



## CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN  
ON WEDNESDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 2.00 PM

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead, G.G. Hibbert, S. Kent, and M.H. Newman

Cabinet Member for Regeneration: Councillor D.T. Davies

Together with:

I.G. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), D. Earey (Principal Engineer - South), J. Ridgewell (Business Manager – Development Parks), J. Elliot (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

M.L. Evans (Town Clerk, Caerphilly Town Council),  
Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), R. Gough and Miss J. Evans (GAVO),  
L. James (CRA) and L. Shattock (CIRP).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from P. Hudson (Tourism Assistant), PC D. Morgan and PCSO N. Davies.

### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr L. Shattock (Caerphilly Independent Retail Partnership (CIRP)- a new organisation who had been invited to join the group), Miss J. Evans (GAVO) and Mr. L. James (Caerphilly Residents Association (CRA) who were all attending their first meeting of the management group.

### 2. MINUTES

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 17th May 2006.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **3. Skateboarding Park at Caerphilly Leisure Centre (Minute No 7)**

Mr Ridgewell, Business Manager – Development Parks reported that the new skateboard park at the rear of Caerphilly Leisure Centre had proved to be extremely successful and very well used. The number of skateboarding incidents in the town centre had also decreased since the facility was open. There is also a proposal to cover and light part of the new facility to encourage year use although no costings have yet been sought.

Mr Evans, Caerphilly Town Clerk, welcomed the new facility but referred to litter problems near the skateboarding area.

Mr Ridgewell responded that he was aware of concerns at this location and the Leisure Centre Manager had reported a number of issues regarding the facility. Litter bins are provided and the possibility of installing CCTV will be progressed. The Community Safety Officers have also patrolled the area on a number of occasions

### **4. BIG CHEESE AND FLOWER FESTIVAL – UPDATE**

Mr Hudson, Assistant Tourism Officer, had tendered his apology for not attending the meeting but had produced a report on a review of the Big Cheese event which was circulated at the meeting. The report gave details on visitors, marketing, literature distribution, radiobroadcasts, newspapers and magazines, economic benefits and the Owain Glyndwr

Reference was made to a number of adverse comments made regarding the firework display on the Friday evening. A new contractor had been engaged for the event and following feedback it is unlikely that they will be used again.

It was noted that the park and ride service from St Ilan school had again proved successful although consideration of using and marketing the car park facility at the train station was suggested.

Mr Shattock, CIRP, reported that unfortunately a number of local traders had seen very little increase in their trade during the Big Cheese week-end but did however acknowledge that the efforts of Mr Hudson in seeking ideas to involve the town centre in the event.

Councillor Davies (Cabinet Member for Regeneration) reported that any comments on the Big Cheese event could be given to him as he would shortly be meeting with the Tourism Section to discuss any issues following the event.

Mr Ridgewell circulated copies of the Wales in Bloom Marketing Report Sheet 2006 and the Assessment Feedback for Green Flag Award for Morgan Jones Park, Caerphilly and also gave a short report on the Flower Festival. The two day Flower Festival had been supported by a number of organisations and linked into the Wales in Bloom entry.

Mr Shattock expressed concern at the apparent lack of increased trade during the flower festival week-end and suggested that consideration be given to the event being held on the Friday and Saturday (not Saturday and Sunday) as many of the retailers had remained closed on the Sunday.

Caerphilly Town had been given a second place, silver award for Wales in Bloom and although a lot of support had been given to the competition Mr Ridgewell reported that there had been a disappointing response from local businesses.

The Green Flag awarded to Morgan Jones Park is an important benchmark for parks and may have added economic benefits as the surrounding area may now be known as an attractive area to live.

Members of the group recognised the work involved in the events and congratulated all staff involved. The Town Clerk endorsed the comments and reported that financial support of £4,000 had been donated from the Town Council to the Caerphilly in Bloom and Flower Festival.

## **5. UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER**

Mr Earey, Principal Engineer, reported that the Chief Engineer would shortly be meeting the Police to clarify communication routes and consultation regarding highway issues. There had previously been no consensus on location of taxi ranks in the town centre from the Police although they now seemed to support the taxi drivers request to locate a rank at the loading bay near the Twyn Community Centre. Consultation on this venue has just started and it was noted that the proposal was that the bay would still be used for loading/unloading but also as a taxi rank when required.

Members discussed suitable locations of taxi ranks within the town centre and in particular the feasibility of ranks outside the two main licensed premises (Kings Arms and Court House) which may cause more problems by encouraging people to congregate outside the premises.

It was agreed that further consultation and clarification from the police on their preferences be sought and a further report on the issue be presented to the Management Group.

A concern was raised on the large delivery lorries travelling through the town centre at busy times and the possibility of making delivery restrictions on these vehicles. Mr Earey responded that because many large cities have already placed an order restricting delivery at peak shopping hours and therefore transport to other smaller towns such as Caerphilly would need to be more flexible. He agreed however that a traffic survey on heavy vehicle movement throughout the town would be considered.

A member raised an issue a concern regarding the overgrown shrubs on the roundabout near the Crossways Business Park and Mr Ridgewell replied that he would address the issue and also explore the possibility of securing sponsorship to finance further work to that particular roundabout.

A further issue regarding parked cars near the Fish and Chip Shop at the Piccadilly was also discussed although it was agreed that it was an enforcement issue for the Police.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE FROM CAERPHILLY TOWN COUNCIL**

A number of issues had been raised from the Town Council and Mr Dallimore, Urban Renewal Manager, circulated a report outlining information on the first three items in the letter i.e. Park Lane Development, Top of Town Development and the façade of buildings in the town centre.

### **7. Park Lane Development**

Mr Dallimore referred to the progress report and emphasised that the Head of Planning has confirmed that the management group will be involved in the future consultations for the area. The Town Clerk expressed concern that organisations located within the development area were not being kept fully informed of developments and that no forum presently exists for tenants/user groups to meet with officers to discuss issues.

**8. Top of Town Development**

Members again expressed concern regarding the appearance of the top of town and especially the blue tarpaulin which was discussed at a meeting a year ago when it was reported by the Chief Planning Officer that a planning application for development at this location was imminent.

Mr Dallimore reported that unfortunately the application has been delayed for several reasons although he assured members that there are no planning reasons for any further delay. It was agreed that consideration be given to convening a special meeting when the planning application is submitted.

**9. Façade of Buildings in the Town Centre**

A discussion ensued on buildings in the town centre and particularly opposite the castle. Mr Dallimore reported that DEIN (previously WDA) would consider applications for commercial properties on their individual merits although Caerphilly is not identified as a priority for Town Centre grant aid.

He reported however that Tesco's are currently funding building improvement work to many of their premises and may consider Caerphilly in this programme as that particular store is in close proximity to the historical castle.

**10. Castle Flood Lighting**

Mr Stephens (CADW) gave an update on the problems regarding the floodlighting around the castle. He reported that the floodlighting is not working to its full capacity. He reported that because parts of the cables were worn and unsafe a maintenance programme had begun. The work is unfortunately classed as 'low priority' and is expected to take around five years to complete - presently in the second year of the programme at a cost of approximately £5,000 per year.

**11. CAERPHILLY TCIG – AUDIT JULY 2006**

Members received and noted the Caerphilly Audit for July 2006. The following items were discussed :-

Page 6 Provision of a pedestrian crossing – Cardiff Road / Park Lane – if a pedestrian crossing not agreed suggested a barrier be considered.

Page 6 Standing water on the footway – Cardiff Road – noted that there is still a problem

Page 7 Flyposting – reported from CIRP that retailers had also been requested not to display posters in the shop windows.

Page 9 New Speed Zone Cardiff Road – traffic concerns discussed - possibility of pupils from St Martins school not using Hillside to exit the school onto Cardiff Road.

A sign for 'Welcome to Caerphilly Town Centre' to include the 'Wales in Bloom' award was suggested.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting - Wednesday 6th December 2006 at 2.00 pm at the Business and Technology Centre, Tredomen

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm.

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CHAIRMAN