. Members discussed the information available to applicants and were advised that full details could be found on the Caerphilly website. It was noted that a grants booklet could also be obtained from Mr John Elliott in the Policy Unit or Members could refer applicants directly to Officers in the Finance Advice and Support Unit.

Clarification was sought as to how many applications could be submitted by an applicant when representing Wales at both home and away events. Officers confirmed that only one grant allocation would be awarded to an applicant per financial year.

The Panel noted the update on the 2016/16 budget and future year allocations.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

6. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: PANEL AWARDS

Members were asked to consider the applications in Appendix 1 to the report and to make appropriate recommendations to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers.

Having fully considered the applications and for the reason given at the meeting it was moved and seconded that grant applications for Pontllanfraith Children's Contact Centre and Caerphilly Causeway Prospect be awarded and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the following applications for financial assistance be referred to the Interim Head of Corporate Finance for approval under delegated powers: -

(i)	Pontllanfraith Children's Contact Centre	£500.00
(ii)	Caerphilly Causeway Prospects	£ 160.00

Having fully considered the application and for the reasons given at the meeting it was moved and seconded that application 14/P019, We Can All Be An Einstein be referred to the Business Enterprise Unit and by a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that application 14/P019, We Can All Be An Einstein be referred to the Business Enterprise Unit.

7. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: DEFERRED AT THE LAST MEETING

In relation to the application 14/P016, Cych Meithrin Coed Dunon, it was noted that the Panel had deferred the award at its last meeting pending further information. Officers confirmed that the applicant had failed to provide the additional information requested and as such no award had been made.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: GENERAL CRITERIA AWARDS

Councillor A.G. Higgs declared a personal interest in Appendix 2, 14/GC082, in that Lewis Edwards the applicant is known to him.

Councillor Mrs A. Blackman declared a personal interest in Appendix 2, 14/GC083, 2nd Nelson Brownies, in that a member of the 2nd Nelson Brownies is known to her.

Councillor R.W. Gough declared a personal interest in Appendix 2, 14/GC083, 2nd Nelson Brownies, in that his daughter is involved in the Brownie Association.

Councillor Mrs G.D. Oliver declared a personal interest in Appendix 2, 14/GC101, Pontlloftyn OAP Association in that the Association is well known to her.

The Panel noted the applications received since the last meeting, as listed in Appendix 2, which are in accordance with the agreed criteria and to be processed by Officers.

8. PANEL AWARDS WELSH CHURCH ACT FUND

The Panel noted the Welsh Church Fund applications received and approved by Officers since the last meeting in accordance with the agreed criteria as set out in Appendix 3 of the report. The total allocation amounts to £6,000.00.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any amendments agreed and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

CHAIR



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D. Carter, D.T. Davies, A. Higgs, K. James, D. Price, E.M. Aldworth
(Consultee)

Together with:

V. Stephens (Town Councillor), H. Llewellyn (Town Councillor), D. Morgan (Town Councillor),
A. Collis (Town Councillor)

Also:

Inspector Muirhead, Mr. Peter Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), A. Highway (Town Centre
Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team
Leader - Urban Renewal & Conservation), P. Hudson (Marketing Events Manager), A. Jones
(Complaints Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors: A. Higgs, K. Reynolds.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (15TH OCTOBER 2014)

Previous minutes were taken as read.

4. CINEMA UPDATE

Mr Dallimore informed the group that the cinema is currently in stage D where design submission has been received from architects with revised drawings, external design, seat numbers based on a value engineering exercise and taking into account the site constraints. This submission is currently being reviewed by officers and who will then arrange with Odeon for them to formally re-affirm their interest.

The new timescale for completion of the works is Spring 2017.

Mr Dallimore advised that with regard to the takeover proposal of Odeon, he had been advised that the company were continuing to trade as usual and still plan to open new cinemas in UK and Ireland.

Members expressed concern over funding and this was noted by the officer. The building design has been value engineered which will in turn lower the costs. Mr Dallimore confirmed that the Council is currently looking for gap funding from Welsh Government.

5. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailers voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

Mr Highway and Mr Wilcox were thanked for the report and all their hard work.

The Chair introduced Inspector Muirhead to the Group as the new Gwent Police for Bargoed.

6. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PAST & PRESENT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win two £50 "Love to Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

7. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group. Members discussed the report

The Chair raised concern over the fall in footfall figures in the North of the town and it was agreed that hopefully this will improve once the Unit Shops are let.

Thanks were passed by Mr Highway to Mr Wilcox for all of his hard work and to Mr Paul Hudson and his team for their work on the events program.

Members noted the important role Bargoed Town Council play in staging events in the town working in partnership with the Council's own events team.

Councillor Ken James confirmed that he was pleased to receive the report and acknowledged that the Town Council work well in the partnership with the Council and Chamber of Trade. The group were advised by Councillor James that Bargoed has been nominated for an award for Regeneration National Award which is to be presented in the Royal Institute of London on the 31st March 2015 and is the only Welsh project going forward for nominations.

8. UNIT SHOPS

Mr Dallimore provided a verbal update to the group on the units.

The group were advised:

Unit 5 - now let to Greggs.

Unit 6b - let to Subway (opening on 23rd March).

Unit 7 - shop window decals to be installed on Friday.

Unit 4 - an initial offer from a national retailers is being considered.

Units 1 & 2 - there is progress on shop fit out designs, but work on a legal agreement has been delayed as there is a 40-day stand still period, enforced by the Competition and Markets Authority which is drawing to a close. During this period the retailer is unable to engage with the Council. Retail agents acting for the Council will ask the retailer for an update on their position and are also looking at alternative options should the original retailer not proceed with the units.

There will be a new marketing brochure produced to market the site to a UK wide audience. New hoardings on units have been fitted to prevent water ingress.

9. POCKET PARK SCHEME UPDATE

Mr Dallimore advised the group that the initial tender returns have all exceeded the available budget so there has been a re-tendering process under-taken with a value-engineered scheme. This will mean less trees, a smaller floorscape and that the proposed improvement to 'Chisholms Lane' will not take place. Finally, the number of new bollards throughout the town will be reduced.

Revised tender has been issued and returned. The Council is about to appoint a preferred contractor and a commencement date is now the last week of March 2015.

10. HJJJ BUILDING

Mr Dallimore advised that the initial contractor declined to proceed at tendered rates. The works were therefore re-tendered and the preferred contractor declined the work when offered.

The next placed tender Dyer & Butler have agreed to take on the works and the compound will be set up week commencing the 16th March 2015 with works commencing on the 23rd March and an anticipated finish date of early June.

Letters have been sent out to local retailers advising of the works schedule.

11. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Mr Dallimore advised that there has been 50 expressions of interests of which 4 applications have been approved, 3 are having work done on site. Two further applications are in development. CC Sports is currently awaiting approval from Head of Service signature and another business is awaiting revised quotes.

The deadline for the budget to be spent is the end of May.

12. UPDATE BARGOED ICE RINK

Mr Hudson informed the group that for this year's events, his budget has been reduced by £15,000. As the ice rink costs approximately £20,000 alternative ways to fund the event are been considered. A community match fund has been identified which would cover the cost of the event.

Two contractors have been written to and asked for costs for them to hold the event and currently officers are awaiting their reply.

Talks are ongoing with Morrisons to establish the possibility of relocating the event in the underground car park. If Morrisons agree to this it would reduce the overall costs of the event. The store manager is enthusiastic about holding the event there but the decision rests with the regional manager.

Town Councillor Howard Llewellyn passed on thanks to Councillor James for supporting the event and securing funding, he asked if Councillor James would consider opening the event.

Councillor James confirmed that he would be very happy to open the event.

13. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Highway presented the audit to the group and the following matters were discussed.

Illegal parking – members discussed the issue of illegal parking throughout the town and Inspector Muirhead advised the group that PCSO officers have been undertaking enforcement action.

The group also discussed that there are some retailers who are still parking illegally.

Inspector Muirhead advised that his officers will continue to issue Fixed Penalty Notices in the town

Mr Dallimore advised the group that he has been looking at the site where number 45 was demolished to place the new notice board there. The Town Council has provided the funding for the notice board and thanks to the Town Council were noted. The board has been ordered.

Cllr Carter expressed concern over damage to the Miner's Heads artwork, this will be placed on the audit.

Mr Collins wanted to raise concern over the highway just past the library as the surface is breaking up. Mr Dallimore will refer this to NCS and Capita Simmonds and set up a meeting.

There were no further issues raised on the audit.

The meeting closed at 17:22

CHAIR



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH 2014 AT 1.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillors: N. Dix, K. James, T. Williams

Together with:

Councillor C. Erasmus (Town Councillor), Z. Hammond (Town Councillor), Mr J Hold (Clerk),
Inspector M Thomas (Gwent Police)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager),
A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal & Conservation), A. Jones (Complaints Officer -
Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors: D.T. Davies, C. Hawker.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING (17TH OCTOBER 2014)

Mr. J. Hold was present but not noted in the minutes as attendee.

The previous minutes were taken as read, subject to the amendment above.

4. PAKING IN TOWN ENFORCEMENT UPDATE FROM GWENT POLICE

This item was moved up the agenda. Inspector Thomas confirmed that he has increased the number of CSOs in the town centre over the last three months and 60 Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued on the High Street and immediate streets off High Street. In addition to this a number of drivers were given advice and requested to move on.

CSOs are out daily but it was noted that this is only one of their responsibilities.

The group were advised that there are two long-term options for parking issues. Firstly, the Council could take on enforcement & issuing of tickets and secondly, physical changes to the High Street, which is unlikely due to a lack of funding schemes.

Inspector Thomas confirmed that there have been very few complaints received in relation to parking and can only confirm two, which were not in relation to the High Street.

The group discussed parking on “zigzag” lines and Inspector Thomas confirmed that anyone parked on these “zigzags” would receive a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Mr Highway discussed with the group that it should be recognised the improvements that Traffic Orders have made to improve parking in the town. He thanked the Inspector and his CSOs for their work.

Inspector Thomas discussed the Thursday night road closure and wished to consult with the group as to whether or not the road closure was still required.

The group discussed whether or not to stop the road closure and all agreed that there was concern over stopping it fully in case there is a re-occurrence of cruisers and they may need to close it again.

Cllr. Dix and Cllr. James both expressed concerns in relation to ending the road closure and questioned whether it could be reinstated easily if the problem of car cruisers started again. Inspector Thomas noted that the Traffic Regulation Order is now in place, which means that the closures can commence again immediately if required. The situation will be monitored if the road closure ceases and will be reinstated if problems arise.

The group were advised that there is a meeting on the 14th April at 2pm in Blackwood Police Station where a number of people have been invited including Bob Campbell from Traffic Management, this matter will be discussed at that meeting.

5. UPDATE ON FOOTPATH FROM BLACKWOOD GATE RETAIL PARK

Mr Dallimore updated the group on the steps to the Blackwood Gate Retail Park and confirmed that the works are due to start on the 23rd March 2015 and will take approximately 5 weeks to complete.

There will be new concrete kerbs and galvanised painted handrails installed and a red brick wall built. The group were advised that there will be some disturbance but this will be kept as minimal as possible.

The Chair thanked Mr Dallimore for the update and also those involved in the project.

6. UPDATE ON FLORAL PROVISION FROM TOWN COUNCIL

It was agreed to continue with floral baskets throughout the town. The Town Council is waiting to receive revised figures from Parks Services in relation to the costs of using plastic baskets instead of the wired baskets and the costs of watering the plants.

The Group agreed that once the revised figures were received it would be discussed further.

7. BUSINESS REPORT – BLACKWOOD 2014

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and provided an overview on how the town has performed during 2014. Mr Highway wished to thank Mr Hudson and his team for the events staged in the town. Football figures were discussed and all agreed that there has been a large increase since the Maxime Cinema opened in July.

The Chair confirmed that there is a change in the town since the cinema and will see more changes once Costa coffee opens giving more of a family feel to the town. The Chair thanked Mr Highway, Mr Wilcox and Mr Dallimore for all of their hard work.

8. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailer's voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

Mr Highway and Mr Wilcox were thanked for the report and all their hard work.

9. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PAST & PRESENT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win two £50 "Love to Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

10. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Highway confirmed that with regards to the former Poundstretchers building the Council is in talks with the agent to establish another use for the site as Poundstretchers do not wish to return to the site.

The group discussed the toilet block and Mr Dallimore confirmed that there is no further news other than the area is being monitored to ensure safety and tidiness.

Mr Highway informed the group that the issue of rat problem at ASDA has been resolved and the ASDA Manager wished to pass his gratitude to Mr Lyndon Ross and his team for dealing with the issue.

Mr Highway confirmed that antisocial behaviour in the bus station is being monitored and the café owner is working with the Council. The Chair confirmed action will be taken and hopefully we can continue to work well with the café owner.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that the damaged artwork railings have been repaired by NCS and has been paid for by Urban Renewal budgets.

There were no further issues raised on the audit.

The meeting closed 14:52 p.m.

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2015 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P. J. Bevan, D. T. Davies (Consultee), C. Elsbury, C. Forehead, J. Fussell, B. Jones, S. Kent, M. Prew, J. Pritchard

Together with:

Professor Deacon, Mr K Williams (Caerphilly Town Council clerk), Mr J Dilworth (Van Community Clerk), Mr T Payne (Cadw), Mr J Couzens (Centre Manager), Mrs S Cooper & Mr Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), Ms K Warrington (Vice Chair Caerphilly Workmans Hall), Inspector G Jones (Gwent Police), Mr Tidridge (Heol Trecastell Residents Association)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), M. Godfrey (Environmental Health Officer), R. Lloyd (Special Projects Officer), K. Peters (Community Safety Manager), A. Jones (Complaints Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors: E. M. Aldworth, E. Forehead, K. James, M. Newman, Mr J Co

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (4TH NOVEMBER 2014)

Previous minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Ms. Godfrey informed the group that Welsh Government has now officially adopted the Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP); Procurement will be going through the tender process to award the contract. It is anticipated that this should be done within the next few months.

Softer measures have been undertaken where the Council have been educating pupils in year 3 & 4 in the Twyn School on air pollution. The aim is to roll this programme out to other primary schools in the future.

Ms Godfrey confirmed that she has been working with Mr Morgan in transport to see how to improve emissions.

Ms Godfrey advised the group that she would be keeping the group updated on any progress in the future.

5. UPDATE ON SKATEBOARD PARK

Mr Lloyd introduced himself to the group and informed members that he was attending to request possible locations and funding for a skateboard park, as there is a need for one in the town.

Councillor Prew confirmed that working with the young people in the youth forum there is a need for the skate board park. Councillor Pritchard expressed his supported for the idea.

Members discussed possible locations and one suggestion was to consider locating the skateboard park within a vacant unit, this would reduce instances of anti social behaviour.

Members requested clarification on the costs for a skateboard park. Mr Lloyd confirmed that the costs are estimated between £150,000 - £250,000 depending on the scale of the project.

Mr Dallimore advised that possible funding could be identified, by using a nation-funding database called 'Grant Finder', he offered officers time to assist with this

The Chair requested that Mr Lloyd return to a future meeting with the findings for funding and locations.

6. UPDATE ON FORMER LIBRARY MORGAN JONES PARK

Mr Dallimore informed the group that property services have gone through recommendations and a report was presented to Cabinet on the 18th March 2015 for a community café to operate from the former library.

Mr Pritchard wished to thank cabinet members for approving the report to enable the community café to open. He added that this would be good for the town and is what the public wanted the building to be used for.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that the owners were local and they have a good record of running businesses. As well as the café there will be a 'bring & borrow book service' available and a public notice board for the public to place advertisements. There will also be rooms available to let out to the community.

It is anticipated that the café will be up and running by late Summer/Autumn.

7. UPDATE ON TESCO

Mr Highway provided a verbal update on Tesco's in Cardiff Road and asked the group to understand the need to respect commercial confidentiality.

8. APPLICATION FOR AREA FORUM FUNDING WORKING MEN'S HALL

Ms K Warrington introduced herself as the vice chair of Caerphilly Working Men's Hall. A brief history of the Working Men's Hall was provided and then Ms Warrington informed the group that she was present to request funding for the installation of a disabled toilet.

The group were advised that funding has already been acquired for a portable ramp but additional funds were needed for the works to install the toilet.

Ms Warrington passed around a quote for the works and advised that they have been struggling to obtain further quotes. Mr Dallimore offered to assist the Working Men's Hall to obtain additional quotes and also to help with a grant application for funding.

Caerphilly Access Group confirmed that they are happy to provide advice or assistance with details regarding the accessible toilet.

Councillor Pritchard stated that he fully supported the request for funding.

Following discussion the group voted on providing £3,500 from the Area Forum Budget towards the costs of the work subject to officers looking at grant applications. The votes were 11 in favour, 0 against, & 1 abstention.

9. REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR FLOWER FESTIVAL

Mr K. Williams presented a request to the group for funding of £1,500 towards the costs of the Flower Festival. Members agreed that it was important to support the event and Councillor Bevan moved the request, which was seconded by Councillor Pritchard.

Members were invited to vote on the request of funding to be paid out from the area forum budget of £1,500.

The votes were 12 in favour, 0 against & 0 abstentions.

10. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS – ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailer's voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

Mr Highway and Mr Wilcox were thanked for the report and all their hard work.

11. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PAST & PRESENT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win two £50 "Love to Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

12. BUSINESS REPORT CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE 2014

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and thanks were passed to Mr Hudson and the Events team for all their work with the events in the town.

Councillor Elsbury thanked the team for the fantastic job that has been done and wanted it noted that the efforts are really appreciated.

Councillor Fussell confirmed that the report reinforces the need for independent retailers and there is currently no representative for the traders. He is in talks with retailers to see if a representative could be organised and will encourage them to contact Mr Highway.

Mr Highway wished to thank Mr Wilcox and Mr Dallimore for their support. The Chair thanked Mr Highway for the report.

The Chair read out a letter received from Mr Tudor Jones (The Tommy Cooper Society) regarding the installation of the defibrillator machines as discussed in previous meetings. The group were asked if they wished to see how the machines worked they could contact Mr Martin Cook at the Tourist Information Centre in the Twyn.

13. CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE AUDIT REPORT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and the following issues were discussed.

The community notice board. It was decided that the best location would be the side elevation on the Principality building, discussions are still ongoing with the library manager for the northern elevation.

Fire damaged property. Mr Highway advised that he has spoken with the agents who have confirmed that the premises will be occupied soon.

Rough Sleepers. Ms Peters introduced herself and confirmed that she is the leading a group tackling homelessness in the County Borough. This programme has been operating for 12 months and the group meet on a quarterly basis to discuss individual's cases and establish what support can be provided.

Mr Highway confirmed that an immense amount of support is provided to the individuals who find themselves homeless and that many have been helped move off the streets. Ms Peters advised that the Street Pastors are instrumental in offering the night shelters to individuals and all of these are volunteers.

Inspector Jones advised that in conjunction with the Community Safety Team a lot of Police time is given to help. He reiterated that the Street Pastors and other volunteers do a fantastic job.

Securing handrail outside the Twyn Community centre. Councillor Kent has advised that the job has not as yet been completed, this was noted by officers.

Hanging wire, outside Specsavers. Mr Highway wished to thank colleagues in Parks for removing this

Burglary to retail, premises. Inspector Jones advised the group that there has been a fall in burglaries and that officers have put a lot of time into reducing the number of incidents. Operation Tinsel resulted in Dispersal Notices being issued to groups of people over a 9-week period. Regular patrols have been carried out, CCTV used in conjunction with the council. Inspector Jones stressed the need to balance enforcement and engagement.

Ms Peters confirmed that there are 16 cameras in the town centre, these look towards the pubs but on request by the Police can be moved to whichever location they need to be directed in. The council will be changing the cameras to a new broadband system by April 2016. Inspector Jones confirmed that the quality of the images from the cameras is excellent.

Demolition of properties in Park Lane. Mr Dallimore confirmed that the demolition of the properties will continue but no decision has been made as to what the area will be used for. Reports will be prepared and provided to relevant committees.

There were no further matters raised on the audit.

The meeting closed at 15:42 pm

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank



RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N. George

Together with:

C. Edwards (Risca East), H. Dyer (Risca Town Council), Mr R Campbell (Clerk Risca Town Council), Insp C Williams (Gwent Police)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal and Conservation), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors : E. Aldworth (Consultee), D. T Davies (Consultee), P. Griffiths, K. James, P. Leonard, R. Passmore, M. Parker (Risca Town), B. Hancock (Risca Town), Mr G James (Clerk Risca East), Inspector Muirhead (Gwent Police)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING 11TH NOVEMBER 2014

Previous minutes noted.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting as there were insufficient members to elect the Chair. Councillor George as existing chair was asked to proceed with the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting as there were insufficient members to elect the Vice Chair.

6. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS – ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailer's voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

Mr Highway and Mr Wilcox were thanked for the report and all their hard work.

7. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET – PAST & PRESENT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win two £50 "Love to Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

Mr Highway advised the group that there are not many photographs of Risca and would really appreciate any help in acquiring more photographs.

Mrs Hazel Dupree introduced herself to the group and advised that she is involved in decorating shop windows and will arrange for signs to go up in the shop to ask for people to come forward with any old photographs of the town.

Mrs Dupree advised that Morison's have some old photographs on display so it may be worth contacting them.

Councillor Edwards advised that the South Wales Argus run an article on past & present so they should have some old photographs.

8. UPDATE ON THE CUCKOO STATUE

Mr Dallimore advised that the land around the cuckoo statue is difficult to maintain. There is currently a dialogue with Keep Wales Tidy with regards to carrying out the works and funding for the project. At present designs are being drawn up in addition a litter pick will involve local schools and Tesco staff

There will be a litter pick carried out in on the 16th April and later between April and May works will be undertaken in relation to the hedges and the habitat for slow worms. It is anticipated these will be done by the end of May.

The Chair asked if the back fence line could be looked at to tidy up. Mr Dallimore advised that he would make arrangements for it to be looked at.

9. RISCA TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Highway presented the report to group and advised how the items get listed on the agenda.

Mr Dallimore advised that with regard to the new footbridge rear of Lidl there has been very little progress and legal issues are still being discussed.

Mr Highway confirmed that the issue of banners alongside the Highway is being monitored and photos of the banners have been provided to planning department. It is difficult to remove them if on private land.

Mr Dallimore advised that the condition of toilet block mural is a concern but unfortunately there is no budget at present.

Mr Highway brought to the groups attention a tree that has blown over in the park and blocking the path. This matter is being discussed with officers in parks.

There were no further issues on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 19TH MAY 2015

**SUBJECT: REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151
OFFICER**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Forward Work Programmes are essential to ensure that Scrutiny Committee agendas reflect the strategic issues facing the Council and other priorities raised by Members, the public or stakeholders.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The operation of scrutiny is required by the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent Assembly legislation.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme identifies reports that are due to be presented to scrutiny during the period May to July 2015 and have followed consultation process which includes key stakeholders and the public.

4.2 For information, the latest Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising as a result of this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising as a result of this report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific personnel implications arising as a result of this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been included in this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members note the Forward Work Programme.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 To improve the operation of scrutiny.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Government Act 2000.

Author: Catherine Forbes-Thompson, Scrutiny Research Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme – May to July 2015		
Subject Area	Report Title	Proposed Meeting Date
Pre-decision Scrutiny	<u>No reports for this area</u>	
Consultation & Information	Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal Action Plan	19 th May 2015
	Civic Amenity/ Household waste recycling centres – review of the effects of policies and procedures linked to MTFP	30 th June 2015
Performance Management; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WAO Service Performance Reports • Improvement Objectives • Council Self-evaluation • Service Improvement Plans 	Improvement Objectives 2015/16 Reduce our carbon footprint - Carbon Management	19 May 2015
	Improvement Objectives 2014/15 – IO4 -Improve awareness, access, variety and use of leisure, community and sporting facilities	30 th June 2015
Budget Monitoring	Revenue Budget 2015/16 Environment Directorate	30 th June 2015
	Apportionment of Highways Maintenance Budget 2015/16	30 th June 2015
Ombudsman Reports	<u>No reports for this area</u>	
Task and Finish Group	<u>No reports for this area</u>	

Subject Area	Report Title	Proposed Meeting Date
Members/ Public Requests, Call-ins & CCfA	Rugby in Secondary Schools	30 th June 2015
Scrutiny of Designated Persons and Other Organisations	<u>No reports for this area</u>	