

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON THURSDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2001 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. K. Gwynne - Vice-Chairman - Presiding

Councillors:

P.J. Bevan, M.H. Newman and J.E, Fussell

Together with:

R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager), A Jones (Community Safety Officer), D. Earey (Principal Engineer), P. Hudson (Tourism Officer), J. Elliot (Research Officer), C. Nesling (CCTV Manager), D. Churchward (Senior Engineer) and Mrs D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present :

M.L. Evans (Caerphilly Town Council), A.J. Vizard (Caerphilly & District Civic Society), P.C Janine Weaving (Gwent Police), and J. Couzens (Centre Manager - Castle Court)

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from Inspector S Powell-Jones.

16 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 6TH September 2001 were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

17 **Kick (Minute no 2)**

It was noted that due to unavoidable delays the painting of the railway bridge at Cardiff Road will possibly be postponed to next years summer scheme.

Progress on using the former market site at Pentrebane Street for skateboarding has been delayed because of essential infrastructure work to the building.

18 Dog Fouling Receptacles (Minute no 3)

It was noted that there had been no progress on providing dog fouling receptacles at Crescent Road. Alun Jones, Community Safety Officer, reported that he would report this matter back to the Environmental Directorate.

19 Former Tourist Information Centre (Minute no 5)

Mr Tanner, Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager, reported that the site of the former tourist information centre was being considered as part of a larger project in that area and he will present a report to the next meeting of the group.

20 Maintenance of Street Cleansing (Minute no 7)

It was reported that the officer responsible for Street Cleansing in the Town Centre had replied to the concerns of the excessive litter on the streets during the Summer Bank Holiday. In his reply he stated that on future Bank Holiday Tuesdays, during the main visitor times of Spring and Summer months, a Town Centre Sweeper will be on duty to keep the Town Centre and Dafydd Williams Park area clean as well as emptying the litter bins.

21 Maintenance of Land (Minute no 11)

The Town Clerk reported that no maintenance had been carried out on the land adjacent to the job centre. An Officer reported that this would be investigated and progress reported to the next meeting.

22 Correspondence from Centre Manager. Castle Court Shopping Centre

The Chairman welcomed Mr Couzens to his first meeting of the Management Group and introductions were made.

Mr Couzens gave a short back round to his previous experience in the retail trade and thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to discuss various issues affecting the Town Centre.

23 Traffic Management

The Centre Manager expressed his concern at the number of traffic lights in the town centre and if they are configured and checked to expedite main road traffic.

Mr Earey, Principal Engineer, explained that in accordance with the council's policy of encouraging public transport the buses are given priority when leaving the bus station although a fault had resulted in the bus priority system being switched off at present. He was aware of problems in various parts of the town at peak times but felt that little that could be done to alleviate these problems. The problems of traffic unable to queue in two lanes back from the traffic lights at Bartlett Street was discussed although Mr Earey reported that it would not be feasible to remove the parking spaces along Bartlett Street. It was noted that many of these traffic problems may be readdressed if the top of town development progresses.

24 **Planning Applications**

Mr Tanner explained that the local councillors represented on the group would not be able to discuss applications prior to the Planning Committee although it may be possible to have a general discussion on significant planning applications affecting the town centre. He also explained that the availability of the weekly planning mailing list was presently being reviewed.

25 **Marketing the Town**

Mr Couzens outlined to members the positive trade figures of the centre. He reported that eight of the local shops were trading more than their counterparts in Cardiff. The benefits of promoting the town for tourism and shopping was discussed and concern was expressed at the absence of a Chamber of Trade or a Town Centre Manager. It was agreed that consideration be given to the Group submitting a bid to the Community Regeneration Fund for a marketing budget.

Mr Couzens agreed to try to get support for this from local traders.

The submission of positive press releases and the possible effects on investments to the town was also discussed..

Mr Tanner circulated a booklet on the Best Practice Awards illustrating the awards won by Caerphilly.

26 **Security**

It was agreed that the use of CCTV cameras had been very successful and that prosecutions should be publicised whenever possible. It was noted that no prosecutions figures using the CCTV were available at present although these figures may be available in the future as PC Wearing confirmed that a tick box is now on the police forms to indicate if CCTV cameras were used for evidence.

Mr Jones reported that security would be increased in the Crescent Road car park with the installation of two additional cameras.

27 **Correspondence from Caerphilly Town Council**

The Chairman referred to the correspondence from Caerphilly Town Council.

28 **Top of Town Development**

Mr Tanner explained that a planning submission for the top of top was expected to be submitted by a developer in the new year, following successful preliminary negotiations with the WDA and the council. Detailed discussions will be held with the developer on various issues including access and egress traffic flow to the car park. When the application is submitted widespread consultation and a public exhibition will be held by the developer.

29 **Twyn Car Park – Parking Charges**

The Town Clerk expressed concern that the Twyn car park was the only council car park to charge for parking on a Sunday.

An officer explained that the council must raise as much income from car parking as possible and this was the only car park that would benefit from charging on a Sunday. Additional signs had been displayed informing drivers of the charge on a Sunday. Mr Earey also informed the group that a parking charge would shortly be imposed at the car park at Lawrence Street.

30 Crescent Road – Traffic Regulations

The problems associated with parents parking outside the school and parked traffic at Crescent Road was discussed.

The car parking at Crescent Road does at present slow traffic down and provide free parking although it was considered that most cars are parked there for a full day. The problem of a dropped kerb not being aligned to the footpath was also discussed and it was agreed that the local ward members meet with the Town Clerk and Mr Earey to discuss traffic details at Crescent Road in more detail.

31 Park and Ride – Caerphilly Railway Station – Proposed Access Road

Mr Churchward outlined to the Group the drawings for the new proposed road to a park and ride car park at the train and bus station. The proposed road leaves Van Road via a roundabout and follows the contour of the former railway embankment as a single carriageway to a car park.

A public exhibition on this proposal had previously been held at the Tourist Information Centre.

32 Future Meeting Dates

It was agreed that members would be notified of the dates for meetings in 2002 with a copy of the minutes.

33 Tommy Cooper Memorial Statue

It was reported that the Chairman of the Council had suggested that if residents agreed funding be sought to provide a statue of the comedian Tommy Cooper who was born in Caerphilly. Mr Hudson, a Tourist Officer, reported that from a tourist point of view there could be benefits to this although the Group felt that a public consultation exercise to gauge support would be needed. It was suggested that the exercise could be conducted through the council's publication of news line.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.