

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH) with  
LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL  
CYNGOR TREF  
Y BONTFAEN (Bwrdeistref Hynafol) gyda  
LLANFLEIDDAN



**July Council**  
**19.00 18th July 2023**  
**Agenda Item xx**

## **Place Making Plan Update**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Since the last Council meeting weekly meetings have continued with the Vale's creative communities' team and Cllr Heather Weddell has started to attend the meetings to ensure continuity over the next 12 to 15 months of the project.
- 1.2 The project is now beginning to take shape and the sections below set out the progress that has been made to date and the next steps.

### **2. Placemaking Plan Progress Over the Past Month**

- 2.1 At the Mayor's Coffee morning held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July seven groups were asked to identify under the headings of activity, assets and meaning, which are the three components to good places and placemaking, the assets in the town and the gaps
- 2.2 The activity was entered into with enthusiasm after the initial shock of being asked to do some work on a Saturday morning and a summarised version of all the groups feedback is shown at Appendix A to this report.
- 2.3 The next stage is to use this data and the feedback from the coronation event and the new year's resolution done at the January coffee morning to start developing the Plan themes and help formulate surveys, focus group questions and content of other community events.
- 2.4 Other actions that have progressed include:

- The Creative Vale team are in discussion with other departments including elderly service and youth services to ensure harder to reach groups are engaged effectively.
- Contact has been made with external bodies such as public health Wales, police and fire.
- Contact has been made with the Comprehensive school who are expected to become actively involved in Placemaking in September
- Discussions are being sort with Vale planners to understand what their involvement will be and whether the final Plan will get supplementary planning guidance status.
- The Cowbridge business are now being engaged and a meeting is planned to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September to introduce the Placemaking Plan process and explain how the local business can get involved, which will be followed up with other forms of engagement.
- The Placemaking web site and social media is under development and is hoped to be live by August, this will have links to the Town council web site. The site will cover all the four towns developing plans with a specific page for Cowbridge with Llanblethian.
- Further analysis of census data has been undertaken to be used to aid the development of engagement strategies.
- Some councillors have recently attended place plan course run by Planning Aid Wales.

### **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1. The next meeting of the Placemaking Task and Finish Group is on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July at 18.30. Efforts are being made to get a wider community involvement. The agenda for this meeting is attached at Appendix B.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Council are asked to note the work being undertaken and the progress being made in developing the Placemaking Plan.

## Appendix A - Summarised Outcomes form the Coffee Morning Tables

### Physical Form

- Assets:
  - Town Hall
  - Physic Gardens
  - Leisure Centre
  - Physic Garden
  - Old Hall and Gardens
  - Twt Park
  - Green Spaces (eg Bear Field, Playing Fields)
  - Museum
  - Old Hall
  - Physic Garden and Old Hall Garden
  - Historical Buildings and Walls and Church
  - Castles
  - Historic School Buildings
  - Shops
  - Restaurants/Cafes
- Gaps:
  - No Swimming Pool
  - Swimming Pool!!!!
  - Affordable & Social Housing
  - Youth Facilities/Spaces
  - Security in the town (CCTV)
  - Meeting places for youth
  - Tourist Information Centre
  - Massive investment in Council Housing which cannot be sold

- Retention of Historical buildings – some not Listed but of significance to the town
- Swimming Pool
- Lack of Information Boards, Leaflets
- Free Car Parking and Coach Park Facilities
- Banks
- Pavement
- Mobile Signal
- Social Media management – QR codes!
- Restaurants
- Dog litter bins
- Speed Camera
- Disability Play Park

## **Activities**

- Assets:
  - Outdoor Activity Areas
  - Activities in Old Hall
  - Sports Clubs (Rugby, Cricket etc)
  - Societies & Associations (eg U3A, Twinning, CADS, Choirs, Rotary, Lions)
  - Dementia Friendly Cowbridge
  - Community Involvement – Schools, Churches etc (Interaction)
  - Farmers Market
  - Christmas Parade (Tractor Boys)
  - Boxing Day Meet
  - Market Theatre
  - Library
  - Happy Days Vintage
  - Independent shops
  - Restaurants and cafes
  - Free carparking

- Charter Trust and similar bodies
- Music Festival
- Food Festival
- Christmas Parade
- Lots of interesting groups e.g., Hist Soc, U3A, Bowls, Charities
- Link to capital
- Community events – parades including Civic Sunday
- Countryside – walks/views
- Sports Clubs and classes
- Youth Groups
- Gaps:
  - Teenage Interaction Area
  - Boules Area with Shelter
  - Youth Club
  - Restaurants
  - Cinema/Theatre
  - Volunteers
  - Lack of Policing in the evening
  - Bus service to Llantwit Major
  - Advertising
  - Communication – Traders
  - Teenagers – Club

## **Meaning**

- Assets:
  - Old Hall
  - Town Walls and Gate
  - Architecture of High Street
  - River – wildlife etc
  - Local History Groups (Blue Plaques)

- Town Charter, Ancient Council History
- Traditions
- Buildings and Town Walls
- Welsh speaking
- Welcoming community
- Safe, inclusive
- Gaps:
  - Improve gaps in Visitor Info Points
  - LA needs to recognise our needs (Focus on Barry)
  - More/centralised information (not everyone is on Facebook or Hub)
  - Banks!!
  - Weekly Local Paper
  - Empty shops
  - Lack of publicity on Heritage
  - Lack of Vale spending compared to other Vale towns i.e., on flowers and trees
  - Charity support dying out, little youth/middle age support
  - Small youth demographic
  - Police – Station
  - Parking
  - Recognising and supporting poverty
  - Food Bank

## **Appendix B: Agenda for Placemaking Task & Finish Group meeting 20<sup>th</sup> July**

### **At Cowbridge Town Hall at 18.30**

#### **Draft Agenda**

1. Introductions.
2. Update from Mayors Coffee morning event 1<sup>st</sup> July.
3. Progress on application for Placemaking funding from Welsh Government.
4. Project Timescales.
5. Development of Placemaking web site and social media.
6. Plans to engage with Town's businesses.
7. Wider community engagement strategy.
8. Supplementary Planning Guidance status of the plan?
9. Engagement with the other towns.
10. Signing the Place Making Charter
11. AoB