ATT Agenda November 9th 2017

• 1. JUST FOOD update; plans for Christmas Manifesto launch: Market Hall veg/fruit research
• 2. Just Juicing: event feedback/ plan improvements for next year
• 3. Community Orchard: Wassailing date/ update on link work to King Henry
• 4. Public Realm, updated plans / next actions/ Capita report
• 5. Tudor Street (McArthy & Stone) site consultation update.
• 6. Henstaff housing development: ACS comment.
• 7. Zero Waste Shop Crickhowell
• 8. Integrated Active Travel map fiasco: letter to Minister/CEO Matthews response.
• 8. Solar Farms Grants (Andy Green)
• 9. Castle project update plus Aber Hub update.
• 10. Morrisons update plus key in town parking issue
• 11. Caldecott Town Team/ Monmouth Plan groups: postponed: rationale
• 12. A.O.B (ACS Exploring Aber exhibition)
ATT November 9th 2017

• **Present:** Freddy Edmonds, Richard Lewis, Fraser Stephens,

• **Apologies:** Francis Buxton, Paul Clifford, Jeremy Gass, Stephen Harris, Richard Lewis, Gethin Jones, Dave Simcock, Dick Cole, Anthea Fairey,
LAUNCH OF JUST FOOD ‘MANIFESTO’ will be @ CHRISTMAS FOOD FESTIVAL IN CORN EXCHANGE DECEMBER 10TH
Just Food research:
Draft questionnaire for shoppers at the market

• Pamela Mason, Jeremy Gass and Patrick Hannay met to figure out focus of research on local Vegetable Fruit production and supply.
• Decided to focus on monitoring the impact of Morrisons opening next year on Market Hall and external market fruit and vegetable stalls.
• A team comprising Mary Ann Brocklesby, Pamela Mason, Jeremy Gass and Patrick Hannay would conduct questionnaires (with the approval of the Market Hall manager), with citizens buying at the market, stall holders, and the Market manager. This needed to occur in December.
• Draft questionnaires were shown at the meeting. Suggestion of Fruit/ veg boxes as source needed adding to list of alternative sources to Market Hall.
Interesting development for late night use of Market Hall. Could this lead to change of opening hours in surrounding retailers? Need to find where initiative is coming from: PH to ask MCC contacts: Next event Dec 14th 5.00pm
LAST JUST JUICING EVENT @ Abergavenny Community centre 22\textsuperscript{nd} October 2017

How to expand for next year?

Needs Facebook/digital sign up and promotion: a pick up or pick your tree service leaving details on website: Community Orchard to investigate.
WASSAILING EVENT will now be 20th January at the Orchard
3.00pm start: (to be confirmed)
Public realm : Frogmore/ Lion Street

UPDATE

MCC Highways meeting with Capita consultants 15th November. Meeting with public realm forum should follow shortly after that.

Message from Rob Davies MCC: “I will be able to update you after this meeting.
I am not under the impression that there are any issues but Wednesday should clarify this”.

Rob Davies MCC engineer Highways

Public Exhibition may occur in Griffith’s Offices to follow?

PH to check when would it occur with MCC Highways, and what assistance was needed. Deadlines were tight. Still waiting to hear from Highways (24.11.2017)
Latest version of draft public realm improvement drawn by “Enhance Environment group” (drawn by Peter Brown) 1 of two drawings. To be sent to MCC Highways.
Second of two drawings draft public realm improvements:

( drawing by Peter Brown)
Brecon Road/ Henstaff site: a case of over-development?
Planning application number DC 2017/00291

Civic Society has submitted comments. Coming to planning next month
Broadly over development of the site: inadequate parking: courtyard simply a car park: flats mean on space standard. No social rent. No affordable units.
Zero Waste shop opening at Corn Exchange Crickhowell in March 2018

For YouTube link

NATURAL WEIGH AT THE CORN EXCHANGE
Following seeing MCC inadequate display at Leisure centre of integrated network map of Active Travel routes for future projects, Jack Thurston Abergavenny Cycling Group sent E-mail to Assembly Minister Ken Skates of WG re: MCC exhibition of in Abergavenny plus also CEO of MCC: below a para from his e-mail.

• “All that has been provided is a one-page map with a lot of lines on it, indicating routes which exist or may exist in the future. There is no accompanying audit of those routes, or schedule of schemes needed to make the lines on the map into a reality (e.g. building a new bridge, improving a road crossing, introducing a 20mph speed limit etc). Nor is there any timescale for when any of this may happen.”

• Jack Thurston Chair of ACG
ACG contnd........

• “The statutory guidance for the delivery of the Act is very clear that INMs should include information on schemes and timescales. As does the county council's own website”:

• "The Integrated Network Maps set out the council’s plans for improving active travel routes over the following 15 years. The maps should show proposed future networks of key walking routes and key cycling routes and the existing network. They should show where the proposed routes fall short of the Design Guidance standard, and will include ‘shovel ready’ schemes for delivery in the next couple of years, schemes for delivery in the medium term, and longer-term proposals of a more aspirational nature.” This was not in evidence.
ACG contnd………..

• “As Monmouthshire County Council has no staff working on active travel, the consultation is being run by Capita, a private consultant. I have wider concerns about the lack of attention that the council is giving to the Act. For instance, the council failed to deliver a large proportion of a package of 'active travel quick wins' funded by the Welsh Government's local transport fund, to the tune of almost £300,000. Over the summer of 2017 Monmouthshire County Council did advertise for an active travel officer but nobody applied……..”

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• “……All this is very dispiriting for me and the members of the cycle group”. Jack Thurston
ACG contnd................

• Following very positive correspondence with Paul Matthews CEO MCC......... Jack wrote to ACG members

• “In short, what we need is a wish list with solid justifications in terms of increasing active travel journeys.”

• “The consultation is open until 16 January, so I propose that we pull it all together in the new year, but alert our networks that we want their input. I expect we have already written a lot of this up one way or another, especially on the cycling side - maybe some more work is required on the walking side”.

Note from ATT. The walking side submission to the map is weak. We need to contact mother and toddlers groups across the town (Freddy?) for suggestions and the 50+ walking group. This needs acting on very fast! Volunteers????
Solar Farms Grants (Andy Green)

We were updated on serious levels of grants available for renewables from Llanvapley German funded and installed solar farm company. Andy would re-open the CIC Abergavenny Community Energy’s most recent submission to MCC (not taken up) and with help from ATT members would submit before deadline of end of month (PH would contact some members for assistance)

https://www.communitygreenenergy.co.uk/grants
Abergavenny Hub update:

According to Chronicle: GWP Architecture appointed: Seek funding in Spring 2018

“The hub project will create a new mezzanine at first floor level and a large open plan shared space to accommodate the new hub. The scheme – which has been designed by the council’s in-house principal designer Robert Dennis – includes the delivery of a new public lift”. (Chronicle)

“We have commissioned a number of detailed surveys to enable them to prepare the designs and we will consult with stakeholders in due course.” (Chronicle)
These are the sort of project qualities done by architects GWP from their website: They are the selected architects for Abergavenny Hub project by MCC.
Morrison’s update

• We need to do a traffic survey a.s.a.p on A40 near Morrisons before they start to dig it up at new junction. For before and after check
• Need minimum 10 people (2 hour stints each) on Tuesday. Volunteers please: Start 8.00am Finish 8.00pm: PH to organise.
The back yard service area fronting onto the A40 and Bailey Park. Cars improve the view!

Note the “Cor Ten” steel Trees to come!
Key issue: Parking rules for Morrisons?

What will be the length of stay?

Will it be for ‘customers only’ or free parking for 3 hours for all?

Signs application into Planning but no detail shown.

ATT Requested clarification from MCC: none received
A.O.B

• Abergavenny Civic Society exhibition on “Exploring Abergavenny” at the Gunter Mansion in Lower Cross Street (there will be a book). Material available online.

• The exhibition is open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.30am to 4.00pm 17th November to 16th December and the content can also be viewed at https://abercivsoc.com

• see next two pages for some sample pages......
There are steps down to the Link Road where the Union Road footbridge crosses the road. There is another link to that road at the bend in St Helen's Road, and there are steep steps down from Caer Pen y Dre to Merthyr Road.

The Blorenge is a strong presence to the south, adding greatly to the character of the area, and the Rhoblen closes the northward view from the south end of St Helen's Road. Other interesting views include that from Sunny Bank across Merthyr Road into Victoria Street and from Union Road East into Tudor Street, with the Town Hall in the distance.

The former railway embankment now provides a valuable belt of mature trees between St Helen's Road and the Link Road, thinning only where there is room for the footpath link to the road. Mature trees continue on the slope down to Merthyr Road, those near the roundabout replacing cottages cleared about 1970. Those further east are in underused ground, now with permission for a modern-styled house, and the garden of Westgate House.

Unsurprisingly in this densely built area, residents without rear access have a street parking problem, and it is often necessary for two wheels to be on the footway for traffic to pass. The problem is worsened by the area's proximity to the town centre. Fortunately no through traffic should be tempted to enter the area.

**Building character**

Viewed on a map, over thirty years of two-storey terraced housing development would appear to have resulted in quite a uniform character. On the ground there is considerable variety of architectural detailing, size of property, and numerous features of minor interest. Furthermore most modern development has been sympathetic and has added to the character.

Most Victorian and Edwardian housing is fronted with squared and coursed rubble sandstone. A substantial proportion has been rendered and coloured, usually white. A small number are fronted in red brick (also used for side walls of some with stone frontages) and sometimes brick has also been colour-washed. A majority of stone frontages have yellow or buff brick stringcourses and detailing around door and window reveals, though these have often been stuccoed or painted white. Later terraces can have bay windows and slate canopies over doorways as elsewhere in the town. Slate or slate substitute roofs are still the norm, often with inserted Velux-type windows. Most chimneys seem to have survived, unlike original timber doors and windows. Most of the older houses have had rear extensions, not always of quality, but not widely visible. A number of Victorian houses, such as nos 29 and 117 St Helen's Road and nos 42/44 and 43-49 Union Road East, have unusual plan shapes in order to fit into the plot pattern. Another common feature is tunnelled access to the rear of terraced houses.

Among the many interesting variations from these generalisations are:

**Park Street**

- No 19: double fronted end of terrace with a three-storey front gable;
- Nos 19-27: note the mid-terrace change from yellow to multi-coloured brick detailing;
- Nos 31/33: bays to both floors;
- No 50: extended in grey reconstituted stone;
- Nos 55-59: gabled roof dormers in tiled roofs;
- No 67 and no 16 Union Road East: possibly originally a single unit "The Convent"; with decorative bargeboards to Park Street;
Abergavenny has no allotments, Llanfoist does, but that cannot expand and lease may be coming up. Could some of this land below become growing areas?

**HOW DO WE PROGRESS THIS?**
Who is we?: Not resolved: to discuss December meeting

Whose is this seeming waste land?
Some discussion of this phenomenon

Could this change everything on climate change front?

Or is this another technological fantasy?

Very serious far sighted investors but will it come to nothing?
Can Abergavenny emulate Llanfrynach?

- Drinking Water publicly available on main street
- Public Loos serviced by volunteers: donation asked for
- Telephone kiosk operating as public free lending library
THE END...... not quite next meeting Thursday December 14th 7.15pm