



**MINUTES OF REGENERATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7:00pm at Evergreen Hall, Angel Street**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr S Bletsoe (Chair) Cllr A Wathan Cllr T Wood	Cllr P Warren Cllr C Evans
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**In attendance:** Mrs L Edwards (Town Clerk) and three members of the public.

**1. To receive apologies for absence:**

- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Thomas & Cllr K Boucher

**2. Declarations of Interest (if any) of Members**

- Declarations of Interest were declared by the following Members and recorded in the register:
  - Cllr S Bletsoe declared a personal interest as a town trader
  - Cllr T Wood declared a personal interest as a town trader

**3. To confirm and Sign Minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

**RESOLVED:** To confirm and sign the minutes of the Regeneration Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 as a true and accurate record.

**4. To Consider Matters Arising from the Regeneration Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

- Page 3. Cllr T Wood noted that he had liaised with the BTC Community Engagement and Events Officer regarding the Town Centre Map and that she will progress the draft map with the designer.
- Page 3. Town Clerk reported that she had conducted further research on the Town Plan and that this will be an on-going project throughout the year. Chair added that the Town Plan is not specifically a Regeneration project it is a Council wide project that the committee will have input into.
- Page 3. Town Clerk advised that letters had been issued to key stakeholders to convene meetings as soon as possible on a Wednesday daytime. One response had been received to date.
- Page 5. Chair of Regeneration Advisory Committee noted that he would try to meet with Carnegie House Artist in Residence as soon as possible to discuss the art project within the two red telephone kiosks owned by BTC.

**5. To discuss the design and installation of blue plaques for 2018/19 and agree timescales for the consideration of recipients of blue plaques for financial year 2019/2020**

- Town Clerk provided examples of designs for blue plaques and advised that the standard diameter of the plaques is 30cm.

- Town Clerk explained that she had contacted the BCBC Conservation Department to provide details about the BTC Blue Plaque Scheme and seek guidance regarding the location of the plaques.
- Members agreed that the BTC blue plaques should be a plain text version with no logos.
- The wording for each plaque was recommended as follows:
  - Sir Morien Bedford Morgan  
1912 - 1978  
'Father of Concorde' – Lived here  
Bridgend Town Council 2019
  - Caroline Wyndham  
Dowager Countess of Dunraven  
1789 - 1870  
Bridgend Philanthropist  
Bridgend Town Council 2019
  - St John's House  
Oldest residential building in Bridgend Town  
Circ. 15th century

**RECOMMENDATION:** BTC to use the recommended wording for each of the three Blue Plaques for 2018-19 subject to the Town Clerk verifying the historical accuracy of the wording.

- Chair of the Regeneration Advisory Committee asked Members for their view on opening nominations for the Blue Plaque Scheme for 2019-20. It was agreed that nominations for next financial year should be opened. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the Bridgend History Society and Bridgend Civic Trust to ask them to consider nominations for the next three plaques and invite them to attend a meeting of the Regeneration Advisory Committee later in the year.
- It was noted that Listed Building Consent may be required for the plaques depending on where they are located; however the specification of the plaques would need to be obtained before applying for this consent.
- The Town Clerk was asked to obtain quotes for the plaques.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Town Clerk to liaise with BCBC Conservation Department to arrange locations for each plaque and to obtain quotes for the blue plaques, confirm plaque specifications and apply for Listed Building Consent if necessary.

**6. To receive an update on the Business Awards Scheme 2018/19 and agree timescales for the judging process for the awards**

- Town Clerk advised that a press release and poster had been prepared to promote the awards and explained that information had been uploaded to the Town Council website along with a nomination form and the criteria for each award. She also noted that the awards had been promoted on the BTC social media channels.
- Chair of Regeneration Advisory Committee suggested that he could attend the meeting of the judging panel to provide an overview of the awards scheme and asked the Mayor to chair the meeting. Mayor agreed.
- Town Clerk advised that she had received an enquiry from a business on Bridgend Industrial Estate in relation to the awards, however highlighted that the business is outside the Town Council wards. Members discussed the boundary of the Town Council area.
- It was noted that invitations had been issued to the individuals/organisations appointed to the judging panel; most individuals/organisations had accepted the invitation however, no response had been received from The Zone.

- Members considered alternative options for the inclusion of a representative under the age of 25 on the judging panel. It was suggested that the Youth mayor could be invited to sit on the judging panel. This was agreed by Members.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To invite the BCBC Youth Mayor to join the judging panel for the BTC Business Awards Scheme.

- Members considered a date for the meeting of the judging panel. It was suggested that the date should be as soon as possible after the closing date for nominations.
- It was proposed that the judging panel would need a quorum of three.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Town Clerk to write to all members of the judging panel to advise them that the panel will meet at 6pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019.

#### **7. To discuss the latest status of the De-pedestrianisation project and implications on regeneration**

- Chair explained that he had attended a recent Town Members meeting and presented a report to Town Council at the February meeting.
- Members discussed the lack of progress with the de-pedestrianisation project and it was noted that the project had been driven by traders for the safe re-introduction of traffic to the Town Centre.
- Chair explained that a recent report had identified the area as 'Shared Space' and highlighted that BCBC Council now face a difficulty with funding because Welsh Government have withdrawn funding for 'Shared Space' projects.
- Town Clerk highlighted that BCBC Officer D Webb has been invited to the full Town Council meeting in March to provide an update on the de-pedestrianisation project.
- Chair noted that at the last Council meeting, Cllr F Bletsoe suggested that funding may be available from the City Deal.
- Members discussed what action could be taken to support de-pedestrianisation. It was concluded that all the Regeneration Advisory Committee can do, is it to continue to lobby for this project.
- It was noted that the Town Traders Forum need to be vocal on this issue.
- Members noted that de-pedestrianisation was originally thought to be a primary factor in the decline of shopping within the town centre however it was acknowledged that times have changed and there are now other factors such as the growth of online shopping and Brexit that impact high street trading.
- Chair highlighted the need for united support from Assembly Members for the de-pedestrianisation of Bridgend Town Centre.
- Members discussed the involvement of Bridgend CF31 Bid to support de-pedestrianisation.
- Chair noted that although town traders do not contribute towards the Town Council precept, support for traders is reasonable in order to encourage a vibrant town center for local residents.
- It was noted that the Bid is due for re-ballot in autumn 2019.
- Members questioned whether Bridgend Town Council had originally voted in favour of the Bid. The Town Clerk was asked to clarify.
- It was suggested that Members should consider the update from BCBC Officer D Webb at the next Town Council meeting and then consider making a statement in support of progressing the de-pedestrianisation project.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Town Council to consider the update from BCBC Officer D Webb at the next Town Council meeting and then make a statement to strongly support de-pedestrianisation and continue to work with BCBC and town traders to make it happen.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To write to all five Assembly Members to seek their support and action to drive the issue of de-pedestrianisation forward and reach a satisfactory conclusion for the people of Bridgend.

**8. To receive an update on the status of discussions with BCBC regarding the Bus Station proposals and the provision of toilets within the indoor market**

- Chair of Regeneration Advisory Committee explained that he had attended the meeting with Cllr Unwin, Cllr Voisey and the Town Clerk. He provided an overview of the discussions that took place and noted that further to press reports, BTC Members congratulated BCBC that the bus station was to be saved.
- It was reported that a discussion had taken place about the concerns held by BTC Members regarding using Town Council precept budget collected from residents within the wards of Oldcastle, Newcastle and Morfa to subsidise the bus station which is used by residents outside these wards.
- It was clarified that Bridgend Town Council had not offered or confirmed funding towards the bus station at this stage.
- Chair explained that BCBC Officers had advised that the budgetary savings required by BCBC would now need to be passed on to the bus operators.
- Members expressed concern that if the bus companies do not agree to the additional costs and the bus station does close, blame should not be passed on to Bridgend Town Council.
- Mayor highlighted that the Town Council need to be very clear that the benefit for the residents within the Town Council wards is not proportionate to the use of the bus station by those residents.

**RECOMMENDATION:** To include an agenda item for the March Town Council meeting to discuss the Bridgend bus station and BTC communications in relation to its future.

- Members discussed the toilets within Bridgend Bus Station.
- Chair explained the progress that is being made in relation to the provision of toilets within the Indoor Market. It was clarified that £10,000 could be allocated by BTC.
- Town Clerk explained that the logistics of how the money will be provided and the contractual agreements that need to be put in place need further discussion.

**9. To receive an update from the Tourism Working group meeting of 20th February 2019**

- Chair explained that only he and Cllr T Wood had attended the meeting therefore the meeting was cancelled. It was suggested that discussions regarding Tourism Project should be deferred back to the Regeneration Advisory Committee.
- Members discussed tourism initiatives such as improvements to signage and general maintenance within the town centre.
- Cllr T Wood enquired about the possibility to re-name the railway bridge.
- It was agreed that tourism initiatives can be included on the agenda for discussion at Regeneration Advisory Committee meetings as and when required.

The meeting concluded at 8.39pm

Signed .....  
Chair of Regeneration Committee

Date .....