



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

MONDAY, 13TH JANUARY, 2020

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

Councillors M Colbran, J Davies, L Davies and C T Jones

Co-optees:

J McCarthy (Public) and T Butler (Youth Forum Representative)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

D Hughes (Cabinet Member) and A Barry (Cabinet Member)

Officers:

J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), S Gow (Environmental Health Manager), C Morris (Highways & Engineering), A Raily (Environmental Health Officer), R Barnett (Parks and Open Spaces Manager), M Davies (Countryside Officer) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
608	Apologies for absence	Apologies for absence were received from Mr R Holdaway Co-opted Member.

609	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No Declarations of Interest were made.
610	Update on the Implementation of the Twynyrodyn Air Quality Action Plan	<p>The Chair welcomed Sue Gow, Aileen Rahilly and Carwyn Morris to the Meeting.</p> <p>Sue Gow then led the Committee through the 'Update on the Implementation of the Twynyrodyn Air Quality Action Plan' report and referred to Paragraph 5.8 and advised that the report had been approved and published on the Web site and shared the positive comments made by Welsh Government on the work that had been done.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee on the report and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 1.3 – How is it known that over time an increase in traffic will not be a possible health risk along the Avenue De Clichy – How will this be monitored • The twelve month period has not yet passed – Were all the tubes put in immediately • Traffic queuing and tail backs • When were the tubes installed on Caedraw flats • Will there be indicators on the new bus station • Paragraph 3.2 – In view of the report from the Wales Audit Office on Environmental Services is there sufficient staff to carry out the work in the County Borough • Paragraph 5.4 – Taking into account the length of the road what was the number of vehicles travelling before so comparisons can be made • Paragraph 5.5 – Request for figures before in relation to travel up the High Street <p>(Carwyn Morris advised that he would provide these figures for the Committee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 7.3 – Will there be adequate signage for those new to the area • Further details requested in relation to the traffic lights at Bethesda Street / Brecon Road – will there be a green filter to turn right <p>(Carwyn Morris advised that he would make further enquiries regarding this)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is considered to be an acceptable level of NO2 • Why are the test-tubes placed at their height as it is well above the height of people who are walking – If they were placed lower would the levels be higher • Concerns that there is heavy traffic near properties <p>The Chair then read out a statement in relation to the report.</p> <p>The Committee also agreed that this matter be further</p>

		<p>considered by the Committee in 2021.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for attending and the update to the Committee.</p>
611	<p>Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (2019 – 2024)</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed Judith Jones and Matt Davies to the Meeting.</p> <p>Matt Davies then referred the Committee to the ‘Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Nature Recovery Action Plan (2019 – 2024) and advised that under Paragraph 7.1 it should read annually and not bi-monthly.</p> <p>The following questions were then raised by the Committee and were responded to in detail by the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there enough funding to implement everything – If no what can be done • Is there any new funding • Paragraph 8.1 – Working Life – Grass cutting – The need for raking off of grass for wild flowers to grow and what is being done about this – Are there any plans in relation to machinery to rake off and move the grass – Mess due to the non-removal of grass • What is the plan for what is going to be done in every area – Will this plan be available in March • Objective 3 – What is a ‘Nationally significant project’ and where is its location • Trees – Where are the three open spaces – What was the reason for selecting these spaces • Is there a conflict of land and nature where new homes are being built • Are there any proposals to remove any weirs in the County Borough and would there be any effect on the flow of the river <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The contents of the document be noted.</p> <p>The Chair then thanked the Officers for the update to the Committee and the work undertaken by the Officers and Community Groups.</p>
612	<p>Corporate Self-Evaluation – Question 2 (Provision & Service Delivery)</p>	<p>Judith Jones referred the Committee to the ‘Corporate Self-Evaluation – Question 2 (Provision and Service Delivery)’ report and responded in detail to the following questions raised by the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 5.9 – Explanation requested re: size of documents • Paragraph 5.10 – Further information requested on Solicitor / Barrister costs • Paragraph 6.10 – Is this available to outside bodies as well • Paragraph 6.25 – Explanation requested on ‘Stronger relationship’ • Paragraph 6.18 – Reactive or a proactive Service

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraph 7.2 – How will the issue of SPOD's be addressed given the current budget • Paragraph 7.24 – Will this be on the Council Website or a separate site • Paragraph 6.12 – Request for feedback on enforcement action taken and the number of prosecutions • Paragraph 6.18 –Information sought regarding the informing of residents regarding gully cleansing – Update requested on the Budget • Paragraph 7.1 – When will training commence – Feedback on training • Paragraph 5.12 – Sharing of information with Elected Members • Paragraph 5.7 – Staff reorganisation - The need to look at the Customer Contact Centre further – The length of time taken to answer calls – Not everyone is on e-mail or on line • Paragraph 6.2 – This is needed • Paragraph 6.13 – This works well <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The evaluation judgements provided by Officers within the report identified through completion of the self-evaluation process be accepted.</p>
613	Forward Work Programme 2019/20	<p>The Chair referred the Committee to the 'Forward Work Programme 2019/20' report and a Member proposed that an item on update on Recycling be combined with a report on Fly-tipping / Enforcement Camera Facilities.</p> <p>Councillor J Davies left the Meeting at 4.00 pm.</p>
614	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	There was no update on this item.
615	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected in detail on the items that had been considered at the Meeting.
616	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair advised that there was no business deemed urgent.