

MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRA MEETING OF MONMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 23 May 2016 at 7.00pm
The Shire Hall, Monmouth

Present: Chairman: The Mayor Cllr C Munslow

Cllr S Chivers

Cllr A Dewhurst

Cllr J Gunter

Cllr J Hall

Cllr A Were

Cllr S Wilson

A Presentation was given by Mr David Farnsworth regarding The Place Plan Working Group.
(See notes attached.)

Mr Farnsworth explained the group is progressing the way forward for future development plans in Monmouth.

Points raised:

Concept for the whole Town:

MCC hasn't a concept plan for Monmouth only plans for bits & pieces of Monmouth.

Providing development plans 10 years in advance is impractical, the group is promoting the idea that plans are reviewed annually which could fit in with the Town Council budget review.

Credible evidence is required for future plans with questions being:

- What options are there for Monmouth in the future? If so which is the preferred option, and the most effective steps to take? Then negotiate who will cooperate with this process involving other groups in the Town.
- Mr Farnsworth understands that the reason for this is to obtain more influence, be more proactive and ahead of the game approach both to its own projects and to development proposals from other public and private agencies, including future housing and reviews of the Local Development Plan.

Mr Farnsworth explained that the Place Plan couldn't be called a Neighbourhood Plan as in England as legislation powers had not been adopted by the Welsh Government. He has been in contact with Monmouthshire County Council to see if the Place Plan could be merged with their scheme.

Ways forward could be to boost markets in the Town, have artisan shops, café culture and history culture as many items in the Museum are currently in storage. Encouragement of more walking to work and shopping, destination Tourism, rather than short stays or day trips to the Town encouraging longer stays.

It was noted that MCC is looking into the possibility of a trust to manage the Museum, Library which may include Shire Hall.

The most effective steps to get to this position and getting nearer to the concept are, feasible, effective do-able, and, is the money available?

Possibilities for this year are Agincourt Square, Priory Street, Church Street. MCC are thinking of spending money on Agincourt Square in terms of redesigning. There may be the possibility of funding available this year. It was raised that illegal parking would have to be policed otherwise the scheme would not work.

The Gateway Scheme is subject to a Lottery bid with stage 1 providing £20,000 to refine the scheme for the build. The decision is expected on 3 June 2016. If unsuccessful plan B would be from another part of lottery funding. This will have to be Community money and cannot be given to MCC or Town Council.

Destination Play space redesigning of play areas making state of the art play areas.

Arrival and Access: Thoughts are to change parking times in car parks have coach drop off points and a network of routes for footpaths between origins and destinations (Links Project). Signage in the town is not well designed and cluttered and should be replaced.

Mr Farnsworth raised the point that there have been many reports on issues within the town but the reports have never been actioned.

Far more market research is required to achieve the preferred concept. Research is required in the behaviour of users and also to find out what residents, visitors and workers thoughts to the town.

Keeping track of housing in the area (Local Development Plan), this after the Wonastow Road Development. Mr Farnsworth had enquired to MCC and found out that they are only obliged to review the LDP by 2018 but due to an annual monitoring report will be doing a review in 2016 this will be going to the Welsh Government in October this year. When MCC were asked if anyone who had views on the plans could be included in the review the answer was yes, and by writing to the County Council could have their views included.

Mr Farnsworth wanted to know the following from the Town Council:

- Are the Town Council going to give continued support for the aims of this work, as it started as a Town Council Working Group and in a sense have supported the work in terms of encouragement?
- Do the group carry on in the Town Councils name?
- Various places where money is required, hadn't been specific. Further down the line however quotations will be required. Is the Town Council willing to support financially? Money will also be sort from elsewhere.

Cllr Hall thanked Mr Farnsworth and the Group for all of their hard work to date and asked if they would continue.

4. To confirm and agree the meeting dates list and date of the next meeting.

The meeting date's list was agreed with one correction. The planning meeting on 26 September had been omitted.

Proposed: Cllr Hayward seconded: Cllr Wilson

All in favour

Monday 20 June 2016 at 7.00pm Shire Hall, Monmouth.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.22pm