

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON MONDAY, 3RD APRIL 2000 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P.J. Bevan - Chairman
Councillor Mrs. K. Gwynne - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

J.E. Fussell, Mrs. K. Gwynne, M.H. Newman and H. Price

Together with:

T. Peppin (Policy and Research Manager), A. Brown (Principal Environmental Health Officer, J. Rogers (Senior Solicitor) M. Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), A. Jones (Community Safety Officer), D. Earey (Principal Engineer - Management and Regulations), J. Elliott (Research Officer), D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also Attending:

Mr. M.L. Evans (Caerphilly Town Council), Mr. M.O. Rawlins (Caerphilly and District Civic Society), Inspector S. Mogg (Gwent Constabulary), Mr. A. Hood (CADW), Mrs. S. Jones (Castle Court Centre).

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 1999 were approved as a correct record subject to the addition of Councillor H. Price in the list of members present.

MATTERS ARISING

Caerphilly Castle Steps

Members of the group congratulated CADW on the excellent work to the new path and steps at the front of the castle.

The Highways Directorate confirmed that the steps at Southgate Square had been inspected and necessary work will be carried out.

Future Developments

The possibility of two new extensive planning applications for Caerphilly was discussed. A planning application had recently been received for the area surrounding the former 'tar plant'. Also although it had attracted a lot of publicity a planning application had not yet been received for a new retail development at the top of Cardiff Road.

In view of the scale and possible impact of these developments it was agreed that they be discussed in detail at the next meeting and the Chief Planning Officer be invited to attend.

Land at Crescent Road

Reference was made to a previous report by the Director of Technical Services on future use at Land at Crescent Road, Caerphilly. It was noted that an officer from the Education and Leisure Directorate had indicated prior to the meeting that they were in agreement with the proposals contained in the report.

CARDIFF RAILWAY COMPANY

Mr. Tom Clift, the Managing Director of Cardiff Railway Company, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the local railway services.

He reported that the Valley Lines train service had improved during the last six months and during one week in January was the most punctual in the country.

The work to Caerphilly station was funded by a variety of agencies and was progressing well. The renovation work will include extending and renovating the ticket office, a new waiting room with a public telephone, more CCTV cameras and a customer information system. The work is scheduled to be completed in June.

A major refurbishment of the train interiors will also be carried out.

Improvements to Aber Halt will include a car park and a new booking office incorporated into a local shop.

A new integrated transport measure has been introduced allowing for a rail /bus ticket to be purchased at the same time.

The Franchise Replacement Programme was outlined with proposals to better serve the interests of Wales and copies of a document entitled 'Prism Rail's vision of an integrated travel system for Wales' was available for members.

Members expressed concern at the litter problems at the Caerphilly and Aber Halt and Mr. Clift indicated that this would be investigated.

The access for disabled travellers onto trains was discussed and although a ramp is available for wheelchairs users to board the trains some stations have no proper disabled access. This will be addressed in the future.

The number of carriages available at peak times was discussed, in particular the Cardiff to Caerphilly route in the early evening when the majority of trains carry only two carriages. The difficulties in making additional coaches available was outlined by Mr. Clift who was monitoring the situation. It was noted that it was not possible to add one additional coach only two.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Clift for his presentation.

It was agreed that a member of staff from the Public Transport section be invited to future meetings of the Management Group.

Skateboarding

A report on the introduction of the draft bylaws prohibiting skate boarding in designating areas in Caerphilly Town Centre was noted. A further report will be presented to Council when comments have been received from the National Assembly.

Community Plan

A verbal report was given on the progress to date of the Community Plan. It was noted that 7 forums are being set up to cover the Caerphilly County Borough area, one of which covers the Caerphilly Basin. Membership of the Caerphilly Forum will consist of local ward members, community council representatives, the voluntary sector and the private sector. The first meeting of the Caerphilly Forum will be held at the Twyn Community Centre on Tuesday 9th May 2000. Initially the forums will be linked to Objective 1 and the potential of large scale initiatives and wider consultations will be held following the area meetings.

In addition to the Caerphilly Forum it is intended that the meetings of this Management Group will continue to held.

Displays on Pavements

An officer gave a verbal report on the public consultation on this issue. It had been agreed in principle that each case would in future be considered on its merits and a further report will shortly be submitted to Cabinet.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ramps at Shops

Concerns were expressed at the recently constructed ramp to the front of three shops in Cardiff Road near The Twyn and an officer indicated that the matter would be investigated.

Artwork at Bedwas Road and Bridge at Old Bedwas Road

It was noted that work had commenced on remedial work to the circular feature and artwork at Bedwas Road. A representative from the Gwent Police indicated that the area could be targeted if vandalism became a particular problem in this area.

Remedial work will also be carried out to the bridge near Old Bedwas Road subject to budget restraints.

Supermarket Trolley's

Concern was expressed by members of the group at the increasing number of supermarket trolleys left abandoned. It was noted that a recent Community Council Liaison Sub-Committee had discussed this issue and an officer had indicated that in future a charge may be made when they are returned to the supermarket.

Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8th May 2000 at 5.30pm

The meeting closed at 6.55 p.m.
