

# CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE 2001 AT 2.00 P.M.

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

J.E. Fussell, M.H. Newman and K.R. Snell

Together with:

T. Peppin (Policy and Research Manager), M. Howland (Team Leader- Urban Renewal) P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure), D. Earey (Principal Engineer, Management and Regulations), J. Elliott (Research Officer), D. Nutt (Tourism Officer), and Mrs D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also Present:

M. Evans (Clerk to Caerphilly Town Council), J. Stephens (CADW), A.J. Vizard (Caerphilly & District Civic Society) and Inspector S Powell-Jones (Gwent Police)

#### **APOLOGY**

An apology for absence was received from Mrs S. Jones (Centre Manager).

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 5th March 2001 were received and noted.

#### **Matters Arising**

##### **(i) Cardiff Railway Company**

Members of the Group again expressed concern at the overcrowded trains leaving Caerphilly Railway Station for Cardiff. It was reported that during the school half-term trains arriving from Rhymney appeared to be already full at Caerphilly and also Saturday mornings were particularly busy. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to Cardiff Rail Company emphasising these concerns.

Councillor Fussell reported that representatives from the local Youth Centre based at Cardiff Road, (KICK) were discussing with Railtrack the possibility of clearing rubbish from the railway sidings and also to design a theme and paint the railway bridge at Cardiff Road.

**(ii) Flooding at Castle Court Shopping Centre**

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been held recently with the Flood Prevention Officer to discuss the recent flooding in the area of Castle Court Centre. It was noted that remedial work to the south of the culvert had been completed and this should prevent a further reoccurrence of the flooding in this area.

**(iii) Playing Fields at Crescent Road**

Mr Gomer, Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure reported that the new fencing for the playing fields had now been put out to tender. The present fencing will shortly be dismantled and removed in preparation for the Big Cheese event. Members expressed concern at the dog fouling in this area and the need to regular cleanse the fields especially this weekend when school children will be using the field for an event. Mr Gomer reported that enforcement officers had previously visited the site and that he would contact the relevant department to ensure that the field was cleansed for the school event .Mr Peppin, Policy Services Manager, reported that he would contact Environmental Services to investigate the possibility of dog receptacles being installed in this area.

The possibility of a ladies football team and changing rooms at this field was also discussed.

Councillor Snell expressed concern at the problems associated with car parking at Nantgarw Road/Crescent Road and Mr Earey indicated that he would investigate this matter.

**(iv) Piccadilly Square**

It was reported that a delay in the Piccadilly development may be due to the developer having further discussions with the owner regarding a small strip of land which it is hoped will be incorporated in the site.

**(v) Skateboarding**

It was noted that a resident from Station Terrace had made several complaints regarding youths skateboarding late at night in the railway station car park. It was reported that officers had discussed this problem with Valley Lines and one proposal was for the lights in this car park to be switched off 20 minutes after the last train.

**ITEMS RAISED BY CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL**

**1. Former Tourist Information Centre (Dafydd Williams Park)**

The Town Clerk reported that the former Tourist Information Centre had been vacated approximately ten years ago and was now in a poor state of repair. Enquiries had been made from a member of the public to purchase/lease the building for a tea room but to date no information had been received from Property Services. Mr Howland indicated that he would investigate this matter.

During discussion of this item Mr Nutt, the Tourism Officer circulated copies of the leaflet 'The Caerphilly Trail'. This will be launched from the new Tourist Information Centre during the August Bank Holiday when members of the group will be invited to attend.

**2. Caerphilly Castle Circular Footpath**

It was reported that the area behind the North Wall of the castle will be reinstated as Phase 1 of the circular footpath. It was noted that grouting works are presently in progress and it had been agreed with CADW that work on the path will then be completed by the same contractor on behalf of the Council. A plan of the walk was circulated to members for information. The path will extend onto a grassed area and opened on a seasonal basis. Completion is anticipated before next Easter and members inquired if a sign be erected to prevent visitors from using the main road on this side of the castle. Mr Stephens from CADW agreed that this matter would be investigated.

**3. Short Stay Car Park – Caerphilly Railway Station**

The Town Clerk reported that he had been made aware that taxis were using the short stay car park adjacent to the station and causing rail passengers to have difficulties in parking there. An officer reported that taxi spaces in the town centre are being looked at although he was not aware of this particular problem. It was agreed that the Principal Engineer (Public Transport) be requested to discuss this issue with the rail operator.

**4. Bus Lane – Castle Street/Clifton Street**

It was reported that the bus lane at Clifton Street was not clearly marked and problems were occurring with cars using the lane to turn left.

The Police confirmed however that no accident had been reported at this area.

**5. Damaged Fencing – Caerphilly Cenotaph**

The Town Clerk reported two areas of damaged fencing near the cenotaph. An officer reported that the council were aware of this and the replacement fencing has been ordered. It was also reported that new fencing work was scheduled for the Pavilion area.

**6. Maintenance of Street Furniture and Cleansing of Stonework**

The Town Clerk emphasised the need for regular cleansing prior to the summer when the majority of tourists visit the town. Mr Peppin stated that he would discuss this matter with the Environmental Services department. An officer reported that a street sweeping machine was being used in the town centre and also a litter 'hit squad' would be targeting area on roughly a 1 week per ward basis. Members of the group would be able to suggest target areas for this service. Mr Peppin would also write to the 7 Area Forums for any suggestions they had regarding this matter.

**7,8. Top of Cardiff Road Development/Housing Development – Former Tar Plant**

It was reported that the Cardiff Road development was not at present proceeding as the WDA had indicated that they were unable to increase their funding. The uncertain situation was causing concern to local businesses and residents who feared that the area would quickly deteriorate. It was agreed that this and the former tar plant development would be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

Councillor Fussell reported that the youth project KICK had made enquiries to Estate Securities for a one year licence to use the indoor market at Pentrebanne Street for skateboarding, basket ball etc. The rent of the premises would be £200 per week and a shortfall in funding still needed to be found. It was suggested that funding be investigated from the Police Shrievalty Fund, the Voluntary Sector and the Town Council. Mr Gomer reported that a member of his staff would shortly be attending an exhibition on skateboarding equipment and would liase with the Youth Group.

It was agreed that Councillor Fussell would request that KICK write to the Mr Gomer with further details and that he would assist them in various ways.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Beddau Farm**

Councillor Snell referred to the poor state of the building at Beddau Farm where slates had been removed from the roof. The owner has been requested to replace the roof and has been made aware of grants available. The owner has indicated with officers that he will replace the roof and use the property for storage. It is noted that the building is a Grade 11 listed building and Mr Stephens from CADW indicated that he would investigate if any grants would be available to the owner.

### **Watford Road**

The problems associated with parking on Watford Road near the hospital was discussed and Mr Earey reported that parking restrictions were being investigated in this area. He would report to the next meeting of the group

### **Road Works at Piccadilly**

Mr Earey reported that Wessex Water would be starting work at the Piccadilly Junction on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July until Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The contractor is aware of the traffic problems this work will cause and will be working a 16 hour shift. Diversion signs will redirect traffic away from this area during that period.

### **Date of next meeting**

Members were reminded that the date of the next meeting will be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 3.45pm

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