

REPORT OF PSB MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH

At Tredomen Gateway Building at 9.30 am

I attended this meeting as your representative together with Cllr Jo Rao as a member of the public.

In response to my request at the previous meeting that community and voluntary sector members should be invited to take part in the various action groups, Kath Peters reported that Action Area Leads had been contacted. They had again been asked to review the membership of their groups and make contact with those who had expressed an interest in taking part. I think this is important because if the PSB is planning for the future wellbeing of residents, then residents as well as officers should be part of the discussion.

BUILDING A HEALTHIER GWENT

Mererid Bowley, Public Health Wales, gave a presentation on this topic (The document is on the Public Health Board web-site)

One of the main aims of the plan is to tackle the health inequalities gap, which was very well illustrated in the document.

Meredid highlighted the considerable public engagement that had taken place, including a survey, 50 face-to-face events and communication with vulnerable groups. Participants were asked which areas of health they felt should be prioritised and many of them pointed to mental health issues.

The next step was to develop a 10-year collaborative plan with stakeholders. This would involve developing a delivery plan for each of the key areas and engage partners in workshops for each of these. It was important that this plan would have input from all the organisations involved.

The Chair, Cllr Phillipa Marsden, noted that it was important to have the buy-in and involvement of the community to take this forward e.g. schools, workplaces, Flying Start. I drew attention to the work already happening in the Upper Rhymney Valley (Ystrad Mynach to Rhymney) with the Integrated Wellbeing Networks and the mapping of local resources that was already going on on the ground. I said that we needed to be aware of the work of the voluntary sector and their role in delivering the initiative.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING FOR WELL-BEING

Mererid Bowley presented a report on the funding of the Integrated Well-being Network programme. In key areas across Gwent (including the Upper Rhymney Valley) it had provided the foundations for social prescribing by connecting community assets with GP surgeries and communities in their areas. Funding had been found to introduce participatory budgeting to enable communities to identify areas where they can take forward the work of improving well-being. Mererid asked the PSB to approve the way this would be delivered, to set up sub-groups of relevant officers and for the LA to act as

fundholder and this was agreed. I put my name forward to be on one of the sub-groups and suggested that the voluntary sector should be involved.

Of course since then the coronavirus crisis has intervened but this has highlighted the need for communities to pull together and look after the most vulnerable among us.

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS-ACTION AREA PROGRESS UP-DATES

1. COMMUNICATIONS

A communications officer would attend every meeting to manage social media and endeavour to generate more interest in the PSB. Publicity guidelines had been produced.

2. ASSETS

Unfortunately the Lead Officer (from CCBC) was unable to be present but he had sent a short report highlighting poor attendance at the meetings of this group. I pointed out that both Roger Evans from Oakdale and myself had volunteered to be members of the group but had not been invited. It is clear that some officers want a pan-Gwent approach to use of buildings which they see mainly as those owned by the statutory agencies involved. I feel this runs completely counter to the whole idea of having a CAERPHILLY PSB which would involve the voluntary sector and local communities. Both GAVO and the Integrated Wellbeing Network have done very good work on mapping local community buildings, including chapels and churches in which much of the work of promoting well-being and combatting social isolation takes place. Discussions about the pan-Gwent approach are on-going.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The group had met and had two priorities: the first being to improve green spaces working with residents and volunteers and the second to grow, cook and eat to promote sustainable local food production. In connection with this second priority I explained that Town & Community Councils had close links with allotment associations and asked whether the project was linked with the Food Poverty Officer who was mapping local food sources.

WELL-BEING OBJECTIVE1-POSITIVE CHANGE=IMPROVING THE WAY WE WORK TOGETHER

Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive of CCBC reminded members of the First Minister's statement of the vision for the public services in Wales as 'One Public Service'. This was to promote working together for organisations in a similar place and a training programme had been devised to carry this forward.

CAERPHILLY PSB ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

A proposal was made to produce a digital annual report and video after the success of these last year. A panel of PSB members would participate in a Question & Answer session. The event was due to be held on 30th June 2020 but had to be cancelled because of the coronavirus crisis.

VOLUNTEERING DAY TY PENALLTA

This was to be organised by Team Caerphilly on 24th April and would highlight the benefits of volunteering to CCBC staff. This would support one of the priorities of the PSB Volunteering Action Area. This event was also cancelled because of the coronavirus.

PSB MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY 3rd NOVEMBER

At 2.00 pm on Microsoft Teams

The next meeting will take place as above.

Among Items on the Agenda are

1. Review of the Covid response so far: Second Wave and Recovery Planning: Covid context to Caerphilly We Want Action Plan
2. Building a sustainable and enhanced Foundation Tier for Mental Wellbeing in Gwent
3. PSB Annual Report- Video
4. Questions from Members of the Public
5. Well-being of Future Generations: Well-being Plan Action Plans
(Cllr Jayne Garland has submitted a question about Neighbourhood Planning in the context of the new Local Development Plan but I have been informed that this is not a matter for the PSB but for the Local Authority only. I disagree)

COVID 19 BUSINESS RATES GRANT

In June I used our communication network to write to all members through our clerk to disseminate information about the Covid 19 Business Rates grant of £10,000 available to charities and non-profit organisations who ran community and village halls, also sports' clubs with their own halls. The council did not have an up-to-date list of contacts for some of these halls so it involved a certain amount of detective work . This was in fact very satisfying because it meant that a number of halls (which had all lost income because of the Covid outbreak) could continue to pay their fixed costs and would not have to close for good.

Judith Pritchard

