

Meeting of Economic Group Feb 4th. 2020

AGENDA

- **Apologies for absence**
- **Involvement of local businesses in Christmas festivities.**
- **Siting of benches on Cowbridge Road.**
- **Parking**
- **AoB**

Meeting was held in Café 50 on 04/02/2020 at 6pm.

The following Community Councilors attended:- Gwyn Jackson,(Chairman) Anne Jackson, Paul Griffiths, Karan Lane, Neil Holley and Mike Davies.

The following business people were also in attendance:- Simon Cole - Pipeworks, Beth Giles- Giles Gallery, Lisa King - The Deli, Jessie Knight - Playville/Jollytots Nursery, Lauren Roche - Full Stop Law and Simon Fullbrook -Fullbrook's Bistro.

Apologies for absence were received from Margaret Griffiths.

The meeting was called to discuss the involvement of local businesses in the Christmas festivities around the arranged Christmas Fair to be held on November 28th. at the Athletic Club, the placing of two benches at a suitable location on Cowbridge Road and availability of car parking in Pontyclun.

Christmas Festivities.

Local business representatives were keen to see more activity around the town centre than is currently the case. They felt that visitors to the Athletic Club bypassed their businesses and they were seeking ways to increase footfall. The meeting understood that the festivities were concentrated at the Athletic Club and asked the business representatives to consider ways in which they could attract more people to visit their premises.

It was agreed that a further meeting would be held in one month to discuss their proposals.

Benches.

The Community Council has budgeted to place two benches at suitable locations in the town centre. Local businesses representatives were asked if they had any views on where they might be placed. There was no clear decision made at the meeting but no obvious objection was heard to two possible locations. One outside Anne Williams' Chemist and the other outside the Thirsty Elephant Coffee Shop.

Parking.

The local business representatives were very concerned about their perceived lack of parking spaces in Pontyclun. They felt that their businesses were adversely affected by the lack of spaces in the Community Council car park and the short duration of available parking on the lay-byes on Cowbridge Road. Comments were also made about the reduced availability of parking along the road adjacent to the War Memorial since the Safer Walking Route scheme was completed.

Business owners felt that potential customers were bypassing Pontyclun in favour of other towns where parking was said to be easier.

Discussion regarding the use of the Community Council car park by people travelling to Cardiff indicated that few of these shopped in Pontyclun either on their way to work or on their return. Local businesses would support creating a four hour limit at the car park.

The Athletic Club car park was thought to be a possible solution for local business employees to use as a car park with a fee payable to the Athletic Club. It was suggested that employees could become members of the club and thereby gain free access to the parking. It was also suggested that the Concrete Canvas company may have space for public parking.

The local business representatives were advised that the matters raised at the meeting would be presented to the next Community Council meeting.

AoB

None.

Gwyn Jackson.