



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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

**MONDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Sammon (Chair)  
D Jones (Vice-Chair)

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

**Cooptees:**

R Holdaway (Public), J McCarthy (Public) and E Scriven (Youth Forum Representative)

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

H Barrett (Cabinet Member)

**Officers:**

C Evans (Chief Officer (Neighbourhood Services)), M Campbell (Energy Officer), S Gow (Environmental Health Manager), S Thomas (Waste Management), P Davies (Waste Management), Llewellyn Patrick (District Environmental Health Officer) and S Lyons (Performance Officer)

H Jones (Scrutiny Officer) and M Hemmings (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
906	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
907	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
908	Wellbeing Objective - EW1: Communities Protect, Enhance and Promote our Natural Environment and Countryside	<p>Cherylee Evans advised Committee the Report referred to the following three wellbeing projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan</li> <li>• Implementation of the Carbon Management Plan and</li> <li>• Furniture Re-use</li> </ul> <p>A Member raised concern as to why there was only one written report and the other two projects are being reported on verbally.</p> <p>Sue Gow provided an update on the <u>Preparation of an Air Quality Management Area Action Plan</u> and detailed what action had been taken.</p> <p>The following questions/observations were raised by Committee and responded to in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did the Portfolio Member have any input into the proposals that are in the consultation document.</li> <li>• What are the indicative nitrogen dioxide levels for each of the options which are currently out for consultation and are these adequate due to level of traffic.</li> <li>• Is the most nitrogen dioxide levels built up/generated when vehicles are accelerating or idling?</li> <li>• Will all the options being considered meet the targets.</li> <li>• What do you anticipate the higher and lower levels are for each option.</li> <li>• Are the consultation dates going to be sent to all members.</li> <li>• Are Public Health Wales and Cwm Taf Health Board involved with this consultation report.</li> <li>• Clarification sought on road signs re-directing traffic to the Town Centre.</li> <li>• Is a reduction in traffic levels anticipated in the area after 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018.</li> </ul> <p>Mick Campbell provided an update on the <u>Implementation of the Carbon Management Plan</u> and in particular referred to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post of Energy Engineer</li> <li>• Current status</li> </ul>

		<p>The following questions/observations were raised by Committee and responded to in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification sought whether the quality of applicants had been affected due to the post of Energy Engineer being a temporary position, when would the appointed person be in post and whether permanency could be looked at to retain the position.</li> </ul> <p>Paul Davies provided a brief update on the <u>Furniture Re-use Scheme</u>.</p> <p>The following questions/observations were raised by Committee and responded to in detail by the Officers:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we tied into a contract with Furniture Revival.</li> <li>• What is the time delay between customer phoning in and furniture being collected and is a collection date specified.</li> <li>• When we start to re-use furniture will we need more staff.</li> <li>• Will there be a cost to the individual/charge reduced for items being collected for furniture re-use.</li> <li>• Are electrical items included in the re-use scheme and how would you manage PAT testing.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked the Officers for attending.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
909	Recycling / Landfill Performance Data	<p>Steven Thomas referred Committee to the report and advised that the data was only for the first ¾ of the year, but the chart was for the year 2017.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by Committee and answered in detail by the Officers:-</p> <p><u>Kerbside Recycling</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many complaints are being received regarding the mess left on roadside following kerbside collection.</li> <li>• What steps are being taken to encourage food recycling, do we anticipate this figure will increase and what enforcement action will be taken.</li> <li>• Are members of the public aware the food recycling bags are free.</li> <li>• Are there any plans/talks to move from fortnightly to three weekly or monthly collections.</li> <li>• Do all Local Authorities follow the kerbside sort system Welsh Government collection blueprint.</li> <li>• Should recycling that is dropped by refuse collectors be picked up.</li> <li>• Are pets/animals eating left over food being used as a reason/excuse for not food recycling.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will the plastic recycling expand to include other plastic items.</li> <li>• What is the eligibility criteria for obtaining a larger sized wheelie bin.</li> <li>• Do people complain and say their bins have not been collected when actually they haven't put them out on time.</li> <li>• How long do residents wait for new recycling bins/boxes/bags, how much is spent on replacing these and is it funded by Welsh Government.</li> <li>• How are recycling collection routes monitored.</li> <li>• Did the introduction of the Kerbside sort recycling system go out for public consultation.</li> <li>• What other recycling systems are available in Wales and do you believe we are using the right system.</li> </ul> <p><u>Trolley Boxes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What criteria will be used in deciding who receives these.</li> <li>• What goes in the trolley boxes.</li> <li>• Will residents have an option whether to use them or not.</li> <li>• How many properties in the County Borough will be suitable to use these.</li> </ul> <p><u>Civic Amenity Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification sought on the progress of civic amenity sites returning in-house.</li> <li>• Have we decided on the rules and regulations regarding vans using the civic amenity sites.</li> <li>• Will we be selling items from the civic amenity site like other Local Authorities.</li> </ul> <p><u>Other Questions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happens to the content of private skips/how can we encourage the recycling of these materials.</li> <li>• Have other Local Authorities who are ranked higher than us in the all wales table been contacted for best practice advice.</li> <li>• Are we getting near to the amount in the clause whereby we will be fined by Viridor Energy, where is Trident Park and is there any financial benefit to us.</li> <li>• Will the Welsh Government plastic bottle deposit scheme cause a detrimental financial effect.</li> <li>• Where does the 400K income mentioned in the report go.</li> <li>• What was the evaluation of the school education programme and has the engagement with the schools helped with littering.</li> <li>• Clarification sought over the separated collection service from farms and the purchase of a new vehicle.</li> <li>• What is the difference between items recycled, reused and composted.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have any Local Authorities had to pay the fines for not reaching their recycling targets.</li> <li>• How do you account for the 10% increase in one year with regard to the Welsh Government recovery target and what are our targets for 2017/18.</li> <li>• Do you have the figures for the full year with regard to the provisional recovery rate and are you concerned the recovery rate is lower than last year.</li> <li>• Do you have a breakdown of recycling trends in different areas of the County Borough and can these be sent to Councillors.</li> <li>• Are problems foreseen now that China has placed sanctions on plastic waste.</li> <li>• How many staff work in a recycling and a refuse truck and why is there a difference.</li> <li>• How many tonnes of cardboard do we collect/how much loss of income now that we do not receive £67 per tonne collected.</li> </ul> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <p>The content of the report be noted.</p>
910	Capital Scrutiny (Brandy scheme / Road Slip - South of Pontygwaith) Project Referral Bridge	<p>An update was provided by the Chair on the Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>It was agreed that any comments be forwarded to Howard Jones within a week and the report be brought back to the next Scrutiny Committee meeting.</p>
911	Developing a Work Programme for 2018/19	<p>Discussion took place around including Planning and Countryside items in the Agenda, as previously items had predominantly focused on Neighbourhood Services matters.</p> <p><b>Resolved that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Committee note the contents of the report.</li> <li>b) A Task and Finish Group be set up to include the Chair, Councillor David Jones as Deputy Chair, together with Howard Jones to prepare a draft work programme for submission to the next committee meeting.</li> </ol>
912	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>The Chair advised there were no items to be discussed.</p>
913	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	<p>The Chair and the Committee reflected on the items discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair further suggested the inclusion of Planning and Countryside matters in future Agendas.</p>
914	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	<p>No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair.</p>