

Board Meeting 45
Wednesday, 4th March
4:30pm, Barista's Café

Attendees

Richard Jones, Selections Gift Shop (RJ)
Melanie Cole, Barista's (MC)
Sally Jones, Resident (SJ)

Mandy Jenkins, The means (MJ)
Jade Evans, The means (JE)

Apologies

Julia Harries, Aberafan Shopping Centre (JH)

Item	Detail	Action
1.0	Welcome and apologies RJ welcomed everyone to the meeting at 16:36.	
2.0	Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising 2.1. Confirmation of minutes Those present agreed the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. 2.2. Matters arising 2.2.1. Indoor pitches and alcohol licensing MJ and RJ caught MC up to speed on the offer of indoor pitches at the food festival. JH not present to update alcohol licensing. 2.2.2. Lloyds Bank manager MJ updated MC on her discussion with the Lloyds Bank manager. No response has been received yet regarding joining the board. MC updated that there has been a change of community officer in Tesco; MC to invite them to join the board.	MC: Invite new Tesco community officer to join board.
3.0	The Business Community @ Glan Afan update 3.1. Rent No update. To be discussed at next meeting with full board present.	
4.0	Programme 4.1. Easter Egg Hunt Dates confirmed – Saturday 28 th March to Saturday 11 th April.	

<p>4.2. K-Pop Demon Hunters</p> <p>RJ updated the board on the K-Pop themed event organised by VPT to take place in the Aberafan Shopping Centre; date confirmed as Wednesday 8th April, 12pm to 3pm. The event will cost roughly £1k in total. RJ expressed concern that there had been no BID initiatives/events over winter.</p> <p>4.3. Food Festival</p> <p>MJ and JE updated that they are meeting with the ESAG tomorrow to discuss the event; this will determine whether the Transport Hub will be used. JE will send the application form to traders after details are confirmed at the ESAG. MJ explained the issue with requiring 20 marshals if the Transport Hub is used. The cost of anti-terror measures could also prevent the Transport Hub being used.</p> <p>4.4. Other ideas</p> <p>RJ asked the board for ideas. MC suggested running the loyalty card during the summer holidays as it's usually quieter. The board discussed and agreed that the scheme will require a £15 spend for a sticker, and the voucher worth will be £20.</p> <p>MC suggested a music festival.</p> <p>SJ suggested doing an event around the town charters – San Portablo Arts is keen to collaborate with this.</p> <p>MJ had received a quote from an illustrator for SJ's history trail £2,300. RJ asked the board if they wanted to spend on this. RJ asked if a prize would be needed for the trail; the board agreed it was not needed. RJ questioned whether the trail would bring spend into the town or not. The board agreed to look at this again for summer unless something else comes in to spend money on.</p> <p>Nothing is scheduled in the programme for autumn. RJ suggested an autumn market when Civic Square reopens – expected September/October. MC asked about bringing in wooden huts; MJ explained the cost and traders' negative experiences with huts. MJ to check if Civic Square will be completed by this time. RJ suggested this can be pushed to spring if autumn is not viable. MJ mentioned that this will likely get negative feedback from businesses further away from Civic Square.</p> <p>SJ suggested Mari Llwyd for Christmas.</p> <p>SJ updated that the Calon Afan trail booklets are getting reprinted. RJ asked about the planned QR code trail; SJ said this still being looked at.</p>	<p>MJ: Confirm Civic Square reopening timescale.</p>
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<p>5.0</p>	<p>Marketing</p> <p>JE updated the board with the following figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook: 6837 followers up to 6883 (+46) • Instagram: 1292 followers (same as previous) <p>JE updated about visiting the Beauty Locket to do a spotlight post.</p>	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>6.1. Income Report</p> <p>6.1.1. Expenditure Report</p> <p>MJ updated that there is £9,824.20 in the Viva Port Talbot bank account and £4,349.01 in the Glan Afan project account. The two accounts will merge by next meeting.</p> <p>The 2026 bills are going out on 1st April.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>MJ updated the board on the Town of Culture 2028 application; MJ and JE had met with Stephen Kinnock MP and the council's culture and tourism department on Friday 27th. NPTC are putting in application for Port Talbot including the upper Afan Valley. The council have got themes and ideas, but don't want to guide stakeholder ideas. A stakeholder workshop is meant to take place 10th March but no confirmation yet. The council would submit the expression of interest (due by 31st March), then, if successful, would set up a CIC for interested parties to drive the full application. This is being discussed at a cabinet meeting this week.</p> <p>SJ said Calon Afan had looked at the EoI form.</p> <p>RJ discussed the negative response to the council's press release online.</p> <p>MJ updated the board about meetings MJ and JE had attended with the Urbanists about town centre feasibility studies.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>Wednesday, 15th April, 4:30pm.</p> <p>Meeting concluded at 17:30.</p>	