



***REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE***

10.00 AM FRIDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2021

REMOTELY VIA TEAMS

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

PART 1

1. Welcome and Roll Call
2. Chairs Announcements
3. Declarations of interest
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 5 - 10*)
 - 30 July 2021
5. Report on Community Benefits (*Pages 11 - 40*)
6. Rhondda Tunnel Society Presentation (*Pages 41 - 50*)
7. Pre-Decision Scrutiny
To select appropriate items from the Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)
8. Forward Work Programme 2021/22 (*Pages 51 - 54*)
9. Urgent items
(whether public or exempt) at the discretion of the Chairman

pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972

10. Access to Meetings

To resolve to exclude the public for the following item(s) pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the relevant exempt paragraphs of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

PART 2

11. Pre-Decision Scrutiny of Private Item/s

To select appropriate items from the Private Cabinet Board agenda for pre-decision scrutiny (reports enclosed for Scrutiny Members)

K.Jones
Chief Executive

Civic Centre
Port Talbot

Friday, 15 October 2021

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: **Councillor S.K.Hunt**

Vice

Chairperson: **Councillor R.L.Taylor**

Councillors: D.Cawsey, C.J.Jones, H.N.James, S.M.Penry,
S.Pursey, S.Rahaman, N.T.Hunt, S.Bamsey,
J.Evans and S.A.Knoyle

Notes:

- (1) If Committee Members or non-Committee Members wish to have relevant items put on the agenda for future meetings, then please notify the Chief Executive/Chair eight days before the meeting.*

- (2) *If non-Committee Members wish to attend for an item of interest, then prior notification needs to be given (by 12.00 noon on the day before the meeting). Non-Committee Members may speak but not vote, or move or second any motion.*
- (3) *For pre scrutiny arrangements, the Chair will normally recommend forthcoming executive items for discussion/challenge. It is also open to Committee Members to request items to be raised - though Members are asked to be selective here in regard to important issues.*
- (4) *The relevant Cabinet Board Members will also be invited to be present at the meeting for Scrutiny/ Consultation purposes.*
- (5) *Would the Scrutiny Committee Members please bring the Cabinet Board papers with them to the meeting.*

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Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

(Remotely via Teams)

Members Present:

30 July 2021

Chairperson: Councillor S.K.Hunt

Vice Chairperson: Councillor R.L.Taylor

Councillors: C.J.Jones, H.N.James, S.Purseley and
S.Rahaman

Officers In Attendance: L.Beynon, C.Davies, T.Davies and M. Thomas

Cabinet Invitees: Councillors A.Wingrave and L.Jones

1. **Pre-Decision Scrutiny**

The Committee scrutinised the following Cabinet Board items:

NPT Bee Friendly Scheme

Members were presented with a report in relation to Neath Port Talbot's Bee Friendly Scheme.

Officers stated that this scheme proposed a change in management and mowing regime of Council owned verges, in order to encourage wildflower grasslands to develop; which will also align with the requirements detailed in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, the Council's Biodiversity Duty Plan and Neath Port Talbot's Nature Recovery Action Plan.

The recent All Member Seminar that was held to discuss this topic, was noted to be very useful and allowed Members to provide their input; Officers took on board a lot of the comments and suggestions that were made.

The Committee stressed the importance of maintaining amenity use of green spaces, especially in the urban areas; it was important to obtain buy-in from the community and have robust community

engagement. It was mentioned that in some areas, half of the green spaces were owned and managed by Tai Tarian and the other half were owned and managed by the Council; there needed to be co-ordination between the two parties to ensure there was an appropriate mix between preserving amenity spaces that were well used, and introducing the important biodiversity enhancements.

Members shared a good practice story from Tai Tarian, in which they engaged with neighbours in an area, in relation to changing a green space, and were able to make slight changes to their original plans to allow for community activities to take place on the green space, as well as having the necessary biodiversity additions; engagement with the public was very important as it provided an understanding of how spaces were being used by the community.

Officers confirmed that amenity spaces were vitally important in the community, and that it was also important to communicate awareness of this scheme to the public so that they had an understanding of why biodiversity enhancements were needed; the communication and branding for this scheme would be vital, and suggestions were made in relation to ways of promoting this to the public.

It was mentioned that members of the Biodiversity Team had sent letters to Councillors and had been meeting them individually in their Wards to discuss particular areas, as there were different specific needs across the variety of outdoor spaces.

Members were informed that the Council needed to ensure that its position and procedures were set in place, and then staff would be discussing this matter with various organisations to ensure that they were aligned and co-ordinated in the Council's approach. Officers added that safety would be the first priority in the work being carried out.

It was asked if the scheme was going to be extended to brown field areas and unused industrial land. Officers explained that the current focus was to look at the existing verges on Council owned land; the scheme would take some time to progress through the various areas, as Officers were keen for it to work effectively. However, it was confirmed that it could be possible to look into the brown field areas to bring back wildflower; Officers could discuss plans to explore these areas and identify if there were any existing seed banks, which could be re-seeded for it to grow into a wildflower meadow. It was added that the Council wanted to avoid introducing non-native species and seed mixes as there was a cost element to that, and wanted to

encourage native species to grow. Officers would liaise with the Local Nature Partnership Co-Ordinator to arrange a discussion with the interested Member about the brown field areas they were referring to; the area could then be included on the map, and if the area was Council owned land, a survey could be undertaken to gain an understanding of the area and what could be done to enhance the biodiversity.

In regards to public perception, it was noted that clear messages needed to be circulated as and when the plans developed, in order to explain to the public where the work was going to take place. Officers highlighted that they were working closely with colleagues in the Communications and Digital Services Team to ensure the right messages were being posted on social media; these messages will include before and after photographs, as these will clearly show what difference the work will make.

Following scrutiny, the Committee was supportive of the proposal to be considered by the Cabinet Board.

Consideration of Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan

The Committee received a report to consider Neath Port Talbot's Replacement Local Development Plan 2021-2036, Consultation Draft Delivery Agreement and Consultation Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal; the start of the proposed consultation was 16 August 2021, which will end six weeks later on 27 September 2021.

Members were informed that the Council's current Local Development Plan (LDP) had been adopted for 15 years (from 2011 - 2026) and every four years the Council had to renew this plan; Officers had put out a review report and were preparing a replacement LDP, therefore when the new plan was adopted it would supersede the current LDP.

Due to the outbreak of the pandemic, it was highlighted that there had been some delays in the proceedings. Officers had re-started work on the Draft Delivery Agreement which set out the following:

- The timetable – the plan had to be produced within 3.5 years, which wasn't a significant amount of time to develop this comprehensive plan;
- The community involvement scheme – this included who the Council would be contacting, when they will be contacted and how they would be contacted;

- The resources that Neath Port Talbot Council will commit to preparing the plan;
- The budget for producing the plan within the timeframe.

The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA), was noted to be a iterative process in the form of a report; any policies or strategies etc., that were formed as the plan was being prepared, needed to be sent through the ISA to be assessed. It was mentioned that this assessment will determine whether the various policies etc. were fit to meet the sustainability requirements of the overall plan; if they were determined not to be suitable, Officers will be required to amend them.

Reference was made to community involvement and how this was key in the development of the LDP; in previous years, the Council had sent out leaflets to residents, however this did not successfully encourage them to engage with the LDP. Members expressed the importance of reaching all constituents as it was a very significant consultation exercise. A suggestion was made in regards to improving public engagement; that a letter drop be carried out on a similar footing to the way in which the residents received their council tax letter, as this was the type of information that the majority of the public would be interested to open and read, and was also a lower cost way to get more people to engage. Officers noted the comments raised for future correspondence; the Team were always looking for new ideas, and if Members had any further suggestions, they were encouraged to contact the Team. It was agreed, that subject to approval, the suggestion would be included into the report before the commencement of the consultation.

A discussion took place in relation to social media representations. It was asked if the Communications Team could help with this and directly respond to comments on social media pages, to try and get residents to respond to the consultation in the correct way; this would help to ensure that useful comments weren't lost, and that residents were informed of the correct process of submitting comments. Officers confirmed that there was legislation in place in relation to submitting comments, either through a form or on the consultation portal; comments/suggestions made on social media could not be accepted. It was noted that monitoring comments on social media would require resource and this could not be confirmed. Officers highlighted that they had to consider ways to engage with all groups of people, including those who did not use the internet. It was

mentioned that the use of jargon would be reduced in order to ensure the public had a clear understanding of what the Council was trying to achieve; Officers were working with a local firm to re-brand the LDP and introduce videos that streamlined the process and were engaging. It was suggested that Members could be involved in the social media representation to point the public in the right direction.

In relation to the stakeholder meetings, the circulated report detailed that the meetings would be held virtually; Members asked if there was flexibility to hold meetings in person, if restrictions allowed, as it would display the importance and significance of what the Council was doing. Officers confirmed that if the Government guidance changes then they would be able to hold meetings face to face; it was agreed that Officers would ensure this was made clear in the circulated report.

It was asked if it was possible to lobby Welsh Government in relation to developing flood land areas, as there was a considerable amount of land included in this category. Officers stated that flooding was going to be a large constraint in developing this work; a Welsh Government Technical Advice Note (TAN) on flooding was currently being written, and was due out next month for Officers to consider. It was noted that Welsh Government were working with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to develop new flood maps, in which there may be new flood areas included; this would affect how the LDP is shaped, however it was good timing in terms of the stage the Team were at in developing the plan.

Members were informed that there were accessibility regulations in place, which meant that everything had to be accessible on the website and the other materials used to communicate to the public; the messages needed to be understandable, clear and concise. It was mentioned that the public would be interested in certain aspects and stages of the LDP, rather than the whole process; these specific points of interest in the process needed to be managed carefully and Officers needed to ensure that the right messages were put out to the public.

Viability was noted to be a key component of the LDP; when developers submitted land, it was essential that they demonstrate how that site would be developed, taking into consideration all of the Council's Section 106 requirements. Officers stated that when land was submitted, the landowners / developers of the site must make sure that Section 106 requirements were taken into account when

purchasing the land to make sure that the facilities were also provided and in place for the community; including green infrastructure, active travel etc., to make it a place where people want to live.

The Committee went through the LDP timetable, in particular the timeframe around the publication of the candidate site register and the community feedback on candidate sites. It was confirmed that the publication of the candidate site register will be in June 2022, after the election period; Officers will be reviewing the community feedback, however will not be responding to them as this would take a considerable amount of time. It was added that the comments will be taken into consideration when the candidate sites were assessed.

Officers highlighted that they would be happy to facilitate any All Member Seminars in relation to various aspects of the LDP, should Members request this.

A formal amendment to the recommendation contained within the circulated report was proposed and seconded, which changed recommendation number 1 to the following:

The RLDP consultation draft delivery agreement as set out in appendix 2 be agreed for the purpose of the consultation, subject to the inclusion of the feedback from members in the R&SD scrutiny committee in relation to community involvement.

It was determined that the Committee were in support of the amendment to be considered by Cabinet Board.

2. **Forward Work Programme 2021/22**

Members noted the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Forward Work Programme for 2021/22.

CHAIRPERSON



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee

22nd October 2021

**Report of the Head of Property & Regeneration
Simon Brennan**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Delivery of Community Benefits in Relation to the Strategic School Improvement Programme and the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools initiative.

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Members with a report on outputs and results from the delivery of community benefits through the construction phase of Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School.

Executive Summary:

The Council's Strategic School Improvement and Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programmes aims to provide long-term social, environmental and economic benefits to schools and the wider community. To achieve these wider programme aims, appointed contractors are required to deliver on a range of

community benefits targets which include training and upskilling new workforce entrants, school STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) engagements, support of the local supply chain and wider community in-kind support.

Background:

In 2019 Morgan Sindall were awarded the contract for Cefn Saeson Comprehensive to complete the new build English-medium school for 900 pupils to replace the existing secondary school as part of the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme. The project had a construction value of £27m and commenced in August 2019 for a duration of 151 weeks. Handover of the new school took place in March 2021 and demolition of the existing school and new sport pitches have followed on from that with completion expected in July 2022.

As with all the Council's construction projects, targets were set as part of the contract awarded and the Council's Community Benefits Officer and Project Management team worked closely with the contractor to deliver a range of community benefits. While the pandemic affected the achievement of some of the targets principally the School Engagement and STEM delivery, on all other requirements targets were exceeded. With ten months left on the project plans are being put in place to meet the school engagement and STEM targets and achieve even more outcomes on Targeted Recruitment & Training. Outcomes so far have included supporting into employment apprentices, the long term unemployed, trainees, work experience opportunities for people in education, supporting the local supply chain and local community initiatives.

Some project statistics so far include:

- 29 new entrant jobs (previously unemployed)
- 19 new entrant apprentices

- 2153 person weeks of new entrant jobs
- 1657 weeks of new entrant training (graduates, work & pupil placements)
- 40% of labour force from SA postcodes
- 99% of labour force from Wales
- £23.5 million total value of contracts awarded so far with 61% of those contracts awarded to South West Wales businesses

The contractor has worked with Port Talbot Women's Aid social enterprise arm, Thrive, from the beginning, using their mobile catering unit to feed workers on site and as with the Council's other construction projects employ cleaners from their cleaning enterprise. They have also used local contractors on site for scaffolding, steelwork and office furniture and held a Meet the Buyer event at the Gwyn Hall to encourage local suppliers to tender.



The pandemic has affected levels of community engagement however the contractor has made a financial contribution to Neath Community Tennis Courts to assist with improvement works and have agreed to support Bspoked Enterprises, the Council's Adult Learning Disability Centre in converting offices into an independent living facility.



To see the whole range of community benefits achieved on the project and to read individual case studies Morgan Sindall produced a booklet on the social value story on Cefn Saeson so far which can be viewed in the appendix below.

The Council currently has nine major construction projects underway, including Neath Abbey Primary, YGG Ystalyfera, Harbourside Strategic Employment Site and The Technology Centre on Baglan Bay Energy Park and all are subject to community benefits outputs.

Financial Impacts: There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment: There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes.

Valleys Communities Impacts: There are no valley communities impacts associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts: There are no workforce impacts associated with this report

Legal Impacts: There are no legal impacts associated with this report

Risk Management Impacts: There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation: There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations: That Members note the content of this information report

Appendices: Cefn Saeson Social Value Story

List of background papers: None

Officer Contact:

Claire Roach
Community Benefits Officer
Regeneration & Economic Development
Tel: 01639 686427
c.roach@npt.gov.uk

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Your Social Value Story

Cefn Saeson Comprehensive School





1

Total number of
contracts
awarded

39

2

Total value of
contracts
awarded

£23,593,573

Local Investment

Value of contracts: Neath Port Talbot

6% £1,456,499

Value of contracts: South West Wales

55% £12,927,957

Value of contracts: Wales

90% £21,135,718

Value of contracts: Outside Wales

10% £2,457,854





Work experience

Target: 25
To date: 13
Completion: 52%



Jobs created

Target: 20
To date: 48
Completion: 137%



CCIAG events

Target: 11
To date: 4
Completion: 36%



Waged training weeks

Target: 600
To date: 1629
Completion: 188%



Qualifying the workforce

Target: 36
To date: 25
Completion: 69%



Training plans

Target: 7
To date: 1
Completion: 14%

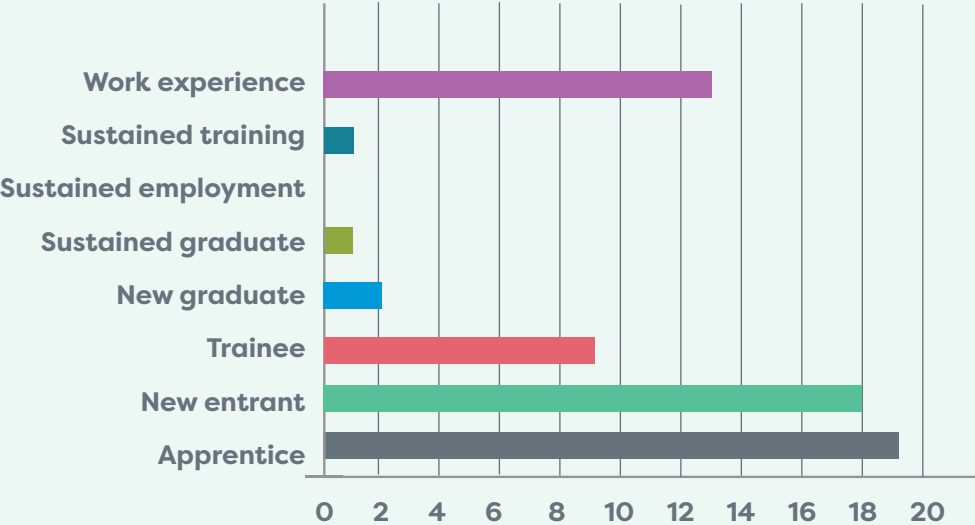


Case studies

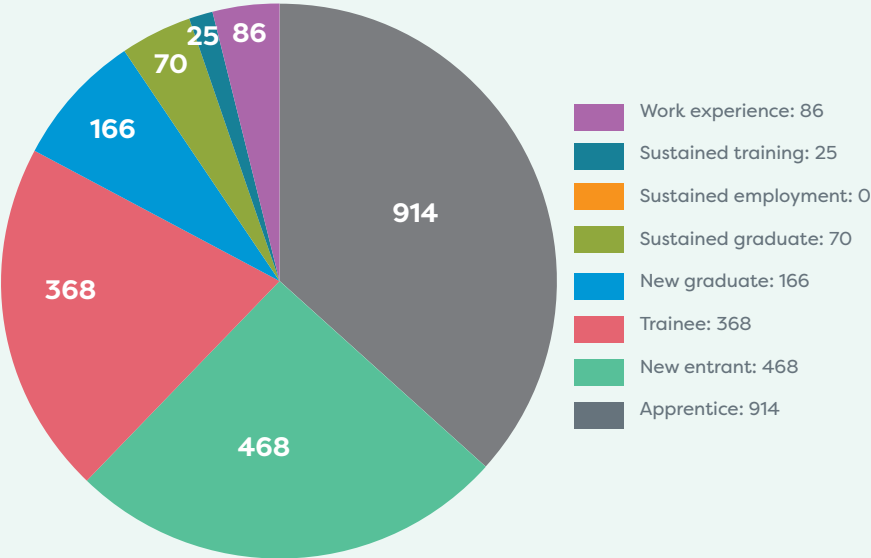
Target: 5
To date: 26
Completion: 520%



New Entrant Groupings



New Entrant Weeks Delivered



KPI 1

New entrant jobs created (NEET/LT unemployed) p wks

Target: 1404
To date: 2097
Completion: 117%

KPI 5

School Engagements (STEM) pupil interactions

Target: 5164
To date: 213
Completion: 4%

KPI 2

New entrant jobs created (NEET/LT unemployed) FTE

Target: 18
To date: 29
Completion: 161%

KPI 6

School Engagements (STEM) hours donated

Target: 345
To date: 80
Completion: 23%

KPI 3

New entrant training (graduates/ work placements)

Target: 867
To date: 1629
Completion: 188%

KPI 7

Labour Force (% from postcode)

Target: 30%
To date: 40%
Completion: 133%

KPI 4

New Entrant Apprentices

Target: 17
To date: 19
Completion: 112%

KPI 8

Labour Force (% from Wales)

Target: 90%
To date: 99%
Completion: 110%

21st Century Schools

KPI 10

**Supply Chain
Initiatives % spend
in Wales**

Target: 90%
To date: 90%
Completion: 100%

KPI 14

**Supply Chain
Initiatives: % Welsh
subcontractors**

Target: 80%
To date: 85%
Completion: 106%

KPI 15

**Supply Chain
Initiatives:
engagements**

Target: 4
To date: 1
Completion: 25%

KPI 16

**Supply Chain
Initiatives: Sell2wales**

Target: 4
To date: 1
Completion: 25%

KPI 17

**Fair Payment:
payment within 10
days**

Target: 100%
To date: 100%
Completion: 100%

KPI 18

**Fair Payment:
payment within 23
days**

Target: 100%
To date: 100%
Completion: 100%

KPI 19

**Environmental: %
waste diverted**

Target: 98%
To date: 97%
Completion: 99%

KPI 20

**Environmental:
waste produced
tonnes/£m**

Target: 10
To date: 6.6
Completion: 151%

KPI 21

**Community:
initiatives per
project**

Target: 4
To date: 3
Completion: 75%

KPI 22

**Community:
newsletter per
project**

Target: 8
To date: 3

Completion: 37.5%



Meet the Buyer – Gwyn Hall

Local companies were invited to meet the team and see what opportunities were available on the project. Our Supply Chain Manager was also on hand to offer guidance regarding the process of becoming an accredited member of our supply chain.

New Graduate Quantity Surveyor Alex Rowlands

Alex graduated in July 2019 from University of Glamorgan and has been employed by Morgan Sindall to work on Cefn Saeson from July 19 to June 22. An excellent opportunity created as a direct result of this project.

Local groundworks contractor given multi million opportunity

Ian Thomas Construction, a company on the South West Wales framework have been awarded the groundworks package and secured two and a half years work for their operatives in Neath Port Talbot.





Exciting opportunity for gap year student

Arij Mroue a Year Out Placement Studying MEng has been Employed by Morgan Sindall to work on Cefn Saeson as a year out placement, aspiring to become a project manager. Morgan Sindall hope to turn this into a permanent opportunity by offering Arij a permanent role on completion of her studies.



Local steelworks contractor given multi million opportunity

Shufflebottom, a company on the South West Wales framework have been awarded a major steelworks package at Cefn Saeson. They are arguably the closest contractor capable of completing this size/ style of project, so this is a great result in terms of community engagement.



SHUFFLEBOTTOM



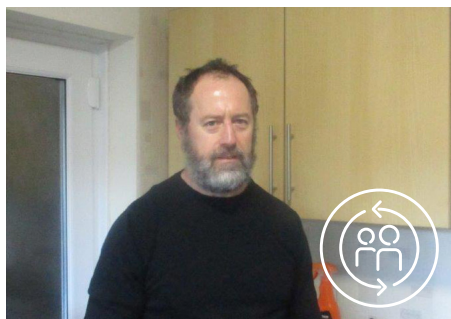
Hosting a stand at Hillside Jobs Fair

Morgan Sindall supported the Jobs Fair at Hillside Secure Children's Home by providing career advice and discussing potential future opportunities.



Local company win contract for providing site accommodation

Local company Wernick were awarded the contract for provision of all site accommodation on site. This large contract helped create new job opportunities and secure existing ones within the local authority.



Long Term Unemployed Returns to work

Phil Parry is from the Neath area and has been unemployed for 15 years. Phil was taken on as part of the team at Cefn Saeson for 132 weeks. On completion we will work with Phil to identify other opportunities on our projects.



Employment opportunity for local resident

Local resident Anthony was taken on and trained as a Gateman for the duration of the project. We are in the process of working with Anthony to identify further alternative opportunities on our other schemes.



Partnering with Ministry of Furniture

We employed the services of this local firm to fit out our office at Cefn Saeson. All furniture is 2nd hand and recycled/refurbished at their factory so is a great sustainable alternative to procuring new.



Career changers get a superb opportunity

Partnering with Career Changers we identified opportunities for unemployed Shannon Jones who was offered training and employment as a labourer – with the opportunity to work towards a plant operator apprentice. Morgan Sindall supported her off-site training and paid her the living wage whilst getting qualified.



Collaborating with Thrive Women's Aid

We collaborated with Thrive Women's aid based in NPT and employed Lisa to join the team as a cleaner. She made a fantastic addition to the team and is a great example of how this project has benefitted the lives of local residents.

Roller qualification for Shannon

Career changer Shannon has gone from being unemployed to becoming a labourer after just 4 months on-site. She has additionally been supported for further training and has recently gained her roller qualification.

Local scaffolding firm secure large package of works

We employed the services of local firm Rowecord Total Access to undertake all the scaffold works on the project. A lot of their staff live within the local authority which in turn will enable new opportunities within the local area.





Milestone steel signing event

We hosted a steel signing event to mark the start of the steel frame works for the school. The headteacher, head girl and boy attended and each signed the frame. The event offered the opportunity to discuss construction careers with the pupils and further collaboration opportunities with the school.



New Document Controller joins the team

Previously unemployed Carmen joined our team to cover maternity leave for Melissa Wines. At the end of her term we will look to offer her a permanent role on the project.



Construct IT event held

We delivered our award winning Construct IT challenge to Year 8 pupils during the school PSE careers day. In total this was delivered to 152 pupils throughout the day and offers the pupils a great insight into construction planning.



TR&T launch held with key stakeholders

Morgan Sindall and NPT hosted a joint workshop to emphasise the importance of TR&T on the project and leaving a legacy within the community. This collaborative workshop offered a fantastic opportunity for the supply chain to meet the people that will help them to deliver their contractual TR&T requirements. This meeting enabled a shared common goal of embracing opportunities for the local community and local businesses.



Attendees

Claire Roach: NPT employer support group

Mike Little: Morgan Sindall's Social Value Manager

Rhys Fisher: Cyfle Building Skills

Shauna Williams: Cyfle Building Skills

Alison Rees: CITB

Whitehead Building Services

Ian Thomas Construction

Massey Cladding Solutions

AB Glass





Improving the local tennis courts

Morgan Sindall made a contribution to the Neath Community Tennis Courts to assist with essential improvement works to help keep the facility open. The site had been derelict for many years until a group of residents came together to lease the site from the local authority and develop a plan for the restoration of tennis in the town. The plan has been made possible with major grants from Sport Wales and Tennis Wales with contributions from Morgan Sindall, NPTCBC community fund and Hornbill Engineering.





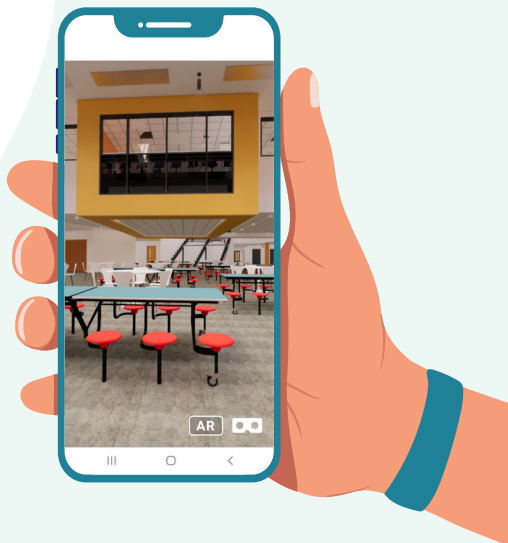
Pembroke Recovery Centre and Care Village

Project Manager Alex Smith formed part of the project team that delivered the Pembroke Recovery Centre and Care Village at Bluestone during the early stages of the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, we donated over £1,000 worth of PPE for the workers of the project.



Virtual Reality - dining area

This QR code is one example of 3d rendered rooms that can be viewed on mobile devices. These have been prepared for most rooms across the school. Scan the code above and experience the dining room area in 3D.



Virtual Reality - Project progress

During the project we posted QR Codes in relevant locations around the school. This offered the opportunity for both pupils and teachers to scan them to see how their new spaces were taking shape.

STEM and careers

The QR Codes were also used in class with a Teams link to our project team. During discussions about what the pupils were viewing they were also told about the relevant occupations that were involved in creating the space.



Providing a new future for previously unemployed Keith

Keith Pittway from Port Talbot was previously unemployed and actually found himself homeless at the beginning of this 2020. He joined the team as a labourer and through ongoing training we are hoping this new opportunity will give Keith a platform to build himself a brighter future.

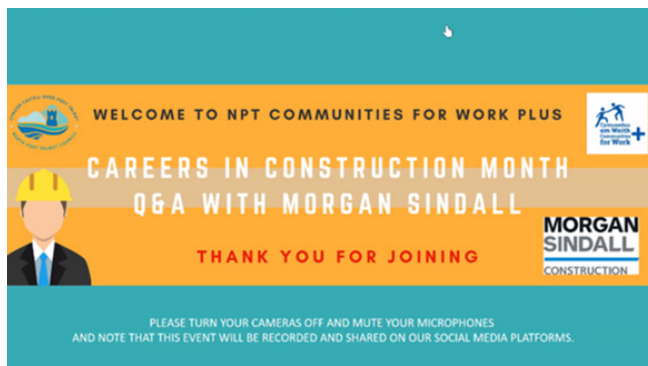
Thrive Mobile Catering

We've worked closely with Thrive Woman's Aid to offer the workers at Cefn Saeson a mobile catering service. Their aim is to develop sustainable income streams to support the work of woman's aid. It is hoped that this newly created opportunity will support Thrive's goal to create more opportunities for the people they support. Our workforce were encouraged to utilise this service in an attempt to keep people on-site and avoid going out into the community in light of the Covid 19 global situation.



New opportunity created with Thrive

The team at Cefn Saeson worked with Thrive to create a new paid job opportunity for Jess as an on-site cleaner. Jess currently resides in The Women's refuge in Port Talbot and is doing a distance learning college course. Jess fulfilled a critical role of keeping the offices and welfare clean and sanitised. We're hopeful her experience with us will form a foundation for her future plans.



Careers in construction talk

Communities for Work+ invited Social Value Manager Mike Little to deliver a Careers in Construction talk on 21st Oct. Job Seekers and Work Coaches attended the session and positive feedback has been received.



Thank you so much for today's presentation, it really was brilliant and very informative. Very honest and sensible advice to job seekers too!"

Holli Davies: Participation, Engagement and Support Officer Neath Communities for Work+





Partnering with Cyfle Building Skills

We have been working closely with Cyfle to provide employment and training opportunities for this project. We welcomed 2 new apprentices to the project.



Keilan Ryan

Keilan was recruited to assist with the carpentry package on the new school. Whilst studying in Neath College, Keilan will gain key on the job experience, learning his craft with some of the best carpenters in the business. Building Cefn Saeson school will enable Keilan to study in his locality.



Lewis Watkins-Harris

Lewis was recruited to gain experience as a “technical” apprentice. Different to the usual trade apprentices, this one is aimed at encouraging people into the industry that may not want a trade route, preferring a more office based role. Lewis attended Neath College once a week and the other 4 days were spent working for Morgan Sindall. Lewis experienced project management, quantity surveying, engineering and design disciplines. We hope Lewis discovers his preferred discipline which will allow him to tailor this future education path.

Work experience opportunities

We hosted work experience placements via Cyfle Building Skills' Onsite Hub from their launch date of 1 st March. Each placement is assigned a mentor who provides guidance and support during their time on the project. Each placement was given a varied on-site experience which we hope will enable them to make informed future career choices



“

"I wanted to say a big thank you for all the engagement we have had with our Work Experience Programme. All the candidates enjoyed their time with you, and all provided the same feedback with regards to the mentors they were paired up with. Each candidate is more equipped for applying for apprenticeships having undertaken the site experience that Morgan Sindall offered. The arrangements we put in place with you on the Cefn Saeson project has been exemplar and we will use the same process on future projects."

Rhys Fisher - Cyfle/Skills Academy Coordinator



Through the hard work and dedication of the project team at Cefn Saeson we have developed a **long term legacy of employment and training** which will generate future jobs and skills, **supporting the local community of Cimla and beyond** for many years to come.





Perfect Delivery...

Morgan Sindall Construction &
Infrastructure Ltd
Unit 5 Cae Gwyrdd
Greenmeadows Business Park
Tongwynlais
Cardiff CF15 7AB



Rhondda Tunnel

Presentation to NPT Council 22nd. October 2021

Steve Mackey – Chair

Tony Moon – Project Secretary

South Wales has Two Abandoned Long Tunnels

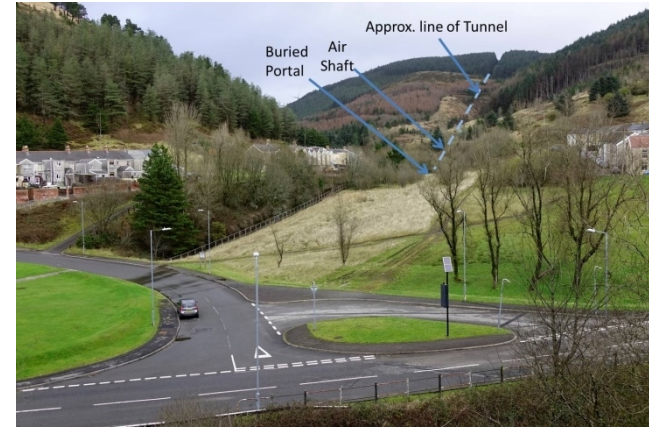


Abernant-Merthyr



RCT has
a Portal of
Both Tunnels

Rhondda



Active Travel Route – Merthyr-Aberdare

Continued Public Funding

but

Little public support

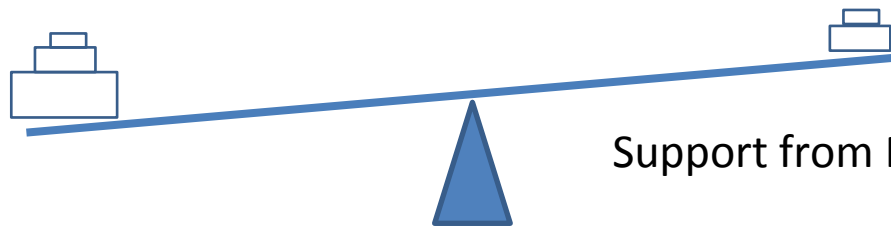
Merthyr Council lobbies hard for support

Longest in Europe

Seen more as a Visitor Attraction

Huge Public Support
but no public funding

...this is how it sometimes feels



Strong
Support from NPT Council can balance



Project Costs

Detailed Plans Created by our Technical Subcommittee
after consulting with leading UK tunnel engineers

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Physical work will take 18 months

Project Cost includes:

- Visitors' Centres

- Micro-hydro schemes at both sides

Recently validated by Corderoy (Quantity Surveyors)

Total Project Cost: **£13.111M**

Current Situation



Both Tunnels are owned by Westminster DfT – Grant Shapps MP

DfT will transfer them to the Welsh Govt. with a small sum
(£60k for Rhondda)

but

Welsh Govt. wants Several Million Pounds

Chris Bryant MP is approaching DfT on behalf of
Welsh Govt. for Funds

RCT Council are working on a Heritage Lottery Fund application



Blaengwynfi

Deep hole and lots of spoil to be moved



Current Plan is to excavate the Approach Cutting

but

hyperTunnel have approached us with a new tunnelling technology



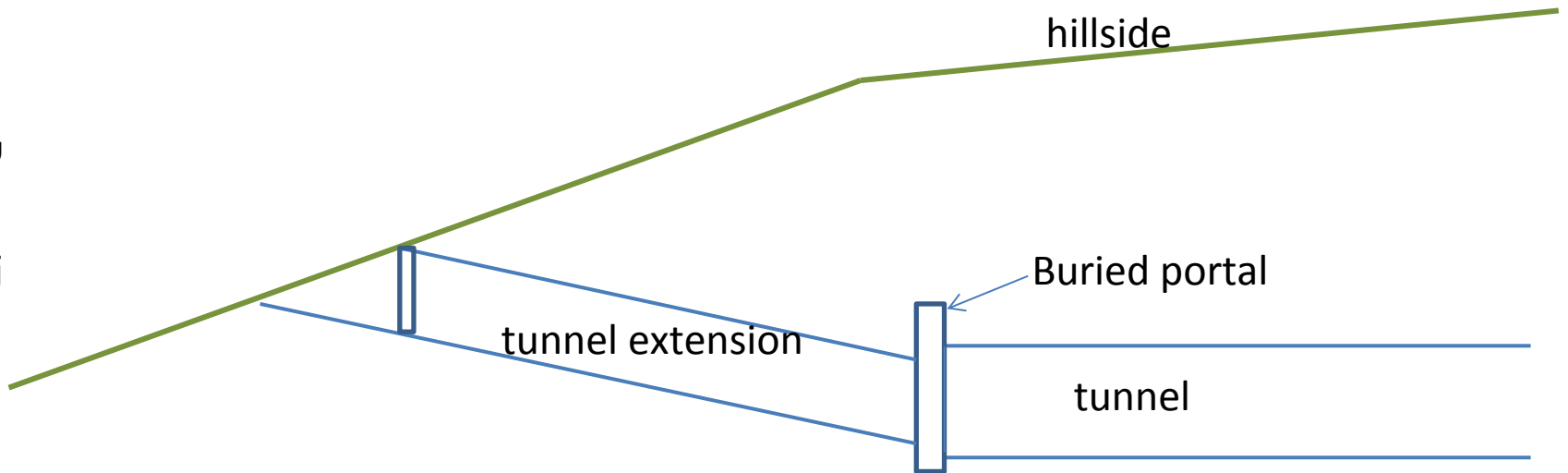
Create an extension to the existing tunnel

Less disruption, much less spoil

Blaengwynfi

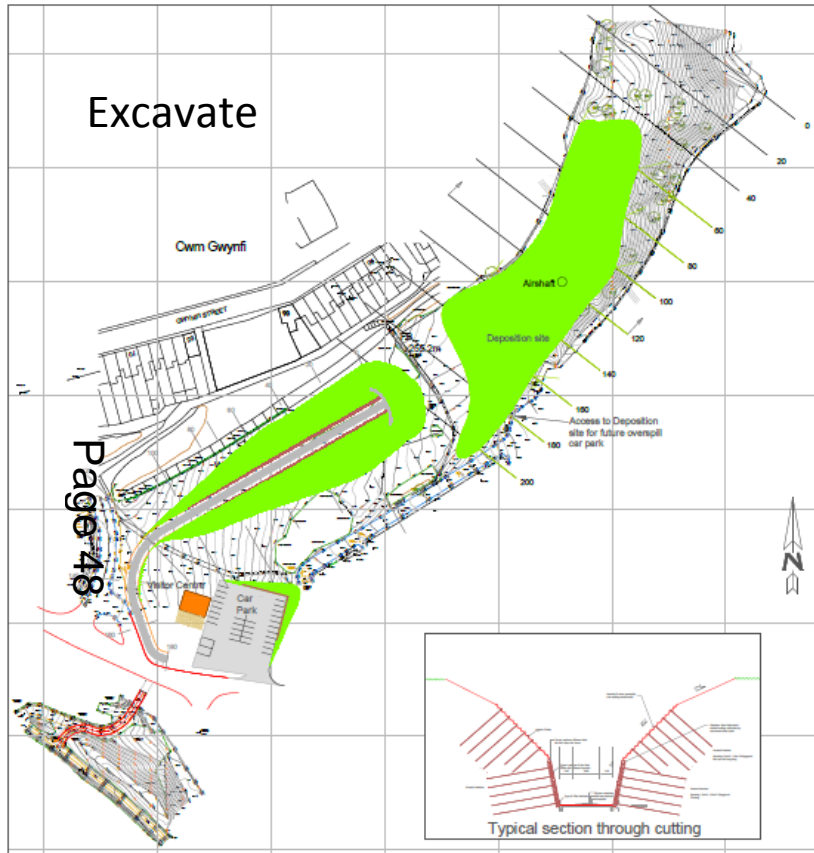


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Green – Spoil removed and deposited

Excavate



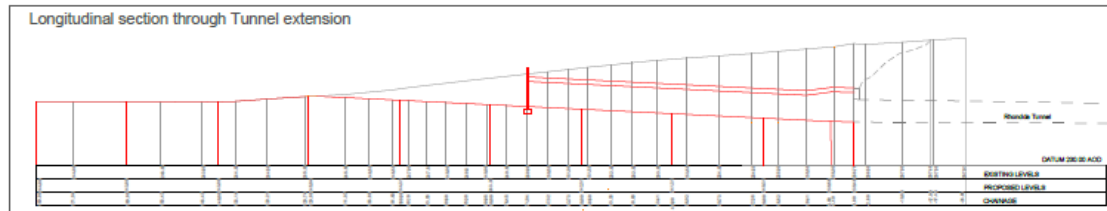
Plan of Blaengwynfi Earthworks

Extend



Plan of Blaengwynfi Earthworks with Tunnel extension

Longitudinal section through Tunnel extension





NPT-owned
land

Line of tunnel

Buried Portal

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Extension

NPTCBC ownership



PROPERTY & REGENERATION

Gareth Nutt B.Sc (hons), M.Sc., DMS, FRICS
Corporate Director of Environment
THE QUAYS, BRUNEL WAY, BAGLAN ENERGY PARK
NEATH SA11 2GG
www.npt.gov.uk

Project

Drawing Title

Land at Visitor Centre and Car Park
Rhonddda Tunnel Project
Blaengwynfi



Scales A3 @ 1:1250

Drawing No. 17-0813A Rev.

Extension will be entirely in NPT Land – Independent of Westminster or Welsh Govt.



Rhondda Tunnel Society has been campaigning
since 2015

Huge political support, but endless reports and delays

We want to see if we can raise the funds for a Blaengwynfi Extension
independently of public funding

The air shaft could be opened for abseiling to bring visitors

Create a huge momentum to finish the job!

Tentative offer of some funding already;

Could provide the “Match Funding” essential for most bids

SCRUTINY
FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

March 2021 – 2022

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Scrutiny Committee (All starting 10am unless otherwise stated)

Meeting Date	Agenda Item	Contact Officer
2021		
16 th April	Trends in Domestic Abuse	Claire Jones/Elinor Wellington
14 th May	Update Report on Active Travel	Ceri Morris
23rd June	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for Items	
30th June		
13th July	Please see Cabinet Board FWP for Items	
10 th September	Meeting moved to the following week (17 th September)	
17 th September	Update on the Audit Wales NPT Action Plan	Simon Brennan
22 nd October	Community Benefits	Simon Brennan / Claire Roach
	Rhondda Tunnel Society Presentation	Mr Tony Moon and Mr Stephen Mackey
3 rd December	Draft Corporate Recovery Plan – Priorities	Caryn Furlow-Harris

	Asset Sponsorship – Update on progression	Andrew Griffiths
2022		
14 th January	Destination Marketing Campaign – Follow up	Simon Brennan / Karleigh Davies
	Burrows Yard Update	Simon Brennan
4 th March	Street Names – Policy and Procedures	Joy Smith / Ross Williams
	Update on Regeneration Projects	Simon Brennan
	Update on European Funding, Levelling Up Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund	Simon Brennan
28 th April	Items to be confirmed	

To be confirmed:

- Update on the Rail Centre Development
- Land Asset Management

Additional:

- Invite S&E Scrutiny Members to 4th March meeting

