



CROESYCEILIOG AND LLANYRAFON COMMUNITY COUNCIL
CYNGOR CYMUNED CROESYCEILIOG a LLANYRAFON
Caring for the Community

****Report OF MEETING**
BUSINESS PLANNING COMMITTEE
Wednesday 11th June 2025 AT 6.00PM

Present:

Cllr C Crick (Chair)
Cllr D Dewar
Cllr S Matthews

Cllr V Crick
Cllr D Williams
Cllr N Davies

Sian Davies, Clerk
Kelly Lewis, Administrator
Tosin Adeleke, Awareness Campaign Officer, Sight Cymru
Stewart Francis, Volunteer, Sight Cymru
Tony Morgan, Volunteer, Sight Cymru
Rosemary Kennedy, Volunteer, Sight Cymru

1. Apologies

Cllr D Payton, Cllr J Boycott

2. Presentation/Workshop

Tosin Adeleke – Sight Cymru

Members were advised of Sight Cymru's aims – to raise awareness of sight loss and encourage eye tests as early detection can prevent at least 50% off sight loss cases, and to support those who are sight impaired across Wales by improving accessibility.

Sight Cymru is the largest charity supporting vision impairment in Wales, and with a projection of one hundred and twenty nine thousand cases of sight impairment in Wales in 2025, it is necessary to raise awareness and improve accessibility for those affected. Initiatives include a Welsh government scheme which makes eye testing provision in schools for young children, however it was indicated that an examination conducted by an optometrist would be more comprehensive.

Work undertaken by organisations including Sight Cymru and the RNIB identified a need for policy change, and data obtained through initiatives supported policy change to improve the livelihood of those affected by vision impairment and provide education on what vision impairment is and how to prevent it.

Sight Cymru have begun to collaborate with community councils to promote their aims and support communities and feel that raising awareness of challenges faced by disabled residents encourages communities to become more accessible and supportive. Challenges faced by those affected were shared with members, which included using public transport, visiting shops and even walking on pavements. Their 'Widening Vision' project also offers collaboration with community groups and businesses, providing staff training and awareness, to encourage groups and businesses to ensure their services are accessible to those with vision impairment to support those facing social isolation and employment and accessibility challenges.

Members were advised that possible opportunities for council to address challenges include ensuring traffic crossings are audible, ensure bins are not on pavements, and encouraging A boards to be moved from outside local businesses to avoid a trip hazard, however members advised that many of the recommendations would come under TCBC's remit and suggested that the presentation was also shared with them.

Members suggested various ways in which to support Sight Cymru's aims including writing to TCBC to suggest crossing improvements to include audible announcements, encouraging local groups to use large print and bright signage, to share Sight Cymru's workshop and training opportunities with local schools and businesses, notify TCBC of any pavements with branches that require maintenance, and share their aims within the council newsletter, including apps and tools available to support those affected such as 'Be my eye', 'Look out' and the narrator option on Microsoft applications.

The Chair thanked members of Sight Cymru for their time and presentation and members agreed the presentation raised awareness of the challenges faced by those affected, and will consider how to support Sight Cymru's aims when considering future projects and liaising with the community.

3. Declarations of Interest

None

4. Minutes of Business Planning Committee Meeting 9th April 2025

Members received and considered the Minutes of the BPC Meeting 12th April 2025. Discussion notes from the meeting on 14th May which was cancelled due to being non-quorate were also shared with members

RESOLVED: Members approved the Minutes

5. Matters Arising

Members raised concerns regarding communication and liaison difficulties between community councils and TCBC due to the Clerk still awaiting responses regarding the project plan.

Members agreed to contact an executive member to raise concerns, and Cllr D Williams advised he will feedback concerns to TCBC to encourage a response. Members also agreed to raise their concerns at the next partnership meeting.

6. Review of Project Plan & Planting Suggestion List

The updated plan was discussed and:

- Traffic survey on The Highway, Croesyceiliog – Cllr V Crick was advised by the PCSO that a speed check had been undertaken and more will be done but they are currently awaiting a new speed gun. Cllrs asked that the Clerk make contact to request results of any speed checks, enquire when the police surgery will be arranged for Croesyceiliog, and to request regular police reports prior to their attendance at a FC meeting.
- Riverbank erosion - The Clerk asked TCBC whether there was a procedure to test soil following a flood and was advised there was not, and therefore suggested a procedure is put in place as landlords of the site. The Clerk has also reported the boulders and gabion movement and tractor tyre and fallen trees that are current issues in the river course and asked for an update on the remedial works a response after sending the enquiry to a Torfaen officer and members enquiries but is still awaiting a response. Members have visited the site and have not noticed any improvements. Members reiterated their concerns regarding a lack of response.
- Memorial Area - The benches have been received. Cllr Price has kindly offered to arrange for concrete plinths to be installed to set them on.
- Defibrillator Replacement - The Clerk has approached 2 local companies asking if they would be able to assist with the refurb of the telephone box and for approximate costs. To date, only one of the companies has responded and has arranged to visit the telephone box to provide a quote.
- Cwmbran Big Event - arrangements are in hand for the event. Give aways and supplies have been ordered and received. The Clerk is attempting to have new large ward maps printed to display on the new noticeboards purchased. Clerk to send an email reminder of the event to members

Trees and planting

Updates to planting list below

- Members agreed that due to wildflower planting requiring ground preparation, Clerk to contact TCBC regarding quotes for bulb planting for those sites initially identified for wildflowers, and to refresh where bulb planting has previously been undertaken.
- Any member's additional site suggestions to be sent to the Clerk including the what3words locations.
- The Chair also suggested the Clerk liaise with Cllr J Boycott to enquire about the open day at the Community Garden.
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7. Items for discussion

7.1 Planters Maintenance at the North Rd Site

The headteacher has now confirmed that they believe pupils will not be free to carry out the project due to time constraints and the height of the planters making maintenance difficult. Members agreed to contact TCBC and BA to propose that the community council will contribute to planting shrubs within the planter as a low maintenance option

7.2 Potential project – discuss creating disabled access at Garw Fields

Following a discussion with a local wheelchair user it was determined that due to the terrain, disabled access may not be beneficial but agreed that pedestrian access would benefit the community. Members were in favour of securing the area and creating pedestrian access, and suggested TCBC is asked to quote for a pedestrian gate.

7.3 20MPH repeater signage for The Highway

Members suggested costs are obtained to purchase and install repeater signs, and if costs are reasonable, TCBC can then be approached to discuss installation.

8. Any Other Business

- Cllr V Crick advised members that through discussions with Louise Jones-Williams, LGAC, it was determined that the initial committee of the 10 year development plan for Cwmbran is due to be resurrected, with Louise sitting on the board as co-chair. It is believed that a meeting was held in London this week where ideas were brought together with the aim of beginning to action development ideas in April 2026. Cllr Anthony Bird, board representative of community councils hadn't previously reported back to council as expected, and as Cllr Bird is now living out of the area and is working as a Clerk for another Community Council, members questioned whether this may be a conflict of interest. Members agreed to invite Louise Jones-Williams, co-chair, to a FC meeting to provide an update on proposals and information on any planned meetings. Members also agreed to suggest a deputy representative of community councils is appointed, ensuring the appointee has a strong political background and knowledge of the local area.
- Cllr S Matthews advised members that within Cwmbran Town Centre it was evident that rubbish bins had been removed which has resulted in an increase in litter. Following discussions with employees of 'M of Cwmbran' it appears the reduction in litter bins is due to TCBC's recycling requirements for businesses. Members agreed to send a letter to 'M' advising of their disappointment in the reduction of bins and suggested they are replaced with multi bins which include recycling facilities.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 9th July 2025

**** This report is NOT a set of authorised meeting minutes, but a reflection of the meeting held. The minutes of the meeting this report refers to will reviewed and discussed at the next Business Planning meeting and authorised accordingly.**

