



Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol  
MERTHYR TUDFUL  
MERTHYR TYDFIL  
County Borough Council

## MINUTES OF MEETING

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

**MONDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Councillors D Jones (Chair)  
P Layton (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, C T Jones and W R Smith

**Cooptees:**

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

**Other Councillors in Attendance:**

Councillor D Hughes (Cabinet Portfolio)

**Officers:**

J Jones (Director of Neighbourhood Services), N Howells (Performance and Scrutiny), G Hampson (Planning - Biodiversity) and M Davies (Planning)

M Morgan (Democratic Services Officer) and O Moore (Democratic Services Officer)

ITEM NO.	AGENDA MATTER	DECISION
742	Apologies for absence	No apologies for absence were received.

743	Declarations of Interest (including whipping declarations)	No declarations of interest were received.
744	Biodiversity and Greenspace Management	<p>Presented by Councillor D Hughes.</p> <p>The following questions were raised and answered in detail by the Officers present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have you still got no core funding? What's the position looking like for grant funding?</li> <li>• Are there only two of you on the team?</li> </ul> <p>Judith Jones informed the committee of the work done by Gill Hampson regarding funding and grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will there be any funding available in the future for these types of projects?</li> <li>• Who will be responsible for the upkeep?</li> <li>• Is there anything we can do to stop off-road vehicles using these areas?</li> <li>• Have we got a list of projects we do per year?</li> <li>• Are the National Health doing something with open spaces?</li> <li>• Can you give us more information on the new legal agreements?</li> <li>• Can you provide us with more information on plastic research with Cardiff University?</li> <li>• How have these projects been communicated to the public? Are they aware?</li> <li>• What is the name of the social media page?</li> <li>• In relation to Appendix 1, can you explain No Mow May?</li> <li>• Is the planting of flowers on roundabouts down to you?</li> <li>• Can we raise the issue of off-road vehicles with the police?</li> <li>• In relation to grass cutting, has there been a follow up or research to see the impact? Has that increased the number of pollinators?</li> <li>• Can you provide the statistics?</li> <li>• Are you going to do any booklets for school children?</li> <li>• Are you going to go into the schools and speak to the primary school children?</li> <li>• In relation to 6.1, are there any plans for site visits?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair and Committee Members thanked the Officers and shared their appreciation of the work done.</p>

		<p><b>Resolved that:</b> For Scrutiny to note and debate the report and provide a critical friend challenge on the findings' to support the implementation of the goals of the Merthyr Tydfil Nature Recovery Plan together with the Merthyr Tydfil Open Space Strategy.</p>
745	Forward Work Programme 2023/24	<p>The following questions were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the update on nappy/absorbent hygiene products recycling?</li> <li>• Can we discuss the Rhydycar roundabout?</li> </ul> <p>The Chair notified the Committee that Flood Risk Management will be discussed in April.</p>
746	Scrutiny Referrals	No Scrutiny Referrals had been received.
747	Report Recommendations	The Committee agreed that they had considered the reports presented and their recommendations and discussed possible site visits.
748	Feedback on Scrutiny Activities	The Chair and the Committee agreed that the feedback on Scrutiny Activities had been addressed and fully discussed.
749	Feedback on Site Visit: Unit 20	The Chair and the Committee agreed that the visit to Unit 20 had been informative.
750	Any other business deemed urgent by the Chair	The Chair thanked Neil Howells for his support and expertise and that he would be missed.