

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee meeting held on Friday, 5 February 2021 at 10.00 am held virtually.

County Borough Councillors - Community Liaison Committee Members in attendance:-

Councillor M Webber – Chairperson
Councillor R Bevan – Cabinet Member Enterprise Development and Housing

Community Council Members

Karyl May – Llantwit Fardre Community Council
Tony Graham – Chief Executive Pontypridd Town Council
Catherine Kennedy – Llanharan Community Council
Emma Nelmes – Hirwaun and Penderyn Community Council

Officers in attendance

Christian Hanagan – Service Director Democratic Services and Communications
Peter Mortimer – Regeneration Manager
Neil Griffiths – Head of Finance
Emma Wilkins – Council Business Unit Manager
Sarah Daniel – Senior Democratic Services Officer

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received

11 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of the Community Liaison Committee held on the 6 November 2020 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting

12 VERBAL UPDATE - SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Service Director of Democratic Services and Communications provided a verbal update to members that covered the following issues:

- The Local Government and Elections Bill had received royal ascent, therefore this Committee will focus on and discuss in the future. Notable points in the Bill include:
 - Engagement and participation 16/17 year olds in voting
 - Diversity
 - Closer working relationships between Principal Authorities and Community Councils
 - Access to training to make a difference in the Communities.
- Services – remain in level 4 restrictions therefore services will be reviewed once these have been lifted.
- RCTCBC are supporting the vaccine delivery. The rollout is being shared with Community Councils.

- RCTCBC is coordinating the promotion of the census with a Census Liaison manager appointed. A digital approach will be taken first and promotion of participation by working together.

A member thanked officers for their continued support throughout the pandemic and expressed interest in a joint procurement process on ICT facilities for TCCs to meet requirements of the Local Government and Elections Bill

13 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to members. Members were reminded that if they wished to propose any item for discussion at a meeting they could contact Democratic Services team who would consider its inclusion on the Work Programme.

RESOLVED: members noted the contents of the report

14 BUDGET CONSULTATION 21/22

The Head of Financial Services presented the report to Members. He advised the Committee that the proposed increase was amongst the lowest in Wales. He advised that arising from the consultation was how important investment into parks and play areas was, especially during recent times. He added that the graduate and apprenticeship programme had been very successful in the council with graduate positions going on into very senior positions within the council.

RESOLVED: Members noted the update

15 WELSH GOVERNMENT FUNDING - TOWN CENTRES

The Regeneration Manager gave an update to members and stated that Welsh Government has launched new policy on transforming towns which was brought together with a range of support. He advised Members of the sources of support that cover RCT and were available to all communities.

SCHEME	Enterprise Investment Fund
ELIGIBLE AREAS	RCT Wide
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	Building works; purchase of equipment/machinery / IT; website development and one off marketing costs. Original focus of the Fund on supporting growth has now been revised to support business adapt and/or diversify in response to the current economic circumstances.
GRANT RATE	50%
MAXIMUM GRANT	£10,000

SCHEME	Town Centre Maintenance Grant
ELIGIBLE AREAS	Aberdare, Ferndale, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth,

	Tonypandy, Treorchy
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	External works to front elevation e.g rendering, painting, repair to stonework, rainwater goods, signage. Original remit of scheme has been extended to include small scale external works that facilitate social distancing.
GRANT RATE	75%
MAXIMUM GRANT	£1,000 (additional £300 for skip/scaffold cost)

SCHEME	WG Main Town Centre COVID Recovery Grant
ELIGIBLE AREAS	Aberdare, Ferndale, Llantrisant, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypandy, Treorchy
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	External interventions which will facilitate social distancing / outdoor trading including canopies, tables, chairs and seating provision, screening, and outdoor servery facilities, courtyard/rear garden improvements.
GRANT RATE	80%
MAXIMUM GRANT	£10,000

SCHEME	VTF Small Town Centre COVID Recovery Grant
ELIGIBLE AREAS	Aberaman; Abercynon; Church Village; Gadlys; Gelli; Hirwaun; Llanharan; Maerdy; Penrhiwceiber; Pentre; Penygraig; Pontyclun; Rhydfelin; Taffs Well; Talbot Green; Ton Pentre; Tonteg; Tonyrefail; Trebanog; Trecynon; Treforest; Treherbert; Tynant; Tynewydd; Williamstown; Ynyshir; Ynysybwl; Ystrad
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	Internal and external interventions which will facilitate social distancing / outdoor trading.
GRANT RATE	100%
MAXIMUM GRANT	£10,000

SCHEME	Flood Resilience Grant
ELIGIBLE AREAS	Aberdare, Ferndale, Llantrisant, Mountain Ash, Pontypridd, Porth, Tonypandy, Treorchy
ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	Implementation of anti-flood measures to improve business resilience to deal with any such potential weather events in the future including internal and floodgates to doorways; UPVC floor coverings and skirting; internal moisture resistant wall boarding and raising of power points.
GRANT RATE	75%
MAXIMUM GRANT	£7,500

SCHEME	Welsh Church Act Fund
ELIGIBLE AREAS	RCT Wide

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	<p>The Welsh Church Act Fund is available to Churches, Chapels, Places of Public Worship, constituted community groups and charities operating in the County Borough areas of Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr and Bridgend. Organisations must provide activities that have long term direct benefit to residents and communities within these areas and must be open to members of the public at large.</p> <p>It provides support for capital expenditure such as refurbishment of a community buildings or places of worship; Purchase of capital equipment; Other purposes beneficial to the wider community.</p>
GRANT RATE & MAXIMUM GRANT	<p>There are 3 different grant rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £2,000 • Up to 90% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £10,000 • Up to 80% towards total eligible project cost - up to a maximum grant of £50,000

The chairperson advised that funding was available for all Communities within RCTCBC. The Cabinet Member Enterprise, Development and Housing added that there was funding and other grants available from National and Welsh Government and that rate relief was also available to businesses big and small. He further added that the grants were under continuous review to address the pandemic and flooding events and were strictly monitored internally and externally. A member asked if there was a portal available where they could see all the grants available. The Regeneration Manager advised that information was updated on the business section of the website but that the information conveyed to members today would be put together and sent to all members.

16 DIVERSITY IN DEMOCRACY

The Service Director Democratic Services and Communications presented the report to members to provide them with details of the Diversity in Democracy work being undertaken by RCTs Democratic Services Committee and the opportunity to enhance this work through Town and Community Council engagement.

As part of the work, members were asked to nominate one member representative to the Council’s Diversity in Democracy Working Group

RESOLVED: Members nominated Ms. C. Kennedy to the Working Group as appointed at the Town and Community Council Officer meeting;

**17 URGENT ITEMS
NONE**