

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES ANGEL STREET BRIDGEND CF31 4WB ON MONDAY, 11 JANUARY 2016 AT 4.00 PM

Present

Councillor MEJ Nott OBE – Chairperson

CA Green	EM Hughes	CL Jones	G Phillips
CL Reeves	M Reeves	CE Smith	RL Thomas
HJ Townsend	R Williams		

Officers:

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106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following officers/ Members for the reasons so stated:

Councillor M Butcher – Leave
Councillor RD Jenkins – Family Commitment
Councillor DR Pugh – Work Commitment
Councillor Bruce Nash Coychurch Lower – Work
Councillor Yvonne Nott St Brides Minor – Work commitment

107. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ross Thomas – Personal Interest in item 4 as Chairperson of local funding appeal Committee

108. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of a meeting of the Town and Community Council Forum held on 21 September 2015 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

109. URDD GOBAITH CYMRU NATIONAL EISTEDDFOD 2017

The Town and Community Council Forum welcomed Aled Sion - Eisteddfod Director and Morys Gruffydd- Eisteddfod Organiser to the meeting and thanked them for taking their time to address the Committee.

The Eisteddfod Director introduced the report to the Forum and provided them with further information about the event that was due to take place in Bridgend County in 2017

He explained that the Urdd National Eisteddfod attracts up to 100,000 visitors to the six day event and 15,000 competitors. Children and Young people from all over Wales and

beyond, compete and benefit from the Urdd National Eisteddfod – at a local, regional and national level.

The Eisteddfod Director explained that the aim of the Urdd was to ensure that all the young people of Wales (between the ages of 8 and 25) are given the opportunity through the medium of Welsh, to develop into rounded individuals; and to empower them to play a constructive role in the community by encouraging personal and social skills.

The Eisteddfod Director explained to Members that as the Urdd Eisteddfod is a national festival they would be appealing to Councils in all tiers of local government to support the event. Any grant aid would contribute to the overall costs of staging the Urdd National Eisteddfod. He added that any contribution would be appreciated greatly.

The Eisteddfod Director explained that the event in 2017 would be held on the land at Bridgend College, Pencoed Campus during Whitsun half term 29 May – 3 June 2017. He advised that an opening Concert, Primary Schools Show and a Youth Show would be held during the week. He added that the Eisteddfod Proclamation event would be held within the county on Saturday 8 October 2016 with a procession and entertainment in order to celebrate the fact that the Eisteddfod is coming to the Bridgend, Taf and Ely region

A Member asked if the organisers would be visiting local schools in the Borough to encourage participation and enthusiasm for the event. The Eisteddfod organiser informed members that they would be visiting both English and Welsh schools in the County and encouraging participation in the event by giving them small fundraising targets.

A Member for Maesteg Town Council stated that they had been given a fundraising target of £20,000 which, with the support of the local community and many donations that they had already received from the community they were confident of reaching their target. He asked Officers how BCBC would be contributing to the event. The Corporate Director Communities advised the Forum that as well as a financial contribution of £25,000 from the strategic events fund, there would also be a financial contribution top sliced from the WLGAs from BCBC. He added that members of staff from the Authority particularly those who spoke Welsh would be on site at the event. He further added that the internal communications team would also be promoting the event through various channels including local media and also holding community engagement events throughout the Borough.

A Member asked if local businesses will be approached to contribute financially as the event would see a large amount of people coming into the area and increasing trade for many local businesses. The Eisteddfod Organiser stated that the event would see increased trade for many local businesses and they would be engaging with businesses in due course to seek their support for the event.

A Member asked if there had been any communication with local bed and breakfasts and hotels to ensure there would be sufficient accommodation for the public to stay when they visited the Eisteddfod. The Manager, Tourism and Countryside informed members that this would be a challenge as in addition to being Whitsun holidays the Champions League Final is also taking place in Cardiff during the same time as the Eisteddfod so there will be a high demand for hotels. He added that they would be working in partnership with local businesses to speak with Eisteddfod organisers to create packages well in advance of the event. He added that many people who choose to stay overnight whilst attending the Eisteddfod also bring their own motorhomes and caravans and there would be a designated area allocated for them. A member suggested that in

the past people had been put up with local families and asked if this would be an option. The Manager, tourism and Countryside stated that this was an option but would be facilitated by Urdd Organisers.

The Leader stated that Bridgend were very much looking forward to hosting the event and it was good news for local businesses and traders but there would be a lot of fundraising efforts to be achieved between now and the time of the event and everyone needs to contribute in whatever way they can to make the event a success.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The Town and Community Councils noted the contents of the report; and
2. The Town and Community Councils received the presentation by the Urdd organisers as set out in Appendix 1 of the report regarding the Urdd National Eisteddfod being held in the County Borough of Bridgend from 29 May to 3 June 2017

110. COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER UPDATE

The Corporate Director Communities provided a report to Members on the Community Asset Transfer Scheme. He advised that since 2 November 2015, a CAT Officer had been in post to act as project manager for CAT in Bridgend to support the process and act as a single point of contact for local organisations wishing to pursue asset transfer. He informed members that up to 11 December 2015, the CAT Officer had been approached by 26 organisations regarding 30 assets.

A Member asked what the fall back situation was if Town and Community Councils do not accept CAT offers as some of the proposals were not realistically sustainable, however they could not afford to lose assets such as pavilions and sports grounds. The Corporate Director Communities stated there would be a robust process put in place so that the CATs that were agreed would have the prospect to be sustainable. He added that if the Authority did not act now there was a potential risk to public services.

A Member asked what criteria would be applied to the £1million of funding from the Capital Programme to support to CAT Scheme and how it would prioritise how it would be spent. The Corporate Director Communities stated that the Criteria would be approved by Cabinet in the first instance. He added that prioritisation would be on the most urgent cases and before any CAT would take place, although advised that it would be advantageous for Town and Community Councils to give their Expressions of Interest sooner rather than later to ensure there would be adequate funding available to complete any essential repairs in advance of a CAT taking place.

A Member asked if sports clubs/ grounds with dual use would be jointly transferred and if the sports club would get priority of the transfer. The Corporate Director Communities advised that there would be no obligation to take on the asset as a joint transfer; however the business case stated that the preferred solution would be for the asset to continue with its current use. The CAT Officer added that she had already received a few similar cases where they had set a preferential user agreement in place to secure the long term future of the clubs using the grounds. She further added that multiple applications were welcomed for assets with dual use.

A Member asked if the Authority would consider pitches as well as pavilions. The Corporate Director Communities advised this would be considered on a case by case

basis and even though it was classified as Priority two, if groups expressed an interest it would be considered.

A member asked who would calculate the costs of running assets such as utilities. The CAT Officer explained that once an expression of interest form had been received it was her role to collate as much information as possible on the running costs. She added that it was important for Town and Community Councils to consider that they may wish to run it differently to how it had been run in the past and therefore the costs may not necessarily be what they would pay if they took over its operations.

A Member asked if condition reports would be compiled of premises that were in the CAT Scheme. The Corporate Director Communities stated that there was not sufficient funding to complete a report for every premises, however if no up to date report was available one would be carried out if a CAT was likely to take place.

A Member asked if BCBC had a Comfort Fund which would allow the public to use the toilets in pubs/cafes. The Corporate Director Communities explained that the funding from WG was removed in April 2014 for this scheme. However, Cabinet agreed to have their own comfort scheme available where public conveniences in the borough had closed.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum noted the progress on Community Asset Transfer as outlined in the report.

111. SCHEDULE OF AGENDA ITEMS

The Democratic Services Officer presented to the Town and Community Council Forum the requests for items to be presented to future meetings. She asked that any further requests be sent to the Democratic Services team.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum noted the content of the report

112. URGENT ITEMS

The Leader made the following announcement to the Town and Community Council Forum regarding the review of the Town & Community Council Charter

In September 2015 the Forum agreed to undertake a review of the Charter between Bridgend County Borough and the Town and Community Council of the Borough. The Working group was set up and agreed that the existing Charter be circulated to all Council to request their views of how the Charter could be improved or developed.

Responses were requested from all Councils by Friday 15 January 2016. This would enable the Working Group to consider the possible options at its next meeting scheduled for 4 February 2016. It is hoped that if sufficient progress can be made at that meeting an update will be provided to the Forum in March 2016

He requested that all Town and Community Council's consider the Charter and return their views by 14 Jan 2016 to Gary.Jones@Bridgend.gov.uk

The meeting closed at 4.55 pm

