• ATT: MARCH MEETING: March 8th Thursday; 7.15pm Abergavenny Community centre:

• 1. Where does all our waste go? Carl Touhig, MCC Recycling Strategy and Business Manager answers your questions + update on Community Homemakers facility Llanfoist.

• 2. Plans/ events from the Plastics group


• 4. Town Hall Hub: the latest thinking/ plans (PH)

• 5. Update on Public realm (Frogmore and Lion St) (PH)

• 6. Update on Active Travel Act submissions + new cycling events + 20mph campaign. (JT)

• 7. IE and planters in the town (Abergavenny in Bloom? A re-think).

• 8. A new Planning Policy Wales: Implications for the LDP

• 9. MCC disinvestment on non-renewables companies.

• 10. A.O.B ("Wetheuncivilised- A life story" - a film for ATT?)(Seedy Sunday March 11th)
We spent the whole meeting in a rewarding question and answer session with Carl on what happens to all our waste once it leaves our doorsteps and then the Waste Transfer station at Llanfoist. Impossible to summarise here. Carl will be sending facts sheets on where all the recycling goes and the quantities and volumes. Which we will circulate. The pity was that he had such a small audience: 4 ATT members! A rare opportunity missed........
Agri Urban Report:
deadline for final report 7\textsuperscript{th} April

- Two more EU visits (March 9-12 Croatia) (April 18-20 Baena Spain (Final meeting))
- Abergavenny Report will propose projects:
- Uncertainty about source of funding for project coordinator.
- Ambivalence from a lot of local volunteer/businesses in whether anything will come from this.
- A pity because there is so much expertise around in the county.
- PH has sent detailed comments on Version 20m of the report to Deserie Mansfield.
- Two giant metaphorical tankers to turn round: 1. local farming industry focussed on cattle/sheep to shift it towards more Horticulture 2. How to turn round the seeming collapse in horticulture businesses in Monmouthshire 2010 - 2015.
Note how Scotland and Wales fare. Brexit could have a major impact on the less favoured areas.
Note
Monmouthshire is one of the perimeter areas of Wales with good farming land, but Aber close to less favoured areas.
Chart from the Agri-Urban report. Note very small number of registered Horticulture businesses and they are falling.

Figure 1: Number of farms by different enterprises in Monmouthshire and Newport, 2015

Grassland for what? Producing feed for sheep and cattle…or is this horsey country?
Quotes from the Agri urban report Version 20 and some questions

• “Horticulture has witnessed the greatest decline of all farm types, falling by 39 %, (2005 - 2015) to just 63 registered holdings” (this would include those growing fruit and vegetables).” (Stats Newport and Monmouthshire).

• This could be the biggest question we have to answer...why.... and is it reversible? Note UK is 4th biggest importer of veg in the world but how much is that veg that could be grown here?

• “There are over 90 food producers within the catchment of Abergavenny (how is that defined) with a limited number of retailers (how many and where?) offering locally produced or locally processed food”. Hopefully these will be listed in an appendix
ISSUES

- It is difficult to identify a route for younger generations to enter the Agricultural/food sector.
- There is no defined Local Food Strategy or Policy for Abergavenny and its environs.
  - There is a need to raise awareness of sustainable food systems in schools and the community.
- There is little or no direct access to the Public Plate for small producers and food businesses.
- There is a perceived lack of Local Processing Facilities.
- Identification of suitable land for growing is difficult – lack of horticulture.
- Businesses do not interact greatly and there is no obvious way to develop a new agricultural related food business.
- Local markets have changed little over recent years.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- The introduction of a Youth Food Academy might address part of this problem. Links to be developed to formal and informal education.
- Development of a shared food vision – this is seen as a priority.
- Provision of a local food hub would offer short circuits to market, training and education.
- Introduction of a cooperative for existing and new businesses would provide land and expertise for food businesses and growers to work together.
- There is a desire to introduce a vibrant market scene with innovative ideas and state of the art facilities which will enhance the market scene in Abergavenny.
Does anyone know about this......? A model for the future? Or a fringe niche business?
Town Hall Hub: update

Feb 28th: 2.00-4.00pm MCC’s Debrah Hill Howells and Ben Winstanley held conversations with invited stakeholders and Town councillors to discuss current proposals: ongoing evolution of project.
Town Hall Hub: latest proposals: ground floor with observations

- New lift: major expense: serves all floors
- Refurbishing existing lift: another major part of budget
- Line of new mezzanine above
- Question mark about suitability?
- New Theatre Foyer: access issues still
- Problematic room proportions
Note one proposal envisages the whole mezzanine floor opening up to the market hall on special occasions.

A lot of columns here: problematic to plan for mobile furniture.

Cadw/Heritage Officer insisting on keeping original wall openings.

Without test layouts of mobile furniture, the feasibility of how this will work and who manages it will not be known.

Need to check whether these cross wall are load bearing.

This is an awkward space? Should be divisible?
Slightly worrying: Theatre refurbishment works not being envisaged within this budget (access issues for wheelchair users not sorted yet).
Consultation with stakeholders was on 26 Feb.
More developments of design to come.
Town Hall Hub key issues

• Preliminary cost feasibility should be run before any more work done
• A fixed number of good mobile furniture layouts for a wide variety of uses should be tested rigorously by the architects.
• The costs and spec quality for this robust and well designed mobile furniture needs recognising early on and it should be ring fenced. Also who will manage reconfigurations for different uses at different times of the week?
• We should be very sure that the original vision for a contemporary information resource (library) is not being too compromised by the physical spatial constraints of the building.
• While this is a good chance to update tradition, be careful not too lose all sense of dignity for council formalities.
• Process of construction must demonstrably not impact on the weekly Market Hall processes.
• Where are the community education functions going to take place and what are they?
Town Hall hub: proposed First floor plan (No Notes)
New Brecon Hub (under construction)
Powell Dobson Architects
Above: A missed opportunity: to sort out this neglected and mean space and make something of the brook into the park+ take out dreadful evergreen.

Much debate about this junction area with Planners and Highways. Have had to accept steps and ramp. Bus stop and shelter now added. See next slide......
Market Street/Lion Street junction into Morrisons site for pedestrians:

- We were told 2 steps + a ramp would still remain up into site although now this seems unnecessary.
- New bus stop and shelter adjacent to steps/ ramp
- Selection of shelter by Amy Longford.

- Public Realm meeting due 19th March Town Hall.
- Ongoing detail discussion with Highways.
Stones for stone wall construction on service yard wall

Cycle shelter next to cash point

Is this really needed ..... At this height?
One of the many objectors to the appearance of Morrisons

- Name: Daniel Clarke
  Address: 8 Lansdown Road, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 6AN
  Tel:

- To Monmouthshire County Council.

- “As a resident of Abergavenny, who places the utmost trust in our county council to make the correct and appropriate decisions for our beautiful and historic market town, I am mortified at the monstrosity that Morrisons have been allowed to build on the old market site. As a council you are elected by the people to represent the people, not deceive them or allow a developer to deceive us all. I am not interested in what pressures you perceived you were under, ultimately you have succumbed to commercial arrogance. Every council member involved with approving this application should hang their head in shame, especially when visiting Abergavenny and seeing how this industrial building has ruined the once beautiful town centre. I suggest you all take a good look at yourselves in the mirror and decide if you are truly the right people to be representing the populace of Abergavenny and Monmouthshire. It saddens me to think that these comments will fall on deaf ears. Shame on you all!”
Morrisons Abergavenny: some of the constraints that led to its current position on the site;
Market Street to Bailey park: first time this has been visible and usable as a route for over 100 years
If Lidl can manage this in Cardiff why couldn’t Morrisons do better?
# Llanfoist Footbridge – Expected Timetable.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 2018</td>
<td>Town Planning Application Submitted 23/2/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>FY 2018/2019 funding to be confirmed by Welsh Government?</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2018</td>
<td>Tender Issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2018</td>
<td>Town Planning Application Approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>May/June 2018</td>
<td>Contractor Appointment</td>
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<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Discharge of Planning Conditions</td>
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<td>June 2018</td>
<td>Completion of Construction Environmental Management Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>August - October 2018</td>
<td>Works in Watercourse</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2019</td>
<td>Completion of works on site</td>
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Community Orchard + IE

Signboard now agreed as in tilt format: installation date sought along with concrete secure links to garden benches

Blossom Day 5th May: Install planting round the pond plus create shelf in pond, and tag all the trees with name tags: All welcome:

17th March: 10.00am – 12.00am planting out red and black currants and general maintenance of IE beds across town. Pumpkins to go in Station Road Surgery beds: All help welcome: contact Jane.llewellyndixon@btinternet.com
IE + Community Orchard: Abergavenny in Bloom ???

JLD to meet Sarah Price to discuss planting programme and spec for planters St Johns Square and then IE group to develop maintenance regime with local traders.

Note Community Orchard and IE beds particularly remarked on in’ UK in Bloom’ judges report on Abergavenny.

Discussions ongoing in Town Council about value and quality of current Usk Garden centre contract installations in the town. Jeff Davies to attend next meeting of Abergavenny in Bloom committee.
Planning Policy Wales
Consultation on new Draft

- Deadline for consultation 18th May 2018
- Sets the framework for LDP
- Well being plan impacting on structure of the policy.
- Good summary of new policy changes/additions at:-
- MCC are going for a Full Review of their LDP
What is a Sustainable Place?

- Minimises environmental risks
- Jobs that all members of society need
- Secure and stable developed land
- Accessible by walking, cycling and public transport
- Integrates green infrastructure
- Distinctive and special characteristics are protected and enhanced
- Embraces smart technology
- Considers the welsh language
- High quality and built to last
- Generates local scale energy
- Easy to make positive lifestyle choices
- Cultural experiences
- Vibrant mix of uses
- Safe and inclusive
- Stimulates diversity
- Strategically planned
- Promotes the circular economy
- Minimises the need to travel and dependency on the car
- Promotes healthy lifestyles
- Equity of access
- Unlocks potential
- Prevents waste
- Good connections
- Adaptive to change
- Activity day and night
- Appropriately soundscapes
- Responds to climate change
- Protect, promote and conserve the historic environment
- Responds to specific characteristics of rural areas
- Protects and enhances biodiversity
- Reduces overall levels of pollution
- Protects and enhances biodiversity
- Sufficient amount of homes and jobs that all members of society need
- Prioritises previously developed land
- Minimises and makes best use of natural resources
- Convenient access to goods, services, education and employment
- Prioritises the reuse of existing buildings
- Opportunities to engage in local life
- Promotes the circular economy
• **DISINVESTMENT FROM FOSSIL FUEL**

• **Motion from County Councillor Groucutt:** (Labour group leader on Town Council and County Councillor)

• “This council welcomes the government’s commitment to world-wide initiatives that aim to limit global warming, and its acceptance that the use of fossil fuels is a major contributory factor in rising world temperatures and carbon dioxide emissions. It notes that the Torfaen Pension Fund, which administers pension arrangements on behalf of Monmouthshire County Council, invested a percentage of its funds in companies that are based on the use of fossil fuels that was the third highest in the entire United Kingdom, and the highest in Wales, in the financial year 2016/17. The figures, according to a recent report commissioned by Friends of the Earth, showed that the Fund has investments of well over £245 million in such companies. This council calls on the Torfaen Pension Fund to start making an ordered withdrawal of such investments at the earliest opportunity.”

Congratulations Martyn for the initiative from ATT
A.O.B. Henstaff site, Merthyr Road Brecon Rd Junction: overdeveloped site: A&DCS submitted comments...ignored by Planners
• Is this a model MCC could learn from?
• A better way of housing delivery?
• Serviced plots for varying level of self-build.
• District Council took risk of purchasing the land. £28m
• Will environmental standards and space standards be high?
Graven Hill: Cherwell District Council contnd

- Council bought land for £28m hopes to turn small profit.
- Sylva: one of the design and build companies on site.
- Youngest customer 24, eldest 73
- Facit Homes made in an East London factory.
- Beattie Passivhaus; another firm offer shell of a four bed home for £73,904 rising to £114,800 for 195 sq.m home
- Pure self builders can save 15-20% compared with standard estate homes.
- Price list for plots starts £125,000 and runs up to £310,00!
- Buyers must also pay for groundworks (water/sewage) which can add £40,000.
- THIS IS CLEARLY NOT A MODEL FOR AFFORDABLE houses for YOUNG FIRST TIME BUYERS. https://gravenhill.co.uk/
Usk Farmers Market visit Feb 2018

- 18 stalls: Bustling and busy…..
- 2 Saturday markets a month
- Stall rent £20
- Café, playground, large car park immediately adjacent.
- No competing stall holders in another Market nearby
- Basic food all higher priced than in Market Hall

Abergavenny: Does Abergavenny have anything to learn?
Abergavenny’s Women’s Festival

• Award winning Exhibition in Abergavenny Museum
• “Monmouthshire Women Making Change”
• Extended to May 5th
• The exhibition ‘Monmouthshire Women Making Change’ explores the contribution women have made to Suffrage, the War effort, agriculture, the Peace Movement and how they have improved women’s lives, locally and globally. It was a collaborative exhibition curated by an intergenerational group of volunteers, made up of a graduate, two university students and a member of the community, working with community organisations. An associated day school will be held in May and a Welsh Baccalaureate resource is being developed alongside.
University plan for Brecon Beacons park area

A PLAN that could establish a university in the Brecon Beacons National Park is being recommended to receive £82,000 support from the park authority.

The Black Mountains College Ltd says it hopes to set up a "new kind of university" to produce graduates ready to meet the challenges of changes in the climate, economy and demographics. It would also include further education and teacher training.

Those behind the 600-student college, which

it's proposed would be in the Talgarth area, say they already have support from Powys County Council and the college could employ between 200 and 300 people if established.

No site has been identified but a grant application form says Powys Teaching Health Board, Powys council and Collins D&B own land related to the project. Collins Design and Build owns the disused former Talgarth Hospital.

Park authority members are being recommended to approve an £82,500 grant to the Black Mountains College when they meet at the Brecon Beacons National Park headquarters in Brecon on Tuesday, January 23.

The grant application was made to the park's sustainable development fund, which approved it, but as the bid is for more than £30,000 the application must be confirmed by a meeting of the full park authority.

Does Abergavenny needs one of these? we have much better transport infrastructure: but is there a building/site?
Should Abergavenny be seeking a higher/further education department?

TA (Gwyn Matthews) proposed a catering academy (researched by Miller Research) for Agri Urban initiative.
Entire UK: house type distribution + av. price

- Semi-Detached: 32%, Avg Price: £206,873
- Detached: 25%, Avg Price: £332,839
- Terrace: 26%, Avg Price: £177,079
- Apartments: 14%, Avg Price: £199,075
Wales: House type distribution + av.price

- Semi-Detached: 34%  
  Avg Price: £142,802
- Detached: 30%  
  Avg Price: £224,445
- Terrace: 29%  
  Avg Price: £113,750
- Apartments: 8%  
  Avg Price: £105,742
London: House type distribution + av. price
The proportion of 25 to 34 year olds who own their own home has dropped by 32 percentage points in the South East

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<tr>
<td>10%</td>
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North East and Cumbria
South West
East Anglia
Scotland
North West
East Midlands
Yorks & Humberside
West Midlands
Wales
South East
London

Source: IFS

Young adults ‘robbed’ of chance to buy homes

Richard Partington
Economics correspondent

The chances of a young adult on a middle income owning a home has more than halved in the past 20 years, according to research published today.

The findings from the Institute for Fiscal Studies show how an explosion in house prices has increasingly robbed the younger generation of the ability to buy their own home.
Would be good to know how many of those 168 countries are in the EU. Given our balance of farmland to urban coverage, one has to wonder why more veg is not being grown here? Does the 49% mean processed here as opposed to grown on UK soil?
Half of all food bought in UK is ultra-processed

ExCLUSIVE Britons eat more ready meals, biscuits and snacks than rest of Europe

Sarah Boseley
Health editor

Half of all the food bought by families in Britain is now “ultra-processed”, made in a factory with industrial ingredients and additives invented by food technologists and bearing little resemblance to the fruit, vegetables, meat or fish used to cook a fresh meal at home.

Research by global nutrition experts reveals the scale of our food evolution, from farm-fresh to factory-manufactured. “Real food” has been replaced by salty snacks and sugary cereals, industrially made bread and desserts, ready meals and reconstituted meats as well as sweetened soft drinks.

The study of 19 European countries is published this month in a special issue of the journal Public Health Nutrition. It shows British families buy more ultra-processed food than families in any of the other countries, amounting to 50.7% of the diet.

Germany comes second, on 46.2% and then Ireland on 45.9%. While the figures are not directly comparable because they are extracted from national surveys carried out differently and from different years, the trend is clear.

The UK data they analysed came from the living costs and food survey 2008, the latest available. Foods were categorised into four groups. More than a quarter of food (28.6%) had undergone no or minimal processing; 10.4% comprised processed cooking ingredients such as vegetable oil; and 10.2% was ordinarily processed food, such as cheese or cured meat. Ultra-processed food amounts to more than all the other groups combined.

Professor Carlos Monteiro from the University of São Paulo in Brazil, who led the research team, told the Guardian of his deep concern about the links between ultra-processed food and obesity and poor health.

Ultra-processed foods are designed with sweet or salty tastes that make us want more. But there is nothing nutritious about them, according to Monteiro.

“Take breakfast cereals.
France has announced that at least half of all food bought by the public sector must be organic or locally produced. We await a similar UK govt initiative with interest.........

Reported in *Politico*, the French government will force an uptake of local and organic food by 2022.
What was that about take back control........

Cables under the Channel to keep lights on in winter

10.02.18 G

Adam Vaughan