

Five Councils' Liaison Committee Meeting Notes.
Llangattock Community Hall, Wednesday 17th January 2018.

Welcome. The Chairman of Llangattock Community Council welcomed guests, councillors and clerks from the Five Councils area.

1. C Cllr Kathryn Silk spoke about the work of the Independent Review Panel on town and community councils. The Panel is made up of six people who together represent the range of political and functional stakeholders. They recognise that a range of different options for the future may be possible. The C Cllr asked how the 5 councils' engage with their communities? Websites were cited and there was some discussion about how many hits the websites had in a day – comparable data may not be available.

How are vacancies in the 5 councils' advertised? The answer was noticeboards, websites and word of mouth.

There seems to be a need for 'at a glance' information about town and community councils and induction packs for new councillors (although some council already have these) and perhaps for twitter accounts.

The C Cllr asked about taking on further services, such as, swimming pools, leisure centres, refuse, street services, libraries. Torvaen Community Council commissions services from Powys – this may be an example for the future. There were concerns over the precept level with the need to fund any devolved services – but if people want the services then they will be prepared to pay for them. The C Cllr urged councillors and clerks to respond to the four questions below and thanked the meeting for the discussion.

1. What should Community and Town Councils be responsible for?
2. How should they operate?
3. What's standing in their way to deliver for the local community?
4. How do local councils ensure they best represent their local community?

PSCO Billy Dunne reported problems in Cwm Du and District - a memorial stone and bench were vandalised.

2. Peter Blood, a director of LGV, spoke about a new energy scheme, making use of locally made energy. The idea was trialled in Bethesda – and Welsh Government are looking for other experienced groups eg LGV. A number of hydro generators agree to supply electricity to customers who agree to buy from one substation (eg Crickhowell) at an export rate (less than consumer price). Electricity charges will vary during the day with breakfast and evening cost being higher than day and night charges. There will be an optimal number of customers, which is not yet determined. The energy club will be independent of LGV, and negotiate prices with suppliers.

At the moment LGV are looking for expressions of interest from consumers. The consumers would have to be checked against Crickhowell sub-station's list of customers. The area supplied by Crickhowell sub-station is quite large; parts of Llangattock, parts of Llangynidr part of Bwlch, Tretower and Cwm Du, Llanbedr and Crickhowell. The call for expressions of interest will be launched in the next few weeks, tariffs will be known before the final commitments.

Information will be sent to the clerks, SD to send Mr Blood clerks contacts.

3. Llangattock Depot (the former salt depot on the Gilwern Road) is an open space with much of that space being unoccupied at present. It could be a useful space for the future.

4. Brecon Advice Centre is not part of the Citizens' Advice Bureau. VoG would like the other council to consider a combined donation.
5. Duke of Edinburgh participant are not experienced at reading maps and more generally

- following the countryside code, for example closing farm gates.
6. Parking restriction on lay-bys in Crickhowell appear to have led to increased pressure on other free parking. "Carmen's information" will be circulated by Phil.
 7. Youth councils are being encouraged by Welsh Government, to bring young people on to councils. Has anyone any thoughts on the future? We need to use councillors expertise to engage and inspire young people, via social media?
 8. Any other business?
 - A group of volunteers will pick up litter and plastic bottles in the woods near the school.
 - Llangattock Litter pickers have found that there is not much support for a Crickhowell litter picking group.
 - Alcohol related litter is a problem, how do we educate people not to litter? Possibly by a plastic bottle return scheme? C Cllr Jackie Charlton volunteered to act as a communication point for areas needing litter picking.
 - Parking in Crickhowell (see also item 6), should there be yellow no-parking lines in Standard Street? Could the allotments make additional parking?
 - Llangynidr Bridge is half in the ward of Cwm Du and District and yet no-one has sought the opinions of the Community Council over this problem. Llangynidr Community Council will be informed by SD Clerk.

Sue Dale (SD)
Job share clerk with Kay Bailey
Llangattock Community Council
01874 730 202