

Minutes of the remote **Assets, Resources and Projects Committee**, held via Zoom video-conferencing on **Monday 26th July 2021** at 6.39pm.

PRESENT: -Their Worship The Mayor Councillor Owen Hurcum (joined 7-12pm, left 7-34pm), Councillors: Mair Rowlands (Chair), Medwyn Hughes (Vice Chair), Huw Wyn Jones (*left meeting at 7.52pm*), Enid Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Gareth Roberts, Luke Tugwell (*left meeting at 7.34pm*), John Wyn Williams (joined 6-42pm).
Officers:- Iwan Williams (City Director), Gwynfor Owen (Translator) Sioned Jones (Minutes)

84/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Elin Walker Jones.

85/21 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL INTEREST OR PERSONAL CONNECTION

None.

86/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

87/21 CITY DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

(i)The Pier: the Council had already allocated £10k for work on the Pier and more funding was required. The City Director reported that he was working on another bid for the Heritage Lottery Fund. Unfortunately, the Awyr Las Charity Event scheduled for the 4th September had been postponed and would now take place on 14 May 2022. New signs have been installed on the gates and the main entrance. Local school children have participated in the "Feed the Menai Monster" initiative, and people can vote on their suggestions in the next fortnight. The winning design will then feature on the entrance kiosk, and people can contribute by putting money in the monster's mouth. Volunteers have already started working there as well via Friends of Bangor Garth Pier. The Pier has received a lot of attention on television programmes recently and the next big event will be one by BBC Cymru on 18 August with a Press Release to follow. The linkspan will be taken off the end of the Pier and the pumping station has been installed, with further work involved. £11k has been used to purchase timber to this end.

(ii) £10k has been allocated for cutting grass and a broad agreement has been set up with Gwynedd Council. The City Director showed a spreadsheet of the proposed green spaces responsibilities. He has asked the Highways and Maintenance Department for a document to formalise this agreement but is awaiting a response. He would like to see them undertaking work in more places in Bangor, including Roman Camp and Bangor Mountain.

(iii) £7.5k was allocated for Christmas lights and these now need to be bought or rented. It is intended to ask Bangor First for a match funded contribution.

(iv) Outdoor Market – The City Director had discussed with several external companies and he hoped to have 3 proposals to submit to the Council in its meeting on 6th September.

(v) Green spaces – Improvements have been made to Ashley Fields. Selling Dargie Field could be difficult as it is protected as an open space/playing area, further discussions are required. Urgent work is needed on Menai Woods because of the presence of Japanese

Knotweed and the problem of Ash Dieback. Diana Gardens – it is hoped to tackle these in collaboration with Adra.

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Members requested that a copy of the Excel grass cutting spreadsheet be circulated so that they can see what is happening. There were still concerns about weeds in many parts of the city, and Tai Stesion was referred to as being particularly bad.

The paint on the friendship bench on Penchwintan Road is beginning to dissolve because of the hot weather.

Members expressed concern that there are no plans to start the open-air market before September, thus missing out on the August holiday. The City Director explained that although this is frustrating, setting up the market involves a lot of work – ensuring licences are in place, parking places, logistics etc. A member also expressed the view that the market needs a better selection of goods and stalls when it re-opens.

The “Welcome to Bangor” signs were discussed, and members felt that the one by the crematorium is looking particularly drab. There is a need to make it look more welcoming and put flowers on the triangle where it stands. Some members suggested that it would be an idea to move it slightly to a more attractive location and where it can be maintained easier. The sign by Tesco also needs attention.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (i) That The City Director circulates the grass cutting agreement to members while waiting for a more formal contract.
- (ii) That the City Director investigates costs and possibilities for the “Welcome to Bangor” signs.

88/21 FRIENDS OF BANGOR GARTH PIER ANNUAL PASS PROPOSAL

A paper had already been circulated with a detailed proposal from the Friends. There is a need to raise income for the Pier as only a few visitors make a voluntary contribution. Having volunteers on site and the ‘Feed the Menai Monster’ idea will make a difference. The Friends proposed £5 for an annual pass for LL57 residents, £10 for students, £25 for others. Some issues were raised – namely students only need to show their Bangor University Card, not a Students Union Card; what about children and OAPs? £25 seemed expensive but people with links to Bangor would probably be happy to buy a pass to support the Pier or even as a gift. Who would print the card? Could consider using it for discounts on Pier outlets?

Having discussed these, the members felt that it was worth trialling the scheme and review it after a year, or next Spring. **RESOLVED:** Annual Pass proposal approved. All were in favour.

89/21 COUNCIL 12 MONTH WORK PROGRAMME JULY 2021 – JULY 2022

The City Director had circulated a detailed document, the fruit of previous discussions and the Council’s strategic workshop in June. He reiterated that the three main areas for improvement going forward are the Pier, the Market, the High Street.

There were a few things to add to the documents; Playgrounds, with Councillor Elin Walker Jones leading on the Maestryfan scheme; a decision would be required about moving the Council Yard and the Piermaster’s House, with structural and sea defences work needed on

the house imminently. A new boiler is needed for Penrhyn Hall at an estimated cost of £7,000.

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Members welcomed the report and said that it was very positive. They wished to add extending the Christmas lights to other areas of Bangor. There were other footpaths that needed improving that were used by many people (Briwas, Lôn Pwyllypla).

They felt that a timetable was needed so that things could be seen to be done, although some of the ideas are already under discussion and depend on various grants. The main proposal requiring a timescale was the Christmas lights, they need to be organised as soon as possible. Some felt that there should be more time to discuss this agenda more regularly. The City Director replied that more meetings of the ARP Committee could be arranged in the intervening periods, if necessary.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (i) To approach Bangor First to ask for match-funding for the Christmas lights (£7,500) As there is no meeting of this Committee until the end of September, the City Director to update members through e-mail.
- (ii) To ask the City Director to draw up a rough timetable against the actions.

85/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Councillor Enid Parry had conducted a survey about the High Street, specifically the Menai Centre. The feeling was that people would like to see more leisure facilities, e.g. cinema, bowling alley, climbing wall. It would also be useful to know if the proposed Health Hub is forthcoming. It was felt that the High Street needed to reinvent itself and become more of a social area, even if that meant changing shops' opening hours.

The City Director replied that Gwynedd Council intend putting together a Regeneration Plan for the Bangor area (including Felinheli) in September and that he would discuss with members before then.

It was confirmed that the Escape Rooms in the Council building should be open by Christmas.

The Bangor Strategic Partnership meet quite often and members felt that it would be useful to have an update on all major projects (such as the Health Hub).

There are a number of groups and forums, all with Bangor's interests at heart and it was felt that better communication and passing of information would be beneficial.

The meeting came to an end at 7.57pm

CITY DIRECTOR– Iwan Williams – CYFARWYDDWR DINESIG