• **AGENDA: September (minutes in yellow)**

  • Present:
    • Fraser Stephens, Stephen Harris, Freddy Edmonds, Francis Buxton, Patrick Hannay, Nick Tatam, Richard Lewis
  • Apologies:
    • Paul Clifford, Jeremy Gass, Simon Bilsborough, Gethin Jones, Anthea Fairey

• **1. ‘Spreading the word’: (Paul Clifford's notes circulated)**
• **2. JUST FOOD update Food Festival + Agri-Urban**
• **3. Community Orchard/IE: dates for diary**
• **4. Public Realm, and Future sites (Enhance Environment) updates after Town Hall meeting.**
• **5. Abergavenny Hub + Castle project update.**
• **6. Llanfoist Bridge update.**
• **7. Climate champions visit to solar farm**
• **8. Bryn Y Cwm Area Committee: liasing with community?**
• **9. The North Monmouthsihre Community Plan**
• **10. Invites to Caldecott and Monmouth for October?**
• **11. A.O.B**
Any comments on JUST FOOD’S DRAFT Food Manifesto?

Now submitted a Draft Food Policy for Monmouthshire

If any members still have observations to make please contact Jeremy Gass.

This is an important initiative: ATT members will hopefully be able to get behind it.

Please find time to read it

The food policy has been also sent into the group who run the Agri-Urban Project
Come to the Food Festival Fringe talk -

what future for FISH?

Friday 15th September
St Mary’s Priory Church Abergavenny

Doors open at 6.45pm - talks start at 7.30pm - free admission

Join leading specialists Dr Rory Moore and Dr Alan Terry as they discuss the urgent need for marine conservation; examining the vital question “What future for fish?”.

Their research has thrown light on the present state of Welsh inshore fisheries and the global efforts to create large scale marine reserves. Both in Wales and across the world’s oceans, action is needed now to allow fish stocks to recover and establish sustainable fisheries.

Find out what’s being done to combat overfishing, the destruction of biodiversity and how YOU can support the future of our global food security.

With stalls and information from local campaigning groups.

Food Festival Fringe event organised by Just Food – part of Abergavenny Transition Town

All ATT members please use all your various networks to promote this event which is FREE.
It is THIS WEEK
Other Food debates at the Festival: Tim Lang (major food policy researcher in UK)+ Pamela Mason. You may need to have paid a Food Festival ticket to attend:

- **Sat 1230-1400**: Sustainable Diets Discussion. Pamela Mason & session on Sustainable Diets contact: Letty Butler [Letty@abergavennyfoodfestival.com](mailto:Letty@abergavennyfoodfestival.com) venue: Village Tents

- **Sat 1600-1700** Brexit Debate in Farmyard area – Pamela Mason on Panel with NFU Cymru, Guy Watson+ others; contact: Ceri Elms [Ceri@abergavennyfoodfestival.com](mailto:Ceri@abergavennyfoodfestival.com)

- Saturday evening: Agri Urban meets the community: ACC

- **Sun 1400-1530** Meaty Debate – Pamela Mason on panel - contact: Letty Butler e: [Letty@abergavennyfoodfestival.com](mailto:Letty@abergavennyfoodfestival.com) in The Castle, t.b.c.
Laurie Jones Community Orchard

Work on new signage for Orchard by Bronwen Thomas
WELCOME TO THE LAURIE JONES COMMUNITY ORCHARD
CROESO I BERLLAN GYMUNEDOL LAURIE JONES

This orchard is named... the orchard is named...

For more info...

SPRING pear, damson and apple blossom Welsh
SUMMER hay-making and ripe plums Welsh
AUTUMN apples gathered for juicing Welsh
WINTER wassailing and pruning Welsh

The pond is managed for wildlife and planted with native wetland plants
Cafûl y pwll ar rhoi o'r badd natur a maes wedi ei blannu a phланtیسیón cwfl̄i cynhênid

The grass between the trees is managed as a hay meadow for the benefit of wildlife, being cut in late summer.
Rheolar gywir semr yr y
Coed Rhwydwaen eu gweld eu blannu yng ngwlad
Byddwn i mewn i'r gwedd yng nifer addol

Boundaries are fringed with blackberries
Ar hyd y ffiniau erall mae tŷfyn y mwyar

A hedge of native fruiting shrubs
(blackthorn, hazel, elder, crab apple and dog rose)
forms the northern boundary.

The fruit trees in this orchard are traditional varieties, many of them from Monmouthshire etc etc.

Mae'r coed ffrwythau o fathau tralltodol, etc etc

The orchard is named...

This orchard is named...
Whose Orchard is it? Whose fruit is it?

• A lot of fruit is already gone.
• It’s becoming a popular meeting spot
• One of the benches has landed up in the stream adjacent to the orchard and is clearly a ‘den’ meeting space. The entrance gate has been grafitti’d
• The orchard is not overlooked by anyone.
• Does any of this matter?

**Observations:** It’s good it is becoming a popular venue to meet. (Since paths/benches put in).
No sign of fruit just being thrown on ground.
Is it being taken before it is ripe?
If trees were numbered and labelled maybe you could encourage through signage on tables, for people to record what they have taken from where in some way at gate.
Community Orchard – Juicing + jobs?

• Current Juicing event date **October 22**\(^{\text{nd}}\) 2017 at ACC

• Are fruit already ripe? **Yes in many cases**
  Should we move the date of the event? If so what to? **No leave date but make an earlier one. Consult with Jeff asap.**

• **Other dates**
  • Pond lining; TBC when delivered
  • Hay turning; late September ;date TBC
  • Fruit picking; date TBC
  • Wassailing: January 20\(^{\text{th}}\) or 27\(^{\text{th}}\) TBC
Need to move the police station Incredible Edible beds to the Orchard:

May be done through King Henry youth project which is also doing things with ACC and possibly Linda Vista Friends and Meadow Friends. Jeff and others coordinating
Project updates

- Abergavenny Castle project: an MCC/Museum commission for a sheltered space for events/performance in the Castle.
- Tenders have come in. Some concerns about procurement process; asking for creative submissions when client already knew the solution. Potentially wasting people’s time.
- Rachael Rogers will give feedback on result soon.
- Abergavenny Hub (Library / one stop shop, Town Hall)
- Town Council politicians seeking updates. No information as yet. Project put out to tender; results due by now. ATT requested MCC for update but as yet no reply.
Public realm next phase: Frogmore St Eastern end

- Working groups from Enhance Environment and Moving Around more Easily checked out viability of proposals with MCC Highways.
- Town Hall meeting of major stakeholders and politicians plus officers on August 29th. Volunteer Working Group led presentation.
- Large consensu in meetings: Working Group invited by MCC and the meeting to develop details for next forum in Town Hall September 25th.
MCC Highways and Planning coordination on public realm works

• Letter sent to Mark Hand MCC head of planning:
  • Avoid colliding road-works programmes on A 40 Junction to Morrison’s site and then public realm works in Frogmore Street at same time; would be catastrophic to do all at once.
  • Seek to insist on more permeability of the wall/railings along Lion Street to make better pedestrian links to rest of town.
  • Where is the provision for the bus stop for Morrisons as agreed in planning approval?
Unsubstantiated report that cladding on Morrisons now shifted to grey rather than white. ATT to check
Taking down existing stone walls along perimeter of site assumedly for re-use to make new wall to Park Street (A40) to hide service yard
Driver anarchy in extremis: a car spotted driving up the tarmac pedestrian path on Tudor Street to get to the Byefield Lane Car park.
More parking anarchy; anyhow anywhere. The driver is walking away on the pavement ahead.
MCC are talking to Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen about setting up a parking enforcement system. All other counties in Wales have taken over parking enforcement from Police. System not likely to be in place for another 18 months. Police are to be requested to carry out random enforcement for that period.
Another Working Group is working on this, seeking to get ahead of developers and liaising with MCC planners. Most effort currently focussed on Tudor Street and also Post Office and adjacent sites.
Paul Rennie and Peter Brown developing scheme to show MCC + Town Council re: Post Office

Offer of help from Professor Wayne Forster, Welsh School of Architecture:
A 1995 speculative scheme for the post office area
Other Enhance Environment projects
Priorities for 2017/18
Most effort from the local volunteers

• Start consultation with Town Councils’ Planning Committee on a design advice group formed from suitably skilled voluntary groups. No progress yet.

• Liaising with Abergavenny & District Civic Society explore green infrastructure projects with adjacent communities (Growing with the Flow) up the Gavenny river and liaise with other groups on Castle Meadows extension plus preferred cycle/pedestrian routes. Need some volunteers to take lead on this.

• Set up public debating events on other means of housing delivery. Pursue local landowners on other sites. Discussions begun

• Look to ATT’s Community Energy group for advice on lowering carbon consumption initiatives in and around the settlements. No initiatives possible in current funding climate on land-based renewables.
Progress beyond 2017/18 will depend on how much is achieved with the above programme, continuing active local commitment.

• Following up on a programme of further public realm improvements etc. in Baker Street, Lewis Lane, Cross Street, Lower Castle Street. *Seen as part of longer term traffic management scheme currently being explored with MCC.*

• Produce vision document for whole southern edge of town from the Castle to Linda Vista. *Members of Working Group working on this (but slowly).*( see next page.)
Blocked up route round the town wall?

An ignored asset: a town wall promenade; but cut off by private land ownership:

Castel Street Car park

a path going nowhere!
How the Victorians did it, recognising what a magnificent vista it is from the town over the meadow to the Blorenge.

**ABERGAVENNY, The Castle 1914 67673**

The well tended beds, paths and raised walkways show that the Abergavenny Improvement Commissioners had an early appreciation of the ruined castle's leisure and tourist potential. The circle of stones in the foreground stand on the site of the gorsedd stones for the Abergavenny eisteddfodau, organized in the 19th century by Cymregydion Y Fenni, the Abergavenny Welsh Society.
Update from MCC/WG re: Station access

• No WG funding in current round.

• Need to bid against Chepstow in next round.

• WG say “Ideally should be third party funding contribution”

• MCC say outrageous, as legally binding duty on Network Rail.

• New franchise in 2018 may help.

• Supposedly signalling improvement for whole section affecting programme but surely this could be creatively circumvented.

• Include campaign for parking/bus/cycle interchange (next page).
No progress appears to be made on this. ATT to pursue.
NRW will probably put in an objection to planning. No objection from Cadw yet. Planned construction start summer 2018.
Early exploratory work on footing for bridge supports commissioned by WSP/ Martin Knight Architects for pedestrian/cyclists footbridge (maybe?)

Need to start conversation with Friends of Castle Meadows community about their views on best routes in Meadow
Further active travel route networks.......?

Correspondence sent to Friends of Castle Meadows: need to liase
Whose is this seeming waste land?

Abergavenny has no allotments, Llanfoist does, but that cannot expand and lease may be coming up. Could some of this land become growing areas?
Whose is this land currently lying rough and unused? Could it be a Community supported agriculture plot or allotments for Abergavenny? or a site for self-build low cost affordable housing plots with horticulture?
March of the tombstones at Llanfoist

The Llanfoist (not Abergavenny) allotments
March of the tombstones?

How long the lease?
E-mailed allotment co-ordinators.
No reply.
## MONMOUTHSHIRE ALLOTMENT FUTURES (2014)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Plots</th>
<th>Waiting List</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abergavenny</td>
<td>35 Plots</td>
<td>2 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldicott</td>
<td>70 Plots</td>
<td>(3 sites)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monmouth</td>
<td>69 Plots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raglan</td>
<td>24 Plots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rogiet</td>
<td>25 Plots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undy + Magor</td>
<td>(3 sites)</td>
<td>48 plots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usk</td>
<td>43 Plots</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POPULATION**

- Abergavenny: 14,055
- Caldicott: 11,248
- Monmouth: 8,877

Monmouthshire council said the person at the top of its list in Chepstow had first applied in July 2007 – meaning they had waited more than six years, while in Monmouth it reached two-and-a-half years.
"That is why, to support local communities in becoming more sustainable and healthy, we have announced that we will be using the Environment Bill to legislate on the amount of land to be used for allotments and to ensure a minimum standard across Wales."

More than 600 community garden/allotment projects had been undertaken by the Tidy Towns project since April this year using additional funding from the Welsh Government,.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-14441064

How to respond
Please submit your comments by 06 October 2014: WHAT HAPPENED????
Email  Allotments@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Whatever happened to this? Circulate ATT members for information
Volunteer tasks for teams?
Entrance to the “Food Capital of Wales”
If such a “brilliant team” why 11 job adverts offered in August each one for one or two people: This is the same in July and September. What is the local employment track record after so many argued it would provide vital jobs.

An ATT member has inside contacts. Will report.
Planning approval refused 5 metre long fixed backlit food advert signs on site. Now they put non fixed. MCC planners informed.
Will the tree screen thicken? And why only on one section of the McDonald’s site? What’s the logic?
Perimeter trees at premier Inn Car park: Will they always remain this slender?

Another section McD, spaced out tree planting and dying trees. Who is monitoring.
Light Pollution: every site has a different spec for street lighting and probably too much of it.
Landscaping Westgate + avoiding light pollution

Why no tree belt on this slope? MCC Land?

ATT has written to planning officers pointing out proliferations of artificial lighting and requested clarification on tree planting strategy for McDonalds and Costa and Premier Inn site. Note rumour a KFC is on its way!

The Costa Drive Thru: no planting as yet except for street lamps
Green-wash at Westgate? Meanwhile they have simply tarmacc-ed two roundabouts on the site!
How are other towns in Monmouthshire doing on community engagement with Politicians and officers?

Monmouth and Caldecott seem the prime movers.....maybe?

Should we invite them to tell their tales? Yes for October meeting
MCC current community governance initiatives but what are they all. Need explaining.

- Whole Place Plans (now possibly defunct?)
- Commission for Future Monmouthshire (what’s that)
- Well-Being Assessment (OK we know about that)
- Cluster Meetings (supposedly community councils meeting together)
- Community Governance Review + Pilot (Bryn Y Cwm Area committee)
- Community Engagement Review (what’s that?)
- Local Development Plan Review (we know about it but how to engage)
- Area Committees (only one running as a pilot)
- Community & Partnership Development Team (what’s that)
- Stronger Communities Select Committee (need to find who is on it)
- Community Leadership Academy (What’s that?)

Sent by David Farnsworth working on the Monmouth “Place Plan”.
A.O.B.

- How to progress the inter-generational and wider community connect of ATT’s reach. Not much progress yet. Paul Clifford to report back next meeting.

- **TASKS FOR ATT VOLUNTEERS OVER NEXT FEW MONTHS**
  - Traffic counting on A40 at Morrisons (before and after construction) to assess traffic growth.
  - Public footpath survey needed near to town + future maintenance team linked to MCC supervision.
  - Crowd funding group for legal challenge at station bridge on lack of disabled access.
  - A group to start conversation on Castle Meadow cycle/pedestrian routes
  - A group to pursue the Castle wall project.
  - **Anybody wishing to join any of these tasks let PH know.**