

Code No. and Date Received	Name and Address of Applicant	Description and Location of Proposed Development
19/0770/LA 08.10.2019	CCBC Mr R Llewellyn Business, Enterprise And Renewal Team Tredomen House Nelson Road Ystrad Mynach Hengoed CF82 7WF	Erect a welsh national anthem memorial sculpture Land At Caerphilly Twyn Community Centre The Twyn Caerphilly CF83 1JL

**APPLICATION TYPE:** Local Authority Application

#### SITE AND DEVELOPMENT

Location: The application site is located at The Twyn, Caerphilly Town Centre.

Site description: The application site forms part of the paved area between The Twyn Community Centre and the entrance to Twyn Car Park. This is a gently sloping paved area at the bottom of the steps leading to the community centre and behind a number of stone bollards that prevent vehicular access onto it.

Development: This application seeks full planning consent for the erection of a Welsh national anthem memorial sculpture. The sculpture will be in the form of a plinth formed of the words on the anthem with a dragon attached to it forming the shape of a harp with the dragons head at the crown of the harp. The sculpture will sit on a stone plinth.

Dimensions: The stone plinth is 960mm high with the sculpture being a further 960mm high. The stone plinth has a footprint of 600mm by 600mm.

Materials: The sculpture will be cast in bronze.

Ancillary development, e.g. parking: None.

#### PLANNING HISTORY 2010 TO PRESENT

None.

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## POLICY

Local Development Plan: Within settlement limits.

### Policies

Local Development Plan: SP3 (Development in the Southern Connections Corridor), SP5 (Settlement Boundaries), SP6 (Place Making), CW2 (Amenity), CW3 (Design Considerations: Highways) and CW15 (General Locational Constraints).

Supplementary Planning Guidance LDP 6 Building Better Places to Live gives advice on all levels of development.

National Policy: Planning Policy Wales Edition 10 (December 2018)

Paragraph 3.9 - The special characteristics of an area should be central to the design of a development. The layout, form, scale and visual appearance of a proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are important planning considerations. A clear rationale behind the design decisions made, based on site and context analysis, a strong vision, performance requirements and design principles, should be sought throughout the development process and expressed, when appropriate, in a design and access statement.

3.16 - Planning authorities should through a process of negotiation seek to improve poor or average developments which are not well designed, do not take account of their context and consider their place, or do not meet the objectives of good design. Where this cannot be achieved proposals should be rejected. However, they should not attempt to impose a particular architectural taste or style arbitrarily and should avoid inhibiting opportunities for innovative design solutions. If a decision maker considers that a planning application should not be approved because of design concerns they should ensure that these reasons are clearly articulated in their decision and justified with sufficient evidence. In the event of an appeal, in these circumstances, the Planning Inspectorate will need to examine the issues in detail and consider if the proposal meets the objectives of good design including the relationship between the site and its surroundings.

6.1.7 It is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.

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6.1.8 It is the responsibility of all those with an interest in the planning system, including planning authorities, applicants, developers and communities, to appropriately care for the historic environment in their area. The protection, conservation and enhancement of historic assets is most effective when it is considered at the earliest stage of plan preparation or when designing new proposals.

6.1.9 Any decisions made through the planning system must fully consider the impact on the historic environment and on the significance and heritage values of individual historic assets and their contribution to the character of place.

National Planning Guidance contained in Technical Advice Note 12 - Design.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Did the application have to be screened for an EIA? No.

Was an EIA required? No.

### COAL MINING LEGACY

Is the site within an area where there are mining legacy issues? The site is within a low risk area.

### CONSULTATION

CADW - No objection.

Conservation & Design Officer - Raises concern that there are too many sculptures in this particular area and this has a detrimental impact on the setting of Caerphilly Castle.

### ADVERTISEMENT

Extent of advertisement: The application was advertised by means of a site notice and neighbour letters.

Response: None.

Summary of observations: None.

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## SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT

What is the likely effect of the determination of this application on the need for the Local Planning Authority to do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area? Crime and disorder are not considered to be a material consideration in respect of this application.

## EU HABITATS DIRECTIVE

Does the development affect any protected wildlife species? No.

Is this development Community Infrastructure Levy liable? No.

## ANALYSIS

Policies: This application has been considered in accordance with national planning policy and guidance, local plan policy and supplementary planning guidance. This application seeks full planning consent for a new memorial sculpture within Caerphilly Town Centre to acknowledge the town as the birthplace of the composer of the Welsh national anthem. The sculpture is to be sited adjacent to The Twyn Community Centre in an area that is already characterised by its sculptures commemorating Tommy Cooper etc. with three existing sculptures within 100m of the proposed site.

It is on the basis of this relatively high number of sculptures that the Council's Conservation and Design Officer has raised concerns that there may be too many such structures in the area and as such this has a detrimental impact on the setting of the nearby Caerphilly Castle, which is a Grade I Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument. In response to this concern the Council's Regeneration Services Manager, acting as agent on the applicant has stated that the application site was carefully chosen out of 11 sites assessed within the area, having regard for a number of factors such as land ownership and site prominence.

It should also be noted that CADW, who are responsible for Caerphilly Castle, have raised no objection to the application as they consider that the sculpture is relatively small in size and will be viewed from the castle with buildings behind and amongst a setting of other similar structures and as such it will not affect how the castle is experienced, understood and appreciated.

With the above in mind, on balance it is considered that the proposed sculpture is acceptable in planning terms as it is acceptable from a design perspective, would not have a detrimental impact on highway safety and would not impact on the setting of Caerphilly Castle to an unacceptable extent. Therefore the proposal complies with Policies CW2 and CW3 of the LDP and the Guidance contained in Planning Policy Wales.

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Comments from Consultees: The comments of the Council's Conservation and Design Officer are addressed above. No other objections were received.

Comments from public: None.

Other material considerations: None.

The duty to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, has been considered in accordance with the sustainable development principle, under section 3 of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In reaching the recommendation below, the ways of working set out at section 5 of that Act have been taken into account, and it is considered that the recommendation is consistent with the sustainable development principle as required by section 8 of that Act.

RECOMMENDATION that Permission be GRANTED

This permission is subject to the following condition(s)

- 01) The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of this permission.  
REASON: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- 02) The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans and documents: Site Location Plan Supporting Document 2, Supporting Document 3 and the photographs of the amended sculpture contained in the email from the agent dated 7th November 2019.  
REASON: To ensure that the development is carried out only as approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Advisory Note(s)

The proposed development lies within a coal mining area which may contain unrecorded coal mining related hazards. If any coal mining feature is encountered during development, this should be reported immediately to the Coal Authority on 0345 762 6848.

Further information is also available on the Coal Authority website at: [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-coal-authority).

