TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Civic Committee of Council held at Tredegar Library on Wednesday 2nd December 2009 at 6.00 pm

Present: **Councillor** **A. Williams**
H. Trollope
M. Cross
A. Tippings
K. Hayden
P. Prosser
D. Rowberry
S. Trollope
J. Morgan
B. Willis
G. D. Woolf
A. Cotton

In attendance: **Ms. C.M. Keane – Clerical Assistant**
Also Present: **Insp. Green and Sgt. Petrie**

293) Apologies: **Cllrs. D. Howells; T. Gregory; H. Woolf and R. Thomas**

No.		Action
294	**TO RECEIVE INSPECTOR TONY GREEN, GWENT POLICE** **Insp. Green and Sgt Petrie were welcomed by the Mayor who then read out the questions previously submitted by Members for the Inspector:** 1. Q. Are finances affecting Policing in the area? It is understood that in some areas residents are employing local security firms, are you aware of this? **He replied. No. Although less Officers work from local stations they are supplemented by Response Officers based in Tredegar. He had no information on security firms being employed by residents which had featured on a TV programme, but stated that this would be frowned upon and that the firms employed would have no powers to act.** 2. Members are querying the effectiveness of the barrier in the car park. Are the Police aware that the displaced car drivers are causing problems in other areas? **His reply – that if complaints were made to the Police they would be investigated. Sgt. Petrie stated that they had tried an educational approach to these problems which had been unsuccessful and that signs were being made to explain why people couldn't park in such a manner and that they would be enforced. Members raised queries about young drivers congregating in bus bays at the bottom of Bedwellty Park and**	

	Sgt Petrie responded that the signs in the bays were sufficient to move people along. Some Members expressed regret that space could not be found for such gatherings but it was agreed that such situations could be difficult to manage. 3. Are the Police monitoring under-age drinking in Tredegar's public houses? **Insp. Green responded by outlining the "traffic light" system (red, amber and green) of managing transgressions. Red being the worst which were visited weekly, amber being visited monthly and green requiring only occasional visits. He confirmed, when asked, that only 1 public house in Tredegar was classified as red. He also confirmed that each public house was aware of their classification but unfortunately off-licenses were not part of the same scheme. In response to comments from Members he said that he would welcome information on pubs and off-licenses that were selling alcohol illegally and would use this information to liaise with Trading Standards. The question of 'proxy purchases' was raised by Members – when an over age person buys alcohol to supply to someone under-age – and mention was made that some customers had been subjected to threats from youngsters outside off-licences. Sgt. Petrie urged that such cases should be reported and made mention of the Manager of Bargain Booze who had sacked staff responsible for selling alcohol illegally, despite a rigorous training schedule. It was agreed that a letter of congratulation be sent to the Manager for showing such diligence.**	**CK**
	4. Why are the Police forbidding non organised use of car parks? Organised use appears to be permitted but non organised use appears not. Why? (Lidl) **Insp. Green was a little baffled by the question until it was explained that certain car parks are used for organised "Street Games" when football was allowed, but outside these times youngsters were moved on. This was proving confusing for the youngsters. Sgt. Petrie responded by stating that such use was in a controlled environment and that outside these times anti-social behaviour could not be ruled out.** 5. Members are concerned at the parking on double yellow lines in Avalon Terrace a known danger spot. Do the Police have any plans to patrol this area? **The above question was incorrect. There are no double yellow lines in the area involved. Members pointed out the ongoing problem with people parking on the bend and opposite, very close to the junction with Scwrfa Road leading down to the rear access to Glanhowy Primary School and the Belle Vue public house. Sgt. Petrie informed the Meeting that they would take a 'softly softly' approach and leaflet those parking dangerously with warnings before persistent offenders were prosecuted. Vehicles parked illegally or dangerously could be towed away.**	

	It was agreed to write to BGCBC to ask that this area have double yellow lines, and seek the support of the Police.	**CK**
	6. Members expressed concern at the amount of vandalism in Mechanics Square. Are the Police intending to take action against the perpetrators? **Sgt. Petrie stated that there had been 3 reported incidents within a short space of time resulting in increased patrols which seemed to have relieved the problem and pointed out that youths rather than youngsters had been the cause.**	
	7. Members are querying the value of PACT meetings. What is the point? Why not PACT panels? **Members agreed that the question could have been better put. He and Sgt. Petrie both commented that PACT meetings involved a lot of organisation and sometimes the expense of hiring a venue. The Inspector informed the Meeting that the PACT process was undergoing review and that the use of PACT Panels - representatives of organisation, Councillors etc. - could sometimes be a better use of resources, since they may contain those who could influence action.**	
	8. Members expressed concern at the lack of Police presence in Wards. Is there a reason? **Members commented on the increasing numbers of PCSO's rather than Police officer in some areas. It was noted that a new Officer was due to join the Central and West Ward in January, P.C. Devvi Chetrie an ex-Gurkha, although there is currently a recruitment campaign ongoing. Mention was made of a new Police Cadet force, called Young Dragons, consisting of 16/17 year olds who voluntarily worked alongside Police Officers and PCSO's. They would have no powers but would be vetted and their intentions tested, some would be working towards an NVQ in Policing and may eventually become officers themselves.** **Cllr. Cross thanked Sgt. Petrie for his help on a personal matter and Inspector Green closed by saying that the incidences of anti-social behaviour in Tredegar Town Centre had dropped significantly and that the whole of Tredegar had seen a 7% drop year on year.** **The Mayor thanked Insp. Green and Sgt Petrie and they withdrew.**	
295	**CORRESPONDENCE** 1) WAG Response to letter re 100th Birthdays stating that information is received from the Dept for Work & Pensions and that they are not allowed to share info because of data privacy. **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that the Leader should**	**MC**

	write to local newspapers and columnists seeking their help. It was agreed to also include Diamond Wedding Anniversaries. 2) BGCBC a) Alwyn Holland — Response to invitation to make a presentation to Council regarding the Freedom of Information Act (would last approx 30 mins and include questions from Members) Suggested dates 3rd February 2010 or 17th February 2010. **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to invite Mr. Holland to the Civic Meeting on the 3rd February to expedite matters.**	**CK**
	b) D Ware — Agenda BG Regeneration Partnership Board – next meeting December 4th at 11am Council Chamber EV **RECEIVED AND NOTED.**	
	c) R. Morrison — Stakeholder Engagement Event Community Planning Visioning Workshop for BG to be held at the Llanilleth Institute on Wednesday 9th December at 10 am – programme to follow. Please advise if attending. **RECEIVED AND NOTED. Members to contact office if attending.**	
	3) a)Antony Hicks BG and Caerphilly Youth Offending Service — Looking for work or community projects for young people referred by Youth Courts for "reparation work" **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to invite Mr Hicks to make a joint presentation to Council.**	**CK**
	b) Tony Walters Community Development Officer — Details of the "Engage" Project which has similar aims working alongside disadvantaged youth by running work groups – seeking projects in each ward to be put forward. **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to invite Mr. Walters to make a joint presentation to Council.**	**CK**
	4) OVW — A new strategy for the Welsh Language a public meeting with Alun Ffred Jones AM dates and locations in December throughout Wales. **RECEIVED AND NOTED.**	
	5) Aneurin Bevan Health Board — Response to letter dated 4/11 re Tredegar General Hospital confirming	

	that A & E Services will continue to be provided at Nevill Hall Hospital and the Minor Injuries Unit at the General will transfer to Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan in autumn 2010, re Tredegar General Hospital unable to advise of future plans as these are still being worked through. Since there is a General Practice attached to the hospital the "future Health Estates requirements are currently undergoing comprehensive review." Quote from Bobby Bolt Locality Leader for Blaenau Gwent, Aneurin Bevan Health Board. **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed that the need to get the General Hospital "Spot Listed" was even more essential. It was also agreed to write to BGCBC Heritage and Regeneration Officer to seek their support and to seek a reply within 14 days.**	**CK**
	6) Local Works — Re Sustainable Communities –seeking support by lobbying MP **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to write to Dai Davies MP as previously.**	
	7) Ombudsman — Seeking to introduce a new Code of Conduct and issuing a Draft copy for consultation – responses by Friday 12th February 2010 preferably by e-mail. Training on the new Code will be offered to all Members, this Draft version is to be referred to in the interim period.(Copied to all Members for their information and review.) **RECEIVED AND NOTED. It was agreed to copy this to Members and to discuss at the Ordinary Meeting of 16th December 2009.**	
	8) BBNP — Draft minutes of the West Area advisory Forum on 23rd October (copied to Cllr. H Woolf) **RECEIVED AND NOTED.**	
	9) Angela Davies Brynmawr Town Clerk — Copy of letter sent to Chief Exec Aneurin Bevan Health Board re lack of mortuary facilities at Aneurin Bevan Community Hospital **RECEIVED AND NOTED. Members were surprised to learn that most "cottage" hospitals have no such facilities. It was agreed to write voicing our concerns.**	**CK**
296	**PUBLICATIONS** BGCBC Road Works report w/c 20 & 27 /11/09: GAVO Action for Children project 416 NCH, details of Xmas Fun Days and Minutes of the	

	Voluntary Sector Forum meeting 27/10: Hospice 23rd Annual Report 2008: Play for Wales Newsletter Autumn 2009 Issue 30: James Cocker & Sons Rose Catalogue 2009: Orvault Le Cens Pratique 110; Community Services Directorate Newsletter Autumn 2009 Edition 1 **AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS**	
297	**AGENDA** Meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on Thursday 3rd December 2009 at 2pm in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale: Licensing Committee Tuesday 1st December 11am Council Chamber EV: Finance Improvement and Performance Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 1st December 2pm Council Chamber EV;Special Education & Leisure Scrutiny Co on Monday 7th December at 10 am and 11am in the Council Chamber EV;Executive Co 25th November 2pm EV; Education & Leisure Scrutiny Committee meeting to be held on Tuesday 8th December at 2pm, in the Council Chamber Ebbw Vale; Special meeting of above Monday 7th December at 11am in the Council Chamber EV; As above at 10 am Social Care & Inclusion Scrutiny Committee Council Chamber EV Monday 7th December at 3pm; **AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS**	
298	**MATTERS CONCERNING BEDWELLTY HOUSE AND PARK** **1) It was agreed to arrange a site visit to Bedwellty House and Park for Members, Staff and the Camera Club who were eager to keep a photographic record of works in progress.**	**CK**
299	**<u>GRANTS</u>** **Thanks were received from Saron Congregational Chapel.** **NOTED** **<u>Cultural and Sporting Grants (under the provision of the Local Govt. Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 s.19</u>** Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod – **a grant of £50 was recommended** Tredegar Round Table – **whilst TTC are unable to support a retrospective application, it was agreed to recommend a grant of £200 in support of their Christmas activities and the use of their Sleigh for the Christmas Lights Switch-On.** Tredegar Thespian Players - **a grant of £200 was recommended** **<u>Grants to Churches and Chapels</u>** Vale Terrace Methodists Church – **a grant of £200 was recommended.**	

300	**PLANNING** **a) OFFICERS REPORT – RECEIVED (Copies of Appeal decisions to all Members) Also a copy of a report by Head of Planning & Building Control on Member Training (currently BGCBC Members only – but open to request from Town Council Members)** **b) APPLICATIONS** App No / Applicant / Proposal 2009/0368 / Mr David Roberts 92 Charles Street / Change of use of waste ground at rear of Arnold Place to garden land, proposed garage and boundary wall. **Whilst there was no objection in principal, it should be specified that it should be for residential/domestic use only.** 2009/0369 / Mr & Mrs Mervyn Lewis 44 Queen Victoria St / To increase overall size of the vehicle service station situated adjacent to Rose Haven, Park Hill approved under 07/0011 (Changes due to site construction details) **Objections were raised on the grounds of visual impact, noise, pollution and some queries relating to the legality of the current operations.** 2009/0378 / Mr Justin Jones 14 Railway View / Householder application for planning permission to convert existing garage into a sitting room and to build above for use as a master bedroom. **NO OBJECTIONS** **c) Other Planning Matters – The Clerk's comments were noted. The Members explanation that no decisions had been taken and that it was simply a review of planning applications and that no decisions had been made was accepted. The matter was concluded.**	
301	**MATTERS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND CONCERN** **1) Quiz Wizards – Cllr. Cross spoke highly of the recent quiz and paid glowing tribute to Mr. Malcolm Higgs who has organised the event for many years. This year's Mayor, Cllr. Andrea Williams had produced certificates for all the participants. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to the venues that took part and the winning team from Ebbw Vale. It was further agreed that this team, together with Mr. Higgs and his wife should be invited to a presentation evening when the newly commissioned winning shield would be presented.**	**CK**

	2) Web-site – Cllr. Cross queried progress on the new web-site and was informed that the demo site was available and that it should be made a priority. **3) Lights Switch-On – a request was made for the staff to work during the Lights Switch-On, and it was agreed that they should work from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday 5th December 2009.** **4) Logs – a Member queried whether the trees cut down in Bedwellty Park were available to purchase** **5) Battle of the Bands – Cllr. A. Cotton advised Council that the band Mimesis had reached the final of the competition.** **6) Cllr. A. Williams advised Council that the film "A Bit of Tom Jones" would be premiered in Leicester Square in London and that "Cow" had been on the Oprah Winfrey Show. She also informed Council that Mr. Peter Watkins Hughes was setting up a film school in the Valleys to train youngsters. It was agreed to send a letter of support.** **7) The invitation to all Members from Cllr. Tony Gregory to attend a power point presentation by Cllr. H. Trollope on their visit to the Cairn Memorial was raised and all Members were urged to attend.** **8) Members who agreed to attend the match at Tredegar Ironsides on Saturday 19th at 2.30 p.m. were Cllrs. H. Woolf, M. Cross, H. Trollope and A. Williams.** **9) Members were also informed that Communities First had ceased the youth Club at Catapult.** **THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.15 P.M.** **_____Town Mayor**	**CK**