



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol
MERTHYR TUDFUL
MERTHYR TYDFIL
County Borough Council

MINUTES OF MEETING

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

MONDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2022

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

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

Cooptees:

J McCarthy (Public Appointment) and P Star (Public Appointment)

Other Councillors in Attendance:

Councillor M Jones

Officers:

J Jones (Chief Officer Neighbourhood Services), R Barnett (Parks and Open Spaces Manager), I Goldsworthy (Energy Officer), M Davies (Countryside Planning - Ecologist), S Thomas (Corporate Services) and S Lyons (Performance and Scrutiny Officer) and M Edmunds (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
574	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.
575	Declarations of Interest	Councillor M Colbran declared an interest in Item No. 3.

	(including whipping declarations)	Councillor Colbran uses trade waste, but does not use the Council's facilities.
576	Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) Van Permit Delivery and Booking Systems	<p>The Chair invited Stephen Thomas to present the Household Waste and Recycling Centre (HWRC) Van Permit Delivery and Booking Systems report.</p> <p>S Thomas provided a brief summary and the following questions/matters were raised and discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 6 (Para 5) – If someone is unable to complete the form online, how in the last two years did they make an application, would a form be sent out if someone telephoned the office and where people are filling in forms, have you experienced any problems/complaints? • Page 8 (Para 7) – Clarity sought – why are the recommendations not in the recommendations of the report under 2.1. Are you saying if we accept this report then the recommendations in 7.1 will automatically be implemented? • Currently only one local authority out of 22 accept trade waste, if we accepted trade waste as a chargeable service would it affect figures/increase recycling? Further discussion took place on this matter and it was suggested that further information be sought from the one local authority receiving trade waste. • Since permits have been introduced, have the numbers increased/decreased since going online? • Would we need to change our licence on the sites to accept trade waste? • What are main waste materials that are left when permits are used? <p>The Chair requested that S Thomas come back to Committee with the following information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5.7 (5th and 6th bullet points) - Can you come back to us with what authority this is? • Number of permits given out by local authorities? • Which authorities give which numbers? • 7.1 (1st bullet point) – how many residents reach maximum of six permits per year? • Clarity sought on 7.1 (4th bullet point) on the word 'electronic' and whether this is required. • 5.7 (4th bullet point) – When a permit is booked, it doesn't say what vehicle you can't use e.g. box vans, can this be updated?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity sought whether the free paint scheme is still running? <p>The Chair asked S Thomas whether residents could be more involved in the future.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>a) To consider the report and possible improvements to the current service.</p>
577	Update on Carbon and Energy Management Activities	<p>Iain Goldsworthy provided Committee with a brief outline on the update on carbon and energy management activities and the following questions were raised and discussed:-</p> <p>Page 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 5.3.2) – How far are we in pay back years? • (Para 5.3.3/5.3.5) – Clarity sought on start and completion dates. • (Para 5.4.2) – Has the half hourly metering started? <p>Page 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 5.4.4) - Suggested that the 24 hour use of street lighting is an unnecessary cost. • (Para 5.4.1) - Is the new Gas supplier Total Gas and Power in a good financial position? • (Para 5.4.3) - Clarity sought on why there is no cost benefit installing smart meters on the remaining 13 gas meters, and what if anything was happening with the remaining 5% of the Council's electric meters? <p>Page 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 5.7.6) - Have you had any feedback from the Welsh Government regarding carbon emissions? • (Para 5.8.1) - Carbon Footprint - Who will be responsible for this in each department and how will they do this? • (Para 5.8.2) - What is the cost of working with GHG Environmental? <p>Page 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 5.12.3) - When will this report be ready? • (Para 5.11) - What else can we do to communicate our position? <p>Page 16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 5.13.2) - What are the names of the care home and two schools? • (Para 5.14.1) - Would you seek to ensure ventilation systems are working correctly in all civic buildings, particularly schools? • Do we know the current carbon footprint of St Tydfil's Shopping Precinct, how the purchase will affect our near and long term targets and the type

		<p>of investment required to reduce this to an acceptable level?</p> <p>Page 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Para 6.1)- Do we have a target date for when this will be done? • (Para 7.7) - What is the ballpark figure required by the Authority to do this? • What are the overall savings for all projects so far implemented throughout the Authority by your Team? <p>A suggestion was made that a report be brought back to Committee on what we are doing to reduce the carbon output, what projects are going to be carried out, the costs, and what savings can be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have we budgeted for the anticipated price increases? • Request for Members receive an update on yearly savings? <p>Discussion took place with regard to the frequency of reporting this information back to Committee.</p> <p>The Committee thanked Iain Goldsworthy and the Team for the report, answering the questions, the important work undertaken and the reduction in costs to the Authority.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The content of the report be discussed and noted.</p>
578	Merthyr Tydfil Nature Recovery Action Plan, Annual Review 2021 and Grass Cutting update.	<p>Matthew Davies provided Committee with a summary of the Merthyr Tydfil Nature Recovery Action Plan, Annual Review 2021 and Grass Cutting update report.</p> <p>The following questions were raised and matters discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where is the Trelewis junction? • Do you work collaboratively with the Gelligaer Common Ranger? • Para 5.7 - Can you update Elected Members and residents with priority sites/information on biodiversity on these sites? • What are the long term goals for biodiversity in Merthyr Tydfil? • (Para 7.2) - Covid 19 - What actions have you been prevented from doing?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mammals/mink mentioned in the Appendix - where have they come from/how long have they been here? • Appendix - work undertaken in 2017 - How would you go about getting more residents involved, who is the contact person for these schemes? • Clarity sought over Legislation introduced since the LDP approved. <p>Comments were made on improvements in the grass cutting services and further discussion took place with regard to biodiversity.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Parks Team for the fantastic work undertaken especially over the last couple of years and for working with Members.</p> <p>Resolved that:</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee notes the contents of this document.</p>
579	Forward Work Programme 2021/22	The Chair requested that S Lyons-Nicholas ask J Jones that the Fleet Management Report due in April be brought forward to the 14 March 2022 Meeting.
580	Scrutiny Referrals, Feedback and Follow up Actions	<p>Members requested the following information on Item no. 3:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation which Authority accepts trade waste, what they charge and pros and cons of accepting trade waste? • How many permits have been issued in other Authorities in order to correlate volume of fly-tipping? • How many permits have been issued by MTCBC since change of permits? • Website update on what vehicles cannot be used. • Recommendations at 7.1. - have those recommendations been agreed at 7.1? • Residents be asked for their ideas <p>S Lyons-Nicholas to advise the next Chair that recommendations have been made to add to the list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Carbon and Energy Management Activities • Further report on the Merthyr Tydfil Shopping Precinct
581	Reflection and Evaluation of Meeting	The Chair and the Committee reflected on the matters that had been discussed at the meeting.

582	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	No other business was deemed urgent by the Chair.
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