



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH APRIL 2005 AT 3.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P.J. Bevan - Chairman

Councillors:

G.G. Hibbert, S. Kent, M.H. Newman and M.J.Prew

Together with:

P. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure), I. MacVicar (Business Development Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), D. Churchward (Principal Engineer) J. Elliott (Policy Officer) T. White (Refuse and Cleansing Officer), D. Nutt (Tourism Officer) and Mrs. D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

D. Price (Capita Symonds), J.Stephens (CADW), Inspector Nicholas (Gwent Police), M.L. Evans (Town Clerk- Caerphilly Town Council), J. Couzens (Centre Manager- Castle Court), K. Robottom (CRDA).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.E. Fussell and Mrs. C. Forehead, R. Gough (GAVO) and Mrs. S.Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group).

CT27 MINUTES

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 10th February 2005.

MATTERS ARISING

CT28 Tommy Cooper Society (CT19)

It was reported that the planning application to erect a statue of Tommy Cooper at the Twyn Car Park, Caerphilly had been recently approved by the Planning Committee.

CT29 Area Forum Budget (CT20)

Mr. D. Nutt (Tourism Officer) reported that discussions had been held with two local schools regarding using their premises as alternative car parking during the weekend of Caerphilly Christmas Market (11th/12th December) and it was noted that there is a possibility of using the grounds of YGG Y Castell.

Mr. A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager) reminded members that £8,000 was still unallocated from the area forum budget and that suggestions for allocating this money could still be submitted to him. He reminded members that the criteria for funding was that any project would benefit the economy and enhance the Caerphilly Town Centre.

CT30 Castle Hill, Caerphilly (minute no CT24)

The various access points to the castle were discussed and it was suggested that consideration be given to allowing access from the Westgate side of the castle for pre-booked visits.

Mr. Stephens (CADW) indicated that this suggestion would be considered although he reminded members that there were steps at this access and it would not therefore be suitable for many of their visitors.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL

CT31 Park Lane Development

Mr. Gomer (Head of Lifelong Learning and Leisure) reported on progress of the proposed Park Lane development. He reported that positive relocation discussions had been made with many of the present users of the development. The possibility of relocating activities to Van Guard (Van Road Chapel) and the Twyn Community Centre is presently being considered by the representatives.

Mr. Gomer reported that the needs of the present users was being considered primarily and following this a report will be presented to Cabinet and Council. If the development is then agreed a developer will then be sought.

The Town Council have supported the development in principle and would welcome the relocation of their premises to the Twyn Community Centre. It was noted that improvement works, including a lift, are being proposed for the community centre.

CT32 Top of Town Development

Mr. Dallimore reported that although a few developers had expressed an interest in a top of town development there was nothing firm to report. He stressed that a public consultation exercise would be held if any plans were submitted for a development. A question was raised

by the Town Clerk regarding the proposed “footprint” of the development and Mr. Dallimore responded that he would contact him direct with this information.

Mr. Gomer reported that a new library would be a priority for any new development in the town centre.

CT33 Update, Route and Exact Location of the new Park and Ride Access Road- Land East of Caerphilly Town Centre

Mr. Churchward (Principle Engineer) and Mr. Price (Capita Symonds) reported on the new park and ride access road. Mr. Churchward explained that the route followed the Porset Park/ Mornington Meadows link road, crossing Van Road to the All Metals site and along the railway embankment towards the present park and ride area. The scheme is not a through road and will end at the car park.

A public inquiry had supported the council on the proposed route and work would commence shortly. The design has been completed and the scheme will be out to tender in a few weeks. The contract is expected to take six months to complete at a cost of approximately £1.5m. A member expressed concern at the present speed and volume of traffic using the Mornington Meadows link road which is also accommodating a new cycle route along part of the highway. Further problems on this road may be experienced with increased volume of traffic accessing the new park and ride.

Inspector Nicholas indicated that he would convey these concerns to the Safety Camera Partnership.

CT34 Installation of Litter Bins – Footpath inside the Castle Wall from Castle Hill to Court House

The problem associated with litter at this location were discussed. Mr. Stephens (CADW) indicated that his association would consider purchasing litterbins for installation on their land if the Council were able to empty them. Mr. White responded that this would be a possibility and that he would have further discussion with Mr. Stephens on this issue outside the meeting.

CT35 Further Correspondence

The Chairman reported that a letter had been submitted from the Caerphilly Residents Defence Association prior to the meeting. He reminded members that all items for discussion should be submitted 10 days prior to the meeting to enable appropriate officers to investigate items and be present. He reported therefore that the item would therefore be discussed at the next meeting scheduled for July.

CT36 Rateable Revaluation of Commercial Properties

A member raised a concern at the impact an increase in revaluation of small businesses in the town centre may have. It was agreed that small businesses are important for the town centre and should be supported if possible.

Mr. Highway reported that the small businesses in the town centre are considering forming a retail partnership where issues such as these could be discussed. The inaugural meeting will shortly be held and Mr. Couzens (Centre Manager – Castle Court) invited to attend.

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.