

# TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present: Councillors H. Trollope (Chair)**

**T. Smith  
A.E. Tippings  
M. Cross  
D.W.A. Howells  
G. James  
A. Jones  
E. Jones  
S. Trollope**

**In Attendance: Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price  
RFO – Ms. A. Jones**

**By invitation : Managing Director – Aneurin Leisure Trust  
Mr. Anthony Hughes**

**286) Apologies: Councillors J. Thomas, T. Gregory, D. Jones, P. Prosser,  
D. Rowberry, M. Turner, P. Waldron and B. Willis**

## **287) Declarations of Interest.**

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

## **288) At the invitation of Council, to meet: Managing Director, Mr. Anthony Hughes and Commercial Director, Mr. Phill Sykes of the Aneurin Leisure Trust**

The Chair extended a warm welcome to the Managing Director – Aneurin Leisure Trust, Mr. Anthony Hughes, who thanked Members for the opportunity to attend; unfortunately, the Commercial Director had been unable to attend and extended his apologies.

The Managing Director provided an overview on The Trust: in respect of Council concerns raised in relation to the closure of Tredegar Sports Centre over the Christmas, he said this had been common practice over a number of years since 2007/08. He assured Members there was no ambition within the current three-year plan to close Tredegar Sports Centre, within no indication in the five-year plan with the Local Authority budget-wise. It was critical to funding, rather than building on efficiencies and cuts, to consider the outcome of cost savings. All legal discussion were on the certainty of funding

- Assets:

Initial discussions undertaken with the Corporate Management Team (BGCBC) considered a five-year plan regarding a robust programme to provide clarity on the future up to 2019/2024, and the contract with Blaenau Gwent over a twenty year period. Aneurin Leisure looking forward on discussions in respect of the current position in respect of funding following the initial five years into this contract, as the Trust were asked year on year to determine additional savings, which was critical to services.

Aneurin Leisure was the only Trust in Wales not seeing such levels of savings. Challenges being faced included a mutually agreed way forward to satisfy the programme and longevity of the Trust and was already working on proposals with the Director of Education on proposals with schools on a potentially new 3G investment on the site hopefully negotiations ongoing with the Local Authority for the feasibility of the building would be positive.

*Sports Centres:* the Trust considered the Sports Centre more from a community-use aspect rather than generating lots of income. The strategy was proposing the division going forward was that more income would be generated by Ebbw Vale and Abertillery Sports Centres to complement this third asset, i.e. Tredegar Sports Centre. However, he highlighted the point that without knowing the intentions of the Local Authority, then if the Trust had to make substantial financial savings then all services would have to be 'put on the desk'; next year, the contract sought savings of £86,000, with further savings of £330,000 - savings of £150,000 had therefore been agreed upon leaving savings of £236,000 of the next year. The Managing Director thereupon outlined savings required by similar Trusts, such as Newport, which put in perspective how challenging it was for Aneurin Leisure Trust to survive and grow.

*Bedwellty House:* this was operating well and the Trust was very proud of this asset, with many positive comments received. The House Manager was working with local police, however, in respect of the problems experienced of anti-social behaviour and damages caused. Currently, no major investment plan was envisaged with more of the same services, weddings and bringing in business to use the rooms in the House - twenty five weddings were already booked for the current year, with a further eighteen already booked.

*Parc Bryn Bach:* investment proposed included an aqua park on the lake, as it was felt this would work on this site as a real attraction, with an earmarked start for April 2018. Bodysuits would be provided at the start of the season for participants. Data reflected that visitors were not staying on site long enough and activities were needed to 'hook them', such as the pedaloes, kayaks, canoes and wall climbing. These activities needed to be visible and visitors able to physically see these available for use; therefore spend per footfall needed to increase. At a recent Heads of the Valleys Taskforce meetings, the need to promote this with Welsh Government was recognised, particularly for people to live, visit and stay. Parc Bryn Bach was therefore seeking grant funding for existing youngsters to invigorate the Park and some kind of accreditation was needed, particularly in meeting latent demand, therefore such accreditation was critical to the Park.

A Member said that she had raised the concern in respect of the Christmas closure and she was aware of constituents who, unable to access Ebbw Vale Sports Centre, were now members of the gym in the town centre. In respect of the Christmas closure, she said this should be undertaken on a rotation basis with the Sports Centres based in Ebbw Vale and Abertillery, as some people were unable to drive.

The Chair said that the Managing Director should understand that, as Town Councillors, Members were taking the brunt of these complaints. Over a five-year period, the Sports Centre had lost the bar and there was nowhere for visitors to access a hot drink or sit and chat. The Managing Director said this was a twenty year contract and it would not be possible to invest immediately in all sites. there were also barriers, Blaenau Gwent were reluctant to invest in those sites at present but he was more than happy to meet again following those discussions with the Authority. He confirmed that Tredegar had not been the only Sports Centre to lose such facilities, as Abertillery had closed also due to lack of income generated; however he recognised that parents had no spectator facilities when accompanying children to Tredegar. Members highlighted they were aware of parents now taking their children to Merthyr Tydfil for swimming lessons rather than Tredegar Sports Centre because of the lack of facilities.

A Member referred to the children's play area at Parc Bryn Bach, enquiring of any plans to address the condition; the Managing Director said there was no direct investment allocated within 2018/19, however he was unaware of any criticisms being fed back. The caravan area required investment also and The Trust needed sufficient time to invest in both. Unfortunately, since taking over the contract, Aneurin Leisure had been asked for a further £100,000 and had to work constantly to be given more time to invest. if the Trust did not have such challenges, Aneurin Leisure could not build up enough reserves to pump back into the business and this took significant effort on the part of the Trust and therefore expectations was that only so much could be invested to encourage visitors to spend money, e.g. glamping pods.

Another Member highlighted the lack of refreshments, as people were unaware when the facility was open and the paths required urgent clearing up. As public would not use the amenities there if not maintained. The Managing Director said a first class service was provided for visitors, with a five star rating on Trip Advisor and very good feedback was being received on activities within Parc Bryn Bach; however, he would take on board concerns regarding opening times. The Director also reported positive news that The Trust as working with Snack Shack to provide refreshments, commencing spring.

Councillor A.E. Tippings arrived at this juncture of the meeting (6.30 p.m.)

A Member suggested closer working arrangements was needed between the Trust and Local Authority; he recognised the concerns in respect of Tredegar Sports Centre, and acknowledged that Bedwellty House and Parc Bryn Bach were operating well, but referred to The Lodge within Bedwellty Park, enquiring if Lottery Funding was a possibility. The Managing Director explained there was so much competition for so little funding, proposals would have to be bespoke and there could be a need to pool together resources and consider on a smaller scale. The Member highlighted the importance of advertising / marketing to raise the profile of Parc Bryn Bach; for example, Tredegar Town Council had previously sponsored golf tournaments for schools on the driving range.

in response to a question raised, the Managing Director confirmed that the School on the site used the Sports Centre on a daily basis having priority usage and The Trust was working with Headteachers on this aspect; working with the PSB on use for those with disabilities, increasing the number of patrons with physical / learning difficulties; and also making good

use of the outdoor pitch. This work also linked into the well-being agenda, with the Sports Development Team considering ways to get children active. This was pivotal in engaging with users to ensure more activity, more often, to access funding and undertake projects.

The Chair thereupon reiterated the importance of ensuring refreshments could be provided at Aneurin Leisure sites, as he was aware of charities deciding on alternative venues due to the lack of provision.

Concerns were raised on behalf of an absent Member, who had experienced difficulty with parking provision in the vicinity of Ebbw Vale Sports Centre when attending an evening event, as only the ground floor of the multi storey car park had been open. The Managing Director said this had been an error on the part of the Local Authority and Aneurin Leisure had raised this issue with Blaenau Gwent on a number of occasions when holding evening events.

In respect of a question raised regarding advertising undertaken outside the Blaenau Gwent area, the Managing Director said that an agreement had been reached with a company called Limeface to use them to carry out leaflet drops, promoting services as far as Merthyr Tydfil and Newport, also using social media. The Member felt that Tredegar Town Council had a relationship to be proud of with the Local Authority and suggested that the Town Mayor could be utilised for events, particularly as the Local Authority no longer had a mayoral role, to forge even greater links. The Managing Director commended Tredegar Town Council, particularly as one of the most pro-active, and thanked Members for grant funding allocated, and welcomed this continued partnership working.

In respect of toilet facilities provided at Parc Bryn Bach the Managing Director would speak to the Commercial Director to provide appropriate feedback. Members suggested a few options that could be considered without incurring too much cost.

The Chair thanked the Managing Director for attending; the update has proven positive but he suggested that Aneurin Leisure could consider promoting other sports, such as snooker, perhaps speaking with Mark Williams to form some kind of partnership. The Director welcomed engagement with adult ambassadors and Patrons of The Trust and any help in building services. The Chair confirmed his support as Town Mayor of Tredegar in 2018.

Town Council thereupon thanked the Managing Director for a most informative presentation, who thereupon left the meeting.

### **289) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

The Mayor had extended her apologies due to work commitments, which were unavoidable.

### **290) Grants:**

**Friends of Valleys Karate: Thanks for grant & photograph** – to be placed on TTC website.

#### **a) To receive and consider grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations**

Gwent Defibbers – To assist with the costs relating to the continued promotion of basic life support in Tredegar; visiting schools/clubs/library and literate.

**2016/17 March 2017 CQ No. 705565 £200.00: Approved.**

Tredegar Twinning Association – To assist with the costs relating to Orvault visitors' excursions to sites of cultural/social aspects of our community and Wales.

**2016/17 Jan 2017 CQ No. 705538 £800.00 (regular £200 grant plus Special grant):**

Approved £200.00.

- b) To receive and consider grants to Churches & Chapels (s.137) - Grants as of 1.4.17 now max £300.00 – None received**

## **291) Correspondence**

### **1) BGCBC**

*Councillor T. Smith declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

- a) H. Jones Re: Taxi Licences. Response to query raised by Council.

- Members expressed concern in respect of the proposed licence increase that no increase had been allowed in respect of the 'cap' of taxi fares; taxi drivers had enquired if Council were aware of this. A Member highlighted that one of the conditions of the Charter was that Town and Community Councils should be kept informed on such issues. Council therefore considered if an increase occurred in respect of licensing, a similar percentage should be allowed for taxi drivers to increase their fares, should they so wish.

Members emphasised this feedback should highlight increased petrol cost, increased maintenance costs and licensing increase also, as Tredegar Town Council supported all businesses.

- b) J. Waite Re: War Memorial. Planning permission not required.

- Noted; Clerk to seek clarity in respect of the lamp-post and progress once response had been received.

- c) A. Watkins Re: Deighton Playing Field/Sirhowy Garden. Preparing grass cutting requirements, will Council be requiring a Grounds SLA?

- Town Council agreed, in principle, to the SLA for the forthcoming summer season 2018, subject to consideration of the estimated cost.

- d) S. Smith, Planning
  - i) Re: Tredegar Company Shop update.
  - ii) Re: Planning Issues. Responses to the actions points raised as a result of the Planning Aid training and an offer of a meeting to discuss issues and copy of the Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan also received separately.
  - Noted; forward to Planning representatives.
  
- e) P. Amos Re: General Data Protection Regulation. Following meeting held 30.01.2018 copies of the Information Commissioners guideline.

  - Noted; forward to Leader and Deputy Leader.

  
- f) S. Jones Re: Ebbw Vale Enterprise Loan. Asking for feedback/opinions on why the uptake of the loan for property enhancement works as been low.

  - Noted; Members considered this loan scheme was outside the remit of the Tredegar area and therefore not applicable.

  
- g) Cllr N. Daniels, Re: The Blaenau Gwent We Want. Currently considering all responses received, final well-being plan is to be launched in Summer 2018.

  - Noted.

  
- h) Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan (Adopted Nov. 2012) – Review now completed and Council has determined that it is necessary to update the Plan by way of the full revision process.

  - Noted.

  
- i) Cllr Trollope: Copy of public speaking protocol at Planning Committee.

  - a Member expressed disappointment that the nominated TTC representative had not attended the meeting of the Planning Committee (BGCBC) and not informed the office / Members in order that the Reserve could be in attendance to speak on behalf of Council.

The Member had been allowed to speak on the planning application, which he had done to the best of his ability under the circumstances.

It was agreed that a copy of the protocol be forwarded to Councillor G. James, for information.

*Councillor T. Smith declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

- j) i) List of licensing applications week ending 19.01.2018.
    - a) Bedwellty Park Bowls Club – replacement Club certificate.
    - b) The Cambrian – temporary event notice.
  - ii) List of Licensing Applications week ending 02.02.2018.
    - Noted.
- 2) One Voice Wales
- a) Review of the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan (2007-2022): Review process has commenced but the formal public consultation until June 2018. Representations on the way forward before the statutory process begins can be made by 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
    - Noted; forward to Councillor M. Turner.
  - b) Budget preparation 2018/2019 advice relating to Members Allowance.
    - Noted.
  - c) Welsh Government's Bee Friendly Scheme and how to gain official accreditation.
    - Noted; forward to Councillor A.E. Tippings.
  - d) Press Release: UK & Welsh Governments agree new Welsh taxes ready to go.
    - Noted.
  - e) Public sector watchdog seeks feedback from general public and key stakeholders on a revised code for auditors, consultation ends 26.03.2018.
    - Noted.
- 3) Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
- a) Response to concerns raised regarding Tredegar Health Centre.
    - Members said that letters should have been forwarded to all patients, providing up-to-date information in respect of Tredegar Health Centre. Problems had been experienced in respect of

patients receiving repeat prescriptions, as no longer under the remit of the Doctor under the new system.

Council requested the timescale in respect of the new Health and Well Being Centre; Members offered their thanks for this information and asked that all patients of the surgery be kept updated also. Members also enquired of contingency plans in place if no Doctor was in residence by the deadline, as patients were concerned that the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board could 'wind down' this surgery, should those Doctors also have residences in Ebbw Vale and Rhymney.

It was therefore agreed that an invitation be extended for a representative of Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to attend a formal meeting of Council to provide an update on primary health care for the Tredegar area.

- b) Talk Health Borough Forum Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 between 2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. at Llanhilleth Institute. Those interested in attend must register – **added to website**

- Councillor D. Howells to attend on behalf of Council; Clerk to forward information.

#### 4) Tredfest

Asking Council if they would like to display a pop up banner at the rounds of the Battle of the Bands competition and could someone be put forward as a judge for the final at Kidz R Us on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> March.

- Noted; Mayor to undertake role of judge. Clerk to ascertain the damaged pop up banner could be re-skinned.

#### 5) Welsh Government

Review of Community and Town Council Sector in Wales: Independent Review Panel Engagement Event "My Community My Council" in Cardiff Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. Link included in email to book: **2 places available.**

- Noted; Leader and Deputy Leader would have attended on behalf of Council but unfortunately this date / time clashed with previous commitments.

- 6) Office of the Future Generations Commissioner  
 Future Generations Framework: first version of the interactive tool and guidelines are available and feedback on this first version is welcome.  
 - Noted; forward to Councillor T. Smith.
- 7) Orvault visit:  
 a) Cllr Tippings: Feedback / suggestion on how to support Twinning.  
 b) Tredegar Twinning Association: Copy of email sent to Orvault confirming next year's visit dates and this year's availability with families.  
 - Noted; Councillor Tippings requested that her feedback / suggestion to Twinning, which the Clerk confirmed she would be happy to undertake.
- 8) D. Owens  
 Returning cheque issued for Cancer Research in respect of M O'Sullivan.  
 - following discussion it was agreed that a cheque be re-issued in respect of Cancer Research and a covering letter, together with a s.a.e., be passed to the Leader for Mrs. O'Sullivan.
- 9) War Memorials Trust  
 Following a recent site visit it was noted that some of the pointing has failed around the name panels and the gilding on the lettering as started to deteriorate. Encourages Council to undertake these works and happy to provide advice on proposals we may wish to follow.  
 - it was agreed that factual information in respect of the products utilised by Dudley's for cleaning of listed buildings / monuments be ascertained, for further consideration.  
  
 A Member expressed concern that Tredegar met all costs on the war memorial, however he said that funding had been received from Blaenau Gwent in respect of the war memorial in Abertillery, and felt Tredegar should receive equitable funding to other town and community councils. The Member was informed that Abertillery Community Council had part funded works, in conjunction with grant funding, and not Blaenau Gwent CBC, as stated.  
  
 A proposal was made, therefore, that Council could write to Blaenau Gwent CBC in respect of available funding for works in order that TTC could budget accordingly. However, it was agreed this could be an opportunity for a request could be

submitted to speak at full Council, during Members' / public questions.

10) GAVO Catering Operative (on profit share basis) role at Beaufort Theatre, Closing date 01.03.2018.

- Noted.

11) R. Taylor-Davies The Valleys That Changed the World: Next meeting 15.03.2018 at Copper Jack, Swansea Marina from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

- Noted.

## 12) PUBLICATIONS

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 26.01.2018, 02.02.2018 and 08.02.2018; Communicorp;

Local Councils Update January / February 2018 Issue 214

– ***distributed to Members***: received.

## 13) AGENDA

Special Meeting of the Council Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; General Licensing Committee scheduled for Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 has been rescheduled to Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Executive Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 Item No. 13 report; Education & Learning Scrutiny Committee Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018 additional item; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 has been CANCELLED and all items will now be presented at the meeting being held Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018; Joint Scrutiny Committee (Budget Monitoring) Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special Environment, Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Democratic Services Committee advance notice of meetings in Executive Room, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 at 11.30 a.m. and Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 at 11.00 a.m.

**Available for Members** – received

*Councillor B Willis declared an interest in the following items and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

## 292) Planning:

### a) Officers Report – Information Only

#### Planning Inspectorate Appeals Update January 2018:

*Councillor G. James declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussions or voting thereon.*

35 & 36 Castle Street, Tredegar: Storage container siting – *Appeals Dismissed*

#### List of Delegated Items determined between 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018:

C/2017/0317 Rear kitchen/WC extension, 29 James Street, Tredegar - *Approved.*

C/2017/0325 Reduce length of lowermost westerly limb, remove dead wood, create a 3 metre buffer with properties, 12 Elmwood Grove, Tredegar - *Approved.*

C/2017/0316 Change of use from a retail unit (Class A1) to a hot food takeaway (Class A3); installation of extraction equipment and minor external alterations, 100 Commercial Street, Tredegar - *Approved.*

C/2017/0328 Single storey rear extension & the rebuild of a domestic garage, Heather View Bungalow, Trefil - *Approved.*

C/2017/0332 Application for prior notification of proposed demolition of Greenacres Hostel and no. 16 St Luke's Road, Tredegar – *Prior Approval not required.*

C/2017/0312 Retention of garden shed, rear boundary wall and internal garden wall, 45 Gwent Way, Tredegar - *Approved.*

#### Planning Applications Report:

C/2017/0143 Proposed residential development (18 dwellings) with associated highways and parking provision for adjacent dwellings (Outline), land at Ashvale Sports Club, Griffiths Gardens, Tredegar – *Recommending planning permission be granted with the recommendations and conditions listed in the report.*

- a Member had attended the Planning Committee meeting in behalf of Tredegar Town Council to voice concerns: the application had been refused, with the reason stated 'Access'.

ii) Weekly register of planning applications: 22.01.2018

### b) Verbal Report of the Planning Committee

### c) Applications

App. No.	Applicant	Proposal
C/2018/0019	Miss C Frowen 13 Pen-y-Bont Tredegar.	Retention of earthworks to re-profile land, Brynhyfryd, Trefil (located South of quarry).

**Observations** - There is no mention of the mature trees which were there, will these be replanted/replaced? Landfill from Ty Tyli / removal of Surveyor's Mound, Brinore used as backfill for this; that material should be returned and reformed as part of the historical landscape.

C/2018/0035	Mr. A. Cooke Tai Calon Community Housing Solis One, Rising Sun Industrial Estate Blaina.	Outline permission for the replacement of a Airey type system houses with 3 new dwellings, 23 and 24 Stocktonville, Tredegar
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**No objections**

**d) Other Planning Matters** - None received.

**293) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park—any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally**

A Member referred to a spate of vandalism within Bedwellty Park, such as the burning of trash bins and damage to the Ice House windows: to raise with local Police to ascertain what was being done in light of this increased vandalism; it was noted that the use of security body cameras could add weight.

**294) Delegates: to receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/Working Parties:**

**a) Joint Committee of Local Councils** – a Member had attended the meeting in respect of the budget. It had been recognised it would prove difficult to ‘balance the books’, with cuts of an additional £6m. Proposals included restrictions on transport for Post 16 for students, whereby a guarantee had been given by a previous Admissions Review, review of Community Options Services, etc. It was anticipated for the next year would be in the region of £7m; services would be subject to further review and job losses. This budget would result in increased council tax across bands A and B of £0.81/95p per week. It was suggested that Council ascertain if an equitable charge was levied for rooms used by Tredegar Town Council and the Registrar service.

**b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales**

**c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** - Councillors T. Smith and E. Jones had attended the meeting in Builth Wells; this had proven to be more of an Area Meeting, looking at planning and challenges.

**d) Tredegar Twinning**

**e) School Governing Bodies - Bryn Bach Primary School:** this had been a really good meeting, including an excellent presentation with Home/School Reading KS2 and Foundation Phase, trying to instil not just reading of books but volume of words, to gain joy from reading - one method implemented related to packs of books containing three activities linked to the books, and making the activities enjoyable. There was a clear distinction in the accelerated reading programme, e.g. those taken home to read for enjoyment to encourage [parents to read for a quarter of an hour each day with children. Clerk to chase up with LEA, Councillor D. Jones as new Governor. Free schools meals had decreased, request if similar statistics across Blaenau Gwent. A Member said that numbers in all schools had decreased; this was associated more with a change in legislation to working tax credit rather than need. It was recognised this would have a significant financial impact on schools. Tredegar Comprehensive was currently the best

'Green' school in Blaenau Gwent, but this could change when categorised against schools based in Monmouthshire. Councillor H. Trollope had met with Alun Davies, A.M., and pointed out this needed to be addressed.

*Deighton Primary School:* congratulate on 'Green' categorisation and Ms. Lisa Hillman nominated for 'Teaching Assistant of the year', letter to individual plus letter to all schools

*St. Joseph's Primary School:* special meeting called due to one of the teaching assistants becoming redundant because of spend, voluntary / early retirement had been agreed.

*Glanhowy Primary School:* since opening of the autistic centre in September, remarkable improvement had been noted. The work being done was very impressive - Councillor T. Smith to provide feedback following the Inspection.

**f) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum**

**g) Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** - all meetings currently appeared to be held in the Hilltop Log Cabin, Ebbw Vale.

**h) Tredegar Business Forum**

**i) VVP / Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – a properly convened meeting had been held last Thursday, Councillor M. Cross had led the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Dai Davies - status quo had been maintained with the same representatives plus Councillor Mandy Moore.

**295) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Boundary Commission proposal: Tredegar to lose one County Borough Councillor, Central and West Ward based on numbers of constituents - Sirhowy three, Georgetown two, Central and West now to be called Tredegar Ward. ]  
Blaenau Gwent proposals: a Member expressed concern that no feedback had been received on reconfiguring Wards and the Local Authority had not liaised with the Town Council on proposals, and of the intention whether to review Town and Community Councils, change of boundaries, impact on numbers, etc.
- Litter pick, Trefil – to be held Saturday morning, commencing 10.00 a.m.
- Serious concerns were raised in respect of youngsters running riot. There had been armed Police in Tredegar - Cefn Golau, last week, and in The Circle; and the week before, Commercial Street.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.18 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair