



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH 2017 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT:

Councillor A. Lewis - Vice Chair

Councillors C.J. Cuss, H. Davies and Mrs L. Phipps

Community/Town Council Representatives

Aber Valley	- M. Stretch
Argoed	-
Bargoed	- H. Llewellyn
Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen	-
Blackwood	- J. Criddle
Caerphilly	-
Darran Valley	-
Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry	-
Gelligaer	-
Llanbradach	- Mrs. A. Reed
Maesycwmmmer	-
Nelson	- Mrs. G. Davies, Mr. T. White (Clerk)
New Tredegar	-
Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn	-
Rhymney	-
Risca East	-
Risca Town	- B. Hancock, Mr B. Campbell (Clerk)
Van	- Mr. J. Dilworth (Clerk)

Together with

H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer), P. O'Neill (Senior Youth Service Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Gardiner, N. George, G. Hughes, Mrs J.A. Pritchard and J.E. Roberts, Community Councillors Ms J. Rao, Mrs J. Winslade, D. Woodman, B. Allen and Mrs E. Macey and Mrs. S. Hughes, Mr. G. James, Mrs. L. Tams, Mrs. J. Dalton, Mr. J. Hold, Mr. K. Williams, Mr. G. Williams, Mrs F. Lewis, Ms. C. Mortimer, Mr. W.M. Thompson, Mrs. G. Thomas, Mrs. H. Treherne (Clerks of Aber Valley, Argoed and Risca East, Bargoed, Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Blackwood, Caerphilly, Darran Valley and Rhymney, Draethen, Waterloo and Rudry, Gelligaer, Llanbradach, Maesycwmmmer and Penyrheol, Trecenydd and Energlyn Community/Town Council respectively).

2. MINUTES - 27TH JULY 2016

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2016 (a copy had been sent to each member) were received and noted. There were no matters arising

3. CAERPHELLY YOUTH SERVICE

With the aid of a slide presentation, Mr. Paul O'Neill (Senior Youth Service Manager) gave an overview of the Caerphilly Youth Service and, in setting out the key principles which underpins youth work, provided details of its nature, purposes and delivery.

He advised that the service is based primarily on a voluntary relationship between young people and youth workers. The Youth Service is a universal entitlement, open to all young people within the specified age range 11-25, with a Families First Service for children under 10. The delivery of youth services provides a mechanism for engaging with and listening to young people and it respects their views and opinions and takes account of their requirements when providing information, assessing needs and developing relationships and trust. Whilst it is delivered by two distinct sectors, statutory and voluntary, the sectors work together in partnership to achieve the best possible outcomes for young people.

Youth work provides informal and structured educational opportunities and access to relevant advice, information, support and guidance to encourage participants to develop knowledge and skills. It is centre based, street based and undertakes outreach and mobile work. It aims to promote and actively encourage opportunities for all young people, support them through significant changes in their lives and assist them to understand their responsibilities.

It was explained that Youth Work is not about 'just doing activities' but building relationships with young people to determine what they require. It is not intended to 'get kids off the streets' but sends Youth Workers to where they choose to congregate in order to engage and facilitate discussion.

Mr O'Neill advised that Youth Work is an education profession that complements the work of others and has been a registered profession by statute since 1944. He outlined the qualifications (degree level) and safeguarding training required by the Youth Workers in order to assist in their role and referred to the wide range of skills they possess.

The Service also provides a valuable role in assisting with youth work training for a wide range of organisations throughout the county borough, and also provides support and advice for the setting up of voluntary provision. It also works in partnership with other agencies and would wish to extend this to community/town councils going forward. Mr O'Neill requested that those who required further information or perhaps a presentation to respective meetings to contact him in order that the necessary arrangements can be made.

Mr O'Neill advised that Youth work is provided through both the voluntary and local authority sectors and through a variety of youth work settings and methods. CCBC Youth Service is made up of:-

The Youth and Junior Forums - engagement with young people by use of Youth Work methodology, principally that of participation. This enables young people, via informal and non formal activities, to become politically and socially influential and to gain attainment.

The Hub (Communities First) Team - aims to develop positive relationships between young people, communities and services by supporting young people to become more actively involved in the community. It provides a front-line delivery youth engagement and outreach project in Communities First areas of the Caerphilly County Borough by a team of qualified and skilled youth workers. The team are allocated to work in specific areas and work directly with young people.

With regards to this area of activity, it was noted that the Cabinet Secretary had announced that Communities First will be phased out between 31st March 2017 and 1st April 2018 and that funding will continue at 70% of 2016/17 levels until 31st March 2018. The consequences of this decision are currently being considered although it is accepted that there will be changes required going forward.

The Basement Information Service - an information drop-in centre providing all young people aged between 11 and 25 years, Caerphilly Youth Service and partner agencies with access to information, support and advocacy - open drop-in sessions or by self-referral/agency referral.

Family Engagement Project, incorporating Young Mums - Innovate and Innovate 2 Young Mums - providing support and information for young mums under the age of 19, particularly in relation to matters involving health and relationships. Another primary function is to offer in partnership, access to attainment and other qualifications. It offers advice on issues such as continuing education, childcare, housing and benefits.
Innovate - the Youth Service via its Innovate project works with young people who are not in Education Employment and Training (NEET). The focus is to support young people and identify training, employment or further educational options, as well as to be the main provider of education in many cases.

Youth Centre and Clubs - there are a number of traditional youth clubs and centres which offer support and guidance. In that it is not possible to provide this activity in all areas, the service continues to seek ways to deliver youth work throughout the borough. It was accepted that key to this is the flexibility of the service to engage with the community through street based, outreach and mobile work, within financial resources. Mr O'Neill referred to the recent dispersal order in Newbridge and to the flexibility of the youth service to play a part in such instances with more outreach working.

During the course of the ensuing debate, and in noting that certain services are available only from September until end of May, Community Councillor Hancock referred to difficulties experienced in Risca whereby an attempt had been made to develop a summer project (last summer youth workers had volunteered their time). An enquiry with the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner had found that finance may be available from the Partnership Fund (grant scheme funded by the proceeds of crime awarded to the police and from the sale of unclaimed found property) but it was found that the Youth Service would not be able to facilitate the scheme. Mr O'Neill explained that the opening of youth clubs is based on 30 weeks of the year from September until the end of May and budget and staff availability (there is guidance on the minimum number of youth workers) must be taken into consideration when determining whether an extended service can be provided. There are other schemes available throughout the year.

He advised that whereas some voluntary organisations can apply for Partnership Funding, statutory organisations are not able to do so. Officers will continue to build relationships with the voluntary groups to assist them with the process in order to seek to extend the provision.

A query was also raised by Community Councillor Mrs G. Davies in relation to Nelson and as to whether there is an opportunity to provide a youth service. She explained that the community had tried to recruit volunteers to run a service but had not been successful. Mr

O'Neill advised that there are no plans for any new areas and that no plan has been made for Nelson. However, each area does have an opportunity to access the service through a number of sources and outreach services are provided where suitable facilities are available.

Reference was made by Community Councillor J. Criddle of the loss in Pontllanfraith of both the youth club (which was burnt down) and Cyber café (which was not DDA compliant and as there was no finance available to make the necessary alterations had to be closed). It was explained that there were no plans to re-establish the provision in that area and noted that those youths have the opportunity to access Blackwood Youth Club and the Basement and evidence has shown that they are prepared to do so.

Following from this, information was requested as to how the service is signposted. Mr O'Neill referred to the establishment of a Marketing Group to enhance that which is currently provided and to target awareness of the local provision (social media, face book, cyber virtual youth work, schools) and to the protocols and practices in place to develop this further. It is a service for young people that aims to provide for their information needs and support them or point them in the direction of other projects that might be better able to help them. Literal signing has also been introduced (starting in Risca) and will be rolled out and signage created for display in educational premises. There has been some outreach work and suitable temporary facilities have been sought for this purpose

A query was raised in relation to the informal education working with NEETS and whether it is used to catch up on basic literacy and numeracy. Mr O'Neill advised that whilst this is a part of the service, it is also an opportunity to develop relationships and introduce a wide range of experiences with appropriate educational, personal, social and formal learning needs for their own personal development.

Mr John Dilworth referred to experiences on Lansbury Park where it seems that the youth prefer to congregate on the streets. Mr O'Neill advised that the youth club was closed temporarily due to an incident a month or so ago and is due to reopen. The Hub Communities First Team is extremely active on the estate in their outreach capacity.

Members thanked Mr O'Neill for the informative presentation and for responding to queries raised during the course of the debate.

In response Mr O'Neill reiterated his commitment to work with voluntary organisations and community/town councils and advised that if anyone wished further information or for him to make a presentation to their respective meetings, they should contact him to make the necessary arrangements

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4. Mill Street Car Park, Risca

It was agreed that the query in relation to Mill Street car park would be investigated and the Member advised accordingly.

5. Civil Parking Enforcement

It was confirmed that Gwent Police has initiated a discussion with the Gwent local authorities that is ongoing. The implications for taking on civil parking enforcement is being considered by the authorities and it is likely to take around 6 months to complete these investigations. There is no further information at this stage and the implications will be considered when the investigations have been completed.

6. Public Health (Wales) Bill

In noting that the Bill is still progressing through Welsh Government, reference was made to a requirement within the Bill 'that all local authorities have a public toilet strategy' and a query was raised as to whether there is one in place. It was indicated that it may be the case that such would be developed once the Bill has been passed but that enquires would be made.

It was also queried as to whether the scheme whereby finance was allocated to premises that were willing to allow the public to use their facilities is still in being and if not, how the sum has been used.

Enquires would be made and Clerks advised accordingly.

7. Representatives on Committees/Forum

In noting that the next meeting is not scheduled until July and there may be some Members who are not standing or are not re-elected, it was agreed that if those who are current representatives are re-elected they will continue to sit on what they have been appointed to.

The meeting closed at 8pm