



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE, TREDOMEN ON
WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2007 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

G.G. Hibbert, M. Newman and S. Kent

Councillor D.T. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Together with:

I.MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A.Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), D. Earey (Principal Engineer –South), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer), D. Nutt (Tourism Officer), J. Elliott (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

Also Present:

K. Robottom (CRA), J. Stephens (CADW), Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and C. Perrett (CIRP)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C. Forehead and M. Prew, K. Williams (Caerphilly Town Council), Inspector B. Williams (Gwent Police) and J. Couzens (Castle Court Shopping Centre).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr Clayton Perrett to his first meeting of the Management Group.

1. MINUTES

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group held on 5th September 2007.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Top of Town Development (minute no 2)

It was noted that the developer is expecting to commence work on site in Autumn 2008 and will begin the first phase of work at Pentrebane Street. A concern was raised that some retail premises may be vacated and not re-let prior to the development but Mr Highway reported that there is no indication of this yet as some premises in Cardiff Road had been re-let in the last few weeks. It was reported that the premises previously occupied by KICK were now closed and concerns were raised over the leasehold/freehold ownership.

Mr MacVicar reported that the developer of the Cardiff Road scheme would be invited to the next meeting of the Management Group in March.

3. Former Post Office (minute no 12)

It was noted that this building is expected to re- open shortly although details of the new occupation of the premises are not yet known.

4. Provision of Handrail at Steps Leading to Market Street

Mrs Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) reported that a meeting had been held recently to view the steps and the other concern regarding the dropped kerb near the Post Office. Copies of photographs were circulated and proposals for the handrail discussed. It was agreed that a rail be fixed to the left hand side going down (preferably a round rail) and that the top step be 'nosed' in a suitable colour to be seen easily. The dropped kerb would be discussed with the appropriate officer but it was felt that it may be prudent to defer until after the use of the former Post Office building was determined.

5. UPDATES ON CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Mr Nutt (Tourism Officer) circulated a number of leaflets outlining the Christmas events for Caerphilly. He referred to the Medieval Christmas Fayre which will be held on the 8th and 9th December and will this year have over a 100 stalls. The Fayre will again be held in conjunction with CADW and a programme of events are planned to be held in the castle. Thanks were recorded to the Caerphilly Town Council for their financial contribution.

Reference was also made to the River of Light Lantern Parade which will be held on the 20th December. The first lantern making workshop had been very well attended with over 200 people taking part.

6. PROPOSED ONE-WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM AT TWYN SCHOOL

Mr Earey outlined details for a proposed one-way system at the Twyn School, Caerphilly. The proposal had been considered following problems with parked vehicles when children were taken and picked up from the school. The main purpose of the proposal is to prevent congestion in the area and to allow easier access for emergency vehicles. Although a number of concerns were expressed regarding the route of car drivers from the garages behind Van Road and the amount of traffic that would be generated into North View Terrace, it was agreed that the Management Group should support the proposal in principle, subject to further consultation with the local residents.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

7. Report to Cabinet on Caerphilly Visitor Centre

The Management Group noted a report on the Caerphilly Visitor Centre which had been presented to Cabinet on 30th October 2007 which outlined proposals for the use of the ground floor of the building following the withdrawal of a coffee shop operator. It was noted that retailing products relevant to the visitor market at this location had been agreed and that the product range would be determined by reference to market demand from visitors. Mr Highway reported that the local tourist shop had a very good relationship with the Tourist Information Centre and he considered that this would not have a detrimental effect on their premises. Local goods are sold at the Tourist Information Centre and small local businesses encouraged to retail their goods there.

The proposal for a coffee shop will however be reconsidered when circumstances allow.

The Management Group discussed the report and considered that the ground floor could be useful for a number of temporary uses including an exhibition area.

It was noted that Mr Couzens had suggested that the band stand be used as a smaller visitor centre and the present premises sold or let. Officers responded that this proposal could not be considered on cost and particularly planning grounds as it was very unlikely that planning permission would be given to enclose the band stand.

8. Caerphilly TCIG Audit – November 2007

Details of the November Audit were noted and the following points raised: -

Page 2 Tesco Fascia – noted that the plans for a more sympathetic fascia to the premises were being progressed by Tesco – it will become the first Tesco Metro store to change it's appearance.

Page 3 Closure of the Post Office – Mr Earey reported that early signs are that there is reduced use of the Twyn car park following the closure of the Post Office. The position of the new Post Office and parking to access it also discussed. Mr MacVicar reported that following a request from the Taxi Drivers Association there would be a report presented to the next meeting regarding proposals for new taxi bays.

Page 7 Replace Fencing – David Williams Park. – Mr Dallimore reported that the new fencing has now been erected.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 19th March 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN