

**MEETING OF THE CLEANER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
OF TORFAEN COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
Held on Wednesday, 19 September 2018 at 1.30pm
In the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hanbury Road, Pontypool, NP4 6YB**

MINUTES

Attendance: Members of the Committee

Councillors:

Peter Jones (Chair)
Stuart Ashley
Giles Davies
Jason O'Connell
Norma Parrish

Co-opted Members:

Alun Williams

Officers:

Rachel Beale – Senior Business Support Officer (Democratic Services)
Catherine Turner – Senior Improvement & Scrutiny Officer

Other:

There were three Members of the British Liaison Group in the Gallery, John Cox, Lynda Clarkson and Leanne Newman.

Action

1 Welcome & Apologies

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Huw Bevan, Stuart Evans, Gaynor James and Dave Thomas.

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no interests declared.

3 Minutes 20/06/2018

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

4 Action Sheet

4.1 Members noted the action sheet.

5 The British: Masterplan Approach

5.1 The Chair welcomed the Chair of the British Liaison Group, John Cox, the Vice Chair, Lynda Clarkson and Leanne Newman, a Member of the Group to the meeting.

- 5.2 Members asked the representatives from the British Liaison Group (BLG) a number of questions and they gave the following replies:
- Having been given sight of the questions in advance a meeting was held to discuss and the replies were on behalf of the BLG.
 - The BLG saw consultation as a continual process.
 - The BLG already had an important role in relation to the cleaning and greening of the site and had reduced the budget by £1million by targeting the shafts and adits which were in more need of treatment than others on the site.
 - During the first round of consultation there was too much emphasis on development which the community had already objected to as inappropriate and unaffordable, however during the recent consultation there was a more realistic approach for the site which was due to the input of the BLG.
 - Since the Memorandum of Understanding was introduced the Council had provided the BLG with a few reports, however they had not received all the reports which they had asked for. The BLG were still yet to be told the precise terms of the agreement with Welsh Government which was critical for the BLG to understand what the Welsh Government wanted out of the project.
 - The process had been a learning curve for everyone and negotiations were never straight forward. There had been times where the BLG felt the plan has been veering off track however the BLG were able to approach the Leader of the Council and the Chief Officer to express their concerns. There had always been someone at the Council that the BLG were able to go to and the communication between the two parties had resulted in everyone looking at the site in the same way. The development on site was the main sticking point and the money being spent, the BLG had an end result and the money to complete the necessary works.
 - Before the purchase of the land by the Council the BLG had already worked out a plan for the area which involved cleaning and greening, there was no development included in their plan. When the BLG were asked whether they agreed with the Councils plan to purchase the land they voted at a public meeting with 54 votes to 1 that they supported the idea of the Council purchasing the land, at that time there was no mention of development being part of the deal and that was something that occurred after their signatures had been given to the agreement. Council officers had been thinking about development on the site from an early stage and the BLG had been fighting the idea. If after 20 years when there was a nature reserve and ponds on site, a proposal for development could then be discussed.
 - The consultant's report presented a scheme which was unaffordable only 3 out of the 8 options were affordable, it was a concern that extra costs were incurred by employing the consultants.
 - The BLG proposal for the site was cleaning and greening and a couple of ponds and any additional proposals had been created by council officers. The Council should have never wasted money on the consultants as out of all the options the consultants proposed option 6a was the only option agreed which was what the original proposal put

forward by the BLG.

- It was evident from the latest round of consultation that the BLG represented the views of the community.
- The BLG had started a 'Friends of the British Group', Lynda was going to be Chair of the group for the first year to help steer them in the right direction, to introduce them to the relevant officers and inform them of the landscaping priorities for the site. The running of the Friends Group was solely from the community.
- The BLG had been very strong in their stance to make sure their views were heard. Even before the Memorandum of Understanding, the BLG had always worked on a confidentiality basis and a number of the reports that the BLG were shown were not for public use.
- There were only two part time employees working on the project, however there were a number of other Officers with responsibilities for areas such as housing and forward planning who had an input although their areas were not included in the project objectives.
- The BLG had experienced a problem with communication as the Council's Chief Officer who had been with working with the BLG and had been the Officer with the responsibility for the British for over 20 years left the authority at the time of the purchase of the site. Which meant the BLG had to start working with new staff who did not have the same knowledge of the site. However communication was back on track with the new staff and they felt that they were being listened to by the Council.
- Other Groups and bodies had been involved with the site including Gwent Wildlife Trust and the local history group who were keen to look at what could be done with the listed buildings on site. The community's vision for the end use was not only a nature reserve but a leisure resource which could increase tourism to the area and could also be linked to the Blaenavon World Heritage Site. The BLG would like to create heritage trails with information boards and restore the buildings on site.
- The drop in sessions were widely advertised across Torfaen and everyone was welcome, however the main focus was the local community as they had been battling against opencast mining on the site for over 30 years.
- The Council's Community Engagement Officer had been involved with the BLG from the beginning and had been tremendously helpful in making sure the BLG were working in partnership and to continue to ensure communication was ongoing.

5.3 Members applauded the BLG and stated their appreciation for their continued hard work.

5.4 The Chair welcomed the Chief Officer Neighbourhoods, Planning and Public Protection and the North Torfaen Regeneration Programme Manager to the meeting.

5.5 In response to Members questions, the Officers gave the following answers:

- Officers would continue to hold community workshops and public

consultation events as well as online communications. The workshops provided Officers with useful information and also engaged young people. It was important that the communications had a purpose and were sent out at the right time which was more significant than constant communication.

- The Memorandum of Understanding with the BLG enabled Officers to share more of the documentation which allowed community scrutiny, which was unable to happen previously due to confidentiality. The Memorandum of Understanding also set out the different roles of the organisations.
- Officers submitted a business plan to Welsh Government when the Council was looking for part funding to deliver the scheme and there were 8 objectives which were:
 - To appropriately manage the health and safety risks
 - Strengthen the aspirations of communities to provide opportunities for future generations
 - Support health and wellbeing goals by improving green infrastructure and promoting access to the natural environment
 - Enhance environmental resilience by safeguarding and improving biodiversity
 - Explore potential longer-term opportunities for private/third sector investment, jobs & growth
 - Explore potential longer-term opportunities for future housing development
 - Explore potential longer-term opportunities for latent green energy
 - To protect and promote heritage and culture

The grant offer was a contract between Welsh Government and the Council with terms and conditions, it was not normal practice to share the document as it was a formal contract.

- The BLG had set up a Friends of the British Group which would provide a good opportunity to gain active volunteers and to start engaging people positively in delivering the project and also gave an opportunity to apply for grant funding, extra volunteers and third sector support.
- Developing Housing on the site was not at the forefront of the report presented to Council and unlocking opportunities for housing was number 7 of the 8 objectives sent to Welsh Government. As the site was included within the LDP as a strategic area it leads to an assumption that it the site was going to be built on, however it was not an aspiration of the Council for the site to be major housing development and hopefully the management plan and development framework would alleviate those concerns.
- During the public engagement Officers felt that all groups were consulted, although specific action groups were yet to be consulted such as disability action groups however they would be consulted on the technical details on the project.
- At the start of the project Officers reviewed the existing data that the Council had on the site. Officers also walked around the site with members of the community to identify hazards that they were aware of on the site. There was a balancing act to be had when taking and relying on information from members of the public and managing the liabilities

on site. Some areas of the site required new information, for example fresh examinations were undertaken on the water course system as Officers had old photos, and the condition was different to when the photos were taken.

- Officers had not engaged with other Councils and were hesitate to do so as the expertise had moved on because the coal pit closures took place a long time ago. Officers were however engaging with the Coal Authority as they were the experts. Where consultancy work had been undertaken on the site Officers had asked the Coal Authority to peer review the information to see if they were satisfied with methodology.
- Officers had sent the masterplan to CADW and NRW and asked for their thoughts on the proposal, it was felt that consulting them would address any concerns that may arise further down the line in the planning process. There had been no major issues or objections raised by the stakeholders.
- Officers had tried to use local knowledge to feed in to structural assessments, however the Council had a liability for the site and if the Council went solely on the views of a member of public there would be no legal indemnity. When consultants were used the Council had public liability insurance covered through them, therefore if the Council acted on their advice and it proved to be flawed then the Council could take legal action.
- The team in Torfaen had a high level of expertise however did not have a specialist mining engineer and needed to seek expertise to assist.
- The ideas from the youth engagement sessions were very robust and tied in with project already suggested such as turning some of the walking trails into cycling trails. The consultation highlighted the importance of the heritage on site and it was suggested to provide a cafe on site which Officers would actively explore.
- Officers would be looking to work with Gwent Wildlife Trust on the nature aspects of the site. The Memorandum of Understanding with Gwent Wildlife Trust allowed them to be involved in the design decisions.
- A series of consultation events would continue to be held going forward to consult on the high level vision and the specific projects.
- In terms of the remediation works on site, the highest risk shafts, adits and water courses would be prioritised and there was funding available to carry out those works.
- The biggest sum of money spent was on the purchase of site and the initial consultancy, however the working group could review the money spent so far.
- Officers had sought technical advice on where the liabilities were which was under constant re-evaluation. The money was being spent to make the site safe now which prevented having to go back and do it in a few years' time.
- Officers had submitted an expression of interest for funding to CADW to stabilise the listed structures and were also in constant liaison with Welsh Government around opportunity from their regeneration team and environment team. Officers were recently made aware of possible funding from NRW. A lot of projects included in the masterplan could have a heavy volunteer input.
- Gwent Wildlife Trust were involved in the landscape management plan

for the site and would be providing advice and tools to help develop different areas of the site.

- The condition of a number of the listed buildings on site had deteriorated and would not be able to be addressed with the funding available. However Officers had secured funding through the rural development programme to look at an appraisal for the engine house and coal board office building on site, the buildings could be put out for the private sector or third sector to invest in but unfortunately having looked at the possibility based on the usage of the site it would not be viable. If the usage was increased by encouraging people to use the walking routes that would be installed the viability may shift. However the council no longer had a tourism budget to promote the site.
- Part of the work of the landscape management plan was to assess all areas of the site to look at what could occur in each area which would give scope to for volunteer activities across the site. If the Council was unable to secure funding to deliver the rest of masterplan the landscape management plan activities could still continue and would include the removal of vegetation from the building and removing bracken to make the site more attractive.
- The Council owned the site and had a long term duty of care to the site and it was important to have a long term perspective as funding opportunities could change.
- The masterplan allocated space on site for renewable energies and if deliverable could unlock future uses for some of the buildings on site. Officers had already started engaging with Cardiff University on various parts of the project to build relationships and have a steering group in the university so when opportunity did emerge on the masterplan the contacts were already in place.
- After remediation works there would still be risk associated with the site, as there would still be shafts and adits remaining on the site however many of them would not be visible on the surface and therefore were a lower priority hazard. Another area of risk would be the remaining culvert area. There was also reputational risk and if the Council did follow through on their plans for the site.
- Until the landscape management plan and remediation detail design had been finalised Officers were unable to say how much the maintenance costs would be.
- There was a risk management framework where Officers monitored the risks and maintained an issues log which was updated monthly. There was also a corporate risk management process for the whole of the Council.
- The landscape management plan would pick up any biodiversity risks and the Council had commissioned an ecological survey to be carried out in advance of capital work on site.
- The masterplan would form part of the development framework for the site. The framework would be one of the documents submitted for planning consent for the remediation works. Officers would expect to be submitting the documents for planning permission in the next 6 to 9 months and the Masterplan would hopefully be submitted to Cabinet prior to that.
- 2023 was a realistic completion date for the cleaning and greening of

the site however there were always risks which could result in the scheme having to be adapted.

- The site was currently in the LDP, although its place was being reviewed. The project was for the long term which would need to be adaptable. There was little land in the North of the borough for development, there was no plan for hundreds of houses however it was important to keep all options open for future generations as there may be a need for housing in the future. By including the possibility of development in the Masterplan it allowed for future opportunities.
- If the site was left as it was the Council would not be able to meet the majority of the aspirations submitted in the business plan to Welsh Government.
- If the masterplan was not progressed the resources would get utilised elsewhere in the Council and Officers would not be readily available to grasp opportunities which may arise and the BLG would not have someone to liaise with as resources would be redeployed elsewhere. It was a strategic project of the Council and would be a project and a site which would have a place within the team for the foreseeable future not just until 2023. Cleaner and greening of the site was the first phase.
- The Masterplan was for the future and some aspects may not be explored for 10 years however there was scope for phasing the projects. It was important to have a masterplan as funding bodies looked for holistic outcomes.

5.6 The Chair thanked the Officers for their contributions and they left the meeting.

5.7 On completion of their scrutiny activity, the committee concluded by offering the following recommendations for consideration:

Recommendation 1:-

Communication with the local community enabling joint working was key to the project continuing successfully. Consultation should continue to be an ongoing process for all stages of the process including when the new LDP was developed.

Recommendation 2:-

Project risk and opportunity logs should be in place to ensure business continuity was considered, especially in relation to workforce planning, to prevent loss of knowledge as a result of losing staff.

Recommendation 3:-

When working with voluntary groups it should be carried out in as transparent a way as possible at all times.

Recommendation 4:-

Priority should be given to adding more resource into attracting commercial opportunities to the site when the time was right.

In conclusion members also offered the following comments:

- The committee would like to thank the Members of the British Liaison Group for attending and contributing to the meeting and also; other members of the group for the continued hard work they put in to ensure their community's views were heard.
- The committee would also like to thank the officers for attending and contributing to the meeting and felt that the consultation process had been carried out effectively, taking appropriate consideration into the views of the consultees.

6 Item for Next Meeting

- 6.1 The topic to be discussed at the next meeting would be the Review of the current policy on the use of glyphosate.
- 6.2 The Chair asked the committee a number of questions in relation to the next meeting.
- 6.3 In response to the questions, the committee agreed to invite the relevant Executive Member to meeting to justify the reason the Council used glyphosate and to confirm whether the COSHH statements were up to date. The Committee suggested inviting the Council's main subcontractor, the area manager from Keep Wales Tidy and a representative from the Soil Association. The Committee felt that they would not benefit from a site visit on that particular topic.

7 Date of Next Meeting 14/11/2018

- 7.1 The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14th November 2018.

Signed **Chair** **Date.....**

Minutes produced by Rachel Beale, Senior Business Support Officer (Democratic Services),
Wednesday 19th September 2018

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**CYFARFOD PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU CYMUNEDAU GLANACH
CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL TORFAEN**
A gynhaliwyd ar ddydd Mercher 19eg Medi 2018 am 1.30pm
Yn Siambr y Cyngor, y Ganolfan Ddinesig, Ffordd Hanbury, Pont-y-pŵl, NP4
6YB

COFNODION

Yn bresennol: Aelodau'r Pwyllgor

Y Cynghorwyr:

Peter Jones (Cadeirydd)
Stuart Ashley
Giles Davies
Jason O'Connell
Norma Parrish

Aelodau Cyfetholedig:

Alun Williams

Swyddogion:

Rachel Beale – Uwch Swyddog Cymorth Busnes (Gwasanaethau Democraidaidd)
Catherine Turner – Uwch Swyddog Gwella a Chraffu

Erill:

Roedd tri aelod o Grŵp Cyswllt y British yn yr Oriel, John Cox, Lynda Clarkson a Leanne Newman.

Gweithredu

1 Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau

1.1 Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan y Cynghorwyr Huw Bevan, Stuart Evans, Gaynor James a Dave Thomas.

2 Datgan Buddiannau

2.1 Ni ddatganwyd unrhyw fuddiannau.

3 Cofnodion 20/06/2018

3.1 Cadarnhawyd cofnodion y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 20fed Mehefin 2018 fel cofnod cywir.

4 Dalen Camau Gweithredu

4.1 Bu i'r aelodau gydnabod y ddalen camau gweithredu.

5 The British: Uwchgyllun

5.1 Croesawodd y Cadeirydd Gadeirydd Grŵp Cyswllt y British, John Cox, yr Is-gadeirydd, Lynda Clarkson a Leanne Newman, Aelod o'r Grŵp i'r cyfarfod.

5.2 Gofynnodd yr Aelodau nifer o gwestiynau i gynrychiolwyr Grŵp Cyswllt y British (BLG) a rhoddwyd yr atebion canlynol:

- Ar ôl gweld y cwestiynau ymlaen llaw, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod i'w trafod ac roedd yr atebion ar ran y BLG.
- Roedd y BLG yn ystyried ymgynghori fel proses barhaus.
- Roedd gan y BLG rôl bwysig eisoes o ran glanhau a gwneud y safle yn wyrddach, ac roedd wedi gostwng y gyllideb £1 miliwn trwy dargedu'r siaffftiau a'r mynedfeydd a oedd angen mwy o driniaeth nag eraill ar y safle.
- Yn ystod y rownd gyntaf o ymgynghori, roedd gormod o bwyslais ar ddatblygu, yr oedd y gymuned eisoes wedi ei wrthwynebu fel rhywbeth amhriodol ac na ellid ei fforddio; fodd bynnag yn ystod yr ymgynghoriad diweddar roedd agwedd mwy realistig tuag at y safle a oedd yn deillio o fewnbwn y BLG.
- Ers pan gyflwynwyd y Memorandwm o Ddealltwriaeth, roedd y Cyngor wedi darparu ychydig o adroddiadau i'r BLG, ond nid oeddynt wedi derbyn yr holl adroddiadau y gofynnwyd amdanynt. Roedd y BLG eto i glywed telerau penodol y cytundeb gyda Llywodraeth Cymru, a oedd yn hanfodol i'r BLG i ddeall beth yr oedd Llywodraeth Cymru ei eisiau o'r prosiect.
- Roedd y broses wedi bod yn un o ddysgu i bawb ac nid oedd trafodaethau byth yn syml. Bu adegau pan roedd y BLG yn teimlo bod y cynllun wedi bod yn mynd oddi ar y llwybr, ond roedd y BLG yn medru cysylltu ag Arweinydd y Cyngor a'r Prif Swyddog i fynegi eu pryderon. Roedd wastad rhywun yn y Cyngor yr oedd y BLG yn medru mynd atynt ac roedd y cyfathrebu rhwng y ddwy ochr wedi arwain at bawb yn edrych ar y safle yn yr un ffordd. Y datblygiad ar y safle oedd y prif anghytundeb a'r arian a oedd yn cael ei wario; roedd gan y BLG ganlyniad terfynol a'r arian i gwblhau'r gwaith angenrheidiol.
- Cyn i'r Cyngor brynu'r tir roedd gan y BLG gynllun ar gyfer yr ardal a oedd yn cynnwys glanhau a gwyrddio; nid oedd datblygiad yn eu cynllun hwy. Pan ofynnwyd i'r BLG os oeddynt yn cytuno gyda chynllun y Cyngor i brynu'r tir, pleidleisiwyd mewn cyfarfod cyhoeddus 54 pleidlais i 1 eu bod yn cefnogi'r syniad bod y Cyngor yn prynu'r tir; ar y pryd nid oedd sôn bod datblygiad yn rhan o'r fargen ac roedd hynny'n rhywbeth a ddigwyddodd ar ôl ychwanegu eu llofnodion i'r cytundeb. Roedd swyddogion y Cyngor wedi bod yn meddwl am ddatblygu'r safle o'r cyfnod cynnar ac roedd y BLG wedi bod yn ymladd yn erbyn y syniad. Os, ar ôl 20 mlynedd, pan roedd gwarchodfa natur a phyllau ar y safle, yna gellid trafod cynnig ar gyfer datblygu.
- Cyflwynodd adroddiad yr ymgynghorydd gynllun na ellid ei fforddio; dim ond 3 allan o'r 8 opsiwn a oedd yn fforddiadwy. Roedd yn achos pryder bod costau ychwanegol yn cael eu hachosi trwy gyflogi ymgynghorwyr.
- Cynnig y BLG ar gyfer y safle oedd glanhau a gwyrddio a chwpl o

byllau, ac roedd unrhyw gynigion ychwanegol wedi eu creu gan swyddogion y Cyngor. Ni ddylai'r Cyngor fod wedi gwastraffu arian ar yr ymgynghorwyr, oherwydd allan o'r holl opsiynau a gynigiwyd gan yr ymgynghorwyr, dim ond opsiwn 6a a gytunwyd, sef y cynnig gwreiddiol a wnaed gan y BLG.

- Roedd yn amlwg o'r rownd ddiweddaraf o ymgynghori bod y BLG yn cynrychioli barn y gymuned.
- Roedd y BLG wedi cychwyn 'Grŵp Cyfeillion y British'; roedd Lynda yn mynd i Gadeirio'r grŵp am y flwyddyn gyntaf i helpu eu llywio yn y cyfeiriad iawn, eu cyflwyno i'r swyddogion perthnasol a'u hysbysu o'r blaenoriaethau tirlunio ar gyfer y safle. Y gymuned a oedd yn rhedeg y Grŵp Cyfeillion.
- Roedd y BLG wedi bod yn gryf iawn yn eu safiad i sicrhau bod eu barn yn cael ei chlywed. Hyd yn oed cyn y Memorandwm o Ddealltwriaeth, roedd y BLG wastad wedi gweithio ar sail cyfrinachedd ac roedd nifer o'r adroddiadau a welwyd gan y BLG nad oeddynt at ddefnydd y cyhoedd.
- Dim ond dau weithiwr rhan-amser a oedd yn gweithio ar y prosiect, ond roedd nifer o Swyddogion eraill gyda chyfrifoldebau am feysydd megis tai a chynllunio at y dyfodol a oedd â mewnbwn er nad oedd eu meysydd hwy wedi eu cynnwys yn amcanion y prosiect.
- Roedd y BLG wedi cael problem o ran cyfathrebu gan fod y Prif Swyddog gyda chyfrifoldeb am y British am fwy nag 20 mlynedd wedi gadael yr awdurdod adeg prynu'r safle. Roedd hyn yn golygu bod yn rhaid i'r BLG ddechrau gweithio gyda staff newydd nad oedd ganddynt yr un wybodaeth am y safle. Serch hynny, roedd cyfathrebu nawr yn ôl ar y trywydd iawn gyda'r staff newydd ac roeddynt yn teimlo bod y Cyngor yn gwrando arnynt.
- Roedd grwpiau a chyrrff eraill wedi bod yn chwarae rhan gyda'r safle, gan gynnwys Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwyllt Gwent a'r grŵp hanes lleol a oedd yn awyddus i weld beth ellid ei wneud gyda'r adeiladau rhestredig ar y safle. Gweledigaeth y gymuned ar gyfer y safle oedd nid yn unig gwarchodfa natur ond adnoddau hamdden a allai gynyddu twristiaeth ar y safle ac a ellid hefyd ei gysylltu â Safle Treftadaeth y Byd Blaenafon. Hoffai'r BLG greu llwybrau treftadaeth gyda byrddau gwybodaeth ac adfer yr adeiladau ar y safle.
- Hysbysebwyd y sesiynau galw heibio yn eang ledled Torfaen ac roedd croeso i bawb, ond y brif ffocws oedd y gymuned leol gan eu bod wedi bod yn ymladd yn erbyn mwynloddio agored ar y safle am fwy na 30 o flynyddoedd.
- Roedd Swyddog Ymgysylltu Cymunedol y Cyngor wedi bod mewn cysylltiad gyda'r BLG ers y dechrau ac wedi bod yn wasanaethgar iawn o ran sicrhau bod y BLG yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth a sicrhau bod cyfathrebu yn parhau.

5.3 Cymeradwyodd yr aelodau y BLG a datgan eu gwerthfawrogiad o'u gwaith caled parhaus.

Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r cynrychiolwyr o'r BLG am eu hamser a gadawsant y cyfarfod.

5.4 Croesawodd y Cadeirydd y Prif Swyddog Cymdogaethau, Cynllunio ac Amddiffyn y Cyhoedd a Rheolwr Rhaglen Adfywio Gogledd Torfaen i'r cyfarfod.

5.5 Mewn ymateb i gwestiynau gan yr Aelodau, atebodd y Swyddogion fel a ganlyn:

- Byddai'r Swyddogion yn parhau i gynnal gweithdai cymunedol a digwyddiadau ymgynghori cyhoeddus ynghyd â chyfathrebu arlein. Roedd y gweithdai yn darparu gwybodaeth ddefnyddiol i'r Swyddogion a hefyd yn cysylltu â phobl ifanc. Roedd yn bwysig bod pwrpas i'r cyfathrebu a'u bod yn cael eu hanfon ar yr adeg briodol, a oedd yn fwy arwyddocaol na chyfathrebu trwy'r amser.
- Roedd y Memorandwm o Ddealltwriaeth gyda'r BLG yn galluogi i'r Swyddogion rannu mwy o'r dogfennau a oedd yn caniatáu craffu gan y gymuned, nad oedd yn medru digwydd o'r blaen oherwydd cyfrinachedd. Roedd y Memorandwm o Ddealltwriaeth hefyd yn nodi rolau gwahanol y sefydliadau.
- Cyflwynodd y Swyddogion gynllun busnes i Lywodraeth Cymru pan roedd y Cyngor yn chwilio am gyllid rhannol i gyflenwi'r cynllun ac roedd 8 amcan, sef:
 - Rheoli risgiau iechyd a diogelwch yn briodol
 - Cryfhau dyheadau cymunedau i ddarparu cyfleoedd i genedlaethau'r dyfodol
 - Cefnogi amcanion iechyd a lles trwy wella seilwaith gwyrdd a hybu mynediad i'r amgylchedd naturiol
 - Gwella gwytnwch amgylcheddol trwy ddiogelu a gwella bioamrywiaeth
 - Ystyried cyfleoedd posibl mwy hirdymor ar gyfer buddsoddiad sector preifat/trydydd sector, swyddi a thwf
 - Ystyried cyfleoedd posibl mwy hirdymor ar gyfer datblygu tai yn y dyfodol
 - Ystyried cyfleoedd posibl mwy hirdymor ar gyfer ynni gwyrdd cudd
 - Amddiffyn a hyrwyddo treftadaeth a diwylliant

Roedd y cynnig grant yn gontract rhwng Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cyngor gyda thelerau ac amodau. Nid oedd yn arferol rhannu'r ddogfen gan ei bod yn gontract ffurfiol.

- Roedd y BLG wedi sefydlu Grŵp Cyfeillion y British a fyddai'n rhoi cyfle da i gael gwirfoddolwyr gweithgar a dechrau cysylltu'n gadarnhaol gyda phobl o ran cyflenwi'r prosiect, ac roedd hefyd yn rhoi cyfle i wneud cais am gyllid grant, gwirfoddolwyr ychwanegol a chymorth gan y trydydd sector.
- Nid oedd datblygu tai ar y safle y peth blaenaf yn yr adroddiad a gyflwynwyd i'r Cyngor a datgloi cyfleoedd ar gyfer tai oedd rhif 7 allan o'r 8 amcan a anfonwyd at Lywodraeth Cymru. Gan fod y safle wedi ei gynnwys yn y CDLI fel ardal strategol, mae'n arwain at dybiaeth bod adeiladu'n mynd i fod ar y safle; fodd bynnag nid oedd yn ddyhead gan y Cyngor i'r safle fod yn ddatblygiad tai mawr a gobeithio y byddai'r cynllun rheoli a'r fframwaith datblygu yn lliniaru'r pryderon hynny.
- Yn ystod yr ymgysylltu cyhoeddus, teimlai'r Swyddogion bod

ymgyngori wedi bod gyda phob grŵp, er bod cysylltiad i'w wneud eto gyda rhai grwpiau gweithredu penodol megis grwpiau gweithredu ar anabledd; byddant hwy, fodd bynnag yn cael eu cysylltu gyda manylion technegol y prosiect.

- Ar ddechrau'r prosiect, arolygodd y Swyddogion y data roedd gan y Cyngor ar y safle. Cerddodd y Swyddogion o gwmpas y safle hefyd gydag aelodau'r gymuned i adnabod peryglon roeddynt yn ymwybodol ohonynt ar y safle. Roedd angen act falansio o ran cymryd a dibynnu ar wybodaeth gan aelodau'r cyhoedd a rheoli atebolrwydd ar y safle. Roedd angen gwybodaeth newydd ar ambell ardal o fewn y safle, er enghraifft archwiliadau newydd ar y system cwrs dŵr gan fod gan y Swyddogion hen ffotograffau, ac roedd eu cyflwr nawr yn wahanol o gymharu â phryd tynnwyd y lluniau.
- Nid oedd y Swyddogion wedi cysylltu â Chynghorau eraill ac roeddynt yn betrus i wneud hynny gan fod arbenigedd wedi symud ymlaen oherwydd bod y pyllau glo wedi cau amser maith yn ôl. Fodd bynnag, roedd y Swyddogion yn cysylltu gyda'r Awdurdod Glo gan mai nhw oedd yr arbenigwyr. Lle'r oedd gwaith ymgynghorol wedi ei wneud ar y safle, roedd Swyddogion wedi gofyn i'r Awdurdod Glo arolygu'r wybodaeth i weld os oeddynt yn fodlon gyda'r fethodoleg.
- Roedd y Swyddogion wedi anfon yr Uwchgynllun at CADW a Chyfoeth Naturiol Cymru a gofyn am eu barn ar y cynnig. Teimlwyd y byddai ymgynghori gyda nhw yn delio ag unrhyw bryderon a allai godi yn nes ymlaen yn y broses gynllunio. Nid oedd unrhyw broblemau na gwrthwynebiadau mawr wedi eu codi gan y rhanddeiliaid.
- Roedd y Swyddogion wedi ceisio defnyddio gwybodaeth leol i fwydo'r asesiadau strwythurol, ond roedd gan y Cyngor gyfrifoldeb am y safle ac os oeddynt yn dibynnu ar farn aelodau'r cyhoedd yn unig ni fyddai indemniad cyfreithiol. Pan ddefnyddiwyd ymgynghorwyr, roedd gan y Cyngor yswiriant atebolrwydd cyhoeddus trwyddyn nhw, ac felly os oedd y Cyngor yn gweithredu ar eu cyngor ac os oedd yn wallus, yna gallai'r Cyngor gymryd camau cyfreithiol.
- Roedd gan y tîm yn Nhorfaen lefel uchel o arbenigrwydd, ond nid oedd ganddynt beiriannydd mwyngloddio arbenigol ac roedd angen gofyn am arbenigwr i gynorthwyo.
- Roedd y syniadau o'r sesiynau ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc yn gadarn iawn ac yn clymu gyda'r prosiect a awgrymwyd eisoes megis troi rhai o'r llwybrau cerdded yn llwybrau beicio. Roedd yr ymgynghoriad yn pwysleisio pwysigrwydd treftadaeth ar y safle ac awgrymwyd cynnwys caffi ar y safle, a byddai'r Swyddogion yn ystyried y syniad yn ofalus.
- Byddai'r Swyddogion eisiau gweithio gydag Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwyllt Gwent ar agweddau natur y safle. Roedd y Memorandwm o Ddealltwriaeth gyda'r Ymddiriedolaeth yn caniatáu iddynt chwarae rhan yn y penderfyniadau dylunio.
- Byddai cyfres o ddigwyddiadau ymgynghori yn parhau i drafod y weledigaeth lefel uchel a phrosiectau penodol.
- O ran y gwaith adfer ar y safle, byddai'r siafftau a'r mynedfeydd risg uchaf a'r cyrsiau dŵr yn cael eu blaenoriaethu ac roedd cyllid ar gael ar gyfer y gwaith hwn.
- Y swm mwyaf o arian a wariwyd oedd ar brynu'r safle a'r ymgynghori

cychwynnol, ond gallai'r gweithgor arolygu'r arian a wariwyd hyd yma.

- Roedd y Swyddogion wedi gofyn am gyngor technegol ar yr atebolrwydd, a oedd yn cael ei ail-werthuso'n gyson. Roedd yr arian yn cael ei wario i wneud y safle'n ddiogel nawr a oedd yn golygu nad oedd angen mynd yn ôl i'w wneud ymhen ychydig o flynyddoedd.
- Roedd y Swyddogion wedi cyflwyno mynegiant o ddiddordeb o ran cyllid i CADW i sefydlogi'r strwythurau rhestredig ac roeddynt hefyd mewn cysylltiad cyson gyda Llywodraeth Cymru ynglŷn â chyfle gan eu tîm adfywio a'r tîm amgylcheddol. Roedd y Swyddogion yn ddiweddar wedi dod yn ymwybodol o gyllid posibl gan CNC. Gellid cael mewnbwn gan wirfoddolwyr o ran llawer o'r prosiectau yn yr uwchgynllun.
- Roedd Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwylt Gwent yn chwarae rhan yn y cynllun rheoli tirwedd ar gyfer y safle a byddai'n rhoi cyngor ac offer i helpu i ddatblygu gwahanol ardaloedd ar y safle.
- Roedd cyflwr nifer o'r adeiladau rhestredig ar y safle wedi dirywio ac ni fyddai modd delio â hyn gyda'r cyllid a oedd ar gael. Serch hynny, roedd y Swyddogion wedi sicrhau cyllid drwy'r rhaglen datblygu gwledig i edrych ar arfarniad ar gyfer adeilad yr injan a swyddfa'r bwrdd glo ar y safle. Gellid cynnig yr adeiladau i'r sector preifat neu'r trydydd sector i fuddsoddi ynddynt ond yn anffodus, ar ôl edrych ar y posibilrwydd yn seiliedig ar y defnydd o'r safle, ni fyddai'n hyfyw. Pe cawsai defnydd ei gynyddu trwy annog pobl i ddefnyddio'r llwybrau cerdded, gallai hynny newid. Fodd bynnag, nid oedd gan y Cyngor gyllideb twristiaeth bellach i hyrwyddo'r safle.
- Rhan o waith y cynllun rheoli tirwedd oedd asesu pob ardal o'r safle i weld beth allai ddigwydd ym mhob ardal a fyddai'n rhoi sgôp i weithgareddau gwirfoddoli ledled y safle. Os nad oedd y Cyngor yn medru sicrhau cyllid i gyflenwi gweddill yr uwchgynllun, gallai gweithgareddau cynllun rheoli tirwedd fynd rhagddynt o hyd a chynnwys symud ymaith llystyfiant o'r adeilad a chael gwared â rhedyn i wneud y safle'n fwy deniadol.
- Y Cyngor oedd berchen ar y safle ac roedd ganddo ddyletswydd gofal hirdymor mewn perthynas â'r safle; roedd yn bwysig cael safbwynt hirdymor gan y gallai cyfleoedd ariannu newid.
- Roedd yr uwchgynllun yn dyrannu lle ar y safle ar gyfer ynni adnewyddadwy ac os gellid cyflawni hynny, gallai gynnig defnyddiau ar gyfer rhai o'r adeiladau ar y safle yn y dyfodol. Roedd y Swyddogion eisoes wedi dechrau siarad gyda Phrifysgol Caerdydd ar amrywiol agweddau ar y prosiect i feithrin perthnasau ac mae grŵp llywio yn y brifysgol, felly pan fyddai'r cyfle yn codi, roedd cysylltiadau eisoes yno.
- Ar ôl gwaith adfer, byddai risg yn gysylltiedig â'r safle o hyd, gan y byddai siafftau a mynedfeydd ar ôl. Fodd bynnag, ni fyddai llawer ohonynt i'w gweld ar yr wyneb ac felly roeddynt yn berygl blaenoriaeth is. Maes risg arall fyddai'r ardal cwlfwr sydd ar ôl. Roedd perygl hefyd i enw da ac os oedd y Cyngor yn mynd rhagddynt â'u cynlluniau ar gyfer y safle.
- Nes byddai'r cynllun rheoli tirwedd a dyluniad manylion y gwaith adfer wedi eu cwblhau, nid oedd y Swyddogion yn medru dweud beth fyddai'r costau cynnal a chadw.
- Roedd fframwaith rheoli risg er mwyn i Swyddogion fonitro'r risgiau a

chynnal cofnod o faterion a oedd yn cael ei ddiweddarau bob mis. Roedd proses rheoli risg gorfforaethol hefyd ar gyfer y Cyngor cyfan.

- Byddai'r cynllun rheoli bioamrywiaeth yn nodi unrhyw risgiau bioamrywiaeth ac roedd y Cyngor wedi comisiynu arolwg ecolegol i'w ymgymryd cyn gwneud gwaith cyfalaf ar y safle.
- Byddai'r uwchgynllun yn ffurfio rhan o'r fframwaith datblygu ar gyfer y safle. Byddai'r fframwaith yn un o'r dogfennau i'w cyflwyno ar gyfer caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y gwaith adfer. Byddai Swyddogion yn disgwyl cyflwyno'r dogfennau am ganiatâd cynllunio yn y 6 i 9 mis nesaf, gobeithio, a gobeithid cyflwyno'r uwchgynllun i'r Cabinet cyn hynny.
- Roedd 2023 yn ddyddiad cwblhau realistig ar gyfer glanhau a gwyrddio'r safle, ond roedd bob amser risgiau a allai arwain at orfod addasu'r cynllun.
- Mae'r safle yn y CDLI ar hyn o bryd, er bod ei le yn cael ei arolygu. Roedd y prosiect yn un hirdymor a byddai angen gallu ei addasu. Ychydig o dir sydd yng ngogledd y fwrdeistref ar gyfer datblygiad; nid oedd cynllun ar gyfer cannoedd o dai, ond roedd yn bwysig cadw opsiynau'n agored ar gyfer cenedlaethau'r dyfodol oherwydd efallai y byddai angen am dai yn y dyfodol. Trwy gynnwys y posibilrwydd o ddatblygu yn yr Uwchgynllun, roedd yn caniatáu ar gyfer cyfleoedd i'r dyfodol.
- Pe gadewid y safle fel yr oedd, ni fyddai'r Cyngor yn medru cyflawni mwyafrif y dyheadau yn y cynllun busnes a gyflwynwyd i Lywodraeth Cymru.
- Pe na byddai'r uwchgynllun yn cael ei ddatblygu, byddai'r adnoddau'n cael eu defnyddio mewn mannau eraill o fewn y Cyngor ac ni fyddai'r Swyddogion ar gael yn hawdd i afael mewn cyfleoedd a allai godi, ac ni fyddai gan y BLG rywun i gysylltu â nhw gan y byddai adnoddau wedi eu defnyddio mewn man arall. Roedd yn brosiect strategol i'r Cyngor a safle a fyddai â lle o fewn y tîm ar gyfer y dyfodol rhagweladwy, nid yn unig hyd at 2023. Glanhau a gwyrddio'r safle oedd y cyfnod cyntaf.
- Roedd yr Uwchgynllun ar gyfer y dyfodol ac efallai na fyddai rhai agweddau ohono yn cael eu hystyried am 10 mlynedd, ond roedd lle i gyflwyno'r prosiectau mewn cyfnodau. Roedd yn bwysig cael uwchgynllun gan fod cyrff ariannu yn edrych am ganlyniadau cyfannol.

5.6 Diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Swyddogion am eu cyfraniadau a gadawsant y cyfarfod.

5.7 Ar ôl cwblhau eu gweithgareddau craffu, terfynodd y pwyllgor drwy gynnig yr argymhellion canlynol i'w hystyried:

Argymhelliad 1:-

Roedd cyfathrebu gyda'r gymuned leol gan alluogi cydweithio yn allweddol i'r prosiect barhau yn llwyddiannus. Dylai ymgynghori barhau er mwyn bod yn broses barhaus ar gyfer pob cyfnod gan gynnwys pan fyddai'r CDLI newydd yn cael ei ddatblygu.

Argymhelliad 2:-

Dylid cael cofnodion risg prosiect a chyfleoedd i sicrhau bod dilyniant

busnes yn cael ei ystyried, yn enwedig o ran cynllunio'r gweithlu, er mwyn osgoi colli gwybodaeth o ganlyniad i golli staff.

Argymhelliad 3:-

Wrth weithio gyda grwpiau gwirfoddol, dylid ei wneud mewn modd mor agored ag y bo modd bob amser.

Argymhelliad 4:-

Dylid rhoi blaenoriaeth i ychwanegu mwy o adnoddau i ddenu cyfleoedd masnachol i'r safle pan fydd yr amser yn briodol.

Wrth gloi, cynigiodd yr aelodau y sylwadau canlynol hefyd:

- Hoffai'r pwyllgor ddiolch i aelodau Grŵp Cyswllt y British am fynychu a chyfrannu i'r cyfarfod a hefyd i aelodau eraill y grŵp am y gwaith caled parhaus maent yn ei wneud i sicrhau bod barn y gymuned yn cael ei chlywed.
- Hoffai'r pwyllgor ddiolch hefyd i'r swyddogion am fynychu a chyfrannu i'r cyfarfod, a themlent bod y broses ymgynghori wedi digwydd yn effeithiol, gan gymryd ystyriaeth briodol o farn y rhai yr ymgynghorwyd a nhw.

6. Eitem ar gyfer y Cyfarfod Nesaf

- 6.1 Y pwnc i'w drafod yn y cyfarfod nesaf fyddai arolwg o'r polisi presennol ar ddefnyddio glyffosat.
- 6.2 Gofynnodd y Cadeirydd nifer o gwestiynau i'r pwyllgor mewn perthynas â'r cyfarfod nesaf.
- 6.3 Mewn ymateb i'r cwestiynau, cytunodd y pwyllgor wahodd yr Aelod Gweithredol perthnasol i'r cyfarfod i gyfiawnhau pam roedd y Cyngor yn defnyddio glyffosat ac i gadarnhau os oedd y datganiadau COSSH wedi eu diweddarau. Awgrymodd y Pwyllgor wahodd prif is-gontractwr y Cyngor, y rheolwr ardal o Cadw Cymru'n Daclus, a chynrychiolydd o'r Gymdeithas Pridd. Teimlai'r Pwyllgor na fyddent yn elwa o gael ymweliad safle ar y pwnc penodol hwnnw.

7. Dyddiad y Cyfarfod Nesaf

- 7.1 Roedd y cyfarfod nesaf i'w gynnal ar ddydd Mercher 14eg Tachwedd 2018.

Llofnod **Cadeirydd**
Dyddiad.....

Cynhyrchwyd y cofnodion gan Rachel Beale, Uwch Swyddog Cymorth Busnes (Gwasanaethau Democraidd), dydd Mercher 19eg Medi 2018.