



MINUTES OF REGENERATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday 2nd March 2020 at 6.30 pm, Council Chamber, Carnegie House

Present:	Cllr S Bletsoe (Chair) Cllr F Bletsoe Cllr S Easterbrook	Cllr D Unwin Cllr A Wathan Cllr T Wood
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In attendance: Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk) and members of the Bridgend Local History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust.

Pre-meeting business:

- To meet with representatives from the Bridgend Local History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust to discuss the Bridgend Blue Plaque Scheme and select three recipients for 2020.

Chair of Regeneration Committee welcomed members of Bridgend Local History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust to the meeting. He spoke to the success of the unveiling of the first two blue plaques in Bridgend and thanked those present for their help with the project.

Chair of Regeneration Committee highlighted that the blue plaques had been very well received by the public and noted that an observation had been made that the plaques do not include the Welsh language. He suggested that this is something that the Committee should consider for future plaques.

The Town Clerk provided an update on the status of the next two plaques. She explained that an application for Listed Building Consent for a plaque on St John's had been submitted to BCBC and that the plaque is currently in production.

A member of the public explained that the St John's House Trust have been able to date the house to a specific time period from 1511 to 1520 and enquired whether it would be possible to amend the wording of the plaque to show this date or the words 'early 16th Century'. Town Clerk explained that she believed that the plaque is already in production but she would check if this change could be made.

Town Clerk asked Members to review a design for a plaque to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Bridgend Tudor Market Charter. She explained that the plaque had been designed several years ago, prior to the introduction of the BTC blue plaque scheme. She asked Members to provide comment on the layout and text of the plaque and to advise whether amendments are required to fit in with the layout of the new plaques.

A member of the public highlighted that the rose used on the plaque appeared to be the House of Lancaster rose rather than the Tudor rose and suggested that this should be checked for historical accuracy.

Members agreed that the wording of the plaque for the 500th anniversary of the Bridgend Tudor Market Charter should remain unchanged.

Chair of Regeneration Committee called for a discussion on nominations for three recipients of a blue plaque for 2020. The following nominations were discussed:

Dilwyn Lewis: Born in Bridgend and raised in the cottage homes, Dilwyn Lewis was a clothes designer turned clergyman who oversaw the restoration of the ancient church of St Mary Major in Rome. He died in 2000.

Charles Napier: Appointed as the first Chief Constable of the Glamorgan Constabulary in 1841, Charles Napier lived in Brynteg House before moving to the vicarage on Newcastle Hill and later to a large house in Sarn. He died in 1867 and is buried in Newcastle churchyard.

John Thomas: Originally, from Bridgend and born on St David's Day in 1826, John Thomas was harpist to Queen Victoria and to her successor, King Edward VII. He died in 1913.

George Davies: Confectioner George Davies owned a sweet shop known as Davies' Rock Shop. He built 'The Davies Building' on the corner of Caroline Street in 1892.

William McGaul: Owner of Quarella quarry, William McGaul lived in Quarella House and was Chairman of the Local Board of Health from 1893-1894. He is noted as someone who was an advocate for the town.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel: Chief Engineer of the Great Western Railway (GWR), Isambard Kingdom Brunel is credited with designing Bridgend Railway Station, which opened in 1850.

William Riley: William Riley lived in Newcastle House and is locally known as the 'father' of archaeology. In the early 1900's he excavated a Bronze Age mound at Merthyr Mawr. He is buried in Nolton churchyard.

Walter Coffin: Born in 1784, Walter Coffin was a Member of Parliament and a Welsh coal owner. He died in 1867 and was buried at the Unitarian Church graveyard in Park Street.

The Wyndham Arms: The Wyndham Arms hotel in Dunraven Place – one of the oldest public houses in Bridgend.

Caroline Williams: Born in 1823 at a house on Newcastle Hill, Caroline Williams had a passion for the advancement of women. Throughout her life she did much to better the education for women and funded the first Women's Scholarship ever given at a Welsh University College.

Members discussed each nomination proposal and agreed that the following names should be formally considered by Members of the Regeneration Committee under agenda item 5b.

1. John Thomas
2. Caroline Williams
3. Dilwyn Lewis

Members of the public left at 7.30pm

1. To receive apologies for absence: Cllr C Evans

2. Declarations of Interest (if any) of Members

Declarations of Interest were declared by the following Members and recorded in the register:

- Cllr T Wood declared a personal interest in all matters as a town trader
- Cllr S Easterbrook declared a personal interest in all matters as a town trader

3. To confirm and Sign Minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 27th January 2020

RESOLVED: To confirm and sign the minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 27th January 2020 as a true and accurate record.

4. To Consider Matters Arising from the Regeneration Meeting held on 27th January 2020

Page 2 – Town Centre Map

- Cllr F Bletsoe advised that this is ongoing.

Page 1 – Business Awards Scheme

- The Town Clerk advised that the 2020 BTC Business Awards had been launched on the Town Council website and on social media and that, press releases had been sent to local newspapers. She encouraged the Members to help promote the awards through their own networks.

Page 2 – CF31 Bid Ballot

- Cllr D Unwin advised that he had received a response to his Freedom of Information request however it only provided information on three of the seven points raised. He explained that he has now sought a meeting with the BCBC Chief Executive and will report back in due course.

Page 2 – The Indoor Market Play Area

- Cllr D Unwin suggested that the area could be used for VE Day and enquired about the process that should be followed to use the space.
- Cllr T Wood spoke of the success of a St David's Day celebration that had taken place in the area, however confirmed that it was co-ordinated and funded by an individual.
- Members discussed the use of the area during the Wartime Bridgend event on Saturday 13th June.
- Chair of Regeneration Committee suggested that the area could be used as a wartime NAAFI. A proposal was also discussed to use ration books, which could be stamped at the stalls within the market, and participants could be entered into a draw to win a hamper.

Page 3 – Derwen Road

- The Chair noted that the Derwen Road toilets have been sold at a higher price than expected and therefore suggested that BCBC could be asked to use some of the money to fund new toilet facilities in Bridgend. Members agreed with this suggestion.
- Chair of Regeneration Committee suggested that he could draft and send the letter. This was agreed by Members.

Page 3 – Banners

- Town Clerk explained that she had made further enquiries and sought costs for the banner design, printing and installation; she advised she had also spoken to the Town Centre Manager regarding permission to erect the banners. Town Clerk highlighted that she had emailed Members with information regarding 25 suitable lamp column locations around the Town Centre and had asked for guidance on which 12-14 locations Members wanted to use for new banners.
- Town Clerk explained that permission to use the columns would need to be sought from the Street Lighting Manager. She also explained that new bunting was due to be installed around the Town Centre and this coupled with the floral displays will create vibrancy in the town throughout the summer period. For this reason, she suggested that vertical banners could be installed in September/October when the bunting and floral displays are taken down. The banners could be used to advertise Christmas activities.
- Members proposed that new banners are designed and installed to mark VE Day and VJ Day and promote the Wartime Bridgend event. It was agreed that these should be installed at the end of April 2020.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to arrange the design, print and installation of 25 vertical lamp column banners to mark VE Day on 8th May, VJ Day on 10th August and promote the Wartime Bridgend event on 13th June 2020.

- It was agreed that if all 25 locations cannot be used, the Town Clerk will have delegated authority to change the locations or reduce the number of banners as necessary.
- Cllr F Bletsoe suggested that BCBC could be asked to consider funding and installing lamp column banners of the same design to be installed on the entrance routes to Bridgend such as near McArthur Glen and at Waterton roundabout.

RESOLVED: Town Clerk to write to BCBC to ask if they will consider funding lamp column banners for VE Day, VJ Day and Wartime Bridgend, to be installed on the entrance routes to Bridgend such as near McArthur Glen and at Waterton roundabout.

5. Blue Plaque Scheme

a. To receive an update on Blue Plaque Project for 2018/19:

- Chair of Regeneration Committee noted that this had been discussed as part of the pre-meeting business.

b. To discuss recipients for the Blue Plaque Project for financial year 2020:

- The Chair asked Members to formally consider the individuals nominated during the discussions with the Bridgend Local History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust:
 1. John Thomas: Originally from Bridgend and born on St David's Day in 1826, John Thomas was harpist to Queen Victoria and to her successor, King Edward VII. He died in 1913.
 2. Caroline Williams: Born in 1823 at a house on Newcastle Hill, Caroline Williams had a passion for the advancement of women. Throughout her life she did much to better the education for women and funded the first Women's Scholarship ever given at a Welsh University College.
 3. Dilwyn Lewis: Born in Bridgend and raised in the cottage homes, Dilwyn Lewis was a clothes designer turned clergyman who oversaw the restoration the ancient church of St Mary Major in Rome. He died in 2000.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to award Blue Plaques to John Thomas, Caroline Williams and Dilwyn Lewis for 2020 and to liaise with the Bridgend Local History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust to seek suggestions for the wording of each plaque.

6. To receive an update from the Town Clerk regarding a meeting with the BCBC Town Centre Manager about Town Centre Regeneration initiatives

- Town Clerk explained that she had had a very positive meeting with the BCBC Town Centre Manager regarding Town Centre Regeneration initiatives. She explained that Members of the Regeneration Committee have been invited to attend a presentation for the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan Consultation on Wednesday 11th March. Members discussed the time slots available and agreed that a slot at 9am would be the most convenient. It was agreed that the Planning Committee meeting on the same day would need to revert back to the original time of 11.30am to allow Members of the Regeneration Committee to attend the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan Consultation.
- Town Clerk referred to information provided earlier in the meeting about vertical banners. She also explained that the Town Centre Manager had provided information about a company that offer a wide range of services to support Town Centres including lamp column banners, catenary sculptures, virtual windows, window vinyl's and street dressing for events. Members were provided with a brochure for information.
- Members discussed the use of vinyl's in shop windows.
- Cllr F Bletsoe spoke of the success of the book spines vinyl 'We loves the 'Diff' in Cardiff and suggested that the public could be invited to put forward ideas for a project in Bridgend.
- Chair of Regeneration Committee suggested that this is a project that could be run by the Members. It was proposed that Cllr D Unwin could write to Brynteg and Bryntirion schools to promote the project and Members could promote it to the public.
- Town Clerk explained that permission will be required from the landlord to install a vinyl on an empty property.
- Members discussed the possibility of using vinyl's on empty properties in Nolton Arcade, next to the Rhiw Shopping Centre.
- Cllr T Wood spoke of an art installation he had recently seen in a red telephone box in Horbury.
- Members discussed the possibility of using the two telephone boxes owned by BTC for an art project.
- It was agreed that a project to create art installations in the two BTC red telephone boxes should also be promoted to the schools.
- Chair of Regeneration Committee requested that the two projects are included as agenda items for the next meeting and asked Members to come forward with a report or plan to discuss at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: To include an agenda item for the next Regeneration Committee meeting to discuss a project for shop window vinyl's in Bridgend Town Centre.

RESOLVED: To include an agenda item for the next Regeneration Committee meeting to discuss a project for art installations in two BTC red telephone boxes.

7. To receive a report and discuss tourism signs in the BTC area (Cllr D Unwin)

- Cllr D Unwin explained that an opportunity had arisen to apply for funding from Welsh Government for a 'Brilliant Basics 2020' grant. He advised that the grant is based around 'Welcome to Wales – Priorities for the visitor Economy 2020-2025' and as well as regeneration, it is linked in with the well-being and environmental agenda.
- Cllr D Unwin advised that the deadline for expressions of interest was 28th February 2020 therefore he had submitted an expression of interest and proposals for a project to improve

tourism in the area. The proposal is for a project for tree planting, landscaping, tourism signage within the locality, tourism signs from junctions 35/36/37 of the M4, further enhancement of the Heritage Walkway Project, creation of new tourism literature for the area and a dedicated website to promote the area. The estimated cost of the project is £50,000.

- Cllr D Unwin explained that he is mindful of the current staffing situation and would not expect existing staff to carry out the project. He explained that he had therefore included a Project Co-ordinator as part of the proposal.
- Cllr D Unwin explained that close liaison with adjoining community Councils; Merthyr Mawr, Laleston and Ewenny, would be necessary, as several aspects of the project will impinge on their areas.
- Cllr D Unwin advised that the next stage is to await feedback from Welsh Government and if the expression of interest finds favour, the project can be brought before full Council for further discussion on how to proceed. Members supported this project.
- Town Clerk advised Members that BCBC had expressed concerns about the proposed location of a new Town Twinning fingerpost sign due to its close proximity to a busy highway and lack of pedestrian access. It was noted that the sign could be an attraction for photographs and therefore a different location should be considered.
- It was suggested that the pedestrianised area at the bottom of Newcastle Hill could be an alternative option. This was supported by Members.

8. To receive a report and discuss Reverse Vending Machines (Cllr F Bletsoe)

- Cllr F Bletsoe presented a report on Reverse Vending Machines. She explained that a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) accepts used, recyclable drinks containers, and in return provides a payment, voucher for local shops or donation to charity for the person recycling.
- Cllr F Bletsoe suggested that Reverse Vending Machines could help with recycling issues in areas where communal recycling points have caused problems. She added that BCBC have claimed that they do not benefit financially from recycling therefore the introduction of Reverse Vending Machines should not be an issue for the local authority.
- Cllr F Bletsoe highlighted that Reverse Vending Machines are used widely in Europe. They do need a power source but they may be able to work outdoors using solar power.
- Members supported the principle of the introduction of Reverse Vending Machines and discussed possible locations.
- Cllr D Unwin suggested that the Wildmill and Cefn Glas estates could benefit from this scheme and suggested that dialogue could be opened with Valleys to Coast regarding the location of the machines.
- Members discussed the possibility of locating the machines in local schools.
- It was suggested that Cllr F Bletsoe draft a letter to Valleys to Coast and that information about Reverse Vending Machines is included in the letters to schools as discussed under agenda item 6.

9. To discuss the provision of additional toilet facilities in the Town Centre and potential grant funding opportunities (Cllr T Wood)

- Cllr T Wood explained that the project to construct new toilet facilities in the Indoor Market had been on hold for the past three weeks.
- Members were availed of the background to the delays for the construction of the toilet facilities which included public liability and employer liability for the contractor and clarification of structural details for the local authority and property owner.
- Town Clerk advised that the funding from BTC had been given with a clause that allowed a period of six months for the work to be carried out.

- Town Clerk explained that she had approached two sign writers to provide quotes for the new toilet signage however, they will need to be provided with the exact size of the signage required. Due to the delay with the project, the signage is currently also on hold.
- Cllr T Wood proposed a second location for an additional toilet facility in Bridgend Town Centre, in a former fish store below the Rhiw Shopping Centre.
- Cllr D Unwin highlighted that the location is too close to the toilets currently being constructed in the Indoor Market. He suggested that the development of a new toilet facility in the Wilko car park would be a better location.
- Members discussed this option and noted that the facility would need to be a 'Danfo' style facility.
- Chair of Regeneration Committee suggested that Members should arrange a site visit around the Town Centre to consider locations for an additional toilet facility. This was agreed by Members.

10. To receive quotes for toilet signage for new toilet facilities in the Indoor Market

- This was discussed under agenda item 9.

Chair of Regeneration Committee commented that it is the last meeting before the Annual Meeting. He stated that he was proud to have been Chair of the Committee for the past three years and thanked Members for a productive Committee.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm

Signed
Chair of Regeneration Committee

Date