



COMMUNITY COUNCIL LIAISON SUB-COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON 31ST MARCH 2021 AT 6.00PM

PRESENT:

Community Councillor J. Rao - Chair

Councillors:

M. Adams, C. Andrews, A. Farina-Childs, L. Jeremiah, C. Mann, A. Whitcombe and B. Zaplatynski

Town and Community Councils:

T. White (Clerk), B. Campbell (Clerk), C. Mortimer (Clerk) and Community Councillors: A. Gray, H. Llewellyn, G. Davies, J.A. Pritchard, P. Roberts, C. Erasmus, and T. Davies.

Together with:-

D. Lucas (Planning), I. Mullis (Planning) and E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Thomas, and C. Councillor T. Graham (Van Community Council)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES – 18TH NOVEMBER 2020

Subject to the correction as the word precept had been misspelled the minutes of the 18th November 2020 were received and noted.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Agenda Item No. 6 - Update from the Town and Community Council Representative to the Caerphilly Public Services Board – C. Councillor J. Pritchard provided an update in relation to the proposal that the Caerphilly Public Services Board become the Gwent Public Services Board. Members were advised that this had now been formally agreed. It was also noted that a report would be presented to the next meeting of this committee in this regard.

C. Councillor Pritchard referred Members to the PSB website where reports and agendas are available to all. Reference was made to the Early Years' Service which was a model of good practice and the Local Purchasing Initiative which could have a very positive impact on local small businesses. The value of volunteers and the voluntary sector was recognised but there was not much emphasis on informal groups or funding streams into the voluntary sector. Members were also advised that there was some interesting discussion in relation to violence against women and a discussion that had taken place on women's safety and reduced part night street lighting. It was noted that concerns had been taken on board by Cllr Marsden, Leader of Council.

Members welcomed any discussions in relation to part night lighting and that further investigation would be made to safeguard public safety. However, expressed their disappointment in the decision to hold the Public Services Board on a Pan Gwent basis.

In relation to the Health Board leaflet on the opening of The Grange Hospital a Member expressed the concern that if the leaflet had not been received in a certain area did it mean that they would not be able to use the hospital. The Member was advised that admission to The Grange would be a matter for the appropriate Health Care Professional and General Practitioner when referring, irrespective of whether that individual had received a leaflet.

5. 2nd REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN - PRESENTATION

Mr Dave Lucas, Team Leader Strategic Planning presented a brief outline of the LDP process, the Community Council input into that process and the new plan and new approach.

The LDP is the Council's corporate land use strategy and protects land for various land uses provides a policy framework against which development proposals are considered. The six phases of LDP preparation process and timetable for the various stages was explained. Members were advised that evidence gathering continues up until the point of examination when the LDP is taken to the Inspector for decision.

Clarification was sought as to the number of dwellings that would be included in the replacement LDP, it was noted that this was not known at this stage in the process however assurances were given that there were no preconceived ideas on this. Clarification was then sought on development on Brown Field Sites. The Officer explained that it was not that development on Greenfield Sites was bad or that Brownfield Sites were good or vice versa, but rather what would provide the best quality and most deliverable site and confirmed that there were not enough deliverable brownfield sites within the borough and so there would inevitably be some development on other sites.

Concerns were raised by Nelson Community Councillors that given current restrictions there was unlikely to be as many consultation opportunities as in previous years and asked that Officers keep in mind the poor transport infrastructure within the ward when considering areas for development. Assurances were given that no area would be forgotten and working within COVID restrictions and guidelines, as much face to face consultation would be undertaken as possible.

The presentation moved on to explain the engagement and consultation process that would be followed, and the key stages were explained in order to keep the process moving forward. The

Officer encouraged all Community Councillors, as valued partners to actively participate in the engagement process by disseminating information and taking part in sessions like this one.

A request was made for a copy of the presentation to be circulated to all Community Councillors and the Officer confirmed that this would be done following the meeting. A concern was raised regarding those members of the public that were digitally disadvantaged and would not be aware of the consultation processes. The Officer reassured Members that measures would be put in place to support engagement, including the provision of paper copies and easy read version of reports. He requested that Community Councils forward on details of any such groups requiring alternative or additional support so that appropriate provision could be arranged.

Members queried if railway line infrastructure would be incorporated into the plan. It was noted that this was one of the things being looked at as part of the Metro Plus proposals, however this was likely to take some time.

Clarification was sought in relation to opportunities for further seminars/presentations like this one and if they could be done on an area basis with community councils banding together to engage. The Officer confirmed that they were intending to hold further sessions, but this would be dependent on time constraints and unfortunately going out to individual areas may not be possible.

Regarding Community Council engagement the Officer explained the role that they could play in disseminating information and publicising the LDP process. Members were advised that it would not be able to please everyone and there would be some difficult decision ahead with conflicting issues but every effort would be made to seek a common ground and reach a broad consensus on the plan.

Community Councils referenced a newsletter that they produced and offered this as a platform to share the LDP process and the Officer agreed to provide information for inclusion to the Clerks. A suggestion was also made to cluster Community Councils together for seminars which might reach more people and the Officer agreed to investigate this option. The use of Community Council's social media to further publicise the process was discussed and the Officer agreed to take this option up with the Communications Team.

Plans for Town Centres, place shaping and active travel to secure more resilient and adaptable futures was detailed. The important role that Community Councils would play was emphasised as the plan progressed. Clarification was sought as to how the viability of sites was assessed and whether this was dependent on landowners/developers view of land values, the Officer confirmed that there a variety of elements involved remediation and suitability for development being the main considerations. It was a complicated situation with most builds generating 15%-20% profit which would not be considered excessive amount, developers would also have to consider viability, sales values and when costs can be recouped.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the presentation and for attending the meeting.

6. BRIEFING NOTE ON ISSUES RAISED BY TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS

The content of the briefing note was considered and accepted.

Meeting closed 7.30pm