

**Caerphilly Public Services Board
Notes of Meeting**

Held at 9:00am on Friday 22nd January 2021 as a Teams virtual meeting

Present:

Name	Organisation represented
Cllr Philippa Marsden (Cllr PM)	Caerphilly County Borough Council (Chair)
Nick Wood (NW)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (Vice Chair)
Christina Harray (CH)	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Shelley Bosson (SB)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Sian Curley	Office of the Gwent Police and Crime Commissioner
Chief Inspector Carl Williams	Gwent Police
Huw Jakeway (HJ)	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Steve Morgan (StM)	Natural Resources Wales
Stephen Tiley (ST)	Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Mark Alexander (MA)	Welsh Government
Amanda Lewis (AL)	National Probation Service
Comm Cllr Judith Pritchard (Cllr JP)	Town and Community Councils (Gelligaer)

In Attendance:

Shan Morgan (ShM)	Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government
Kevin Griffiths (KG)	Welsh Government
Amanda Thomas (AT)	Gwent Police
Sue Richards (SR)	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Rhian Kyte (RK)	Head of Regeneration and Planning, CCBC
Sian Wolfe- Williams (SWW)	Policy Officer, CCBC
Kathryn Peters (KP)	Corporate Policy Manager, CCBC
Hayley Lancaster (HL)	Senior Communications Officer, CCBC
Philip Griffiths (PG)	Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager, CCBC
Keith Meredith (KM)	South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Jon Goldsworthy (JG)	Natural Resources Wales
Vicki Doyle (VD)	Policy Officer, CCBC
Paul Cooke (PC)	Senior Policy Officer, CCBC
David Llewellyn (DL)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Donna Littlechild (DLi)	Natural Resources Wales
Ian Evans (IE)	Procurement and Information Manager, CCBC
Cerys Hiscox (CHI)	Asset Management Strategy Coordinator, CCBC
Heather Delonnette (HD)	Policy Officer, CCBC
Sonya Foley (SF)	Policy Officer, CCBC
Paul Massey (PM)	Policy Officer, CCBC
James Hodgson (JH)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Amy Sullivan (AS)	Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
Sarah-Jayne Irish (SI)	Development and Monitoring Manager, CCBC
Andrew Griffiths (AG)	Employment Manager, CCBC
Allan Dallimore (AD)	Regeneration Services Manager, CCBC

Apologies:

Cllr Tudor Davies MBE	South Wales Fire Authority
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Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed PSB members to the meeting and noted that ShM and KG of Welsh Government had joined the meeting as observers. She also noted that a number of new officers had joined the authority as Policy Officers (HD, SF and PM) and they would also be observing the meeting.

The Chair also noted that communications support would be provided by AS and JH from Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, who would be providing the social media feeds from the meeting.

1. Introduction of an Observer

The Chair introduced ShM to the meeting and asked her to address the attendees.

ShM thanked the meeting for giving her the opportunity to observe the proceedings. The reason for her attendance was that she wants to understand how PSB's are tackling the challenges of embedding the WFG Act in practice, and in the context of the pandemic. Caerphilly had been recommended to her as an example of best practice, so interested to see how the PSB operates. Her attendance will help her to think about how the WG can best support PSB's.

2. Notes of the Meeting held on 3rd November 2020 and Matters Arising

a. Amendments

It was noted by AL on the meeting chat that the correct title for her organisation was the National Probation Service. Apart from this amendment the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

b. Actions from the Previous Meeting

KP updated members on the status of the identified actions:

- Page 3 in relation to information provided by DL on the Integrated Well-being Networks – summary reported was circulated.
- Page 5 in relation to recovery priorities – agenda item.
- Page 6 in relation to the mental health project presentation from PHW – work is ongoing. The project launched this week and the Policy Team are working with PHW to establish the training framework for front line staff. MIND will be picking up the bulk of this.

CH noted for ShM's benefit that at the last meeting the PSB had taken stock of the experience of the pandemic over the last 12 months and agreed that they wanted to focus on certain areas, and this would be covered in more detail later in the agenda.

3. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

StM and JG gave a short presentation on this topic. StM noted that a paper was available in the meeting pack. He noted that a lot of work has been undertaken at a Gwent level under the Climate Ready Gwent theme which has been led by GSWAG and the Caerphilly Green Spaces group locally. The work also cuts across a number of other action areas.

Climate Ready Gwent is now an established network of partners across Gwent, and the meeting was an opportunity to highlight the work undertaken to date and discuss what still needs to be done.

JG recapped on the work that has been done previously to reach where we are today. A video was shown to highlight some of the climate challenges and the particular impacts locally, and also what has been done to address these challenges.

Specific projects delivered to date have included:

2018/19 – Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point infrastructure study; EV fleet review; Hydrogen Fuel Cell fleet and charging point study; Wider collaboration with Cardiff City Region; Adapting to climate change

– from lived experience to strategic action.

2019/20 – Developed a vision and blueprint for effective regional collaboration; EV charging point infrastructure installation; Developed a low carbon and sustainable pathway for public sector fleets in Gwent; Carbon Positive workshops – sharing best practice in decarbonisations across the region; further wider collaboration.

The Climate Ready Gwent Network will continue to work with all PSB partners to:

- Increase the collective understanding of climate change risks and opportunities across Gwent and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Gwent
- Build the capacity of organisations and individuals, ensuring that they have the tools, skills and guidance necessary to allow them to adapt to the impacts of climate change and effectively decarbonise and increase resource efficiency across Gwent
- Improve community resilience by improving the health and resilience of our ecosystems to maximise their ability to protect, prevent and reduce climate impact across Gwent

The next steps for the Network will be:

- Carbon Literacy training – deliver accredited bespoke Gwent based training to 190 staff across the public sector
- Carbon Positive – continue to share best practice across the public sector in Gwent
- Woodland opportunities for carbon sequestration on public sector land – repurposing public sector land to tackle the nature and climate emergencies

The ask to PSB organisations was to:

- Commit to taking part in the Carbon Literacy training opportunity
- Continue to work across the region, sharing best practice and supporting all individual organisations towards calculating their carbon footprint
- Identify public sector land assets that can be repurposed to tackle the nature and climate emergencies

The Chair thanked JG for an excellent presentation.

Cllr JP noted that there was nothing in the presentation about insulating houses or engaging with residents. She suggested that a programme for mass home insulation is needed, as we will need to phase out gas boilers for alternative sources. StM noted that these were valid points. He agreed that involving residents is very important, together with co-production. He suggested that this could be an area of focus in next Well-being Plan, and this was not an area the group is focusing on at the moment due to finite resources. The Chair mentioned that the WHQS programme has looked at all Council properties and ensured that home insulation is considered as part of that. She noted that any new houses the Council will build will be passive houses. CH noted that tenants have been involved throughout the WHQS programme and that the Council is working with the WG on Phase 2 and the view is that homes should be energy providers. She stated that the Council is working with some companies to pioneer some new approaches and recognised that the pace of improvement in this area needs to be increased. She also noted that we are behind the curve in the infrastructure for electric vehicles, so more of a push is also required on this. She noted that there will be a regional PSB from September and asked for presentation to be available to G10. **Action: KP to arrange for the presentation to be passed onto G10 and circulated to PSB members.** StM noted that he would also like to take the presentation to each of the other PSB's in Gwent.

HJ asked if presentation could be circulated. He noted that SWFRS is being impacted by climate change in terms of funding required to deal with the issues and the increase in wildfires. He would like a coordinated schools programme on climate change, which would help in terms of changing behaviour and noted that this approach had already been proven to work in relation to fires. He stated that

children will then go home and share this information with their families. StM responded that this was definitely something that could be considered.

MA noted his concern that no activity was shown for 2020/21. He acknowledged that it was good to see that some activity has been maintained despite the pandemic in areas such as training. He asked if there has been any standardisation on carbon calculators and that also links into item 5 and the work around regional hubs in town centres, as trying to calculate for a whole organisation is a huge task. JG noted that NRW did some work with WG through Carbon Positive to work out their own carbon footprint, and NRW are still implementing some of the outcomes of this. He noted that Blaenau Gwent are only local authority to have worked out their own carbon footprint, but he was sure other organisations have as well. There is a need to monitor all of this too. StM noted that this sort of work is underway across Gwent via the Asset Management Action Area.

CW noted that quite a bit has been done in Gwent Police. The first 5 electric vehicles are being piloted at the moment and scoping is being undertaken of electricity considerations to allow 54 charging points across all buildings. He noted there will be an additional 20 charging points at new HQ which will open in the next year. They are also working closely with SWFRS around fires, as these result in a massive carbon escape into the environment in terms of air pollution etc.

ST noted that in relation to floods and the early intervention strategy, it would be useful for GAVO to make the links with the agencies so the groups and volunteers that come forward are better prepared. StM responded that this was an excellent suggestion and agreed to pick this up outside the meeting.

The Chair noted that the PSB are the decision makers that can effect change. She stated that we need to work together to collectively address these issues, both locally and regionally.

ShM commented that the genuine strategic focus of PSB has come across really clearly in the discussion of this item. She noted that this forum is the only way of solving these sorts of issues and the commitment of all members is really key. It was a very powerful demonstration of the commitment to deliver results and value that PSB's can add.

StM thanked ShM for her comments and noted that he would like to bring further items back to a future meeting of the PSB.

4. Caerphilly Green Infrastructure Strategy

PG attended the meeting to give a presentation on this item and noted that it follows on quite nicely from previous item. He referred to the important role that natural environment plays in our daily lives and discussed what green infrastructure means. He noted that the purpose of the strategy was to improve natural resource management locally and making our green infrastructure more resilient by improving its functionality. Importantly this is not just about Caerphilly but also broader regional picture.

He noted that the strategy is split into two parts and he would be discussing the strategic element of this. The Council's Cabinet had approved strategy on 25th November and will be used as the core strategy for development of green space within the county borough. The important drivers for this work are the Environment Act, the Well-being of Future Generations Act, Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 and the National Development Framework, and a replacement was needed for the Countryside Strategy. There also needs to be wider regional working, which is being achieved through the Gwent Green Grid, Resilient Gwent etc.

The strategy has been prepared by consultants (TACP). They used three different mapping technologies to map the different land types required, working with key staff in the Council and with partners. The work identified nine key functions or activities and 38 sub-typologies. The consultant showed how the process works by focusing in on the Ystrad Mynach area, as this demonstrates a number of these different uses. The Ystrad Mynach mapping has been included in strategy but the whole of the county borough has been mapped in the same way.

The strategy will be used to guide development or work being done and will also enable us to apply for funding etc. A number of actions plans are currently being prepared for different aspects. PG asked the PSB to endorse the approach outlined.

Cllr JP noted that the biggest threat to our green infrastructure is volume housebuilders who want to build on green spaces. She suggested that WG could help with this by reintroducing grant for remediation on brownfield sites and asked for ShM to take this back to WG. She asked what individuals can do with their gardens and noted that they only account for 4% in Strategy, but this could be important. PG responded that 4% is quite significant amount and he suggested planting wildflowers to increase pollinators. He also noted that where tarmac is being laid then homeowners should be using permeable materials to reduce run-off and stated that residents are becoming more willing to be involved in this sort of thing.

CH noted that there are very few brownfield sites left within the county borough, but the ones we have are difficult to make safe for development. She noted that rather than relying on grants the Council are working in more innovative ways and are already working with WG on this. Some funding is also available from Cardiff City Region for sites that are contaminated.

StM thanked PG for all the hard work that has gone into the strategy. He noted that NRW would be interested in working with us to develop the links to strategic spatial planning in relation to the creation of new green infrastructure.

5. Action Plan Review and Recovery Priorities

- a. **Chosen Recovery Priorities** – KP noted that these new priorities had been introduced at the previous meeting. She stated that the Action Plans were due to be refreshed anyway, but the Leads have taken on-board the new priorities as part of this. They last met in December to discuss the priorities and agreed to link them into the existing Action Plans where possible. She noted that some will be brought forward to the March meeting.
- b. **Asset Management** – CHi noted that the main change is that originally this Action Area was considering a Gwent approach, but is now looking at a Caerphilly approach. She stated that good links have emerged with ABUHB due to Covid. Links have been made with the Police in relation to co-location and we are likely to be providing some office and meeting space at the Tredomen campus. A public sector hub has been developed in Ty Penallta using Valleys Taskforce funding, and a further hub will be provided in the in New Tredegar Winding House. She stated that the corporate reviews will allow us to consider what buildings may be surplus to requirements moving forward and how buildings can be used differently in the post Covid world.

StM noted that some of the third sector organisations are having a tough time at the moment and they will need somewhere to work from, so he requested that they not be forgotten about. Cllr JP commented that we need to be careful not to threaten the viability of community buildings, as they often rely on income from organisations renting rooms etc. She noted that she was very impressed with the vaccination centre at Ty Penallta, although stated that access is not the best as residents have to rely on cars to get there. CH thanked Cllr JP for her feedback on the vaccination centre. She noted that the focus of this work is on large Council buildings, as the Council will be a more agile workforce moving forward. She also noted that Chief Constable Pam Kelly is leading some work on a Gwent approach to public sector buildings.

- c. **Procurement** – IE noted that a number of the recovery priorities will be important from a procurement perspective. Food security and poverty are particular issues which have come to the fore and Procurement will continue to work with Community Regeneration and other partners on these issues. There are proposals to work with supply chains to implement contract clauses in relation to food resilience and security, which will help to reduce problems for most disadvantaged residents. He gave the example of the recent Christmas foodbank appeal raised £9k in contributions, including from a significant number of local businesses. Over the last few months Procurement colleagues have been involved in the Community Wealth Building and progressive

procurement Group across the Gwent cluster and have been involved in a number of workshops operated by the Centre for Local Economic Studies (CLES). This work will feed into the Procurement delivery group and particularly areas such as construction, decarbonisation, procurement policy, contractual rules, food procurement and strengthening local supply chains. The group are working with CLES to understand the next steps of this work and it will also feed into the Caerphilly Cares approach. He noted that Health colleagues have not been involved to date, and these concerns have been raised with CLES.

- d. **Best Start in Life** – KP noted that this Action Area is led by Public Health Wales and a revised Action Plan will be prepared for the next PSB meeting.
- e. **Volunteering** – ST confirmed that a revised Action Plan will be prepared for the next meeting.
- f. **Apprenticeships** – AD noted that there had been very little recent progress as direct result of Covid. He stated that the pandemic has meant that there is now a significant limit on the ability of businesses to host apprenticeships, as their focus is understandably on surviving. The proposal is to advocate a change in focus for this Action Area to growing the local economy, with apprenticeships being a key part of that. The main way of taking forward apprenticeships will be via the Caerphilly Academy pilot. SI noted that this approach had been ready to launch last year but was delayed due to Covid – the infrastructure is ready so this pilot will be progressed when the Covid situation allows. AD commented that the revised Action Plan will consider general economic growth alongside job creation and specialised employment support, alongside a more regional approach with employment teams working together to address issues for specific sectors. AG noted that we would like a collaborative approach for employment teams to look at key sectors and work across Gwent to identify and fill the gaps that employers currently have. The team would also like to work with the Business Enterprise Regeneration Team to help regenerate town centres.

The Chair commented that this is a good example of adapting what we are doing to focus on recovery post-Covid. CH commented that it makes sense that we focus on the wider economy rather than just apprenticeships. She noted that the Cardiff City Region have also put recovery plans in place and asked that these are also taken on board.

ST noted that GAVO manage the Communities for Work team in Blaenau Gwent, so he would be happy to make those links if needed.

- g. **Good Health & Wellbeing** – KP noted that this is led by ABUHB and a revised Action Plan will be prepared for the next meeting.
- h. **Safer** – AT noted that the four key areas in the current Action Plan will remain with a few tweaks needed. There have been limited effects of Covid on this Action Area, but it has enhanced partnership working and preventative activity. Work is ongoing to formalise the Community Safety Partnership structure to encompass an evidence based, intelligence led, problem solving approach and the revised Action Plan will have a focus on problem solving in particular. There will be a real emphasis on engagement in relation to problem solving hubs, which will be linked to the established Caerphilly Community Safety Hub. This means there will be streamlined tasking process in place to deal with community cohesion. Five key task areas will be focusing on anti-social behaviour, counter terrorism/hate crime, serious organisation crime, repeat offenders/victims/locations and engagement/problem solving. There are dedicated officers for youth engagement (which have continued during Covid) and there will be more work with communities on problem solving techniques. In relation to the Community Safety Hub AT has been undertaking some research looking at how it is working, any blockages etc. Information is being provided regularly by the Police and Crime Commissioner analyst.

Cllr JP noted that the wording on page 9 regarding barriers to engagement – this is more about the needs of these groups rather than them being a barrier. AT agreed to amend this.

- i. **Resilient** – RK noted that town centre recovery has been added to this Action Area and that the revised Action Plan has been updated but needs to be circulated more widely for comments. She noted that town centres have been struggling for some time and Covid will be the final nail in coffin for some businesses. The Action Plan will have short, medium and long-term goals. The short-term goal will be to reopen town centres post restrictions, medium term will be interventions that help recovery and longer term is the reimagining of our town centres, which will be consulted on with all relevant partners including businesses and residents. Digital intervention and digital marketing are being rolled out across our five main towns and two local centres, including Wi-Fi access. Service hubs are being considered in town centres to increase accessibility, enhance footfall and drive change. A number of other examples of planned action was highlighted, and RK highlighted the need for town centres to diversify in the longer term.

ST noted that few months previously WG had met with the voluntary sector to discuss town centres. They explained that third sector organisations struggle with revenue costs of operating on the high street, so offered to work with RK on how this can be addressed.

- j. **Environment** - DLI commented that a fair bit of progress has been made in revising Action Plan. She noted that £25k funding has been secured from NRW for green space studies, electric vehicles etc. She is looking to incorporate flood risk mitigation into Action Plan and noted that some tasks are now much more important than they were, so they will be considered again. A meeting is due to take place in early Feb to revise the Action Plan.
- k. **Caerphilly Cares** – a revised Action Plan will be prepared for the next meeting. It was noted that vulnerability and inequality will be included and hopefully links will be made with the SWFRS Jigso project.

StM noted that Covid has had a disproportionate effect on our disadvantaged communities, so this needs to be reflected in all the Action Plans where appropriate. CH noted that more work also needs to be done in relation to milestones and measures.

6. G10 Gwent PSB Agreement and Next Steps – Well-being Assessment and Plan Timeline

KP noted that GSWAG officers are starting a series of meetings to develop various aspects of approach to the Assessment and Well-being Plan. She noted that there is a fairly long lead in time for this activity and different groups would be looking at governance, engagement and data. She noted that whilst there will be a Gwent level Plan there will still need to be an element of local focus and activity and further papers will be brought back to future meetings.

The Chair notes that PSB's don't have any money to take forward the Well-being Plan, unlike Regional Partnership Board, and she felt it was important that this is emphasised.

7. Update on the Regional Partnership Board

NW had to leave the meeting so there was no update on this item.

8. Questions from the Public

There were no questions from the public.

9. Information Items

There was no discussion of this item.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on 25th March 2021. Agenda items will include the Social-economic duty and partnership working; a Gwent PSB progress update; and the PSB Annual Report and

Conference planning.

ShM noted that the meeting was an excellent demonstration of how PSB's can bring together the key actors to strategy and actions. She stated that the presentations were excellent. She highlighted the issues around Covid and how recovery planning is being integrated into the way we are working. She felt the meeting brought to life five ways of working and highlighted why engagement is very important. She thanked the PSB and noted that she can see why it was recommended as an example of good practice.

The Chair thanked ShM for her attendance and her positive comments. She also thanked everyone for all the time and effort that they put into the excellent work that they do.

Meeting closed.