



**To/
Councillors June Burtonshaw and
Mary Sherwood
Cabinet Members for Future
Generations**

BY EMAIL

*Please ask for:
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Overview & Scrutiny

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7th November 2017

Summary: This is a letter from the Building Sustainable Communities Inquiry Follow Up to the Cabinet Members for Future Generations following the meeting of the Panel on 17th October 2017. It reflects on the Follow Up meeting of the Building Sustainable Communities Inquiry Panel.

Dear Councillors Burtonshaw and Sherwood,

The Building Sustainable Communities Inquiry Follow Up Panel met on the 17th October to have an overview and service update from Sue Reed – Community and Recreation Development Manager. This letter provides you with feedback from our meeting.

We were very encouraged to hear about the work which had been undertaken in this important area since the Inquiry, and were grateful to Sue Reed for giving an in depth report and answering questions during the meeting.

We would like to make the following comments;

1. We were pleased with the breadth and level of work which has been undertaken since the original Inquiry. The amount of work is even more notable given the team are working across two areas - Community Buildings and Open Spaces.
2. The support which is offered to volunteers should be publicised more. Not only to raise the profile of the work but to celebrate it. Many of the groups we

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heard about may not be able to continue without the support the team offer. This would be shame and a loss to the communities in which they are active.

3. Whilst we were pleased that the service has moved forward, we also acknowledge we have to find ways for the community buildings and open spaces in Swansea to survive and remain an important part of our City.

4. During the meeting, we touched on the idea of established groups giving guidance and sharing best practice with newer groups. We feel that this would be an excellent idea going forward with more established community members could be encouraged to share their experience and successes.

5. The Annual Joint Forum meeting between Friends of Parks and Community Centre Committee Members, which took place in June 2017 is an excellent idea. It may be useful to invite Councillors along and hold each meeting at a different community venue each year. This way, more volunteers will be able to attend and highlight what is going on in that particular area.

6. We were very pleased about the work being undertaken in this area in spite of staff losses, from nine to three staff members. We feel that any further cuts to this department would be counterproductive and impact an already stretched service.

7. We would like to see a presentation to Council in 3-6 months around success and progress is recommended. Not only would it highlight departmental good work, but it would also bring to the attention of Councillors the kind of volunteer support available in their wards.

We hope that you find the contents of this letter useful and would welcome any further comments however **we do not expect you to provide a formal response.**

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terry Hennegan', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Terry Hennegan

Convener, Building Sustainable Communities Inquiry Follow Up
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