



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

# **SCRUTINY :** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES,** **PLANNING AND** **COUNTRYSIDE MEETING**

**MONDAY, 24TH JULY, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Sammon (In the Chair)

Councillors D Jones, R Braithwaite, K Gibbs, C T Jones and J Thomas

**Cooptees:**

Robert Holdaway

Ethan Lewys Scriven (Jamie Scriven supporting) – Youth Forum Representative

**Cabinet Member:**

Councillor H Barrett (Neighbourhood Services)

**Officers:**

Cherylee Evans, Mick Campbell, Darren Chaffe, Huw Roberts, Robert Barnett, Paul Davies, Paul Jones, Jemma Rough, Sian Lyon-Nicholas

Howard Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and Michelle Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
119	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Jago and Nicola Mahoney, Co-optee.
120	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.

121	Developing the Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18	<p>The Chair asked for everyone to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Howard Jones introduced the report and in particular referred to The Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 which requires Scrutiny Committee to publish forward plans of their scrutiny work. He further advised that there would be a total of six meetings up until March 2018, with an average of three items per meeting.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The contents of the report be noted and the Committee commences the development of its work programme for 2017/18.</p>
122	Neighbourhood Services - Update	<p>Cherylee Evans referred the Committee to the report and asked each relevant service manager to provide a brief update on each of the following service areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Carbon Management</li> <li>• Highways &amp; Street Lighting</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Grounds Maintenance</li> <li>• Fly Tipping &amp; Street Cleansing</li> </ul> <p>The following questions were raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residual waste – Is there a financial gain?</li> <li>• Pre-election promises with regard to changes to the way refuse and recycling was collected by the authority</li> <li>• Household waste recycling centre - changes to criteria</li> <li>• British Gas - accuracy of bills</li> <li>• Energy management - team member</li> <li>• Monitoring of private appliances in offices</li> <li>• Invest to save projects</li> <li>• Street lighting complaints</li> <li>• Performance indicator data updates</li> <li>• Volunteer and community groups – what are the future plans</li> <li>• Joint partnership working</li> <li>• Mothballed playing fields</li> <li>• Breakdown of staff roles</li> <li>• Environmental enforcement officers and use of Defra guidance</li> <li>• Education training of litter management in schools</li> <li>• Legal obligation of providing name and address to enforcement officers</li> <li>• Areas/location of enforcement officers and use of bonus schemes</li> <li>• Use of Merthyr Tydfil and County Borough instead of Merthyr and Borough.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>

123	Regulatory Services	<p>Huw Roberts took Members through the report in detail and highlighted the priorities along with its main risks and challenges.</p> <p>Councillors C Jones and H Barrett commented that Town Planning were doing well and complimented them on the improvement with regard to plans being viewed at Committee.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The Annual Monitoring Report of the Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 and the Development Control Annual Performance Report are reported to Scrutiny as part of its annual work programme.</p>
124	Survey of Members - Meeting Start Time	<p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>This item be deferred.</p>
125	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>Howard Jones advised there was a referral at Governance the previous week regarding sports pitches and facilities in the County Borough.</p> <p>Committee agreed that a report be brought to the next meeting.</p>
126	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items discussed at the meeting.</p>
127	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.</p>