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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich
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Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /
643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for:

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

Dyddiad/Date: Tuesday, 15 November 2022

Dear Councillor,

TOWN & COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

A meeting of the Town & Community Council Forum will be held remotely - via Microsoft Teams on
Monday, 21 November 2022 at 16:00.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 6
To receive for approval the Minutes of 01/08/2022
4. Community Governance Review 7 - 10
5. 20 MPH Default Limit in Wales from September 2023 11 - 14
6. Urgent Items
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Rule 4 of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should by reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: Please note this meeting will not be held at its usual location. This will be a virtual meeting and Members and Officers will be attending remotely. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

Yours faithfully
K Watson

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Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

H Bennett
E Caparros
HJ David
C Davies
Chris Davies
S Easterbrook

Councillors

M J Evans
P Ford
J Gebbie
RM Granville
P W Jenkins
M R John
M Jones

Councillors

R J Smith
I M Spiller
JH Tildesley MBE
MJ Williams
E D Winstanley
T Wood

Plus a representative
Of each of the
Town/Community Councils

Present

Councillor HJ David – Chairperson

S Aspey	H T Bennett	G Chappell	DK Edwards
P Ford	J Gebbie	RM Granville	J Holmes
Howells	M R John	L Lewis	S Parker
E Richards	I M Spiller	L Teahan-Dyer	Y Walton-Davies
MJ Williams	E D Winstanley	T Wood	

Apologies for Absence

B Doughty, M Jones and R J Smith

Officers:

Rachel Keepins	Democratic Services Manager
Lowri-Mair Owen	Natural Resources & Wellbeing Officer
Michael Pitman	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Andrew Rees	Democratic Services Officer - Committees
Zak Shell	Head of Neighbourhood Services

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor H Bennett declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 Cwm Taf Nature Network - Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being Grant as a member of the Public Service Board.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 2 February 2022 were approved as a true and accurate record.

3. CWM TAF NATURE NETWORK - ENABLING NATURAL RESOURCES AND WELL-BEING GRANT

The Democratic Services Manager informed the Forum that a Forward Work Programme of items will be developed with the Corporate Management Board and Town and Community Councils. A standing item will be placed on the agenda at each Forum meeting in order to add or amend items to have a clear plan going forward and items can be prioritised according to need.

The Head of Operations – Community Services introduced a report which informed the Forum of the Cwm Taf Nature Network Project which is an initiative funded by the Welsh Government as part of the Enabling Natural Resources and Well-Being Grant (ENRaW). The Forum was provided with an update as to project progress and impact during phase 1 of project delivery. He stated that the Cwm Taf Nature Network aimed to form a collaboration to better manage the green infrastructure of the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board Region and this Council would be the lead body delivering the project across the Region.

The Forum received a presentation by the Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer on the Cwm Taf Nature Network Project, which is 100% European funded via the Welsh Government. She stated that one of the deliverables within the project is to engage the

community to develop a greater sense of ownership over their green space, to feel safe in those green spaces and discourage antisocial behaviour. Another aim of the project is to strengthen, enhance and protect biodiversity by working with a range of experts and organisations of interest.

The Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer informed the Forum that 20 green spaces had been identified across the three counties that will be managed as a connected network of green space, largely influenced by the ecological connectivity potential of four species that the project is committed to protecting. Sites in Bridgend had been chosen where officers have more influence over where there are several local nature reserves which are actively being managed or where there is a strong volunteer presence. The ethos of the project being for it to be community led, with there being potential in many of the green spaces to build on that. The project will also seek to support some groups to create exemplar sites, especially around sensory engagement.

The Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer also informed the Forum that some of the sites already have excellent access, however a contribution towards improving access to green spaces which lack good access is being looked at. In phase 1, Direct Access, who are a 100% disability led organisation have been commissioned to assist with improving access to sites. Their findings, along with that of a health and safety audit, to be delivered by mid-September and the Land Management Plan will be referred to as part of the survey work being carried out.

The Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer explained the timeline for delivery of the project which originally was to be delivered over 3 years, would now be delivered across a 12-month period by June 2023. The characteristics of the project environmental conservation activity, path improvement, planting schemes, access projects and furniture installation. In addition, four public service board health walks had been identified to include improved estate, secure and protective cycle storage. Health walks will be identified to encourage employees to have walking meetings and support wellbeing outcomes. Friends' groups would be established and countryside volunteers will be supported to develop the tools they need and to access any training that will enable them to succeed with ongoing habitat management to create high quality green space. She also outlined the project's softer outcomes, to include summer holiday provision, which had been extended to December. She stated that the levelling up fund could be considered to bolster the work being undertaken.

A member of the Forum questioned how the sites were selected and what consultation had been undertaken with Town and Community Councils. The Head of Operations – Community Services informed the Forum that he would need to confirm the engagement done. He stated that commissioned studies had been used to identify sites suitable for the project and although the funding is for £580k, it would not stretch far amongst all Town and Community Councils. The Leader stated that if there were future phases, he would welcome the involvement of Town and Community Councils. The Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer informed the Forum that more investment will be in this Borough due to there being significantly more sites.

A member of the Forum stated that Coity Higher Community Council is looking at the Black Path which could be developed with a neighbouring Community Council and some green space once the Parc Derwen development is completed. He asked whether Town and Community Councils should sit tight on funding the green space projects, they have planned in the event that another tranche of funding becomes available. The Leader requested that this point be taken up with officers outside the meeting and see if it could fit with the second phase. The Head of Operations – Community Services stated that the Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer is keen to receive feedback and ideas on potential schemes. He stated that there had been several previous schemes in the past

in the field of biodiversity and he believed there would be schemes going forward, particularly with the Shared Prosperity Fund, although the outcome of that bid was not yet known. He also stated that officers are keen to pursue opportunities with Town and Community Councils to improve areas if further funding becomes available.

A member of the Forum believed that his Community Council had not been the subject of consultation on the project and welcomed the investment in green spaces. The member believed that best use of the Forum be made in its Forward Work Programme over this term in having input in developing accessible green spaces, particularly with the Replacement Local Development Plan and the development of a green lung in Laleston. The Leader stated that initiatives will be explored within the Shared Prosperity Fund, particularly the Glamorgan Way and it was important to ensure that the funding for this project is spent.

A member of the Forum referred to the track record of Coity Higher Community Council in working with the County Borough to deliver asset transfers and path upgrades at significantly lower cost and asked whether track records of Town and Community Councils and their willingness to work with partners had been considered. The Head of Operations – Community Services stated that this project is to encourage community engagement and empowerment leading to Town and Community Councils becoming involved in schemes. The Natural Resources and Wellbeing Officer stated that central to the project is community engagement to succeed in managing green spaces sustainably through volunteering. She stated that she would be interested to hear from Town and Community Councils as to the level of volunteering and activism in green spaces.

The Leader in closing the meeting congratulated members of the Forum on their recent election and re-election to their roles.

RESOLVED: That the Town and Community Council Forum noted the report.

4. **URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 16:40

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BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM
21 NOVEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Town & Community Councils with an outline of the process for a full Community Governance Review in Bridgend to be implemented for the May 2027 Local Elections.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review and implementation of Bridgend Council's ward boundaries and electoral arrangements by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales (LD&BCW), were implemented for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 3.2 The LD&BCW review also included some consequential changes in two Community Councils: Brackla Community Council and Porthcawl Town Council; and these were also implemented for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 3.3 The Council also undertook a review of the electoral arrangements in Coity Higher Community Council following a formal request from the Community Council, which was also implemented in time for the May 2022 Local Elections.
- 3.4 The last full Community Governance Review was finalised in 2009 and would normally follow a 10-year cycle. The delays to the completion of the Bridgend Electoral Review and the pandemic resulted in insufficient time to undertake a full review in time for the Local Elections in May 2022.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The key document that starts the Community Governance Review is called the Terms of Reference (ToR). The ToR sets out the proposed timetable and procedures for the review, provides guidance, and sets out the issues that will be

considered during the review. It also allows the Council to ensure it is following a set procedure, takes into account appropriate considerations for the review, and allows interested parties to understand how to effectively engage in the review. It also provides the LD&BCW with information as to whether the Council has appropriately conducted the review under the terms of the Act.

- 4.2 Among other things, the ToR for a Community Governance review might contain:
- an indicative timetable for the review
 - a description of the process the Council will follow
 - the proposals for consultation during the review
 - Information as to relevant considerations during the review – which might include explanations of:
 - electorate forecasts,
 - demographic trends,
 - naming conventions
 - the council size policy
 - considerations as to the grouping and amalgamation of communities
 - an outline of the permissible outcomes of the review and any limitations imposed by the Act on the Council's ability to recommend or make changes.
- 4.3 Reviews must be carried out in accordance with the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Act 2013. Section 25 covers the changes to boundaries and any consequent changes to electoral arrangements; and Section 31 covers just the changes to electoral arrangements.
- 4.4 Any review of Boundaries must reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. A community review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries tied to ground features, and to remove any anomalous boundaries that exist.
- 4.5 In terms of the electoral arrangements, the review provides the opportunity to consider the degree to which “electoral parity” is achieved across the communities in Bridgend, and across any wards that exist within a community. This is known as a council size policy, and it will consider:
- An approximate councillor allocation per electorate
 - Provision of an overall minimum and maximum number of community councillors for a community council. Historically the minimum number of councillors for a community council has been 7. The largest community council in Wales at present is 24. The maximum size may be dependent on the following factors:
 - The existing community council sizes
 - The scale of the activity of the community councils.
 - The geography of the Council area
 - The population density of the Council area
- 4.6 In terms of amalgamation and grouping of communities, this can either come as request as part the consultation or may be proposed by the Council. For example, if

the Council wishes to delegate functions to communities, these communities will need to be of a certain specific size, geographically or in terms of electorate, for them to have sufficient capacity to discharge those duties.

- 4.7 If amalgamation of two or more communities is recommended then the existing community councils are dissolved, and a new separate community area is established. In these circumstances it is usual for the community to be warded to reflect the boundaries of the former communities that have been amalgamated.
- 4.8 If grouping of two or more communities is recommended then they will come together under a common community council, however they will continue to have separate representation on the common community council.
- 4.9 The process will take a minimum of 12 months to complete from the publication of the ToR once it has been formally approved by the Council. The estimated date for the start of the consultation process is the 1st June 2023 and allows for at least 12 weeks consultation at both the initial investigation stage and the draft report stage.
- 4.10 The preliminary stage will publish the ToR and then invite initial submissions for the Council to consider in drafting recommendations for any changes to both boundaries and electoral administration. The draft recommendations are then published, and a further consultation exercise is undertaken inviting further submissions. After consideration of any further submissions, the Council will publish the final recommendations and conclude the review. The final stage is the making of the Order to implement any changes to boundaries and electoral arrangements which will come into force for the May 2027 Local Elections.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the Council's policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act have considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there is no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 There are financial implications from this report

9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the Town and Community Council Forum notes the report.

Mark Shephard
Chief Executive
08 November 2022

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Background documents: None

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL FORUM

21 NOVEMBER 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES

20MPH DEFAULT LIMIT IN WALES FROM SEPTEMBER 2023

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Forum to receive a presentation on the introduction of The Restricted Roads (20mph Speed Limit) (Wales) Order 2022.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-**
1. **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Wales Transport Strategy 2021 published by Welsh Government, identified one of its key priorities to 'change the default speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in built-up areas to reduce traffic related injuries and fatalities and make walking and cycling safer and more attractive'.
- 3.2 It is proposed by enabling a much wider take up of 20mph limits it will achieve significant road safety benefits, particularly in deprived neighbourhoods. In the longer term, reductions in the perception of road danger is expected to lead to more walking and cycling which will improve public health and replace some short car journeys, and so achieving further reductions in collisions and casualties. More walking and cycling is also likely to lead to greater social cohesion which brings further societal and health benefits. Further, lower speeds will lead to reductions in traffic noise, while impacts on air quality will be neutral at worst and journey time increases will be slight.
- 3.3 As part of the new legislation, a 20mph Task Force was created to work closely with local authorities to identify those roads which would be an exception to the legislation. The Authority provided local knowledge and traffic management expertise to help identify those roads which should be an exception to the legislation to help ensure limits throughout the borough are abided to and consequently that the legislation does not fall into disrepute.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 A powerpoint presentation will be given to the Forum to advise of the implications identified in regard of the exception roads that will require Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's) for the retention or amendments to speed limits, namely: The revocation of restricted road status with the introduction of set speed limits by TRO's or the revocation of an existing TRO to reinstate roads back to restricted status, thus in line with Welsh Government legislation for the national rollout by 17 September 2023.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

- 5.1 There is no effect upon policy framework or procedure rules within this report.

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 Any changes to policy or procedure will be prepared in accordance with the 7 Wellbeing goals and the 5 ways of working as identified in the Act.

8. Financial implications

- 8.1 Currently identified financial costs relating the new national change in legislation such as the implementation of the required traffic road signage are being met by Welsh Government.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 That the Town and Community Council Forum note the report and accompanying presentation.

JANINE NIGHTINGALE
Corporate Director – Communities
November 2022

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Background documents: None

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