



Present:	Chair : Patricia Parsons Vice Chair: Toni Hayes Treasurer : Roslyn Chamberlain Secretary : Walter Harris Dawn Bevan Paul Davey Sylvia Hoad Roger Hayes Joyce Petrovic Verlie Crandon Margaret Oelmann	Maureen Williams Evelyn Trumper Angela Day Brian Day Rosemary Butler Muriel Price Doreen Smith Olive Jenkins Avril Weaver Kit Welberg Bridget Barnes	Dorothy Phillips Barbara Bowen Delene Leek Sheila Gummery Richard Guppy Maureen Guppy Malcom Davies Laura Turner
In attendance:	Age Connects Torfaen - TCBC Shane & Marie Theresa and Andrew	Melanie Faulkner Steve Honeywill Bron Afon Recycling, TCBC	
Apologies:	Carol Briffett Mary Davey Brian McDowell Shirley McDowell	Pat Walkley Irene Cunningham Barbara Parry Margaret Stubbington	

Agenda item	Minutes	Action
1.	Welcome and apologies for absence The Chair welcomed all, enquiring if everyone was registered and had been able to purchase a raffle ticket. PP apologised for the initial disruption with the room not having been set up and thanked the ladies who stepped in to provide refreshments. PP advised that copies of the new Constitution were available for those who had not already received them. She further confirmed that the raffle was optional. It was confirmed that subscriptions had been received and PP then announced that there would be a change to the Agenda and the Group would go straight to the guest speakers.	
2.	Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting None.	
3.	Speakers: Shane and Marie, Bron Afon Supporting People, Torfaen. Chair welcomed Shane and Marie to the Cwmbran Forum. Marie and Shane explained that Torfaen 50+ is a free support service for anyone over 50 in Torfaen to help them with anything that is having an impact on their life and wellbeing. This could be support with housing needs, assistance with independent living, domestic violence, mental health. Marie invited members to contact them with any concerns as they are often able to signpost clients to other services for assistance if they are not personally able to help. The only criteria for using the service is that you live in the Borough of Torfaen. They offer good facilities and are a neutral service. Home owners are welcome and it is not necessary to be a tenant to access the service. Shane then advised that leaflets with contact numbers were available for collection at the rear of the room. This concluded their talk and PP thanked them for attending.	

Speakers: Theresa and Andy, Recycling, TCBC.

Theresa opened the presentation explaining that it was informal, and questions were welcome.

Waste – an introduction to the services explaining collection days and what was available from TCBC for the purposes of Waste and Recycling.

1. 140 Litre black bin, collected fortnightly and limited to one per household.
2. 55 Litre kerbside box, emptied weekly and no limits placed as to how many per household.
3. 27 Litre food waste caddies, collected weekly and not limited as to how many per household. Recycling bags for use with these are available for collection at the Civic Centre in Pontypool, Cwmbran Library, World Heritage Centre in Blaenavon, and Customer Care Centre in Cwmbran. They can also be collected from the household waste recycling centre in New Inn on weekends.
4. Blue bag for cardboard, collected fortnightly.
5. 240 litre green bin for garden waste, collected fortnightly from March to November.

Question: What if the recycling in the black boxes gets wet, ie; when it rains?

Answer: This doesn't matter as ultimately the contents will be pulped.

Comment: With the black boxes, it is sometimes a struggle for the elderly to put these out and when they do sometimes, they are not collected or if they are, they are not put back or are thrown.

Response: The Council will provide assistance if requested. Alternatively, if you report a missed recycling collection the council should return within 24 hours to make the collection. If this is a frequent occurrence in the area Andy asked for specific details and he and Theresa would look into this. Throwing of boxes is a regular complaint and the operatives are asked not to do so. However, if this does happen all the vans are now tracked so if you are able to provide the date and time of the incident it can then be ascertained who it was, and this can be taken up with the individual concerned. If you suffer from a medical condition home assistance can be arranged and either Andy or Theresa would make a home visit to ascertain what assistance could be given.

Question: Are the operatives all trained?

Answer: Yes, they are all fully trained including aspect of Health & Safety.

Question: I've heard that an Inspector follows the vans round. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. Inspectors are on hand but they cannot follow all vans at any one time so they conduct spot checks.

Question: I always put my black box recycling in plastic bags. Am I correct in doing this?

Answer: It is better to put the contents of the black box in loose as the bags could contain items such as needles that have been discovered before. We just ask for clothing to be bagged.

Theresa then proceeded to advise what could go in each box:-

1. Black Box – glass, plastics, cans, tins, aerosols, foil, papers, magazines, catalogues, shoes (paired), juice cartons, yoghurt pots, plastic trays, toothpaste and cooking tubes. Clothes can also be accepted but these need to be wrapped or bagged. All other items can be loose. You can also now recycle the small plastic coffee containers used in coffee machines.

Question: What should you do with broken china?

Answer: This would need to be put in purple lidded bin for Health & Safety reasons.

Whilst all the collectors wear gloves there is still a possibility of injury.

Question: What about jam jars? It is ok to leave the lids on?

Answer: Yes, there is no problem with leaving the lids on. Also, the jars do not have to be spotless, a quick swill round will suffice.

Question: Is it possible to recycle polystyrene?

Answer: No, this needs to go in the black purple lidded bin.

Theresa continued with the Presentation.

Food Caddy – you can use this to recycle meat, fish, bones, fruit, veg peelings, eggs, cheese, dairy products, bread, cake, pastries, rice, pasta, beans, leftovers, tea bags and coffee grounds.

Theresa explained that it is a challenge to get people to recycle food waste and presented some figures:-

Residents in Torfaen recycle 46% of food waste. If all food was recycled Torfaen's recycling would increase by 7.5 % to 71% which would meet the required target of 70%. Recycling of food waste saves the Council approximately £150k per year.

Targets

2012 – 2013 52%

2015 – 2016 58%

2019 – 2020 64% (currently slightly behind on this target)

2024 – 2025 70%

Penalties - these are imposed on Councils who do not meet the targets for Recycling that are set for them.

Current Performance –

2011/2012 – 44% recycled.

2014/2015 – 52% recycled

The current rate is 61%

TCBC are promoting education and awareness with:-

- Advice
- Home visits
- Additional help.
- Schools.
- Special Events
- Newsletters
- Competitions
- Community Group Meeting

The emphasis is very much on education as we seem to have become a disposable society.

Question: When you visit the Recycling Sites the figures displayed are always higher than 64%. Why is this?

Answer: The figures are set for the Site. However, targets still need to be met in order to avoid fines. The Site in Pontypool does now have a better layout with more recycling stations.

Question: I've read somewhere that some Councils inspect bins?

Answer: The waste from the purple lidded bins will go for incineration. However, some Councils, such as Cardiff, who do not operate a kerbside recycling scheme, will try to take items that can be recycled out from the waste. However, Torfaen do not operate a first point enforcement but prefer to promote the re-education route.

Question: Do you take talks to Schools?

Answer: Yes, we have been doing this for a long time. Primary school children are very receptive but once you get to the Secondary schools the interest wains.

Comments were then made around the waste left in Hyde Park by the recent Eco Warriors protest and at Barry Island during the recent good weather.

Andy advised that they were happy to provide awareness events to groups, discuss problems and gain valuable feedback from these.

Question: On one occasion I recycled some flower pots and they were taken but the second time they were left?

Answer: Unfortunately, we cannot accept this kind of plastic. Sometimes when Agency staff are working, they are unaware and will take flower pots, the usual crew are all up-to-date with what can and cannot be taken. You can however, return the pots to the Garden Centre. We are reliant on Companies who can recycle plastic for

	<p>us. The message really is to stop the on mass buying of items in plastic packaging, if we stopped buying then manufactures would eventually stop providing this packaging. Supermarkets have many ploys to make you buy more than you probably need, for example buy one, get one free.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> What happens to the food in the food bin liners and to the liners themselves?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> The food is heat treated to provide compost. Some of the bags are removed.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> I don't drive and am unable to get to the Recycling Centre, can I recycle small electrical items from home?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> Current vehicles do not have the capacity for this, when new vehicles are purchased this could be an option, but demand would have to be taken into consideration. For the moment, in this case, you would need to put the item in the purple lidded bin.</p> <p><u>Question:</u> Where can I put dog waste?</p> <p><u>Answer:</u> In the purple lidded bin. All waste from meat eating animals needs to go in this bin. For non-meat-eating animals such as rabbits this can go in the green garden bin.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> If compost does not go in the Garden Waste, this must have an adverse effect on the figures as it comes under home composting.</p> <p><u>Response:</u> Yes, it is difficult to use home composting in statistics. A small number of people still compost at home. Also, lots of people don't cook from fresh today and this results in more takeaways and containers being used. It comes down to a lifestyle choice and often it is cheaper to eat pre-made food.</p> <p>This concluded the Recycling presentation and PP thanked Andy and Theresa for their interesting talk.</p>	
4.	<p>Chairs Report: Patricia Parsons PP advised that she would be attending a Friends of the Earth meeting with a local MP and a friend at which the use of plastic would be discussed. Any information from this would be a good follow on from the Recycling Presentation given earlier at the meeting.</p> <p>Treasurers monthly report – March raffle - £24.00 Rent - £20.00 Refreshments - £0.79 Bank Business - £1005.69 (includes 15p interest) Bank Current - £1958.83 Total in Bank - £2964.54 Cash in Hand - £89.24</p> <p>Secretary's Report: Walter Harris Walter Harris informed all that Melanie Faulkner has been very co-operative with administering and taking Minutes. Walter also shared information on bowel and breast screening and advised that a new simple test called F.I.T. was now available for anyone over 50 who had concerns. Bowel cancer is the third most common cancer in Wales. Over 900 people die annually from this disease. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland testing is recommended for those over 60. In Scotland the age is over 50. Anyone with concerns should take advice from their GP.</p> <p>Correspondence – none.</p>	
5.	<p>Age Connects Torfaen - information: MF apologised on behalf of Age Connects Torfaen as the Minutes from the previous meeting had not been circulated by post. It was agreed that in the future these would be sent out at least a week before the next meeting.</p> <p>MF then provided the following information from Information and Advice, Age Connects Torfaen:- Councils are sitting on a staggering amount of money, at least £230 million spread</p>	

	<p>across 1.7 million accounts – which works out at an average of well over £100 sitting in each closed account.</p> <p>Many people aren't aware they pay council tax a month (or sometimes a year) ahead. This means it is common to be in credit when you move home, if so, you are entitled to this money back – but often you need to claim it and many don't.</p> <p>Why are so many owed cash back?</p> <p>In basic terms, a council tax account will be in credit if you have paid more than you owe at any point, when an account is closed while in credit, because your or another resident has moved out or someone in the property has died, it can be an issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You pay for your Council tax in advance, and the account's closed before the point up until which you have paid. • You forgot to cancel a payment. • You get a retrospective discount, e.g., if your property is rebanded. <p>Who's most likely to be able to claim, so you can weigh up whether to try it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You are most likely to be able to claim if you've moved out or council or local authority area in the last 26 years and were not paying by direct debit. <p>If you are someone who has moved home since 1993, especially if you changed council or local authority. Alternatively, please contact Age Connects Torfaen, Information and Advice Service for assistance. Telephone 01495 769264.</p>	
6.	<p>Draw Raffle, Have your say</p> <p>The raffle was drawn by Steve Honeywill and won by Paul Davies.</p> <p>PP opened the meeting up for any member to "Have your say".</p> <p>Brian McDowell has asked if he could receive hard copy minutes by post as he is unable to get out. MF will note this.</p>	MF
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Margaret Oelmann advised that Rotary Clubs are collecting milk bottle tops to raise funds for the "Stop Polio Now" Campaign. She would be happy to take any tops (these must only be from milk bottles) and pass on.</p> <p>PP asked if all members had signed the Data Protection Forms. Some had not and forms were provided for them to complete and hand to MF at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>There were queries about what GDPR was and Steve Honeywill explained.</p> <p>SH provided the following information provided on behalf of the University of South Wales:-</p> <p><u>An exploration of compassionate care: from the perspectives of older people, carers and service providers.</u></p> <p>This research project has been funded by the KESS 2 programme (University of South Wales and Torfaen County Borough Council. The project aims to identify key elements of compassionate care and develop a framework of compassionate care to help inform and improve care services for older people.</p> <p>Older people and carers will be invited to take part in up to 3 face-to-face workshops, and service providers will be invited to take part in up to 3 online tasks.</p> <p>All participants will be asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come up with their own ideas about what makes care compassionate. • Sort a collection of ideas into categories that make sense to them. • Rate each idea based on 2 rating scales. <p>We are looking to recruit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged 50 or over who are currently (or have recently – in the past year) receiving care (this can include any type of care, e.g. residential, nursing, domiciliary, day care, or care from a partner, family member or friend). • People who are carers for someone aged 50 or over (including partners, family members, friends and/or neighbours). • People who work in services that provide care for older adults (this includes any type of role in care services, e.g. care workers, managers, NHS staff and commissioners). <p>The contribution of people aged 50 or over, carers and service providers to this research will be extremely valuable for ensuring the outcome of the project captures the voice of the people it will have an impact on.</p>	

	<p>Please contact Molly Curtis (molly.curtis@southwales.ac.uk) for further information.</p> <p>PP then gave an update on the summer trip that was discussed at the previous meeting. Having made further enquiries regarding the proposed trip to the Wye and Elan Valleys it turns out that logistically this appears to be impractical. PP suggested a new trip to Cowbridge and Dyffryn House and Gardens. Members could have a look around Cowbridge in the morning, Ros will look into the availability of eateries. They would then go on the Dyffryn House. Walter Harris vouched for the gardens and house being very interesting. The cost to Forum members would be £5.00. No additional cost would apply, and this amount would reserve a seat. It will be a 10am pick up. The trip is only open to Forum members at the present time but if there are any seats left available these could be reserved for non-members at an additional cost. Please also advise Ros if you are a member of the National Trust as this will mean that entry to the House and Gardens is free. As all were in agreement PP will complete the booking form and confirm. The coach company is Jensions.</p> <p>Subsequent to the Meeting, Chair has asked me to request that all monies for the Summer trip are paid to Ros at the end of the meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>Meeting closed at 4pm Next meeting: 28th May 2019, 2-4pm.</p> <p>Meetings are always the 4th Tuesday of the month, 2pm-4pm.</p>	ALL