

UK Language Placemaking Implementation Incorporating Section 106 Money Spend Task and Finish Group

12th March at 11:00 AM in the Council Chamber

Present:

Lucy Butler, Senior Planner, Regeneration and Planning, Vale Council

Arrabella Calder, Senior Community Development Officer, Vale Council

Cllr Malcolm Wilson (Chair), Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Cllr Charles Champion, Vale Council and Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Cllr Heather Weddell (Mayor), Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Cllr Danial Sami, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Cllr Gareth John, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Clair Helen Davis, Acting Town Clerk, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

Update on Available S106 Funds and Other Funding Sources

It was discussed that no further contributions have been made to the Section 106 (S106) funds. Malcolm Wilson recently met with the Operations Manager of Green Links to discuss the allocation of S106 funds for their initiatives. Additionally, there is a subsidy of £304,000 for the X2 bus service, which is operated by First Bus.

There are ongoing debates regarding the allocation of S106 funds to First Bus. Malcolm Wilson emphasized that the funds are non-recoverable. On the other hand, Charles Champion argued that directing funds toward the bus service could benefit the local economy by increasing foot traffic in Cowbridge and encouraging spending

in local shops. It was also noted that Green Links had been presented to the cabinet and approved as a sustainable travel initiative.

It was agreed that increased publicity for Green Links is needed to raise community awareness, particularly among groups such as Music in Mind and U3A. Additionally, it was agreed that there should be more consultation between the Council and Vale Council.

It was noted that the Shared Prosperity Fund is currently on hold until the new government administration agrees on the terms.

Live and Possible Schemes

There is still more work to be done, such as surveys and cost assessments, before any work can start on the proposed schemes.

Regarding the completed “Puddlegate” scheme, although the work has been carried out, it appears that after rainfall a new puddle has appeared, which is believed to be caused by a large tree root disrupting the flow of the path. Although this has been adopted by the Vale as a Right of Public Access, permission is needed for further work to address the new issue. The paperwork for this is with Dentons (acting for John Lewis and Partners) and James Docherty Solicitor (acting for the Bird family). This issue is now informally referred to as “Puddlegate 2”.

Dragon Play has nearly finished installing the new play equipment at Twt Park. They encountered unforeseen circumstances during the installation of the new benches, with an additional £2,499 (excluding VAT) needed to complete the installation. After hearing advice that the price was fair, the Acting Town Clerk, using the powers of Chief Officer, agreed to pay the additional amount and instructed the company to proceed with the work.

Lighting on the path by Cross Inn was discussed, and there has been some delay on the part of Vale Council due to damage by vehicles to lower bollards and concerns about high greenery potentially obstructing traditional column lighting. Charles will arrange a meeting onsite with the Lighting Officer for further discussions.

Improved footpaths for Clare Garden Village residents were discussed. The proposed footpath has become a controversial topic, with a footpath forum group addressing concerns about the steepness of the road, which could prevent certain groups from using it.

Update on Transport Survey

The transport survey, along with signage in Cowbridge, needs to be audited before any funds can be spent.

Placemaking Quick Wins

Welsh Translation Update and Date of Formal Launch

Cowbridge, being the first to complete the Placemaking Plan, must now wait for the other councils to catch up. Funding will become available to all three councils at the same time, so no funds can be committed until all are ready to discuss the allocation. It was noted that the councils should have a say in the allocation.

Expansion of Group

The Charter Trust is interested in joining the task group. The Rugby Club and all sports clubs will be invited to join, along with the current members of the Community Working Group

Date of Next Meeting:

7th May 2025