



## CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 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, and M.H. Newman

Together with:

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A.Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), P. Hudson (Tourism Assistant), J. Ridgewell (Business Manager – Development Parks), J. Elliot (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

Also Present:

Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), R. Gough (GAVO), K. Robottom (CRA) W. Evans and Ms J. Evans (CADW), and PC Morgan (Gwent Police).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from L. Shattock (CIRP), Councillor M. Prew and Inspector B. Williams (Gwent Police).

#### 1. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Wayne Evans and Julie Evans (CADW) to the meeting.

#### 2. MALCOLM EVANS

The Chairman referred to the recent death of Malcolm Evans, the Caerphilly Town Clerk. Tributes were paid regarding his tireless work for the Town and members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

**3. REPRESENTATION ON THE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

Mr Robert Gough reminded the Management Group that he represented GAVO at the Management Group meetings and was not attending as a local councillor.

**4. MINUTES**

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 6th September 2006.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**5. Skateboarding Park at Caerphilly Leisure Centre (minute no 3)**

It was noted that a number of complaints are still being received regarding anti-social behaviour at the area near the Skateboard Park. PC Morgan reported that Police officers had made several visits to the area and would continue to monitor the situation. Mr Ridgewell, Business Manager – Development Parks confirmed that although he was making cost inquiries regarding the cost of a cover over the skateboard facility, it would be unlikely that any progress would be made before the end of the financial year.

**6. Overgrown Shrubs at Roundabout (minute no 5)**

Mr Ridgewell confirmed that he was currently progressing an enhancement scheme for the Crossways roundabout and following further concerns of highway safety from a local councillor would discuss the restricted vision aspects as soon as possible with the appropriate section.

**7. Provision of a Pedestrian Crossing – Cardiff Road/Park Lane (minute 11)**

Mr Highway reported that Mr Clive Campbell (Transportation Manager) had met with him on site at Cardiff Road to consider a request for an additional pedestrian crossing. Mr Campbell agreed with the recommendation from his officers, that a pedestrian crossing would not be suitable at the location. If in the future consideration is given to changes at the junction of Mountain Road/ St Martins Road, the situation at Cardiff Road may be reviewed.

**8. TOP OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE**

Mr Pat Mears, Chief Planning Officer, attended the meeting to inform the Group of progress regarding a planning application to regenerate the southern end of Caerphilly. Mr Mears reported that although a planning application had recently been received, the developer requested that the application not be registered until the council formally agree an Indemnity Agreement requiring the council to make a compulsory purchase order if necessary for the development of the scheme. A report seeking this approval will be presented to Cabinet on 12th December and if agreed the planning application will then be formally logged. Mr Mears assured members that they would be kept fully informed of the proposed development and leaflets would be sent to them. A public exhibition would also be arranged at the Twyn Community Centre to enable the public to attend and comment on the application. In response to a question Mr Mears assured the representative from the Access Group that as a standard consultee they would be consulted. A member suggested that the development be completed in stages to avoid disruption in the town centre and Mr Mears replied that unfortunately this was outside the remit of his section.

The Chairman thanked Mr Mears for attending the meeting.

#### **9. MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Chairman reported that a suggestion had been made to dedicate a memorial garden to Malcolm Evans. It was proposed that the garden entered from the Parks Department at the RHS show at Cardiff in Spring 2005 be sited at Morgan Jones Park in his memory.

A photograph of the modern attractive design was circulated and members agreed in principle to the concept, subject to funding being secured. Mr Ridgewell reported that his department would be prepared to cover the revenue costs and that he estimated the capital cost at approximately £15,000. A number of organisations have indicated that they would be prepared to contribute and it was suggested that Van Community Council also be contacted. There may also be an desire for members to allocate a contribution from the Community Forum Budget. It was agreed that further details be sought on funding commitments for the scheme.

#### **10. CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN THE TOWN CENTRE**

Mr Hudson, Assistant Tourism Officer, circulated a leaflet on the Winter Festival Events in the county borough and reported on Christmas events planned for Caerphilly Town Centre. He made reference to the Medieval Christmas market held in the castle the previous weekend and reported that it is hoped to combine this with the Continental Market organised by the council each year in the Twyn car park.

The representatives from CADW endorsed this suggestion and Mr Evans (CADW) reported that the medieval event was a success although the weather was not good on the Sunday. The Saturday however was very busy and attracted many additional visitors to the castle. Mr Highway, Town Centre Development Manager, reported that he had received favourable comments from the local retailers regarding the medieval event at the castle and congratulated CADW on a successful initiative. He explained to members that one of the aims of holding the events is for people from outside Caerphilly to discover the town and generate repeat visits throughout the year. Mr Hudson requested consideration be given to contributing a grant from the Community Forum Budget publicity of the Christmas Market and it was agreed that £2,000 be granted.

#### **11. LIGHTING AT CRESCENT ROAD/NANTGARW ROAD**

Mr Dallimore referred to a concern from the Town Council regarding lighting in the vicinity of Crescent Road/ Nantgarw Road. It has subsequently been agreed between officers of the Council and the Town Council that 4 decorative lighting columns be erected along the path. The cost (approximately £7,000) will be divided equally and the columns installed in approximately 4-6 weeks.

#### **12. BOLLARDS TO THE FRONT OF CRESCENT ROAD PLAYING FIELDS**

Another suggestion from the Town Council was to install bollards at the front of the Crescent Road playing fields to prevent unauthorised vehicular access to the fields. Officers are presently exploring the most suitable option and costings will be determined when a specification has been agreed. The Town Council has agreed to contribute towards the scheme. Officers are also investigating the possibility of a feature from the 2 existing columns that traditionally marked the entrance to the fields and it was suggested that the Caerphilly History Society be contacted for information and any photographs of the original gates.

**13. BENCH SEAT – ADJACENT TO MORRISON CAR PARK**

It was noted that the Town Council have requested a bench seat be fitted into the alcove in the wall near the surgery. The cost of £1,823 for purchase (with the Town Council logo) and installation will be financed by the Town Council and officers had placed the order.

**14. TOMMY COOPER STATUE**

The Tommy Cooper Society have through fundraising and a grant from the council's Keyfund secured the necessary amount to fund a commemorative statue of Tommy Cooper. The statue will be cast in bronze and positioned in the Twyn car park. Additional costs will be incurred for the statue plinth and it was agreed that a contribution of £1,000 be given from the Community Forum Budget towards the cost.

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

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

Page 1 Pleasure Boats on the Moat. – agreed that the local ward members be given a copy of the Atkins report.

Page 5 New Tenant – Ground Floor TIC Castle Street – Need to resolve the situation of the empty premises as soon as possible and to consider the type of tenant most suitable to the tourist locality (e.g. Coffee shop, tearoom etc.)

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting – Wednesday, 7th March 2007 2.00 p.m. at the Business and Technology Centre, Tredomen

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN