

**Bettws Resident Steering Group meeting:
Tuesday 6th June 2023, 5.30pm
Bettws in Bloom**

Minutes

Attendees

NCH: Morgan Goff (MG), Laura Palfrey (LP), Joseph O'Brien (JO), Aimee Coulson (AC), Rachel George (RG), Wesley Ford (WF), Gareth Brunnock (GB), Stephen Williams (SW)

Residents:
21 attended

Apologies:
Glyn Jarvis

1. Summary from Previous Meeting

Morgan welcomed returning and new attendees. New NCH staff introduced themselves to the members.

2. Update on the Discovery Phase

Morgan Goff (MG) shared this month's presentation with attendees, presentation attached.

Q – Resident asked when MG kept referring to 'We', who does that mean?

MG – It means Newport City Homes.

Q – Resident said how he's happy to hear what was being said, as long as we're not forgotten about. What does the statement 'Performance of your home' mean? Is that like, the energy bills, light bulbs etc.

MG – To an extent, yes.

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Capital Works:

Resident mentioned that “this has happened before, and we know it was a cop out back in 2012, ultimately, you’ve got what you wanted. But now, we must increase the standards and that will come at a higher cost than it would’ve back then. How do you know what properties need what work?”

MG – Stock condition surveys shows us any works, that will need to be done.

Q – Why has it taken so long to discover this?

MG – There is uncertainty which we still need to uncover, this is throughout Newport not just in the regeneration scheme in Bettws.

Resident said how he is hopeful and has remained so over the years, but this now feels like a kick in the teeth.

MG – Regen work will stop for the time being, and, we have since commissioned a structural report to be done.

Q – Is it just going to cover City Homes properties or all Bettws?

Q – Why wasn’t this done for the flats, the same time the houses were being done years ago.

MG – I don’t know I’m afraid.

Resident then said how construction has always been done differently on the north side of the estate.

Commercial Units:

Q – Any ideas on what the businesses are of those that are interested in the void units?

MG – No, but I know it will be a business that will compliment the others as opposed to compete.

Church Site:

Resident mentioned how back in the day there had been planning permission for this, as it was a prime bit of land.

Same resident also said how by not updating the estate on what the plans are it’s leaving people to come up with their own conclusions, there are rumours swirling now.

Another resident suggested that they would like a new doctor’s surgery.

RG – The plan is to leave it as it is for now, whilst remaining hopeful that we will be able to come back to it in the future.

Q – Can we put benches or flowerbeds in there, to deter the local teens from vandalising?

RG – The site has been made secure so it shouldn't be a problem.

Q – Did we try to salvage the site before knocking down? It could have been a great space for the community

RG – We did try before, to return them to use, the vicarage in particular, but it wasn't possible.

LP – I can link in with Nathan and Com Dev about community development.

MG – The site is being monitored regularly to make sure it's secure and remains so.

3. Community Update:

Resident mentioned how the school isn't there anymore. Kids and staff are having to travel to Brynglas for lessons and are often sharing classrooms with others. This is having a serious impact on the children's welfare and the staff are also suffering too.

Q – Will the other clubs be moving to the Cwtch then as well?

LP – I'll check and get back to you.

4. Housing Update:

Update was well received and had no queries

5. Communication and Close:

Q – Can you give us a predicted time of when the remedial works on the shop is due to start/finish?

MG – We can look into it.

Q – We need more CCTV as well; we only have two now and we don't know if they even work.

Another resident agreed and stated how these will help stop ASB by the shops.

WF – There is a team that will be going around Newport soon to check and service all existing CCTV. I know the two here work but I'm not sure of the standards.

Q – They don't even face the shops, one of them faces a fence. Did you know that?

LP – Maybe we need to reposition them.

Action – WF to look into how we can incorporate more money into getting more CCTV.

Resident explained how the shopkeepers are the most resilient, but they shouldn't have to be.

WF – We work really well with the police, maybe we need to liaise more with them.

Q – Will be kept up to date regarding any changes/updates in the interim?

LP – Absolutely – We aim to keep these meetings going and just as frequent.

Resident brought up how years ago, they brought the issue of CCTV up and back then, it was cheaper. It's very disheartening to see how the estate has deteriorated in the 58 years they have been here, due to this. She ended by stating how "all we get is promises"

Q – Is it worth keeping these meetings going, for community engagement purposes?

Q – Perhaps, we update the community with a newsletter then too?

LP – Yes, we plan to keep them going.

Update: - The engagement team will lead on these meetings in the future, using the Cwtch space when available.

6. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved with the RSG please contact the customer engagement team on customer.engagement@newportcityhomes.com or via 01633 381111

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on:

TBC

