

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the **Amenities Committee** held
on Monday, 26 July 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom.

PRESENT: Councillors Menna Jones (Chair), Anne Roberts, Stephen Beach, Heather Williams, Christine Ellis and Mike van der Eijk
Invited attendees: Councillors Jayne Mayers and Dyfan Jones (Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council), and County Councillors Emrys Wynne and Huw Hilditch Roberts

Also present: Eirwen Godden (Clerk for Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council), Siân Clark (Clerk for Ruthin Town Council) and Marian Rees (Translator).

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Gavin Harris and Jim Bryan (Ruthin Town Council), Osian Jones (Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council), and County Councillor Bobby Feeley

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. WELCOME

Cllr Menna Jones warmly welcomed representatives from Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd Community Council to the meeting (for item 4 only) in order to jointly consider the pathway along the Llanfair/Wrexham Road between Ruthin and Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd. The attendance of the County Councillors was also appreciated.

32. LLANFAIR / WREXHAM ROAD

Members considered the current poor state of the pathway between Ruthin and Llanfair, a distance of 1.8km (1.1miles). The pathway was the only viable walkway between Ruthin and Llanfair. Strong concerns were expressed that, over time, the pathway had narrowed significantly due to the encroachment of grass and hedges as a result of poor maintenance. The current condition restricted the accessibility of the path for pedestrians with little opportunity to pass other users other than stepping onto the 60mph trunk road. Pedestrians with prams or wheelchairs were severely restricted. The safety of pedestrians and users was paramount and there was an urgent need to address the current condition of the pathway.

A report, prepared by representatives from Llanfair DC Community Council, included photographs showing the extent of the path's poor condition and provided an indication of the potential width of the pathway.

Consideration was also given to the sightline of drivers exiting Jericho Lane which was extremely impeded by overgrown hedges. Confirmation was given that the County Council was responsible for maintaining hedges prior to September (annually), at which point responsibly would return to the landowner (annually).

Whilst acknowledging the efforts of a local resident to partially clear the pathway, the responsibility for its maintenance resided with the County Council.

Members also discussed the need to address maintenance of the pathways and pavement conditions of other main routes into the town. Concerns were raised about the general neglect of pathways on the main roads leading into Ruthin which impeded their use by pedestrians.

Key points from correspondence received from Denbighshire County Council to County Councillor Emrys Wynne about hedge and grass cutting and pathway maintenance were shared including his response to invite Denbighshire County Council officers to walk the pathways leading into Ruthin, including Corwen Road.

Concerns were raised about the speed of traffic along the main roads, in particular on Lon Fawr together with the state of the fencing.

RESOLVED: (i) That a joint letter from Llanfair DC Community Council and Ruthin Town Clerk to be sent to the County Council regarding the pathway along the Llanfair/Ruthin Road seeking an urgent onsite visit by County Council officers leading to rectifying the pathway. (ii) That a letter be sent from Ruthin Town Council to the County Council regarding maintenance of other pathways along main routes into the town.

33. WELCOME SIGNAGE

Photographs were shared showing some of the main gateway routes into Ruthin. Members stated that there was a need to consider updating the current 'Welcome to Ruthin' signage and the appropriateness of the current locations of the welcome sign e.g on the Denbigh Road. The general number, types and location of signage in and around the town were also considered and it was agreed that an audit of current signage would be done.

The importance of good, clear signage, especially to help draw in visitors and thus raising the local economy, was acknowledged. The outcome of the signage audit, together with information on associated costs and potential options would be considered in due course. Possible available funding (e.g Levelling Up Fund) would also be investigated. Members would take note of other towns' signage to help inform the process. It was noted that the County Council had previously undertaken a signage audit within the town in or around 2015.

RESOLVED: (i) that an audit of current signage (types and locations) in the town be undertaken (ii) that possible sources of funding for signage be investigated, including the Levelling Up Fund.

34. APPEARANCE

Discussions held earlier in the meeting pertaining to the lack of maintenance of pathways and junctions along the main routes into Ruthin also informed this agenda item.

General discussions took place regarding the need to consider common goals for key projects within Ruthin and access any available funding from the Levelling Up Fund. Further discussions would be held between the County Councillors and the Local MP, David Jones, on 9 August, as part of the process. A meeting would be arranged prior to the meeting on the 9 August between the three County Councillors and Town Council representatives to help inform the process of establishing common goals and key projects to inform the Levelling Up Fund process.

The lack of information as to 'What's on in Ruthin' was raised as an issue. It was suggested that supermarkets, which attracted many visitors, could be approached to host an information board for the town which also signposted activities and trails available locally.

RESOLVED: (i) That the issue of maintenance of the pathways along all main routes into Ruthin be included on the next MAG Meeting. (ii) That a meeting be arranged between the three County Councillors and town council representatives prior to a meeting with David Jones MP on 9 August to consider common goals and key projects to inform the Levelling Up Fund process.

35. POLICE STATION GARDEN

Cllr Anne Roberts reported that a response was awaited and that she would also contact North Wales Police locally to seek permission for public use of the Police Station Garden

36. PEDESTRIAN ACCESSIBILITY/SAFETY

It was noted that in-depth discussions on pedestrian accessibility and safety on main entrances into town had been held throughout the meeting. North Wales Police would be in attendance at the Town Council meeting in September.

28. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: *that the date of the next meeting will be Monday 13 September 2021 at 7:00pm.*