

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH MARCH 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Bevan - Chairman

Councillors:

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

Together with:

M. Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), R. Mathews (Communications Manager), D. Price (Principal Parks & Open Spaces Officer), D. Earey (Principal Engineer), D. Titley (Customer Services Manager), R. Betty (Customer Services Officer), J. Elliott (Research Officer), F. Savini (Trainee) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also Present:

L. Paddock (Caerphilly Town Council), P.C Wayne Roberts (Gwent Police), A. Hood (CADW), P. Ford (GAVO) and Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group)

APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received from Mr J. Couzens (Centre Manager- Castle Court).

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Group held on 5th December 2002 were received and noted.

MATTERS ARISING

Cardiff Railway Company - Railway Bridge (Minute CT2)

Members of the group noted that following further correspondence the steel railway bridge at Cardiff Road, Caerphilly had now been painted.

Skateboarding (Minute no CT3)

A member referred to the indoor skateboarding facility at Pentrebane Street, Caerphilly and requested further information on the scheme.

The Chairman indicated that the Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure would be contacted to present a report to the next meeting of the Management Group.

Toilet Facilities - Crescent Road Car Park (Minute no CT6)

Mr Howland, Team Manager - Urban Renewal, reported the estimated cost of providing new toilet facilities at Crescent Road, Caerphilly.

It was agreed that because of the high cost the matter be deferred at present as the proposed Park Lane Development may include the provision of public toilets.

It was noted that a report on the provision of public toilets in the County Borough would be presented to the next Technical Scrutiny Committee.

Phasing of Traffic Lights - Bartlett Street (Minute no CT7)

Mr Earey, Principal Engineer, reported that officers had investigated the traffic concerns at Bartlett Street although as previously reported one of reasons for queues was the lack of capacity for cars along Cardiff Road. He reported however that new proposals for off street parking along Bartlett Street would hopefully improve the matter.

Park Lane Development (Minute no CT8)

It was reported that although an interim study had now been received from the Consultants an audit of all users and a formal consultation has yet to be arranged.

Caerphilly Castle - Northern Boundary Wall, Nantgarw Road (Minute no CT8)

Mr Hood (CADW) reported that temporary repairs had been completed and permanent repairs will be carried out next year on the boundary wall at Nantgarw Road. He also reported that 75% floodlights were back in use.

The new visitor centre will be opened on the 5th June 2003.

Dafydd Williams Park - Lighting Scheme (Minute no CT10)

Mr Howland reported that the approximate cost of the lighting scheme discussed at the previous meeting would be between £20,000-£25,000 and Caerphilly Town Council had indicated that they would consider a joint funding scheme. It was agreed that officers prepare detailed designs and costings and an assurance be sought from the Town Council on funding.

CAERPHILLY REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Mrs Rosemary Mathews (Communications Manager) gave a presentation on the Caerphilly Regeneration Programme and referred to the Executive Summary that had been attached to the agenda.

The document made various references and suggestions for the future of Town Centres. Members were requested to examine the document in detail and respond with comments which could be submitted from the Management Group.

Members discussed the need for more youth facilities since the development of a large housing estate near the Town Centre. Reference was also made a number of buildings near the Town Centre making funding bids for new facilities.

CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE

Mr David Titley, Customer Services Manager gave a power point presentation on the introduction of Customer Service Centre also known as 'One Stop Shops'. The Centres will enable the public to access many services at one point. It is also hoped to attract partner agencies to give advice from the

Centres e.g. Pension Service, Voluntary Sector, Age Concern, Shelter etc.

It is expected that the facility will eventually be available at Blackwood, Bargoed, Rhymney, Risca, Caerphilly and Ystrad Fawr although problems have been experienced in locating suitable easily accessible premises. The Centres will also be open at different times to existing offices to coincide with shop opening hours in the Town. The buildings will be designed and equipped with all facilities for the disabled.

The Blackwood Customer Service Centre has been located in the centre of the Town and will be opened in July.

Members discussed various locations for the Caerphilly Customer Service Centre and it was agreed that any further suggestions from the Group could be submitted to Mr Titley.

Review of On Street Parking

Mr Earey reported that a detailed study of on street parking in the Town Centre had recently been completed and a list of proposals drawn up. These proposals will include changes to resident parking times and permits and will be subject to formal consultation.

Mr Earey outlined the proposals and reported that although they have not been advertised yet the local ward members have been consulted.

It was suggested from the Group that consideration should be given to allocating more parking spaces at Pentreban Street.

Correspondence from Caerphilly Town Council

The Chairman referred to the correspondence from Caerphilly Town Council.

New Park and Ride - Aber Junction

It was noted that CCTV would shortly be installed at Aber Junction. It was also reported that the station car park was now being used by more train users and previous parking problems in the surroundings areas appear to have improved.

Monument to David Williams (Dafydd Williams Park) - Refurbishment and Re-tarmacing of surrounding area

Mr Howland reported that the refurbishment work to the Monument had been scheduled with funds allocated from the enhanced maintenance budget.

Officers would also investigate the possibility of new paving around the monument.

Changing of Names - Historic Buildings (Enterprise Inns - Re: Railway Public House to The Brass Engine)

Members discussed the changing of names to public houses throughout the County Borough. It was agreed that a letter of support against name changes be sent to the Caerphilly Town Council from the Chairman of the Group.

Any Other Business

Station Terrace/Park & Ride Car Park

Concern was expressed at the felling of trees near the railway station.

Mr Howland reported however that the area referred to was in the responsibility of the railway company and the council would have no control over work on it.

It was also reported that complaints had been received regarding the lower park and ride car park and Mr Howland indicated that this matter was being investigated.

The meeting closed at 3.35pm