

# CYNGOR CYMUNED LLANDEILO FERWALLT BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING



BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY FULL COUNCIL - 30/09/24 AT 19:00

CHAIR: L ELLIS

CLERK: ANTHONY JONES

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**Present:** L. Ellis, N. Matthews, B. Ball, R. Brace, S. Dunce, S. Gates, H. Hartshorn, A. James, J. Jones, Cllr L. Jones, C. Scott, I. Shemilt, L. Sudbury.

## **Gateway to Gower (G2G) Presentation**

### **Overview of G2G**

Gateway to Gower (G2G) is a community-led initiative, supported by Menedd and Community Council. The project focuses on reducing isolation, tackling loneliness, and promoting mental and physical well-being through activities that foster community cohesion and skill-sharing.

### **Current Status:**

- G2G was established on 15 January 2024, and has grown to 43 participants, with at least 10 attending each session.
- Sessions include various activities such as woodworking (bird boxes, benches), crafting, and outdoor activities.
- The group encourages skills-sharing, including heritage skills, and offers informal networking, signposting members to relevant support services.
- G2G has been actively involved in local events, such as the Mayday celebrations and the Gower Show, to raise awareness and increase participation.

### **Achievements:**

- G2G has benefited from PR support through flyers and posters, with SCVS being instrumental in promoting the project.
- The group is collaborating with local organisations and exploring partnerships with repair cafés and similar initiatives.

### **Future Plans:**

- G2G is planning further activities, including printmaking and more woodworking sessions. They aim to secure a permanent shared space with fixed workbenches, avoiding the need to pack away equipment after every session.
- With the approach of winter, they are preparing to create a warm, welcoming space for their activities.

### **Challenges:**

- The group is experiencing storage issues due to growth. They have outgrown their current storage solutions and are seeking additional space to store tools, including a donated table saw.

### **Community Engagement and Support:**

- G2G has received significant community support, and discussions are ongoing regarding potential grant funding and collaborations with local businesses
- The group continues to expand and aims to strengthen community ties by addressing local needs.

### **Next Steps:**

- Explore further storage solutions to accommodate the growing group.
- Continue collaborating with the Community Council and other organisations to enhance activities and secure a permanent space.
- Increase community engagement through ongoing promotion and participation in local events.

Formal notice of thanks given to Bishopston Community Council for supporting the project.

## **1. Apologies**

K. Laurence, N. Lomas

## **2. Declarations of Personnel and Prejudicial interest**

S Gates - Pump Track

S Dunce – Common land / Pump Track

B Ball – Gateway to Gower.

## **3 . Approval of minutes of the previous meeting 26/07/24**

Approved

## **Actions**

### **Actions from Site Safety:**

- Request regular police presence.

A formal committee was established to focus on site safety and develop a reporting process. However, the progress has been disrupted, due to the police contact not being able to attend a meeting. N Matthews to organise a meeting with the police.

- Form a committee to focus on site safety and create a reporting process.

A formal committee was established to focus on site safety and develop a reporting process. information has been provided on site safety by H Hartshorn and will be included in newsletter and website when checked.

### **Action from Methodist Hall Update:**

J. Jones to schedule a meeting to discuss potential collaborations and report back to the full Council.

- J Jones has been in discussions with Rev Andy regarding forming a subcommittee for collaboration. Progress is delayed due to Andy's availability, but further discussions are expected when he returns from a trip.

## **4. Planning**

### **Application 2024/1567/FUL - 151 Bishopston Road**

Objection: Concerns raised over overlooking neighbouring properties and potential issues with vehicle movement due to the bend in the road.

### **Application 2024/1616/FUL - 10 Broadmead Crescent**

Approval: Suggest extended dropped kerb, to be implemented prior to and during construction.

2024/1567/Ful 151 Bishopston Road – Object – Overlooking properties / concerned: issues due to the bend vehicle moments

## **5. Accounts for Approval July / August**

Approved – subject to changing the adding of totals as the precept was not added in the final total.

Thanks to N Lomas, A James, S Gates to offer support with Excel.

## **6. Community Bus**

- The community bus service is now in credit, with the bus company owing the council £39, marking a first in the service's history. Regular meetings with the bus service have ensured transparency in billing and operations.

- The council is considering applying for a £5,000 grant to enhance the service by introducing an evening or Saturday service. However, this is contingent on DANSA advising on staffing levels, as they are currently facing challenges in recruiting additional drivers.
- A new, more welcoming community bus design was discussed, with the council favouring design option 3. However, the final decision rests with DANSA, the bus operator. This redesign could potentially be funded by a grant.
- Additionally, the council is exploring the possibility of producing promotional videos to highlight the community benefits of the bus, which could also be funded by the grant. These videos will help raise awareness and encourage more residents to use the service.

## 7. Youth Engagement

During the session, Clerk suggested we reflect on how it went and consider any ideas for youth engagement to bring to this meeting. S Gates shared she wanted to make some comments and would like them to be minuted :

Six years ago, I introduced a new project to this Council, proposing it to the councillors. Over the space of two years of them coming back to this meeting, they were spoken to with disrespect. The young people involved were ridiculed, laughed at, accused of lying, coercive behaviour and manipulating survey results.

Over the space of two years, they were treated so poorly they left the community council meetings in tears. As a parent, you never want to see young people upset after communicating with adults who should know better. So, I joined the community council, as I never want to see young people—or anyone else—treated like that again. It's important that this Council creates a welcoming environment for everyone, with kindness and positivity at the forefront.

When I joined this Community Council, I promised to change things, but I feel I have failed in that manner. The Youth Engagement Session came after the Children's Commissioner visited the project in the summer. The session was great and proved to be positive and hope the advice will be taken on board.

The proposals provided in our pack on how the council can progress with the Pump Track, completely and utterly do not take the training into consideration. This is concerning, and I hope they are an oversight.

I Shemilt asked for clarity on which meetings the Bishopston Skatepark Project were spoken to with disrespect. S Gates advised all the meetings they have attended. I Shemilt, advised he has attended all meetings with the project and advised they were treated with dignity and respect. S Gates advised she did not want to name names but advised I Shemilt that he was one of the members of the community council who advised members of the project that they were liars.

S Gates advised we need to ensure we are setting an example for our community and taking responsibility for past issues. It's not acceptable for young people to feel intimidated in any manner. S Gates advised she felt I Shemilt's comments were unfair. I Shemilt requested an apology off S Gates for being called a liar.

J Jones advised she respects and is sorry for the information shared by S Gates. J Jones advised that she shared stern words across the table to people who she felt were being disrespectful to the young people and not giving them a fair shout. J Jones advised that those people are not around this table now. J Jones advised when I look around the table now, I see that not very many of them. The Council looks very different now. S Gates agreed.

C Scott advised the council is being perceived from the past actions of that council.

J Jones advised she did not agree with C Scott, as the people in the council who were negative towards the project do not sit around this table anymore. C Scott advised we need to tell the young people that.

J Jones requested that we need to start showing each other a little bit more respect and consideration. J Jones advised she takes great exception to anybody suggesting for one moment that she disrespected young people. J Jones advised she was sad to see people on Facebook say that the Community Council is anti-youth. J Jones advised having members of the public come to the Community Council and sit and barrack the Community Council when everything that I have seen has been contrary to what is being suggested now, with people young people being supported and encouraged in their ambitions.

J Jones advised that she has provided her own home for meetings to take matters forward for the project. J Jones advised to then have an Ombudsman's complaint from Bishopston Skatepark Project, inappropriately because it didn't follow the complaints mechanism, but to have that complaint made and then on top of that, to have the Children's Commissioner come and tell this Council that they are failing to engage with young people, I take exception to that.

J Jones advised that this Council is as proactive as it has ever been in supporting all elements of our community, Children, young people, elderly people with mental health issues, people who are isolated and lonely, and everybody in between.

J Jones advised it is a far better council now than the one I joined, and felt the council is in great danger of just fighting amongst each other and disrespecting each other.

C Scott advised he did not feel he was disrespecting and agreed with the comments made by J Jones. C Scott advised he has been trying to advocate for Bishopston Skatepark Project for the last 2 - 3 years for the Community Council to support the motion that they unanimously voted for since 2018 to support the Bishopston Skatepark project by getting planning to submit for the pump track.

C Scott advised if we can't do that then people who support the project can't voice their support. The people who object to the project can't object, and all the people that we represent in Bishopston ward know that it's taken us six years to not agree a step forward since we voted to unanimously support that project 6 years ago.

C Scott advised has been reflecting on this and feels he has failed after a member on community council as we still have not made a decision on the pump track and is reflecting on his position on the community council due to the failure he is feeling.

A James asked if any progress has been made on the Community Council holding a meeting to ask the members of the community what they would like from the council. N Matthews advised that this was to take place before allocating funds for the 2025/2026 precept.

### **Youth Engagement Discussion**

- BCC want to continue collaborations with local schools and youth groups to ensure younger voices are included.
- J Jones noted that partnerships like farming projects with schools were already underway but needed more visibility within the Council.
- N Matthews stressed the need to focus future planning around community feedback, particularly from youth and families. This would be an important consideration in upcoming precept discussions.
- N Matthews proposed using L Ellis community consultation training information as a model to improve engagement for the next precept.

- I Shemilt suggested reviving traditional events like the carnival parade, but the consensus was these have become too complicated to plan due to insurance for floats.
- N Matthews recommended smaller seasonal events (Halloween, Easter) as steps towards greater community engagement.
- Clerk suggested hosting an engagement evening on November 25th, coinciding with the delivery of the newsletter and a council meeting. This would allow public input an hour before the official session.
- N Matthews recommended holding two sessions to accommodate different schedules, proposing afternoon and evening times.
- Virtual and community suggestion boxes to be implemented around the public meeting.
- L Sudbury emphasised the critical need for more volunteers to support council activities and events.
- J Jones highlighted the ongoing difficulty of recruiting volunteers, stressing that without increased participation, events would remain limited.
- N Matthews noted that families often interact with the council during football Saturdays, which could be an opportunity for further engagement.
- BCC could speak to proposed using local groups, like Men's Sheds, as potential sources of volunteers.
- H Hartshorn proposed revisiting the council's action plan to align priorities for the coming year with community needs and available resources.

## **ACTIONS**

- Integrate youth engagement as a standing agenda item.
- Consider precept plans with community input.
- Explore opportunities for family-focused community events.
- Increase volunteer recruitment efforts, potentially through local groups.
- Review the action plan at the next meeting.

## **8. Brief update on Events**

- Discussion on pricing structure for the fireworks event.
- Decision to set adult tickets at £5 and children under 5 free.
- Family ticket to cover 2 adults and up to 3 children priced at £15.
- Online pre-sale of tickets will be trailed to reduce queues on the night.
- Gower Pizza and an In-House Entertainment running burger and a hot dog service
- Hot chocolate will be provided by J Jones.
- Waterlogging of the green is a concern; will block off areas closer to the event.
- Volunteers needed to assist with the event logistics.
- Gates open at 6:15 PM, fireworks at 7:00 PM.
- Online pre-sales may have a small processing fee (~15p per ticket).
- If the event is cancelled, refunds will be processed through the online system without additional fees.

Remembrance Service: Scheduled for Saturday, 9th November at 10:45 AM.

Christmas Carol Service: Scheduled for Wednesday, 18th December at 18:00

## **9. Cllr Lyndon Jones update**

Flooding & Drainage Issues:

- Ongoing drainage issues addressed by City Council engineers.
- Sandbags distributed to affected areas.

### **Street Signs:**

- Replacements ordered and installed in several locations around the village.

### **Spitfire Plaque:**

- Plans to install a plaque commemorating the Spitfire that went down in Providence are in progress.

### **Christmas:**

- Christmas trees and lights have been ordered.
- New CCTV cameras installed following repeated vandalism of the Christmas lights over the past three years.

## **10. Correspondence/Clerks Report**

### **Complaint from BSP via Ombudsman**

- During the summer break the Bishopston Skate Park project made a complaint to the Ombudsman regarding the community council. Complaint was rejected by the Ombudsman and Clerk had to respond to their complaints. The complaint and response was shared during the summer break. The Bishopston Skatepark project did not respond to the complaint response.

### **Welsh Water**

- Welsh Water has proposed setting up a community van at Bishopston Community Centre on Monday, 7th October.
- The van will promote water-saving schemes, such as the "Leaky Loo" and offer free repairs and water audits.
- Council agreed for Van to attend the Bishops and Community Centre car park on October 7th. Welsh Water will promote water-saving initiatives, including free water efficiency devices and repairs for leaking toilets.

### **Pump Track Concerns**

Resident expressed concerns about the potential noise and nuisance caused by the pump track on Newton Green, citing legal regulations (Commons Act 2006).

### **C Scott Update**

C Scott is stepping down from the biodiversity team and finance committee due to other project commitments. Acknowledgment and thanks were expressed for his work.

### **Drainage Issues**

- Ongoing drainage problems discussed, particularly in Murton and around the Community Centre car park. The grass bank along the road is contributing to flooding issues by diverting water. Mike Sweeney from the City Council has been involved, and plans are underway to widen the drainage system.
- Quarterly jetting suggested to prevent blockages, with the next cleaning scheduled before the Christmas period.

### **Traffic and Speeding Concerns**

- Resident raised concerns about increased traffic and speeding along Mansfield Rd, especially since the pandemic. The council acknowledged the issue but noted that traffic calming measures and speed cameras are under the jurisdiction of the highways authority. Further inquiries will be made regarding funding for speed control measures

### **Tribute to Former Councillor**

- The council agreed to flowers of recognition to Colin Jones for several years of service.

## **Anna's Coffee Cart Proposal**

- Summary: Anna has requested a renegotiation of her pitch fee. Currently, she pays £1.00 per day for electricity and 10% of her profits. Anna proposes a fixed monthly fee of £200 instead of 10% of her takings, citing increased costs and the desire to keep her prices affordable for the local community.

### **Discussion:**

- The group discussed the previous agreement of 10% of profits, which had been invoiced from April to November.
- Questions were raised about the actual amount Anna would have paid under the 10% agreement and whether switching to a fixed fee might be less profitable for the Council.
- Concerns were raised that Anna's other activities (catering events, selling cakes, jewellery, etc.) might influence her profit margins, and clarification on this is needed.

### **Action Items:**

- Cllr Lyndon to Inquire on additional traffic calming measures and funding for speed control cameras.
- Confirm and arrange jetting of drainage pipes before bonfire night.
- Formal recognition for Colin's service as a former councillor to be sent.
- Cllr L Jones to speak to Robbie Meredith to see if any drainage work can be done for the active travel track.
- Clerk to speak to current grounds contractors to see if they can improve the drainage from the water running from our car park and on to Murton Green Road.
- Request Anna to provide details of her 10% takings for comparison with the proposed £200 monthly fixed rate and further discussion needed before any agreement changes.

## **11.AOB**

### **Newsletter Committee**

- The current state of the newsletter was discussed, with K Lawrence providing a single article so far, which may not be appropriate to be used.
- Various topics, such as a drainage update, were suggested for inclusion.
- Discussion over who would handle editing responsibilities, which have traditionally fallen to the clerk.

### **Action Items:**

- All contributors should submit articles by the end of the week to ensure timely publication. .

## **12. Project updates:**

### **Active Travel Track**

- The Chartered Surveyor is scheduled to meet with Swansea Council in mid-October to discuss revised plans. All service costs will be covered by Swansea Council.

### **Action Items:**

- Await updates following the mid-October meeting for further discussion.

### **Community Park Update**

- Cllr L Jones advised funding will be with Community Council soon for Wellfield. Clerk has chased Swansea LA prior to meeting after filling paperwork for the funds.

### **Murton Play Park:**

- Park is looking less than desirable. Clerk contacted a company for grant funding options.
- Discussion on the possibility of relocating the park to a less waterlogged area or improving the current surface.

### **Pump Track**

The Chair opened the discussion by thanking attendees for their feedback. C. Scott shared some prior feedback. Before the council discussed a possible plan to adopt going forward, S Gates wished to make some comments before she left the meeting.

The Youth engagement training that we all had was to really understanding what children's rights were. For those who didn't attend the training the session was provided by Kath O'Kane who represents the Children's Commissioner of Wales.

We discussed in more detail the United Nations Convention on Rights for Children. There are 42 rights and as a community council we have to really look at what rights we need to be supporting. There were key rights within there and I think that really applies to how we look at the proposals and forward with any suggestions.

(In reference to the two proposed plans) The first thing to note is on the first page it talks about the summary/overview on what we know. It is key to note here that the biggest thing that we didn't know before was the scheme of regulation and what surrounds the scheme of regulation. The scheme of regulation was clearly set out, so the Community Council were given this land for the purpose of recreational pleasure and leisure.

So as custodians of that land, it is up to us to make sure that that land is used exactly for those purposes, and that is what has come out of the scheme of regulation. All the other things like the Community council giving proposals for projects to have the opportunity to develop the land. Commoners to give permission on land, going through normal planning, and going to Welsh Government, all those things are now known if they were not already before.

I have to laugh when the document (proposed plans) talks about projects being unlawful and we can't give permission for projects to go ahead without all the planning. I think that's a given. What people are asking for and have been asking for six years is for the Community Council to be supportive of the project proposal and that's it.

So that's all they're asking, all of the other things that the legal documents support that are the same and in fact, the only thing that it has brought out is that we as a Community Council have to make sure that this land is used for recreational pleasure and leisure facilities.

All I would say is there's one thing that we've got to discuss here, and it is do we still support the pump track in principle, or do we not support it?

Plan one, goes into lots of detail. Lots of the information looks like a textbook, but it's actually a complete slap in the face to the project team who has spent a considerable amounts of time on consultations. They have spent a lot of time engaging the public in the community, working with local schools and they've had lots of publicity around it. They're fully supported by Swansea council. Work has also been done by N Mathews who spent a long time pulling together a community council consultation on this, so I don't understand what this first proposal talks about when everything in this list has already been done, so I don't understand why proposal one has been made as a suggestion.



Plan 2, it talks about advising the project they can submit planning application without the consent of BCC. The community council supports the project in principle but can't grant permission due to legal advice received.

The Community Council must make a juncture at this point. They must make decisions after 6 years and not being in a position for whatever legal reason, planning, consultation for whatever reasons. Nobody in the Community Council has made the decision to fully support this project or not fully support the project.

I think now we're at the point where if we choose to fully support the project, we are engaging with the youth groups who are fully aware of everything that needs to be done. They are working closely with Swansea Council. There is not a mention in the proposals of the master plan which Swansea Council has put in place which has said that they support this site and fully fund this site, should the planning be successful, and the Welsh Government planning also be successful. That hasn't even been discussed or mentioned.

The plan talks about what the project does and what BCC does. We've talked a lot about how successful projects (Community Bus and Gateway to Gower) all worked in collaboration. This is about if you agree as a Community Council for this project to go forward, you sit down with all the stakeholders. The project, Swansea City Council, the people who are managing the facilitation of the survey, which looks after the funding of the master plan and forge a way forward.

The decision that needs to be made is do you support or if you don't support. If you choose to support it, the only way to support a project and manage a project successfully is to collaborate with it. There's lots of information here about expecting a youth group to pay for these things. That's ridiculous if this Community Council supports the proposal, then they collaborate and work it out together. The documents provided by the project have not been included in the plan.

S Gates asked the clerk if everybody had received it. The clerk advised it was emailed to all council members by the Bishopston Skatepark Project.

2 members of the council advised they had not received it. One due to email being hacked and one due to not setting up their council email account.

### **S Gates shared a link to the document on Bishopston Community Council WhatsApp group.**

S gates requested that the community council read because they have put lots of documents together and it took lots of time to create.

Chair and Clerk thanked S Gates.

S Gates left the meeting as she is not permitted involvement in the discussion around the pump track.

### **Legal Feedback and Challenges:**

- One Voice Wales made it clear that due to receiving legal guidance and then to go against that by support the project to submit a planning application would be unlawful.
- The proposed plan created by RFC was checked by One Voice Wales and initially approved. Upon reflection, One Voice Wales felt that the council needed to have options and for another plan to be formed. One Voice Wales suggested contacting Swansea Planning department to ask questions.

- One Voice Wales provided legal feedback stating the plan was deemed unlawful under current regulations.
- Feedback from One Voice Wales suggested that multiple plans were necessary to address and adhere all legal concerns. Clerk was to give the council options. Clerk advised that these are options, and your discussion at tonight's meeting, you may formalise another plan that would need to be approved by One Voice Wales.
- Legal advice has stressed the importance of thoroughly vetting any future plans for legality before progressing. The Council does not have the authority to support the project under current conditions.
- Multiple locations, including Murton Green and adjacent sites, were considered. The Council has consistently rejected the middle site based on both community feedback and legal constraints.
- L. Ellis emphasised that the Council has never formally agreed to a pump track on the middle site, a point that has been reiterated to the project team.
- L. Sudbury raised concerns about past planning decisions and the extensive discussions around developing Copley Woods.
- H. Hartshorn reiterated the Council's support for youth projects in principle but emphasised adherence to legal guidance.
- L. Ellis thanked the clerk for his efforts in coordinating of getting the information needed for the current plans that may be adopted.
- The Council unanimously agreed that while they support the principle of the project, they must find a lawful path forward.
- The council did not consider plan one or plan two, as in both plans the project be on Murton Green and this is going against the legal advice we have been given.

#### **Alternative Site Considerations:**

- The Council agreed to revisit potential site options, Copley Woods, where Welsh Assembly permission was granted for an Active Travel Track.
- Swansea Planning Department will be consulted to explore alternative locations and revisit previous decisions.
- L. Sudbury suggested safety measures such as speed bumps and proper crossings to mitigate traffic risks for children using the track. This was supported by the Council.
- J. Jones advocated for considering the broader community's needs, ensuring fairness for all age groups in the village.
- It was emphasized that while objections were raised against specific sites, a suitable alternative must be found within legal boundaries.
- C. Scott raised queries regarding the phrasing of the legal advice, noting some ambiguity about the Council's ability to support the project.
- The Clerk was tasked with drafting a formal response to the pump track project, stating that while the Council supports the principle of having a pump track, they cannot currently support the planning application due to legal restrictions.
- The draft response will be reviewed by the full Council for feedback and final approval.
- The Council agreed to continue liaising with One Voice Wales and Swansea Planning Department to clarify legal steps and explore alternative sites.

#### **Action Items:**

- Draft a formal response with an update on the Bishopston Skate Park Project.
- Review and approve the draft response before sending it to the project team.
- Consult Swansea Planning Department about alternative sites for the pump track.

**Next Meeting Date: 21/10/24 @ 19:00**