

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING, COMMERCE AND ENVIRONMENT (PlaCE) COMMITTEE
OF ABERTILLERY AND LLANHILLETH COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON 6 July 2026
AT 7:02 PM at the Council Offices, Mitre Street, Abertillery.**

PRESENT

Councillors: Barrie Page (Chair), Peter Adamson (non-voting), Richard Catlin, Chris Hill Mark Lewis (via Video link) and Josh Rawcliffe.

Nick Simmons and Rob Phillips from 6:52 pm

Officers: Steve Edwards (Clerk)

Absent: Rob Phillips, Nick Simmons, Lucy Harmer and Ralph Henderson (MBE).

22. Apologies for Absence

None

23. Declarations of Interest or Dispensations

None

24. Minutes – 1 June 2026

The Committee **RESOLVED** to amend the minutes so item 16 second line changes from “Community Assist Transfer to “Community Asset Transfer”

The Committee **RESOLVED** confirm the amended minutes as a true and correct record.

25. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

26. Planning

The work on the Pithead Baths in Llanhilleth should be going ahead next year.

The road down to side of Abertillery Rugby Club is going to be repaired by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council.

27. Working Groups

Empty Properties Working Group: Chris Hill gave an update.

- He had handed Mark Lewis a plan. There has been no action on that part of the plan.
- There are 87 open shops in town
- There are 29 unoccupied shops
- Approximately 264 workers, plus or minus 10%
- The Market Street area is ideal for services as opposed to retail shops
- This needs to be worked into some sort of report and we can then invite the relevant officers from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council to a Committee meeting to discuss.
- There is a planning portal on Blaenau Gwent's website, Councillors should monitor it.
- We need to ensure that our views are considered as part of the new LDP. We already have a LDP working group.

Initial:

Date:

Walking Trails Working Group: In the absence of Rob Phillips, Mark Lewis gave a brief update.

- There were going to be hubs in certain areas (Six Bells, St. Micheals, Cwmtillery Lakes).
- The group wants work closely with Alison Tippings at BGCB who already has done some work.

28. Defibs

The Committee **RESOLVED** that for 2026/27 the Council would install a single solar powered defib unit in the St Itlyds area and we would ask BGCB to install it.

The Committee will review the current five year plan, which has ended, to install 2 new defibs per year when they consider the budget for 2027/28, this may be left for the new Council in May 2027 to decide.

29. Capital Region SDP

The Committee agreed that this was beyond what a small council could handle and it would take a lot of work to put in a proper submission.

30. Town in Bloom

This item was deferred until the next meeting as both Ralph Henderson and Lucy Harmer were unavailable to discuss and talk through the plans.

31. Date of Next Meeting

As required

The meeting ended at 8:05 pm

These minutes were produced by Steve Edwards (Clerk).

Signed as a correct record by the Chair:.....

Dated:.....