



## **CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2005 AT 3.00PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor P.J. Bevan - Chairman  
Councillor J.E. Fussell - Vice-Chairman

**Councillors:**

Mrs C. Forehead, G.G. Hibbert, M.H. Newman and M.J. Prew.

**Together with:**

I. Macvicar (Business Development Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), J. Elliott (Policy Officer), T. White (Refuse and Cleansing Officer), D. Earey (Principal Engineer – Management & Regulations), D. Nutt (Tourism Officer), P. Hudson (Assistant Tourism Officer) B. Jones (Community Education Officer – Bedwas Arts Centre) and Mrs D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

**Also Present:**

J. Stephens (CADW), M.L. Evans (Caerphilly Town Clerk), J. Couzens (Centre Manager – Castle Court Shopping Centre), Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and R. Gough (GAVO).

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Kent and P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure).

### **CT17 REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP**

The Chairman reported that correspondence had been received from the Caerphilly Residents Defence Association requesting that a representative from their group be appointed to the membership of the Town Centre Management Group.

The Chairman reported that the association had previously been represented on the Town Centre Management Group and members raised no objections to the request. The Association nominated Mr Rowbottom as their representative and he was invited to join the meeting and participate in the discussions.

## **CT18 MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record.

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 4th November 2004 (minute no CT 1-CT16, page no 1-4).

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **CT19 Tommy Cooper Society (CT5)**

It was reported that a planning application to erect a statue of Tommy Cooper at the Twyn Car Park, Caerphilly will be considered at the next Planning Committee (16th February 2005) and recommended by officers for approval.

### **CT20 Area Forum Budget (CT10)**

A copy of a report on the Proposed use of Caerphilly Area Forum Budget was circulated to members at the meeting and the allocation of funding noted.

The agreed schemes were discussed and Mr Paul Hudson, Tourism Officer, outlined details of one of the possible schemes, the Christmas Event 2005.

Mr Hudson reported that following a successful bid to the Welsh Development Agency's Food Directorate for £5,000 funding, a new event entitled the 'Caerphilly Christmas Market' was organised by the Tourism Unit as an additional event in the Tourism Events Calendar.

The event took place on the 11th and 12th December 2004 with the aim of increasing visitor numbers and as part of the event Cadw agreed to waive admission fees for entry to the Castle. 23 Welsh food and craft people took up stall space and it was estimated that 5,000 visitors attended over the two days of the event.

Mr Hudson reported that there is great potential to theme and build on the success of the event and requested members support.

Members supported the proposal and funding bid in principle but agreed that it should remain as a two day event. It was also agreed that the possibility of closing the Twyn Car park and finding alternative parking for the two days be investigated by officers. Members requested that Cadw be contracted formally to consider a request to waive admission fees to the castle again on this particular week-end.

A report to be presented on all these items to the next meeting of the group.

The other possible schemes were discussed and members were reminded that they could submit further suggestions of schemes for funding to Mr A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager).

Mr A. Highway, Town Centre Development Manager, reported that a launch of the new Investment Portfolio for Caerphilly Town Centre will be held at Caerphilly Castle on Wednesday 16th March and all members of the management group will be invited to attend. The event will give an unique opportunity for investors and key stakeholders to meet and discuss the town's future development.

**CT21 Caerphilly Parking Review (minute no CT13)**

Mr Earey, Principal Engineer – Management & Regulations, reported that the order for the Caerphilly Parking Review would shortly be signed and it was noted that the proposal for the taxi rank outside Castle Court deleted.

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL**

**CT22 Park Lane Development**

The Town Clerk requested any information on progress regarding the Park Lane Development. He was concerned at the lack of information being given to occupiers in the proposed development area and made reference to the expense of the adjacent Housing Department building being decorated.

Mr A. Dallimaore, (Urban Renewal Manager), advised members of the group that a report on the proposed development would shortly be presented to Cabinet and the Chairman indicated that a copy of this report (if not an exempt report) will be sent to all members of the group when available for circulation.

**CT23 Top of Town Development**

Mr A. Dalimore reported that no communication or formal application had been received in the Planning department for any development at the top of Caerphilly Town Centre. The Chairman indicated that he would contact the Chief Planning Officer to discuss the matter prior to the next meeting.

Members raised concerns regarding the condition and appearance of certain buildings at this location and in particular the dentist premises which had been covered in tarpaulin for a considerable time. It was reported however that this had been reported by a local councillor to an enforcement officer who was investigating the matter.

**CT24 Damaged/Dangerous Wall, Castle Hill, Caerphilly**

The Town Clerk reported that a car had damaged the wall at Castle Hill in December. It was noted however that the work being carried out at present in this area is for the new cycle track. The damaged wall has been knocked down and will be repaired when the cycle track is completed.

A leaflet on the cycle routes within the county borough was circulated at the meeting. Members expressed concern that the new cycle track had been positioned in an area where previous suggestions for a bus dropping off point for tourists had been suggested but refused. Mr Stephens (Cadw) reported that regular complaints are received from tourists to the castle regarding the lack of a suitable drop off point.

**CT25 Painting of Fencing – Cenotaph**

It was reported that the fencing throughout the town had recently been painted in the colour blue in preparation for the summer.

**CT26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Wednesday 13th April , 3pm at the Tredomen Council Offices.

The meeting closed at 4.25pm.