

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Bevan - Chairman

Councillors:

M.H. Newman and K.R. Snell

Together with:

P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure), M. Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), J. Ridgewell (Principal Parks Officer), G. Gordon (Senior Assistant Solicitor), D. Earey (Principal Engineer) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer)

Also Present:

Mrs P. Newman (Caerphilly Town Council), Mr J. Couzens (Centre Manager, Castle Court Shopping Centre), Sergeant D. Williams and P.C C. Thomas (Gwent Police), Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and Mr P. Ford (GAVO)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs K. Gwynne, Mr M.L. Evans (Caerphilly Town Council) and Inspector S. Flynn (Gwent Police).

CT 33 COMMUNITY PROJECT AT VAN ROAD UNITED REFORM CHURCH, CAERPHILLY

The Chairman welcomed Mr and Mrs Wade to the meeting and introduced the members of the Management Group.

The Chairman reported that he had agreed for members to receive a presentation of the proposed Community Project at Van Road United Reform Church, Caerphilly, (Van-guard).

Mrs Wade then outlined the history of the church and the background to the development. She explained that in 1998 'Keystone Initiatives' were invited to carry out a feasibility study into the future use of the church building. They proposed a better worshipping area and greater facilities for use by the local community.

Their proposals would be for the building to have extra floor and a new worship area. A new access would be at the rear of the building where there will be a small garden, terrace and car park.

Consultations were undertaken in May 2000 when local residents, organisations and existing users were contacted for their opinions. These groups gave encouraging support to the project, which is estimated to cost £760,000.

A planning application for the alterations will shortly be submitted and a recent partnership meeting has now elected a Management Committee. Advice will be shortly be sought on the preparation of a constitution and funding sources.

Mrs Wade reported that the scheme had produced positive support and encouragement from many sources and she particularly thanked GAVO for their help and advice to date.

Copies of their newsletters were circulated and Mrs Wade invited members to study the display boards at the end of the meeting.

Members of the group wished the project every success and suggested that a progress report or another presentation be given to a future meeting.

CT 34 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 19th June 2003.

MATTERS ARISING

CT 35 Park Lane Development (CT20)

Members were concerned that the tenants of Park Lane were not being consulted in any future proposals for the area.

Mr Howland reported that the feasibility study from external consultants on the Park Lane development had only recently been completed and a report will shortly be presented to Cabinet. Mr Howland assured members that the tenants would then be consulted prior to any public consultation.

CT 36 Caerphilly Castle (CT21)

It was noted that the circular path around the castle had been completed prior to the Big Cheese Festival. Four local schools are involved in the design and markings of the walk which will be officially opened in the new year. The funding for the project will be 80% from the WDA and 20% from the Council.

CT 37 Dafydd Williams Park (David Williams Park) – Lighting Scheme (CT22)

It was reported that due to changes in the original design of the lighting columns to accommodate hanging baskets the final costings were not yet available. It is hoped however that the scheme would be completed for Spring 2004.

A representative from the Police indicated that he would remind Inspector Flynn of her promise to investigate any possible funding for this scheme from the Police Authority.

CT 38 Town Centre (CT28)

Officers were pleased to report Caerphilly Town Centre had won the first prize in the 'Best Town' category at this year's Wales in Bloom awards. The floral displays in the town had contributed to winning this prestigious award. The competition was sponsored by the Wales Tourist Board and the winning cup and certificate were shown to members.

Members also made reference to the magnificent flower beds at Crescent Road and it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to the Parks Department from this Management Group on their achievement.

CT 39 Skateboarding (CT29)

Members expressed concern at the problems associated with skateboarding in the Town Centre. Damage to the stone work and annoyance to members of the public were discussed.

A member raised a question on the actions that could be taken by the Police in such instances. The Police representative confirmed that any youths over 10 years of age or over could be taken to court and fined under the Anti Social Behaviour Order.

CT 40 Fly Posting (CT31)

The Chairman circulated a paper outlining replies from the various departments of the Council who deal with fly posting. The responses were as follows:-

- (Response from Legal Services) Highways - The appropriate power for dealing with fly posting on the highway is Section 132 of the Highways Act 1980. This section makes it an offence (punishable by a fine of up to Level 4 on the Standard Scale) to paint or otherwise inscribe or affix any picture, letter, sign or other mark upon the surface of a highway or upon a tree, structure or works on or in a highway without the consent of the highway authority. Whether or not the offender is prosecuted, this council as the Highway Authority may remove any such picture, letter, sign or other mark.
- (Response from Planning) Fly posting in general needs consent under the advertisement regulations, and the Council can prosecute anyone breaching those regulations. The problem is tracking down the people who are responsible who, more often than not, have nothing to do with the event being advertised. The department will however look at every case that is brought to their attention.
- (Response from Environmental Services) There are currently no powers available to deal with this issue under current Environmental Health Legislation.

During discussion of this item a member expressed concern at the litter on the land between the Doctors Surgery at Bedwas Road and Safeway (Rear of the Job, Centre).

It was agreed that ownership of this area of land be investigated by officers.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL

CT 41 Provision of Skateboarding Facilities

Mr Gomer reported on the new facilities available for youths, including the new skateboarding park at Lansbury Park. An official opening will shortly be held and it is hoped that the facility will be well used and attract skateboarders away from the Town Centre.

Work on other Leisure schemes at Crescent Road and St. Cenydd School will be starting shortly.

Mr Gomer reported that a grant had been awarded for purchase of Skateboard equipment for the old market at Pentrebane Street. There had been a number of conditions and financial details to resolve but it is anticipated that the purchase will take place during October and November. It was explained that funding for the equipment was given by the Sport Council to the Council although the day to day running of the scheme will be the responsibility of 'KICK' (Kids in Caerphilly Krazee).

CT 42 Review of Traffic Regulations

Mr Earey reported that the proposals for the review of the Traffic Regulation Orders had been advertised. Members should contact him with any queries on the proposals.

CT 43 Top of Town Development

It was noted that there had been no progress on this development and that there was nothing to report on this matter.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

CHAIRMAN