

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 8th October, 2019.

Present: Councillor Mrs. S.M. Hanks (Chairman); Councillor Ms. R.M. Birch (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, G.D.D. Carroll, Mrs. C.A. Cave, N.P. Hodges, M.J.G. Morgan, R.A. Penrose, Mrs. S.D. Perkes, A.R. Robertson and M.R. Wilson.

Representing Town and Community Councils:

Councillors G. Thomas (Llantwit Major Town Council), M. Cuddy (Penarth Town Council), K. Protheroe (Colwinston Community Council), S. Griffiths (Dinas Powys Community Council), H. Baker (Ewenny Community Council), P.A. Carreyett (Llandough Community Council), R. Thomas (Llandow Community Council), D. Reed (Llangan Community Council), G. Smith (Llanmaes Community Council), A. Barnaby (St. Athan Community Council), G. Halliwell (St. Donats Community Council), J. Powell (St. Georges and St. Brides Super Ely Community Council), I. Perry (St. Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council), C. Tatt (Sully and Lavernock Community Council), D. Oliver (Wenvoe Community Council), C. Hawkins (Wick Community Council).

354 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors S. Hodges (Barry Town Council) and J. Teague (Llanfair Community Council).

355 MINUTES –

AGREED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July, 2019 be approved as a correct record subject to it being noted that Councillor D. Reed (Llangan Community Council) had tendered his apologies.

356 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

Declarations of interest were received from the following Vale of Glamorgan Councillors in respect of Agenda Item No. 7 – Reshaping Services: Town and Community Council Engagement in Operating Local Services and Assets in that they had a dispensation from the Standards Committee to speak and vote:

Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, MS. R.M. Birch, Mrs. S.M. Hanks, N.P. Hodges, Mrs. S.D. Perkes, A.R. Robertson and M.R. Wilson.

357 POLICE MATTERS –

Chief Inspector Anthony Williams provided the Committee with an update on Police matters in the Vale of Glamorgan as outlined below.

It had been an extremely busy and challenging summer period for policing in the Vale of Glamorgan. In addition to the annual events that brought so many visitors to Barry Island, there had been a number of incidents that had had a significant impact on communities across the Vale.

Murder of Harry Baker

The most significant of those incidents was the murder of 17 year old Harry Baker from Cardiff whose body was discovered by employees at an industrial unit on Wimbourne Road, Barry on the morning of Wednesday, 28th August, 2019. Following extensive investigations by specially trained officers and local detectives along with overwhelming support from the community, 12 people were arrested within days of the offence, with 8 males, all from Barry and Cardiff, now charged with murder and awaiting trial while on remand. The murder sent shockwaves throughout the Barry community and South Wales Police remained focused on mitigating against further incidents of violence occurring in the community. The Police were extremely grateful for the local community in the way they had assisted with this investigation in what was, thankfully, a rare event.

Knife Crime

Very much in keeping with the tragic events documented above, officers had been working hard to tackle serious violence and knife crime in Barry and the wider Vale of Glamorgan as part of the Force's response to knife crime – Operation Sceptre. The local initiative, "Operation Populous" had been running since July and had yielded some outstanding results. The operation was multi-faceted in its approach and consisted of foot patrols both covert and overt in and around identified hot spots with over 130 persons searched, 20 arrests made for drugs and other crimes, 4 vehicles and cash seized along with 9 other persons receiving cannabis warnings. The enforcement was supplemented by additional educational activity with schools, officers delivering lessons in secondary schools across the Vale on the issue, a knife amnesty, test purchasing exercises at retailers and a very busy social media campaign. A joint exercise was also undertaken at Cardiff Wales Airport with UKBA to address the potential importation of knives and other weapons via flights from parts of Europe. While serious violence remained a key priority for the Police and partners in the Vale, it was apparent that Operation Populous had undoubtedly had a short term positive impact on the community with the awareness raising and education designed to have a much longer lasting impact.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There had been a number of locations that had seen an increase in the number of anti-social behaviour incidents being reported in recent months. Maslin Park in Barry in particular had seen a significant rise in reported incidents that involved large gangs of youths gathering with concerns raised regarding underage drinking, criminal damage, misuse of drugs and fighting. These events had had a detrimental impact on the quality of life of residents and visitors to the park. In response to these concerns Barry officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team along with partners from Safer Vale had been running an operation to tackle the issues. A Public Space

Protection Order was now in place at the location in order to combat persistent anti-social behaviour in public spaces.

Further incidents of anti-social behaviour largely involving vehicles had been increasingly prevalent in the area around Ffordd Y Mileniwm in Barry during the summer months. Reports of cars using the area as an impromptu race track had been received and working alongside colleagues in Roads policing and partners in the Vale of Glamorgan, officers had been targeting the area with patrols, traffic stops and awareness raising. .

Operation Mobile had been set up to tackle anti-social behaviour in Penarth and Llantwit Major on a Friday and Saturday night. Working with colleagues from the British Transport Police, neighbourhood officers had put the operation together specifically to tackle a growing concerns of drug use and other criminality on the rail network and in Penarth town centre. A number of arrests had been made for possession of drugs, public order and criminal damage and the operation would continue into the autumn as Halloween and Bonfire night approached.

Arson at Community Building

On 10th September, 2019 a newly constructed community classroom was set alight in an arson attack. The building on St. Teilo Avenue, Barry was deliberately set alight by youths after they had broken into the compound and used an accelerant to start the fire. Two male youths had been arrested and released under investigation while enquiries continued into the incident and its motive.

Events

As usual in the Vale of Glamorgan the summer saw plenty of events that required policing presence however these passed off largely without incident. Barry Island saw the majority of them with Glanstonbarry, Cadstock, Barry 10K and Isle of Fire among the highlights. Barry Pride took place last month and was seen by many as a huge success with local officers playing their part in the event.

Halloween and Bonfire night were on the horizon, Police and partners were gearing up for these events. Operation Bang would again be in evidence as the Police sought to minimise anti-social behaviour that was occasionally synonymous with these events.

Finally, Barry had a new Policing Inspector in Mark Henderson who had over 20 years policing experience in South Wales and the West Mercia Police Force. Members stated that they would be pleased to meet with the new Inspector and an open invitation was extended to Community Liaison Committee meetings.

Following a query from a Community Council regarding some Policing issues within their area Chief Inspector Williams responded by advising if any Member had any specific issues that they wished the team to consider, to contact him direct.

Having considered the report, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Chief Inspector Williams be thanked for his comprehensive presentation.

358 REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION FROM PENARTH TOWN COUNCIL: NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK –

The Operational Manager for Planning and Building Control, in presenting on the matter, commenced by advising that the National Development Framework (NDF) was a Development Plan for Wales and replaced the Wales Spatial Plan which provided Welsh Government's twenty-year spatial vision for development (2020-2040).

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 influenced the way the Council planned for new development; and demanded that development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It was a framework which would be built on by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) at a regional level and Local Development Plans (LDPs) at Local Authority level which must be in conformity with the NDF.

The Draft NDF Consultation was to close on Friday, 1st November, 2019.

The presentation covered the NDF Outcomes as a Wales where people lived ...

1. and worked in connected, inclusive and healthy places;
2. in vibrant rural places with access to homes, jobs and services;
3. in distinctive regions that tackle health and socio-economic inequality through sustainable growth;
4. in places with a thriving Welsh Language;
5. and work in towns and cities which are a focus and springboard for sustainable growth;
6. in places where prosperity, innovation and culture are promoted;
7. in places where travel is sustainable;
8. in places with world-class digital infrastructure;
9. in places that sustainably manage their natural resources and reduce pollution;
10. in places with biodiverse, resilient and connected ecosystems;
11. in places which are decarbonised.

It was noted that the NDF also detailed an emphasis on public sector delivery and supporting existing urban centres and rural communities, together with proactive intervention.

In referring to Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) it was further noted that these would embed place making as an overarching principle and establish for the region (and where required constituent LDPs)

- a spatial strategy;
- a settlement hierarchy;
- the housing provision and requirement;

- the gypsy and traveller need;
- the employment provision;
- the spatial areas for strategic housing and employment growth, renewable energy and the identification of green belts, green corridors and nationally important landscapes;
- the location of key services, transport and connectivity infrastructure;
- a framework for the sustainable management of natural resources and cultural assets;
- ecological networks and opportunities for protecting or enhancing the connectivity of these networks; and
- a co-ordinated framework for minerals extraction and the circular economy, including waste treatment and disposal.

The Welsh Government required SDPs to come forward in each of the three regions to deliver the requirements of the Policy. For the South East Wales region the strategic issues were reported as:

- Housing, economic growth and connectivity infrastructure should be co-ordinated and planned on the basis of the whole region;
- The management of natural resources, flooding and the protection and enhancement of areas of environmental and landscape importance should inform strategic decisions on locations for growth and new infrastructure;
- Decarbonising society and responding to the threats of climate change should be central to all regional planning;

The document also highlighted that the Welsh Government supported the growth and development of Cardiff Airport and proposals to expand the capacity of the Airport to provide new and improved airport facilities and passenger services as well as to improve transport links to the Airport. Having regard to the South Wales Metro scheme, the document stated that Development Plans must ensure that long term strategic decisions maximised opportunities in areas that would benefit from improved accessibility and investment in public transport, including from the Metro.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council had prepared its response on the document with the Operational Manager highlighting the key issues in the draft response as below:

- “Lack of background evidence informing NDF policies e.g. urban capacity studies, viability appraisals;
- Is it realistic / deliverable?
- Some policies are too prescriptive and predetermine the SDP / LDP to follow;
- Some policies too vague and no ‘teeth’;
- Vale of Glamorgan’s role in the region mainly ignored;
- Opportunities missed e.g. green belt, national forest, Enterprise Zones etc.;
- Inconsistencies and conflicting objectives throughout.”

The timetable for the adoption of the NDF was noted as August to November 2019 consultation on the document, with April to June 2020 when the Assembly would consider the draft NDF, to be published by September 2020. The Operational Manager advised that the Council had also raised the issue of the Vale not being

identified within the document as well as questioning the deliverability of the Strategy.

A Member of a Community Council referred to jobs growth within the area, to which the Operational Manager advised that the NDF document was a high-level document with the expectations that jobs growth would be considered in the LDPs.

Another Member stated that the document omitted reference to future accommodation for the retired and elderly population, commenting on the fact that they were aware that a number of residents were moving from or considering moving from their current communities as there was no suitable accommodation to be offered.

Following a query regarding place making plans, the Operational Manager stated that the Council's resources had been severely restricted and although place plans (a Welsh Government initiative) were to be encouraged, there was no dedicated officer support or time in her teams to assist with their establishment. She advised the Council could offer advice / support as a "critical friend" if resources allowed, but the Council could not carry out place plans on behalf of Town or Community Councils.

In further considering the presentation discussion took place regarding lack of infrastructure with Members stating that before developments were established the infrastructure needed to be in place. The Operational Manager however commented that in her view, whilst in an ideal world infrastructure improvements would happen before development took place, this was unrealistic and it would be unwise to say no housing development should take place without infrastructure due to the fact that there was a high level of housing need in the area which must be met and that growth was key as long as it was in the right place.

Reference was also made by a Member for the need to consider the document be read in conjunction with the Development Plan Manual with the request that the link to the manual be emailed to all Members for their information.

A Member also commented on the housing numbers within the LDP with the suggestion that these be relooked at when further consideration of the LDP was undertaken.

Following careful consideration of the presentation, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T Cabinet be informed that the Community Liaison Committee concurred with the Vale of Glamorgan Council's draft response

Reason for recommendation

Having considered the comments made at the meeting and the presentation by the Operational Manager.

359 TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS CHARTER (MD) –

Approval was sought from the Committee for the revised Charter between the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Town and Community Councils (TCCs). The Council and TCCs had had a Charter in place since 2009 and it set out the way in which the organisations would work together to achieve shared purposes.

Following the establishment of a working group of Elected Members and staff from TCCs a revised Charter had been developed in conjunction with staff from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. The report sought approval for the revised Charter, recommending it be referred to the Council's Cabinet for endorsement before being disseminated to all TCCs for their endorsement.

It was anticipated that following endorsement of the Charter, the working group would reconvene to establish an action plan to accompany the Charter for the remainder of 2019/20 and 2020/21 in order to deliver against the joint commitments.

In presenting the report and its appendices the Head of Policy and Business Transformation advised that the context within which the organisations were now operating had changed significantly since the Charter was initially developed and had therefore subsequently been revised. The working group had met on three occasions to discuss the development of the revised draft which could be found at Appendix A to the report. Since the working group had met an engagement event with TCCs had also been held to develop an approach to progressing the Reshaping Services agenda. This had also informed the final version of the Charter which the Committee was recommended to endorse. The document had been rationalised in size from the number of principles from 14 to 8 as outlined below:

- Recognition
- Governance
- Involvement, Engagement and Consultation
- Information and Communication
- Joint Working and Engagement
- Land Use Planning
- Well-being of Future Generations Act and
- Local Elections.

It was further proposed that an action plan would consider the practical steps to progressing all Charter commitments, including service delivery in line with proposals regarding the Reshaping Services agenda.

During the discussion of the report, a Member sought a summary of the changes that had been made, with the Head of Policy and Business Transformation advising that in the main these had been around the reduction in the number of principles and stressed the need for involvement and engagement with TCCs. With regard to Principle 8, having regard to the wording in relation to “Will brief TCC Clerks on the nomination process ...” Committee was informed that the Vale of Glamorgan Council would provide information to the Clerks on the process so that if any Member of a TCC sought advice, the TCC Clerk in the first instance could assist any potential candidate who came forward for local elections.

A Member raised a query about the presentation and format of the Charter, proposing that this could be amended to make it more accessible. The Head of Policy and Business Transformation undertook to consider these points in finalising the presentation of the Charter document.

Councillor D. Reed from Llangan, a member of the working group, advised that during the group's discussions on the Charter a suggestion that TCCs be given the opportunity to speak at site visits had been discussed, however this had not been agreed as site visits were arranged for Vale of Glamorgan Council Elected Members to view the sites with no discussion on applications taking place. However, the legislative background in relation to this process was requested with the officer advising that they would seek advice and report back.

A Community Council Member however commented that as planning matters could be contentious issues for TCCs they suggested the encouragement of more dialogue with the planning department and TCC'S was something that they would request be further considered with the development of the action plan .

Having fully considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) T H A T the content of the report and the Charter at Appendix A be endorsed and referred to Cabinet for its consideration.
- (2) T H A T, subject to endorsement by Cabinet, the Charter be disseminated to all Town and Community Councils seeking their endorsement.
- (3) T H A T, subject to endorsement by Cabinet and all Town and Community Councils, the working group be reconvened to develop an action plan for the remainder of 2019/20 and 2020/21 to deliver on the commitments contained in the Charter.
- (4) T H A T a progress report be presented to the next meeting of the Community Liaison Committee having regard to legislation and guidance in relation to the attendance of Town and Community Councillors at site visits.

Reasons for recommendations

- (1) Having considered the contents of the report.
- (2) In order for all Town and Community Councils to consider the document and seek their endorsement.
- (3) In order that the working group can be reconvened to prepare an action plan.
- (4) In order that a progress report can be presented to the Community Liaison Committee at the next meeting.

360 RESHAPING SERVICES: TOWN AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT IN OPERATING LOCAL SERVICES AND ASSETS (L) –

The report had been submitted to Cabinet on 7th October, 2019 to seek approval for the future approach to the work to engage with Town and Community Councils (TCCs) on the Reshaping Services agenda and that it be referred to the Community Liaison Committee for consideration. Cabinet had considered the matter on 7th October, 2019 and had endorsed the recommendations contained within the report, having particular regard to paragraphs 2.6, 2.7 and 2.8 of the report.

Committee was informed by the Head of Service that the Council had engaged with TCC's throughout the Reshaping Services Programme. Work to date had primarily focused on developing relationships and an understanding of the capacity, appetite and desire of TCCs to take a greater role in the provision of localised services and operation of local assets that may be valued by local residents, but where the Vale of Glamorgan Council may not be able, or be the most appropriate body, to continue such services in the future.

An event had also been held in July 2019 to better understand these issues and had been well attended by TCCs. The event, hosted by the Leader and Managing Director of the Council, set out the range of projects delivered by the programme so far, provided details of the likely financial position of the Council in the medium-term and also gave an opportunity to hear from One Voice Wales about initiatives underway across Wales. Discussion at the event considered the current status of services in the Vale of Glamorgan, including questions regarding the services considered to be most valued by local communities, the range of services provided by TCCs and what barriers and opportunities existed to further services being operated.

The event provided a useful summary of the breadth of services that were operated by TCCs in the Vale. Services such as grass cutting, operation of play areas and open space and other community facilities were highlighted as being important. The barriers highlighted by delegates included sufficient notice and information to enable decisions to be taken on TCC precepts and clarity over what the Vale of Glamorgan Council would not be operating in the future. Feedback on previous proposals regarding the categorisation of services / assets as being 'strategic' or 'local' was felt to unnecessarily restrict discussions and that the setting of the TCC precept was a matter for individual TCCs. The responsibility for TCC precepts clearly rested with those organisations who would consider the range of services / assets being operated by themselves in light of the resources available to them to do so. This may mean that TCCs consider the future operation of new services / assets and reprioritise their funding accordingly.

The report itself set out a series of proposals for consideration by Cabinet that met the aim of the Reshaping Services strategy, which was to protect priority services wherever possible. These proposals concentrated on an initial phase of assets (public conveniences and allotments) and services (grass cutting) as a means of developing pragmatic proposals for the coming financial year. A range of other local

services (such as playground maintenance, for example) were also highlighted for further and future consideration.

In order to provide clarity to TCCs, it was recommended that Cabinet approve the proposals relating to public conveniences, allotments and grass cutting as set out in the report. It was intended that these form the basis of discussion with TCCs in order to allow specific proposals on the way in which these operated in the future to be developed.

These areas had been selected as they were non-statutory in nature and would enable a county-wide policy decision to be taken, therefore addressing potential concerns regarding 'double taxation'. However, these services and assets were also importantly ones which were successfully delivered by TCCs (in isolation or with other groups) elsewhere in the country. The proposals had been informed by the Council's approach to the development of community libraries as well as the ongoing project to transfer responsibility to community groups for single-use sports facilities.

Based on lessons learned from projects both within the Vale of Glamorgan and elsewhere, there were several possible forms of arrangement for the operation or transfer of services and assets to TCCs with the most appropriate approach to be determined through discussion on specific proposals with individual TCCs.

The Director of Environment and Housing, who was also present at the meeting, stated that should any of the TCCs be interested in working with the Authority they would be provided with the details of the full costs for the services concerned and the Council would, particularly in the first year, seek to support TCCs through the process. He went on to say that the particular services that had been outlined within the report were tangible ones the costs of which were known and bearing in mind that TCCs would in the main be looking to their precepts to possibly provide some services, it was therefore important that all details were provided to TCCs at the appropriate time.

Notwithstanding the fact that some TCCs may not consider taking on some of the services / provisions, Councillor Hodges stated that it was important that the recommendations be endorsed in order that discussions could take place with those TCCs who wished to engage in the process. Councillor Penrose also advised that from his point of view it was important that the Vale Elected Member for the area was present at such meetings with TCCs when discussions were taking place.

Having fully considered the report, it was subsequently

RECOMMENDED – T H A T the content of the report be endorsed as a basis for the development of specific proposals with individual Town and Community Councils.

Reason for recommendation

To enable specific proposals with individual Town and Community Councils to be developed consistently.