ATT Meeting 9th February 2017
Draft Agenda:

NOTE : ACTIONS AND MINUTES ARE SHOW IN THIS BLUE

1. **MCC prompted Citizens Debate**: MCC officer Judith Langdon or independent County Cllr Frances Taylor will attend and answer questions. Will ATT engage?

2. **Future Waste Reduction Projects**: a discussion; also attended by MCC’s Sue Parkinson + update on recycling developments at Abergavenny Waste Transfer station (from MCC Climate Champions meeting). (A-M S + PH)

3. **Well Being of Future Generations consultation**: draft priorities for Monmouthshire: Your views please? (these have been circulated)

4. **Report backs from 5 year Plan Town Council meetings** *(Enhance Environment, Enabling Communities to Thrive and Moving Around more Easily)*. Do ATT groups increase involvement?

5. **Wales Planning Act 2015 (August 2016) Pre-Apps** : Changes to developer/applicant procedures: Does ATT want to be a consultee? (Report back DC + PH)

6. **Incredible Edible + Community Orchard**: updates and events (JLD)

7. **Abergavenny Cycling group**: update on Campaigns + Morrisons liason + The Usk bridge:

8. **Community Energy group** project progress:
Agenda (2)

NOTE: ACTIONS AND MINUTES ARE SHOWN IN THIS BLUE

9. Other updates:
• The Bridge
• *Demain* the Film at the Melville?
• Fair Trade Celebration Tea Party Sat 4\textsuperscript{th} March 3-5pm
• Town Hub (Library?):
  • Affordable Housing Delivery for Abergavenny (SH)+WG on delivery/Grove Farm
• Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee governance?:
• Flat Packers launch: 16\textsuperscript{th} Feb

Present: Mary-Ann Swanson (M-AS), Richard Lewis (RL), Paul Clifford (PC), Jon Prince (JP), Jeremy Gass (JG), Rachel Rawlings (RR), Patrick Hannay (PH), Sue Parkinson (SP), Simon Bilsborough (SB), Nick Tatam (NT),
MCC Citizens Debate from Judith Langdon

• “The intention is to stimulate interest in the topics of democracy and governance in a very general sense, and of promoting citizen involvement. After some discussion, we felt that such an event would be more credible and engaging if it were led by a community organisation rather than by the local authority.”

• “Exploring the idea of a Transition-hosted citizens’ debate for the county? Ideally we’d be looking for this to happen before the beginning of the ‘pre-election period’ which begins at the very end of March.” Judith Langdon : MCC Whole Place Officer

“I’d be interested in exploring possibilities for drawing Abergavenny citizens into discussions much in the way we were thinking about a year or so ago (‘The Big Chat’). I’d only be interested if our focus was on getting people involved who aren't involved to date i.e. not if it just ends up being the usual suspects.” Rod Cunningham (ATT treasurer)
MINUTE/ACTION on MCC Citizen Debate

- Transition Town networks don’t as yet reach the parts that need reaching for a fuller democratic engagement.
- PH to re-circulate BIG CHAT invite to ATT widenetwork after talking to M-AB to see if team of approx 15 people can be assembled for a revitalised BIG CHAT project.
- PH to write back to Judith Langdon (MCC) and say:
  - Not possible in pre-election period; requires longer term investment of volunteer time. To make more effective.
- This will come up at Enabling Communities to Thrive meeting Monday Feb 13th. Convey same message; seek funding support for task.
- ATT also promoting engagement through Flat Pack Democracy.
Future Waste Production projects?

- Sue Parkinson, Waste and Recycling Education and Awareness Officer of MCC attended to discuss what the MCC was doing in this area and what ATT might be able to do to help.

- **MINUTE/ACTIONS**

  Reduce discussion:

  - Reduction in packaging could be targeted
  - Reduction in plastic bottle use and reusable bottles
  - Bottle deposit scheme
  - Public drinking fountains would be helpful

  - **Action:** Mary Ann to follow up with Welsh Water re their reusable bottles as seen at the Eisteddfod/reduce-reuse awareness

  - **Action:** To be confirmed: Jeremy to follow up on bottle deposit scheme petition to Welsh Assembly
• FUTURE WASTE PROJECTS: Minutes /Actions contnd

• **Reuse discussion**
  - SP informed us of the progress of a new Re-use Centre facility at the Llanfoist Household Waste Recycling Centre (Waste Transfer Station) which encourages giving another chance for items to be re-used before they are thrown away.
  - MCC is working with Homemakers on this project on MCC owned land immediately adjacent to Waste Transfer Station.
  - The centre should be open in June
  - Prices would be kept low.

• **Give & Take event** planned for Abergavenny Community Centre Sat May 13th
  - SP mentioned that there is funding from MCC to help with leaflets
  - There is also help with removal of items after the event
  - Saturday 13 May was chosen for the date of the event.
  - **Action:** Mary Ann to contact ACC to book inside/outside space (done – awaiting response), contact One Stop Shop to book gazebos for outside space
  - **Action:** Volunteers will be needed for this event – Contact: swanson.maryann@gmail.com see next page for tasks
• **FUTURE WASTE PROJECTS: Minutes /Actions contnd**

• **Action:**
  - *PH* to circulate to all ATT members the table of volunteer tasks (prepared by M-A S) for first *Give & Take* event Saturday May 13th.

• **Recycling discussion:**
  - The good news. Recycling levels in both Wales and Monmouthshire are high. Wales the highest in the UK and Monmouthshire recycling rate is 75%.
  - A new separate glass recycling system will be coming in 2018.
  - Areas which need improvement are: the quality of recycling, recycling non-participation and food waste non-participation.

• **Action:** None at this time but awareness / education projects in the near future? Portions of food waste reduction may be addressed at Food Festival Fringe. Information and awareness at the *Give & Take* event.
• Report back by PH From Climate Champions meeting : Rachel Jowitt (MCC Waste Management) attended.

Anaerobic digester project was referred to: location not defined.

Action: RR would follow up with Jowitt to establish location and ask whether smaller scale digesters located more locally were being discussed as potential electricity generator and district heating generators.
Well-being Goals

- A globally responsible Wales
- A prosperous Wales
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A resilient Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
MCC’s Well being of Future Generations Consultation

• **Involving over a thousand people the engagement sessions identified key areas including:**

  • **Priorities from consultation**

    • Wage levels available locally are low, and coupled with high property prices make it difficult for young people and future generations to live and work locally
    • Limited public transport, particularly in rural areas, reduces opportunities for people to access jobs, services and facilities
    • Adverse childhood experiences have a negative impact on people’s long term health as well as economic prospects and can be perpetuated through future generations
    • There are growing levels of obesity. These are likely to lead to an increase in associated long-term conditions such as type 2 diabetes
    • Monmouthshire has extensive green infrastructure and its potential needs to be maximised while conserving it for future generations
Dick Coles’s analysis of MCC’s Well-Being of Future generations document

• “Conflict arising between the seven goals”: how to resolve?
• “This seems to betray a position where economic growth is considered the key to achieving the other goals and will be given greater weight. “
• “the balance of local jobs and housing”?
• “Capital Region planning appears to be based on concentration of employment, especially in central Cardiff”
• “The prospect of lower or no Severn Bridge tolls needs to be mentioned “
• “The county lacks the academic residents that in university towns or cities tend to be community leaders and activists.”
Cole’s analysis contnd

• “The Housing section seems rather thin – nothing on tenure, little on condition, nothing on waiting lists or affordability “
• “I seem to remember that Monmouthshire has the densest network of public rights of way in Wales – an asset that is particularly challenging to maintain, requiring prioritisation of works.”
• “The impact of climate change, weather and resource cuts on the condition of the county’s roads deserves more emphasis.”
• “The WCVA figures for volunteering in Monmouthshire are remarkably high and may indicate a level of performance that will be difficult to increase (cf household waste recycling). This could limit the scope in the county for diverting public services to the voluntary sector”
Cole’s analysis contnd......

• “The Civic Society and others are particularly concerned that Abergavenny increasingly seems to becoming a less sustainable dormitory town as new housing is planned with insufficient regard for changes in local employment opportunities. We hope that LDP review statistics will clarify this, but we fear a loss of Nevill Hall jobs and note that the main employment site is producing mainly low wage service sector jobs. The assessment draws attention to the relatively high deprivation of the area, yet policy tends to emphasise employment growth in the south of the county. Why?”
MCC’s Well being of Future Generations Consultation: Minutes / Actions

- **Action**: PH to write to all members in the ATT network and urge engagement with this consultation. Its values are shared by Transition Towns. This consultation will lead to policy that will affect the Local Development Plan.

- The deadline for the end of this Consultation is not far away Tuesday 28th February. The Public Service Board wraps things up in 29th March!

- The next event of this consultation in Abergavenny is at the One Stop Shop in the Town Hall Abergavenny, this Wednesday 15th February from 10am-12.30 and it goes on in the afternoon at the Library 1-3pm.

- Consultation on assessment began 17th January to 28th February

- Public Service Board (PSB) will debate challenges and opportunities – 8th Feb

- Drop in sessions at community Hubs – week commencing 13th Feb

- PSB Scrutiny Panel - 16th Feb

- To Council – 20th Mar

- PSB sign-off – 29th Mar

- PSB will use findings to develop well-being objectives and shared priorities for public services – published May 2018
Town Council 5 year plan meetings

• The plan has been broadly grouped into 5 main themes:
• 1 Spread the Word/Publicity and attractions
• 2 Encourage business success
• 3 Enable communities to thrive: NOTE 13 Feb 7.00pm
• 4 Enhance our environment (PH chairing)
• 5 Move around more easily.

“This next phase through to final approvals and publication will be led by the Mayor (who volunteered that he and his successors in the post could be ongoing owner of the plan on behalf of the area) and Jackie Humphries (Town Clerk) with input from all the new 'theme groups' and the help of David Straker of Team Abergavenny.” Jacqui Warren
• Town Council 5 year plan meetings: Minutes/Actions

• PH has attended three of the themed meetings, (Enhance the Environment, Moving Around more Easily, Enabling Communities to Thrive) Dick Cole (DC) attended the Moving around more easily meeting

• Many ATT projects are logged in the projects plan:

• PH is Chair for the next meeting of the Enhance the Environment group meeting 20th January at the Town Hall 7.00pm

• Action: PH will report back on Enable Communities to Thrive at next ATT meeting and update on Enhancing the Environment meeting progress
Wales Planning Act: Changes to Pre-Apps

- Shift of community and statutory consultations onto developer/applicant.
- Will they do it properly? ATT& A&DCS need to monitor.
- Are the Town Council planning committee geared up to cope?
- *Enquiry by Design* should be the aim, but applicants will avoid it on grounds of cost and time.
- Do ATT push for that or is it not our remit?
- The MCC chief planner is encouraging our engagement.
  - *Agreed: ATT should monitor along with A&DCS*
  - *Action: PH to raise issue of support to Town Council planning committee with Mayor.*
IE + Community Orchard

• Next event: Sunday 26\textsuperscript{th} February:
• Fruit shrub Planting event in IE beds
• 11.00am: Meet @ Byefield Car Park
Abergavenny Cycling group (ACG)

• Cycling parking provision in the town: Jack Thurston and other members of the group have submitted projects on this to Nick Jones in MCC.

• No progress as yet on the missing link in the national cycle network?

• Abergavenny Cycling group have refreshed their website.

• All other ACG policy and planning submissions are on their new and considerably slimmed down website:

  • [http://abergavennycyclegroup.org.uk/](http://abergavennycyclegroup.org.uk/)

  • Scroll down and click on Policy and Campaigning.
Jeremy Gass (JG) updated on JUST FOOD events.

March 1st 2017: a gathering of food related community groups with new Food festival Director: @Abergavenny Community Centre.

A Food manifesto for Wales (post Brexit) is being worked on by the group led by JG and M-A B with a timetable of promotional and public debating events.

March 22nd JUST FOOD open public meeting (free) with Pamela Mason and Catherine Fookes on ‘FOOD, WALES & BREXIT’: 7.30pm- 9.00pm Abergavenny Community centre
Community Energy update?

Note: Initiatives on community renewables are logged in the 5 year plan in Enhancing Environment group which currently PH chairs. PH to circulate project list to group.

For queries about the report contact Dr Ed Green at greene11@cariff.ac.uk
Grove Farm, Gypsy Lane Llanfoist
Application for 120 houses: Approved
• Innovative Housing delivery for affordable homes
• A new report produced by the Welsh School of Architecture for Welsh Government was launched Thursday 9\textsuperscript{th} February 2017 in Cardiff. PH attended.
• Report can be accessed at: \url{http://orca.cf.ac.uk/98055/}
• The next couple of slides are from that report.

• Action: PH and Steve Harris (SH) to approach Ben Jones of the Grove Farm Housing project, Llanfoist to explore potential of innovative approaches. PH to send report link to Ben Jones.
### Comparison, seven construction techniques:

#### Target

- Best practice building fabric
- Air tightness <1
- Carbon negative
- Customisable form
- Suited to tight sites
- Capable of height (3+ storeys)
- Flexibility / adaptability
- Thermal mass
- Natural, breathable
- Locally sourced resources
- No wet trades**
- Off-site fabrication
- Self-build friendly
- Production at scale

#### Benefits

- Very low energy in use / heating bills, more comfort
- Very low energy in use / heating bills, more comfort
- Carbon sequestration, lower impact construction
- Character can be adapted to suit different places, contexts
- Opportunities for densification, intensification
- More effective use of land, denser development options
- Ensures functionality and suitability for life of building
- Reduced risk of overheating, stable internal conditions
- Healthier buildings, lower risk of failure
- Local / national supply chain, reduced transportation
- Less time on site, less sequencing / specialist skills, lower carbon
- Better working conditions, higher quality control
- Reaching a different market, client engagement / skilling, reduced cost
- Economies of scale, suited to largest developments

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* Facility to achieve thermal performance equivalent to Passivhaus standard
** Excluding foundations

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> Figure 2: Comparison of 'potential' and 'delivered' benefits, by construction technique
Figure 3: Conceptual impact of a policy-led step change on housing delivery pathways

Figure 4: Conceptual impact of a policy-led step change on housing construction techniques

http://orca.cf.ac.uk/98055/
‘Demain’ the Film: A view from Jon Prince

• I've looked through the info on the DVD "Demain"
• I can't say I was impressed. Apparently it is a "..."hugely positive, affirming and inspirational film, exploring creative solutions in the fields of food, energy, transport, economics and education." It sounds like a glitzy gloss over a number of projects without any hard information. The promotional DVD reinforced my impression. It runs for 2 hours and was made in 2015.
• To show it in the Melville would cost £200-00. I haven't found out yet how much the Melville would charge for three hours. The theatre seats 70, so entry ticket price would have to be at least £10 assuming the theatre would be half full. Extensive promotion would be needed as it is an unknown film with no recognizable UK names attached.
‘Demain’ the Film: contnd: discussion

- The £200.00 hire figure was assuming a commercial cinema venue. The Melville had confirmed they are not a commercial cinema and would charge £12.00 p/hour. Three and a half hours might be needed for event. They can seat 70

- Action. The film can be bought through Amazon: PH agree to purchase a copy and review content. It could be shown at an ATT meeting if thought worthwhile at the Abergavenny Community centre.
The Usk bridge update

• “The architect are now working on the design, and WSP/PB (the engineering consultant) are working on getting documents for planning together. There are a couple of issues, mainly caused by getting the new bridge back closer up to the old one which means that some work such as GI and flood modelling needs to be redone. This is required to get planning permission. (We had pre-application meetings with MCC’s planners.) As a consequence, and because of the difficulty caused by Local Transport Fund grant system providing funding by financial year, it became clear that we would struggle to get the documents together for bidding for full funding for 2017/18, and if we get it there would be a substantial delivery risk. We now aim for construction to be in spring/summer 2018”

Christian Schmidt MCC
A.O.B

• **Other updates:**

  • Fair Trade: 10th Anniversary for Abergavenny as Fair Trade Town: Celebration Tea Party Sat 4th March 3-5pm
  
  • Town Hub (Library?): Seeming lack of progress information from MCC (Debra Hill-Howells). No confirmation on procurement of architects or contractors. Town Council in the dark as well. Rumour of June/July possible update.

  • RR reported on a verbal update given to the Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee of Councillors in October: 2016

  • ‘A report regarding this matter had been presented to Full County Council in July 2016.’

  • ‘A sum of up to £50,000 is to be released to fund the costs of finalising the detailed designs and business case to be funded by prudential borrowing’.

  • Comment: Still no confirmation of Architects/contractor hired.

  • ‘Costs and timelines will be identified’………contnd
• ‘A working group will be established with relevant partners to challenge ideas’.
• Comment: No definition of who are relevant partners nor any date given.
• ‘Following this, a period of consultation will be held’.
• Comment: No dates confirmed by MCC for this…….
• ‘Following feedback, the plans will be presented to Full Council in the spring of 2017’.
• Comment: But we are half way through February now and absolutely nothing is known.
• Action: PH to pursue with Town Council and through all other channels to establish procurement decisions and updated timeline.

• Rest of A.O.B

• Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee governance?:
The Governance Review has not reported to MCC yet: It may be March but more likely May after elections.

• Flat Packers launch: Thursday 16th Feb @Abergavenny CC. 7.30pm